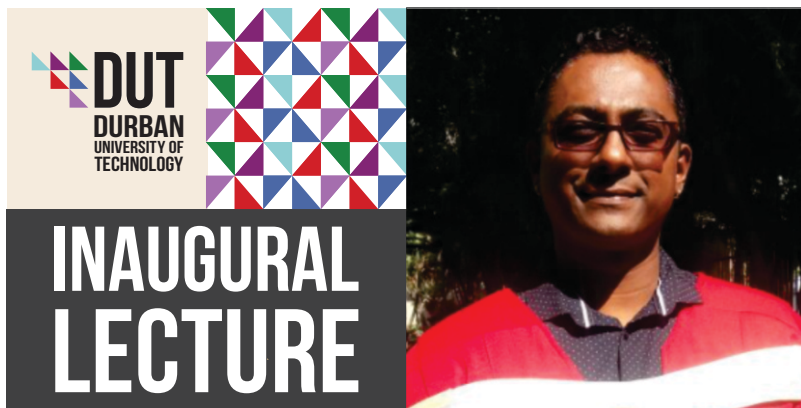




Professor Megandhren Govender: PhD; MSc *cum laude*; BSc Hons *cum laude*; BSc (UND)

Professor Thandwa Mthembu, Vice Chancellor & Principal of the Durban University of Technology cordially invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Megandhren Govender from the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Applied Sciences.

Date: 07 September 2017
Time: 17h30 for 18h00
Venue: Mansfield Hall
DUT, Ritson Campus
(Entrance opposite Sastri College and Curries Fountain)
(Coordinates: 29°51'05"S 31°0'26"E)

RSVP: Asanda Gibisela on email: AsandaG@dut.ac.za
no later than 01 September 2017

Enquiries: Nkululeko Ngcobo on email: NkululekoN5@dut.ac.za
or 031 373 2754

TOPIC: WILL THE REAL EINSTEIN PLEASE STAND UP?

My journey into the world of physics originated purely out of curiosity and wonder. My fascination with how the Universe works started out with simple observations of natural phenomena including the merging colours of the rainbow, soap bubbles, various states of matter and of course, gravity. Einstein's mass-energy balance formula, $E = mc^2$ caught my attention early on and formed the basis for my pursuit of understanding the theory of relativity and associated phenomena.

The nature of compact objects such as neutrons stars, pulsars and strange stars presented a beautiful platform to work from and apply my mathematical skills. The end-state of continued gravitational collapse of stellar objects and the uncertainty of their final demise was too intriguing and attractive to ignore. The pursuit of understanding gravity within the context of stellar evolution formed the basis of my excursion into astrophysics.

While my research into relativistic astrophysics produced interesting and rich results, I was always drawn to my childhood curiosities about the workings of Mother Nature. More importantly, I always wanted to take physics to the masses – to make physics fun and transparent. This gave birth to my other interest: understanding and learning physics through simple experiments and demonstrations. Join me on an adventure of mystery, discovery, fun and entertainment in which we will appreciate the power of physics and mathematics in unravelling Nature's secrets.

Jaws will drop, eyes will pop and pulses will race as temperatures drop to 200 below zero, rockets swish across the room, the beauty of Einstein's equations are revealed and you will get to be a kid all over again.