

THE POWER OF INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

The women of DUT are admired for their passion and undeniable drive to perform excellence in the world of business, research and education, making their mark in the community and the world. We are proud to showcase some of our entrepreneurial female alumnae, executive deans, staff awardees and students for their impactful research and entrepreneurship.



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During this Women's month, we celebrate some of our outstanding entrepreneurs and innovators and honour their hard work and determination to excel. Happy Women's Month and thank you for being at the cutting edge of Innovation.

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PROFESSOR SIBUSISO MOYO
DVC: RESEARCH, INNOVATION & ENGAGEMENT
HON. DEAN, SCHOOL OF INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP, TVI, CHINA



DR NOKHUTHULA MAVELA

Nokhuthula is the founder of Mideh Group Pty Ltd T/A Ewah Cosmeceuticals, an environmentally friendly company that manufactures therapeutic personal care products and device development to improve the healing timeframe of common skin, nail and hair conditions. She is a qualified homoeopath who graduated in 2016 as the HOD and department's choice for the best overall final year student, and served as the DUT Golden Key chapter president in 2019. Nokhuthula completed her Doctorate in Health Sciences at DUT and runs her own NPO, African Development Alliance that focuses on personal growth skills.



VEREENA SUNDRAJ

Vereena is the founder and Creative Director of Colour Addict, a brand specialising in gemstone jewellery. She was born in Durban and graduated in 2001 with a qualification in Jewellery Design and Manufacture. Her brand Colour Addict is available online and in boutiques in London, New York, Singapore, and Dubai. All the jewellery is designed by Vereena and manufactured in their Colour Addict workshop. Currently residing in Ireland, she has shipped her jewellery to over 34 countries worldwide, and has been featured by Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, with an invite to showcase her designs at New York Fashion Week.



PROFESSOR RUNETTE KRUGER

Professor Kruger, Executive Dean: Faculty of Arts and Design at DUT, has been involved in education for 25 years and has been researching and publishing since 2007. She holds a PhD in Visual Studies and is a contributing scholar to the international Exploring Visual Cultures project. She has served as National Vice-Chair of SANAVA and as panel member on the national DHET Creative Outputs Review Panel. Her awards include 2018 Faculty Woman Researcher of the Year; 2017 Institutional Award: Researcher in Training; 2014 Faculty Young Researcher of the Year; 2008 Faculty Woman Researcher of the Year; 2007 Faculty Lecturer of the Year, and First Prize in the sculpture category, National Ceramic Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum (2004).



MS ONGEZIWE VULESANGWENI

Ongeziwe is a 3rd year student, currently pursuing a Public Relations and Communication Diploma at DUT. She is also the founder and director of a cosmetics business, Lilac Green Cosmetics, a brand inspired by mindfulness and simplicity. After developing a great interest in the cosmetics industry in 2019, Ongeziwe decided to present it to the university's entrepreneurial desk in 2020 and succeeded in her first pitch, receiving a start-up grant that enabled her to make her dream more of a reality. She is an inspiring woman in the beauty industry and aims to launch a skincare range in the future.



MS NOKUBONGA NGCOBO

Nokubonga is a student entrepreneur at DUT, she graduated with a qualification in Human Resources Management and is currently pursuing an Advanced Diploma in Human Resources. Nokubonga is a young, vibrant black woman in the fashion industry, owning her own casual streetwear clothing brand, Dapper Vogue (Pty) Ltd. She finds the balance between her academics and running her business full-time. She has invested time and has made many sacrifices to be successful in her brand, and continues to stay motivated amid the global pandemic.



PROFESSOR GUGU MCHUNU

Professor Mchunu is the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at DUT. She holds a PhD and Bachelor of Social Science in Nursing and has more than 25 years of experience in the health sector. She is the co-founding member of Action in Autism, a non-profit organisation for people with Autism. She has worked at Durban Chamber Foundation (Executive Director), Human Sciences Research Council (Senior Research Specialist) and University of KwaZulu-Natal, School of Nursing and Public Health (Head of Nursing Department) and Deputy Director of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre (WHOCC). She is a Ford Foundation International Fellowship Programme Alumni. Her current work is a multi-national study on health promotion in the Minibus Taxi Industry.



NQOBILE NOMFUNDO KHUZWAYO

Entrepreneur, Nqobile Nomfundo Khuzwayo started her business, Dimplez Digital Invitations in 2019, creating and making invitations for all occasions. She is currently studying towards her Diploma in Business Information Management at DUT, and is a peer Mentor for first year students at the university. Nqobile did not allow her Hypoxic Brain Injury to deter her immense passion for business and academics, and is defying all odds throughout her life. She has received help from DUT's Entrepreneurial Desk and is ecstatic about growing her business to create employment. She plans to do her PhD and wants to be financially stable to achieve her entrepreneurial dreams.



NOSIPHO MBATHA

Nosipho is a Supply Chain Management student at DUT and an agricultural entrepreneur who founded her own crop production business, Mthiya Agro-processing. Her love for agriculture began at a very young age, helping her grandmother in the fields. The business which plants and harvests cabbages and beans, currently employs 8-10 people when sowing and harvesting beans each year, with 2 permanent employees for watering cabbages daily. As part of the incubation programme at the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Midlands campus, Nosipho attended a number of trainings on basic business skills to assist her in managing her business efficiently.



DR ANISA VAHED

DUT's Dental Technologist and Y-Rated researcher, Dr Anisa Vahed was recently named a Fulbright South African Research Scholar for the 2020-2021 academic year, and will spend up to six months at a United States (US) university sharpening her research skills. She is a senior lecturer at the Department of Dental Sciences with over 20 years teaching experience. Dr Vahed's other research interest is Internationalising the curriculum through Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). In recognition of her COIL projects, Vahed received the 2017 Council Awards and the 2017 & 2018 Vice-Chancellor's award. She has also delivered numerous papers, workshops and seminars nationally and internationally.



THE WOMEN OF DUT MAKING WAVES

This Women's Month, we feature some of the women of excellence at the Durban University of Technology, women who have shown great success, impeccable drive and achievement in their business and research. Showcased are some of our female staff, researchers and female students chosen to be part of the international Women@DIOR programme.

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It is a great honour to be a part of the distinguished women of Durban University of Technology, women who have contributed significantly in the world of science, research business and academics. We commend the extraordinary efforts and levels of excellence achieved by our staff and students in their quest for a sustainable future.

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PROFESSOR NOKUTHULA SIBIYA
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPESHE



PROFESSOR KEOLEBOGILE SHIRLEY MOTAUNG

Professor Motaung is a Biomedical Scientist and Director: Technology Transfer & Innovation at DUT with more than 23 years' experience in Higher Education. She is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Global Health Biotech (Pty) Ltd. She has developed a natural anti-inflammatory ointment, La-Africa Soother, offering preventative care to anticipated muscle aches. She is an award winner and has received a number of accolades from far and wide for bridging the gap between science and entrepreneurship. Prof Motaung is currently working on research to assess the percentage of the SARS-CoV-2 infection in people living with HIV in South Africa and Nigeria.



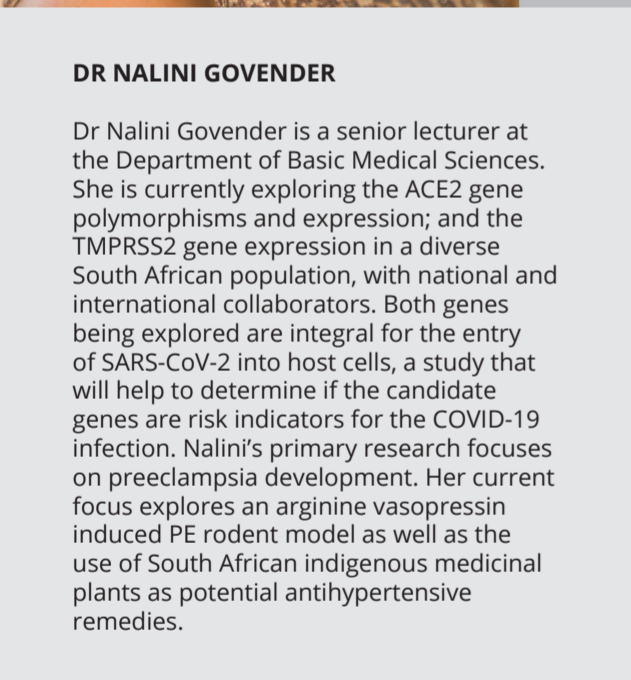
PROFESSOR SHEENA KUMARI

Professor Sheena Kumari is an NRF C-rated researcher and an Associate Professor at the Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology at DUT. In 2020, she was awarded Associate Professorship and is currently involved in research for COVID-19 at IWWT to develop an early warning system for health authorities. She is a professional member of the South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions, Academic Member of International Water Association and Water Institute of Southern Africa. She is a recipient of the DST South African Woman in Science Award and the Faculty of Applied Science research excellence and DUT recognition award in 2020.



PROF CHERYL POTGIETER

Prof Cheryl Potgieter Heads Gender Justice, Health and Human Development and The Research and Doctoral Leadership Academy (RADLA) which contributes to increasing the number of NRF rated women academics at DUT by mentoring and supporting emerging women academics to publish their first academic journal article and book publication. She has a doctorate in Psychology from UWC and a Master's in Psychology from UCT. She is an experienced leader, having served as a Dean and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Cheryl is the Africa lead on a Global project focussing on Gender and Resilience in situations of Disaster, and is currently a visiting professor, non-residential at the University College London. She has also served as a commissioner at the Moerane commission, investigating political killings in KZN.



DR NALINI GOVENDER

Dr Nalini Govender is a senior lecturer at the Department of Basic Medical Sciences. She is currently exploring the ACE2 gene polymorphisms and expression; and the TMPRSS2 gene expression in a diverse South African population, with national and international collaborators. Both genes being explored are integral for the entry of SARS-CoV-2 into host cells, a study that will help to determine if the candidate genes are risk indicators for the COVID-19 infection. Nalini's primary research focuses on preeclampsia development. Her current focus explores an arginine vasopressin induced PE rodent model as well as the use of South African indigenous medicinal plants as potential antihypertensive remedies.



PROFESSOR MONIQUE MARKS

Professor Marks is the head of the Urban Futures Centre at DUT. She holds a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Natal and has trained as a social worker at Wits University. Monique is a NRF B-rated researcher and has been part of directing South Africa's first opioid substitution demonstration programme. She sits on advisory committees for a number of international boards focused on public safety and public health, she is the current chairperson of the Human Science Research Council Editorial Board, and is an awardee of the Human Science Research Council/University South Africa Inaugural Award for Excellence in Response to COVID-19.



EVERJOY MAGWEGWE

Everjoy uses action research as a research method informed by the critical emancipatory advocacy paradigm to develop community based strategies to mitigate gender based violence in marginalised communities. Her current research explores women's personal stories on gender based violence in the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2017, she enrolled with the Durban University of Technology for a PhD in Peace-Building, researching home-grown/indigenous community based strategies to prevent gender based violence in mining communities, under the supervision of Dr Sylvia Kaye.



DIOR PROGRAMME

Four female students from the Durban University of Technology are honoured to be part of the Women@DIOR Women Leadership & Sustainability Education Programme through UNESCO, an international mentoring and educational programme for young women from all over the world. Participants were selected from the best business, art and fashion schools, and are trained by inspiring leaders and stakeholders on the thematic of gender equality and women's leadership for a sustainable future. Fashion design students, Duduzile Lorraine Londiwe Msibi, Thobekile Mkhize, Sphumelele Shoba and Taylwan Wahl were given sponsorship for the year-long programme, among 500 other international students.



DR ABIMBOLA MOTUNRAYO FOLAMI

Dr Folami is a career researcher in the fields of environmental virology, phytomedicine, molecular and computational microbiology. She obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Microbiology from the University of Ibadan. She completed her PhD in Biotechnology in 2015 at DUT and she is presently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and project leader. Her research focuses on novel natural products' development for tackling health and environmental problems. Her recently developed bioactive product for water disinfection is under review for patenting, and she is working with her team to develop a natural bioactive product for combating SARS-CoV-2. Dr Folami is also currently investigating wastewater treatment plants' removal efficiency of enteric viruses and SARS-CoV-2.

