



Central University of
Technology, Free State

23 OCTOBER 2019

WELCOME
TO THE
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

Graduate School e-Letter

Dear Colleagues and Postgraduate Students

We are pleased to issue the first edition of our monthly e-newsletters. Here you will find the most recent updates from the Graduate Office on seminars, events, reminders and general happenings in the Postgraduate Project. The past few weeks have been a tremendous period of learning and excitement in the area of capacity building of postgraduate supervisors and students.

**“Being a good
communicator is not a
trade-off. It makes you a
better scientist”.**

(Nancy Baron, Nature)

Science Communication Workshop

The Graduate School hosted a Science Communication Workshop on Wednesday, 2 October 2019.

During this hands-on workshop, Mr Gerben van Niekerk, a well-known radio personality with a vast background in communication, broadcasting and media, helped postgraduate students to develop practical tools that will assist them to engage confidently with public audiences. He focused on the basic skills, as well as the tools and tactics required for effective public engagement. Participants received hands-on training in communication, focusing on how to present their research to a non-expert audience in a formal setting. This workshop aimed to help participants to make their presentations more compelling, passionate and engaging in preparing for the Institutional Three-Minute Thesis Competition.



UPCOMING GRADUATE EVENTS

Research Breakaway – 7 November 2019

Doctoral Summer School – 8 November 2019

SPS Training: WORKSHOP 1: Introduction to using SPSS for Data Analysis – 4, 5, 6 November 2019

WORKSHOP 2: Advanced data analysis using SPSS - 11, 12, 13 November 2019



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3 Minute Thesis Competition

On the 4th of October 2019 the Institutional Three-Minute Thesis (3-MT) Competition showcased fourteen entries from Master's and Doctoral students across all faculties.

The 3MT Competition is a global competition in which Master's and Doctoral students have just three minutes to present their research topic to a non-specialist audience. To be successful, they must communicate the importance, relevance, and impact of their research to an audience in jargon-free language, using only one slide. The 3MT competition is an opportunity to develop skills for communicating research ideas in ways that are precise, concise, engaging, and accessible to a broad audience. It is also an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their skills in public speaking. The institutional Doctoral winner and runner up become eligible for representation at the National 3MT Competition, hosted by the University of the Free State.

The Prize Winners

All three winners are from the Faculty of Management Sciences.

PhD Prize Winner

Bianca de Klerk won the PhD category for her presentation titled "*Platteland hospitality owners: muppets or Buffets?*". She will represent CUT in the National 3MT Competition at the University of the Free State.

Master's Prize Winner

The winner of the Master's category was Mokoena Lehlohonolo for his presentation, titled "*Medical tourism: Travel for Plastic and Reconstructive surgery*"

People's Choice Winner

The people's choice award (the audience vote for who they thought gave the most convincing 3MT presentation), was awarded to Nkosana Tshisa from the Welkom campus for his presentation on "*Black gay managers at work*".

The uptake at both events were very pleasing to observe and we were blown away by the level of enthusiasm and engagement shown by everyone. A HUGE thank you to the audience, judges and participants who were able to come and support us to run these events. It would not be possible without you.

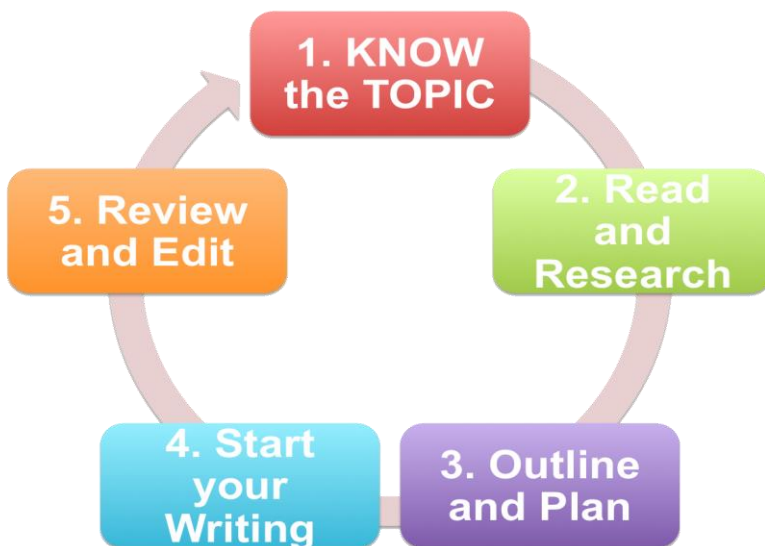


From left: Mokoena Lehlohonolo (Master's winner), Gerben van Niekerk (Master of Ceremony), Eleanor Nel (3MT Coordinator), Dr Emmerentia Coetzee, Prof Laetus Lategan and Nkosana Tshisa (People's Choice winner).

Right: Bianca de Klerk, PhD price winner



STEPS IN ACADEMIC WRITING



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Boost your academic writing skills

The Graduate School presents a series of “Boost your Academic Writing Skills” sessions particularly aimed at Doctoral students in various fields of study. The objective of these 2-hour sessions over the course of 2 months is to enable doctoral students to effectively improve their academic writing skills. We cover aspects of the writing process, coherence and cohesion, style, the literature review, problem statements and hypotheses, paragraphing, paraphrasing, referencing techniques, academic integrity and other skills essential in academic writing.

Twenty-six doctoral candidates enrolled for the programme.



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MONTHLY UPDATES

We aim to improve communication between the Graduate Office and postgraduate staff and students to keep you informed about activities and opportunities offered by the Graduate School. To stay up-to-date, look out for our future monthly newsletters from 2020 onwards.

STATISTICS

17 Articles refined and polished for publication at our Academic Writing Mentorship Programme

“Developing and writing scholarly articles for high impact factors journals” – Presenters: Prof Rodrigo Lozano and Dr Maria Barreiro-Gen, University of Sweden & Prof Eli Biter, Stellenbosch University.

119 CUT academics and postgraduate students attended the seminar from 12 – 16 August 2019

“Science Communication Workshop”

40 academics and postgraduate students attended the workshop on the 2nd of October 2019

“3 Minute-Thesis Competition” - 4 October 2019

14 Participants, 47 attendees, 3 Winners



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