NUST hosts first Virtual Graduation Ceremony
...with more than 19 000 viewers tuned in.

As the world fights the COVID-19 pandemic, universities have been called upon to re-imagine the way they operate as it is simply not business as usual. A graduation ceremony is the biggest highlight of a student’s academic journey and whilst NUST’s traditional 2020 April Graduation Ceremony has been postponed to October, the University celebrated the prestigious occasion on the initial date, despite the unfavourable circumstances. Social media, specifically Facebook, proved to be the next ideal platform to host the event.

Qualifications
On the day, over 2 000 students obtained various qualifications ranging from undergraduate to postgraduate qualifications. In accordance to the University’s mandate of advancing qualifications in the Science, Technology, Engineering; Health Sciences; and Natural Resource Management, were awarded. Moreover, a Doctoral qualification in Computer Engineering; Health Sciences; and Natural Technology, Engineering and Mathematics were bestowed upon Dr Mercy Chitauro, a lecturer in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics.

Meet Dr Chitauro, NUST’s seventh PhD graduate

"It has been a long journey, but every hurdle was worth it," said Mercy Chitauro, a lecturer in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics. Two weeks ago, she became NUST’s latest PhD graduate when she obtained a Doctorate of Philosophy in Computer Science, making her the first female Computer Science, and the seventh PhD graduate produced by NUST. Chitauro mentioned that she is determined to break barriers and uplift the profile of women in this male-dominated field. Her research topic was “A Bio-Immunology Inspired Security Application Domain.” Speaking to The Tech, this is what Chitauro had to say.

Q: What was your research centred on?
A: My research was focused on finding solutions for advanced persistent threats that affect industrial control systems. The solution was inspired by studying the biological immune system.

Q: What was your biggest challenge on this journey?
A: The biggest challenge was marrying the different domains. I had a strong computer science background but the application domain was in control systems engineering and the solution was from yet another domain; immunology. As such, it was quite a challenge to bring it all together, but I managed by reading, reading and more reading as well as researching and engaging experts in the other fields.

Q: Where to from here?
A: Well, I have been working at NUST for close to a decade, so I am looking forward to continue ploughing back into the community and imparting knowledge to students. I am also eager to continue learning and keep up with the fast-paced technological advancements.

Q: Where to from here?
A: Well, I have been working at NUST for close to a decade, so I am looking forward to continue ploughing back into the community and imparting knowledge to students. I am also eager to continue learning and keep up with the fast-paced technological advancements.