



Faculty Newsletter

Message from the Dean

There was a buzz on campus for the first time in a long time when the first-year orientation programme started on Tuesday, 1 February, with a face-to-face welcome to all the new first years. It was rewarding to see the smiling faces and watch students connect and make friends. Dr Disa Mogashana, the orientation coordinator, and her team planned a well-executed blended programme with on-campus activities and lectures online.

The rain did not deter the EBE graduates and their families and friends from attending the graduation ceremony in the Sarah Baartman Hall on 29 March. The joy and excitement on everyone's faces made it all worthwhile.

Congratulations to staff who received their re-evaluation or new NRF ratings. I am delighted to see that we have three EBE nominees for the NSTF-South32 awards and wish them all the best for the finals.

Professor Hans Beushausen, the deputy dean for research and innovation, is busy with an exciting

project aimed at increasing our research visibility and local research relevance. All academic staff in EBE, including soft-funded research staff, were invited to participate. The first #EBEtalk has been filmed with Associate Professor Amir Patel showcasing his research work. A new research website is being developed where the #EBEtalks will be showcased.

The 2022 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings have been published, and UCT maintained its number one position.

Three EBE departments are ranked number one in South Africa in the 2022 QS World University Rankings by Subject. The rankings are based on academic reputation, employer reputation and research impact. While rankings are not a perfect measure of excellence, we are happy to celebrate when the departments are recognised for their hard work and commitment to research. It is rewarding to see this acknowledged through the QS rankings. Thank you to all the staff who continually work hard to ensure our students receive a good quality education.

2022 QS Rankings

The three EBE top departments in South Africa are:

- UCT's Department of Mechanical Engineering, followed by the University of Pretoria and third Stellenbosch University.
- UCT's Department of Chemical Engineering, followed by the University of Witwatersrand and third Stellenbosch University.
- Architecture in UCT's School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, followed by the University of Pretoria and the University of Witwatersrand.



UCT's Department of Electrical Engineering was ranked 3rd, with the University of Pretoria first followed by Stellenbosch University.



No South African universities were ranked in the subjects of structural and civil engineering and petroleum engineering.

UCT's Architecture is top in Africa, with UCT's Mechanical and Chemical ranked second after Cairo University in Egypt.

Read more about the 2022 [QS World University Rankings](#)

Celebrating staff and family graduation



Proud mother, Nicole Moodley from the Department of Electrical Engineering, with her son Rishay Moodley, who graduated with his BSc in Civil Engineering. This year Rishay is registered for his MSc in Civil Engineering.



Warda Samaai from the Department of Construction Economics and Management graduated with a PGDip in Business Communication from the Faculty of Commerce with a GPA of 74.6%. Warda studied part-time while looking after her family of two daughters (four and nine), her husband, mother and grandmother.



Alison and Ian Lewis celebrating their daughter Finn's graduation with a BSc Education (Honours) with distinction.



Nurunisa Hendricks, EBE HR business partner, graduated with a master's in People Management from the Department of Commerce. Nurunisa studied part-time while working full-time and looking after a teenage son and a eleven year old daughter.



Mark Massyn, a senior lecturer in the Department of Construction Economics and Management, and his wife Karin, proud parents of their daughter Dominique who graduated with her BSc (Hons) in Property Studies.



Cara Whittal, daughter of Professor Jenny Whittal from the Division of Geomatics, graduated with her BA in Politics (with distinction) and Law. She is now doing her LLB.

Exceptional Women in Sustainability Award 2021

Associate Professor Jennifer Broadhurst, deputy director of Minerals to Metals Initiative, received the Exceptional Women in Sustainability (e-Wisely) Award 2021 for her innovative research on the environmental and sustainability performance of primary metal production processes in southern Africa. Jenny was identified by the Women Sustainability Forum, who say that the awardees are “hard-working visionaries who take action ‘to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs’ (Brundtland, 1987).”



Jenny was delighted with the award and said, “I have no idea who nominated me and how the selection was made. It was admittedly rather good to receive an award without having to do a rigorous and lengthy application or self-justification.”

Criteria for selection include contributing via initiatives for the development of activities aimed at positioning women at the centre of global/local sustainability agendas, establishing partnerships to develop collaborative projects across the United Nations (UN) 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and supporting and promoting the professional

development of women in their regions through education, entrepreneurship, leadership, employment and innovative use of technology.

“The award has provided me with excellent networking opportunities and serves to position myself and the Minerals to Metals group as research and education leaders in the area of sustainability within the minerals sector on the African continent,” Jenny says. “This is important in promoting our teaching programmes and courses, and hopefully attracting top candidates and even research funding.” [Read More](#)

NRF ratings

Congratulations to the following staff members who have received their re-evaluation or new NRF ratings:

- Emeritus Professor Gerald Nurick, Department of Mechanical Engineering maintained his A1 rating.
- Professor Hans Beushausen, Department of Civil Engineering: B2
- Professor Alison Lewis, Department of Chemical Engineering: B2
- Dr Bruce Kloot, Department of Mechanical Engineering: C2
- Dr Thandazile Moyo, Department of Chemical Engineering: Y2
- Dr Megan Cole, Future Water Institute: Y1

There are still 4 ratings outstanding.



**National
Research
Foundation**

NSTF-South32 Awards nominees

Congratulations to the staff who are nominees for the prestigious NSTF-South 32 Awards, known as South Africa's 'Science Oscars'. The winners will be announced on 21 July 2022.

TW Kambule-NSTF Awards: Emerging Researchers

Awarded for an outstanding contribution to SET and innovation through research and its outputs over a period of up to six years in research, predominantly in South Africa.



Dr Moses Basitere from ASPECT



A/Professor Amir Patel from the Department of Electrical Engineering

Professor Marianne Vanderschuren from the Department of Civil Engineering is a nominee for two awards:



Engineering Research Capacity Development Awards

Awarded for an outstanding contribution to SET and innovation by an individual over the last five to ten years.

Special Annual Theme Award: Basic sciences for sustainable development

For 2022 this Award is made for an outstanding contribution to science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation from research and development in the Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development.

New director for FIG Foundation

In 2019, Professor Jenny Whittal was elected as chair of the Africa Regional Network (ARN) for the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). In March 2022, she stepped down as chair to take up the role as one of the Directors of the FIG Foundation.

The FIG Foundation raises funds to secure a sustainable future for surveyors. It funds educational and capacity building projects and scholarships, especially in developing countries, encourages research into all disciplines of surveying and helps disseminate

the results of the research.

Jenny is also leading a continent-wide mentoring programme. "Sustaining our profession relies not only on the transfer of skills but also the institutional memory of the profession — the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, experience, and inspiration towards building a stronger future. A mentoring programme is an important way of transferring the profession's institutional memory, supporting the profession's future, and bringing surveyors all over the world closer. It aims to engage the



youth leading to their integration into our professional and workplace structures, providing them with opportunities and promoting resilience in the profession," said Jenny.

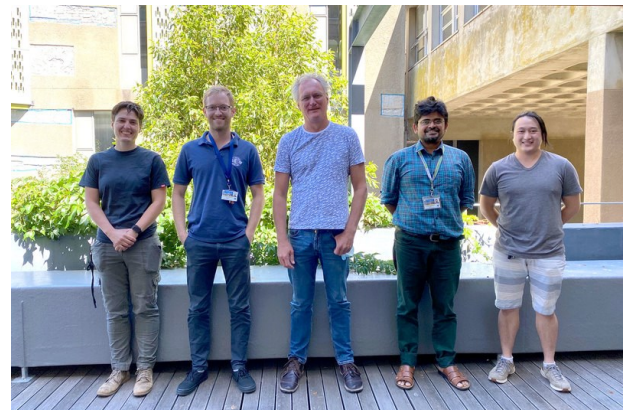
Powering marine pollution busting with engineering excellence

Engineering has the biggest role to play in making fundamental societal change – this is the motivation of the team in the Department of Electrical Engineering as they embark on a new project that aims to locate and monitor ocean pollution in waters off Cape Town.

Led by Professor Amit Kumar Mishra as the principal investigator – along with Associate Professor Fred Nicolls, senior lecturer Robyn Verrinder and lecturers Jarryd Son and Stephen Paine – the team will soon undertake Project SMARTPOL, a new venture that will identify sources of pollution in our waters through methods never seen before.

Project SMARTPOL, a shorter name for a project called “Autonomous network system with specialised and integrated multi-sensor technology for dynamic monitoring of marine pollution”, is a three-year project that was granted funding by the MarTERA ERA-NET Cofund scheme of the European Commission.

UCT’s Department of Electrical Engineering was awarded the funding as part of a consortium that includes the Yildiz Technical University and Sirena Marine Yachts Group from Turkey, AquaBioTech Group



From left: Robyn Verrinder, Stephen Paine, Assoc Prof Fred Nicolls, Prof Amit Mishra and Jarryd Son

and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology from Malta, and Interactive Software from Romania. The department will be able to access a budget of €305 000 (about R5.3 million). Part of this will be used to fund students who will work on the project.

Together, the international partners form a consortium that reflects both academic and industrial strengths for their pursuit of marine pollution detection.

[Read More](#)

Shortlisted for Engineering Innovation Award

Dr Jack Fletcher was shortlisted for the 2022 Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation (APEI) with the Hyena Power Pod, a fuel-cell based hydrogen generator that converts LPG gas into usable electricity, all within one device is one of the technologies that have been shortlisted for the 2022 Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation. Jack is the 11th innovator from South Africa to be shortlisted for APEI since it started in 2015. The Africa Prize is run by the UK’s Royal Academy of Engineering and awards crucial commercialisation support to African innovators who are tackling local challenges with scalable engineering solutions.

[Read more](#)



Staff news

NEW DIRECTOR FOR APG



Professor Nancy Odendaal is the new director of the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics for a five-year term starting from 1 February 2022. Nancy took over from Dr Philippa Tumubweinee.

2030 FUTURE LEADER PROGRAMME



A/ Professor Nico Fischer was selected to be part of the Vice-Chancellor's 2030 Future Leader's Programme. The Vice-Chancellor conceptualised this project to retain talented researchers at UCT and support them in reaching their full potential. The aim is also to contribute towards transformation by training black South African students that can reach the same heights and in turn become the research leaders of the future.

ICE FELLOWSHIP



Professor Marianne Vanderschuren has been awarded an ICE Fellowship by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) in the UK. The fellowship is the highest grade of membership awarded by the Institution and it is an honour that is recognised around the world.

OPPENHEIMER MEMORIAL TRUST SCHOLARSHIP



A/Professor Amir Patel from African Robotics Unit in the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been awarded an Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Scholarship to do his sabbatical at the University of Oxford in 2023. He will be working with Professor Andrew Markham in the Computer Science Department on a new project to predict the health of wildlife using robotics and AI.

Chapter in the Alternation African Scholar Book Series



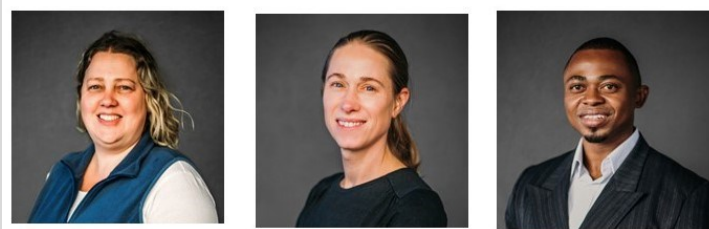
Dr Krystle Ontong, (pictured left) academic development lecturer in the Department of Construction, Economics and Management, and Mr Zayd Waghid, a lecturer from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology,

published a chapter in the Alternation African Scholarship Book Series. The chapter is titled 'Hybridising Cybergogy and Sense of Place: A Response to Remote Multimodal Teaching and Learning in South African Higher Education.'

The chapter looks at "Remote Multimodal Teaching and

Learning in Higher Education and acknowledges that students represent different generations, personality types, and learning styles. Instructional designers should seek to use multiple approaches, including distance education and online technologies to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of students. In order to successfully implement multimodal models, it is, therefore, paramount to consider what we refer to as students' sense of place. As a multidimensional, complex construct, sense of place is used to define the relationship and connections between people and spatial settings. The authors argue that university educators should re-examine their current cybergogies and be cognisant of students' sense of place in RMTL". Read more on this here: <http://ow.ly/pV8650I3071>

Editorial for Special Issue on Water

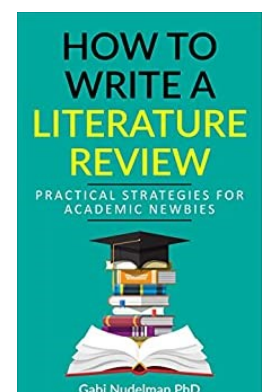


A/Professor Kirsten Corin, Dr Mariette Smart and Dr Malibongwe, all from the Department of Chemical Engineering, recently published an editorial for a Special Issue on Water within Minerals Processing in [Mineral MDPI](#), a peer-reviewed and open-access journal. A good read for those interested in understanding the current research landscape on this topical issue.

New book by Dr Gabi Nudelman

Dr Gabi Nudelman from Professional Communications Unit has written a book titled *How To Write a Literature Review – practical strategies for academic newbies* which is available on [Amazon](#).

Literature reviews are key components of academic essays and theses. Not only do they provide important contextual background to a research topic, but a good literature review can create a strong impression of your writing skills and academic acumen. A good literature review lays the foundation on which impactful research can be built.



EWB UCT

Members of EWB UCT ran a session during the first-year orientation programme where they introduced the first years to the concepts of Human Centred Design – a methodology that prioritises empathy and community. The first-years were given the following problem statement: *It is unanimously accepted that a nice relaxing bath is far superior to a quick shower. The downside is they waste a lot of water. How would you resolve this issue?*

The first years were put into groups and at the end, presented their solutions. Overall, the students showed impressive creativity with

their analogue (and, in some cases, digital sketches and designs.

This year EWB UCT is continuing with the research work they are doing for Studio Sway and the Aquatecture Water Harvesting Systems pilot installation, which is opposite the Oranjezicht Farmer's Market near the Waterfront.

Members are involved in the iSondlo Food Garden, a community food garden where students use their engineering design skills to find and implement a solution to start a sustainable garden system on UCT's middle campus. The project aims to address food insecurity in the



community.

They are continuing with the Playing with Solar project, a programme where EWB-UCT members teach high school students the basics of electricity, circuits, electronics and build solar panel powered power banks. This is a collaboration project with the organisation Project 90 by 2030, and it aims to educate the community on sustainable energy.

International Award for electrical master's student

In December 2021 Kai Goodall's Pedal 'n Spin foot-cranked washing machine design won him the RS Components International People.Planet.Product Student Design Challenge, in partnership with the Washing Machine Project and Grass Roots.

A social innovator at heart, Kai is a master's student in the Department of Electrical Engineering under the supervision of Dr David Oyedokun. Kai was the sole African candidate among six finalists; three were from universities in the United Kingdom and two were from Singapore. Each pitched their design to a panel of judges at the final on 26 November 2021.

After his win was announced, Kai was inundated with media interviews. In January 2022, he appeared on SABC 3 Espresso Morning Show where he not only showcased his washing machine, but also spoke about his first educational solar car, his 3D printed Tap and Door opener multi-tool, and the progress of his master's project. In this project he is looking at a more advanced educational AI self-driving solar car for educational high school outreach to excite the youth about engineering



Kai Goodall and his Pedal 'n Spin foot cranked washing machine

and encourage them to consider studying in the field.

On 11 April, Kai was announced as one of the winners of the RS Components Student Project Fund South Africa for his educational self-driving solar car for engineering outreach. The other two winners were also from the Department of Electrical Engineering. Nikhil Bejrajh who is doing his master's degree, and Pitambar Jankee, a PhD candidate. Each will be provided with up to R5 000 in RS Components and tools to help them bring their projects to life.

Landscape Architecture successful accreditation visit

In March, Landscape Architecture in the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics hosted a two-day accreditation visit by the South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession. The panel commented on the excellence of the programme, the commitment of staff and the high quality of work produced. They recommended that the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Hons), and Master of Landscape Architecture degrees, continue to be accredited unconditionally. Well done to Clinton Hindes and Christine Price .



Award for best final year engineering project

In 2021, the Integrated Post Graduate Industry partnership (IPGIP) intervarsity put a call out for South African universities to select their best final year engineering project to compete for the IPGIP prize of R150 000.

After an internal selection process, the Department of Chemical Engineering agreed to nominate Lucy Wills and Kirthi Chetty's final year project titled *Green LPG cooking test design and demonstration*. Dr Jack Fletcher, their supervisor, said, "Lucy and Kirthi were great and delivered top quality work. I was very pleased with their nomination." The Acting Dean at the time, A/Professor Kathy Michell, agreed on the nomination, and as only one individual was allowed to present, Lucy Wills was put forward as the UCT candidate. She was to do a seven-minute presentation, followed by a three-minute question and answer session. Lucy agreed that if she won, the prize money would be shared with Kirthi.

Unfortunately, at the last minute several delegates and organisers tested positive for COVID so the event was cancelled. The organisers decided that each nominated student would receive R15 000 and a certificate.

The prize is to honour EH Mathews (senior), who passed away on 20 June 2020 at the age of 88. He wanted to motivate engineering students to achieve excellence and bring academia and industry closer



Kirthi Chetty and Lucy Wills

together. He believed that an engineer must be able to swiftly and efficiently "sell" their story to the CEO and other funders who are very often not engineers.

This year, Lucy intends to register for a master's programme focusing on growing her engineering knowledge towards a sustainable development application. She was also the recipient of the SA Institution of Chemical Engineers' Silver Medal, awarded for outstanding performance over the four-year curriculum, based on best overall GPA.

In 2021, Kirthi co-founded STEM femme, an online platform to motivate, inspire and engage with young girls in STEM. This year she is an operations intern at SouthSouthNorth, a company that supports national and regional responses to climate change through policy and knowledge interventions, partnerships and deep collaboration.

NEW STAFF

Ms Liz Musvoto joined the Department of Construction Economics and Management on 1 February as a senior lecturer.

Ms Jehan Begg joined the Dean's Office on 1 April as the Senior Operations Manager.



Resignations

Mr Fadil Ahjum from the Environment and Process System Engineering research group in the Department of Chemical Engineering, left at the end of February 2022.

Miss Ncebakazi Ngubane from HYSA Electro Catalysis in the Department of Chemical Engineering, left at the end of January 2022.

Dr Mariette Smart from CeBER in the Department of Chemical Engineering left at the end of February 2022.

Dr Huda Tayob, a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics left at the end of January 2022.

Obituary for Walter Böhringer

Walter Böhringer from the Department of Chemical Engineering died at the age of 72 on 17 March 2022.



In 1999, Walter came to UCT to take up a Researcher post in

the Centre of Catalysis Research. He very quickly found a place in his new department. At the time of his death, he had retired but had been working in the department until the pandemic forced everybody home.

The Chemical Engineering staff remembered him fondly and said, "Walter was a big man with a huge heart and soul for people. His passion for helping people knew no bounds. Walter's meetings had no time limits. The meeting was done when it was done, even if it had to go through the night. Those close to him knew that Walter's friendship extended beyond all boundaries. He has even been an "uncle" in Lebola negotiations. As a result, he made friends across many disciplines and countries."

I am sure there are many stories that that can be told about Walter by his many friends in the Department of Chemical Engineering and beyond. We are poorer without the indomitable Walter amongst us. Our thoughts are with family and friends.

The Department of Chemical Engineering held a memorial for Walter on 1 April 2022.

Obituary for property master's student



Mr Mahalingum 'Dhaya' Govender, a master's student in Property Studies, died in a car accident on 27 February 2022. A/Professor Francois Viruly, his research supervisor said, "With his unique smile and positive viewpoint, he regularly supported the needs of his cohort. We will remember his strong and thoughtful views on the role of the built environment in transforming South Africa. He believed that this required a greater role of all stakeholders in the sector." He is survived by his wife Varnie, two sons and a daughter. His funeral was held on 3 March in Durban.

EBE represented at the Dubai EXPO 2020

The Zamani project in the Division of Geomatics was commissioned by the South African Heritage Resources Agency to create 3D models and VR videos of five South African Heritage sites for the South African pavilion at the [Expo 2020 in Dubai](#). Due to COVID, the expo was postponed and took place from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. The VR videos of the 3D models of Robben Island, Mapungubwe, West Coast's Fossil Park, Bokoni Rock circles and the Nelson Mandela Statue at the City Hall are on permanent display at the Expo.



From 18 to 24 March, the Crystallisation and Precipitation Unit were invited to present their work on Eutectic Freeze Crystallization at the South African pavilion at the Expo 2020. Mr Jemities Chivavava, the Chief Scientific Officer attended the expo.

Graduation story of Sarah Nzeka, a chemical engineering graduate

Sarah Nzeka graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Chemical Engineering on 29 March 2022 after registering at UCT for the first time in 2012. The journey to graduation day has not been easy.

Sarah succeeded in completing a tough academic programme. On the road to graduation, she survived isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, financial exclusion, a violent physical attack and the death of her father. With her undergraduate studies behind her, she said, "I'm not limiting myself."

Sarah, who is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, first came to Cape Town in 2006. She enrolled at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) where she studied for three years and completed a national diploma in



chemical engineering. "I was a top student in my department. That opened the door for me to get a bursary to further my studies [towards a BSc in Chemical Engineering] at UCT," she said.

"I was excited and [looked] forward to a great journey," Sarah said. But she found the transition to UCT challenging. The pace was different, and she also registered late and missed orientation and the first few weeks of classes.

"I didn't know how to find resources and lecture venues. What seemed to be minor challenges ended up becoming bigger problems because I was always late. I struggled to adequately fit into the environment."

As a result, she had poor results at the end of the first year and her scholarship was not renewed after the second year.

She then had to find part-time jobs to supplement the financial support that she received from her family in order to continue studying. But, the added burden of part-time jobs meant that she had less time to concentrate on her studies. "My focus was divided," she said. "It was a continuous cycle. But I was determined to get my degree."

[Read More](#)

Celebrating Water month in March



EBE staff and students were invited to visit Future Water's 'Source to Sea' mural in the NEB foyer. The original exhibition of this artwork was set to take place in partnership with the Two Oceans Aquarium in March 2020, but COVID hit, and the exhibition was unable to take place.

The mural aims to get people thinking about their relationships to the source-to-sea hydrosocial-cycle. The hope is that through engagement with this mural, people will start to think about the challenges facing urban rivers (and, by extension, the ocean) and what role we can play in finding solutions to these problems.

The mural is part of a larger research project called the Water Museum, which focuses on people — rather than just technical solutions — in addressing water problems. Drawing from the notion that people are experts in matters that pertain to their own lives and wellbeing, the impact of this work is to map and visually display water sources while developing stakeholder engagement in the processes that determine how, when and which water sources are used.

The hope is that this water museum will start with South Africa, but extend to Southern Africa and beyond to the rest of Africa. People were invited to contribute to the project by sharing exhibition pieces, water stories and water sample submissions by visiting the Water Museum Interactive Map (<https://www.wsuds.org/water-map/>) to read up on and add to the local water narrative.

Lulama Ngobeni, CEM & Future Water PhD candidate's research focuses on Imizamo Yethu (IY) and the Disa River in Hout Bay. The river estuary is known to have the highest level of E-coli bacteria

ever recorded in South Africa and is heavily polluted owing to a lack of efficient drainage systems in IY. This directly affects the community and the Hout Bay beach, where the estuary transitions into the ocean.

Through case studies and data collection, Lulama hopes to address these issues and draft an alternative funding framework that can one day be used to implement new stormwater harvesting services and sustainable drainage solutions.



EWB UCT's students contribute their research skills to the Aquitecture Water Harvesting System's pilot installation, a system of compact panels that collect

rainwater into a Jojo tank that irrigates the Oranjezicht Farmer's Market's shrubbery. The students come from various disciplines, including geomatics, humanities, mechanical, civil and chemical engineering. They are gaining greater knowledge about some of the under-researched fields in the South African context and seeing first-hand how important research is in developing climate-conscious design processes.



Orientation for first years

The EBE orientation programme was run by Dr Disa Mogashana and her team. The aim of the programme in 2022, as with previous years, was to make the first-year students feel welcome in the faculty as best as possible using the blended model. Unlike in 2021, it was priceless to have painted the campus green with orientation leaders holding their placards and singing at the Plaza as they welcomed the new first-years onto campus.

The programme started on 1 February and ended on 11 February. One of the benefits of the blended orientation programme is that parts of it remain available to students to use throughout the year. Students can always go back and catch up on what they missed. The programme had to be quickly adapted to change when the SRC-led protests disrupted the face-to-face orientation activities.



Mentor day

During the second week of orientation, on Tuesday 8 February, the day started off with Nazeema Ahmed giving the first years an EBE psychological support session, followed by activities with the departmental mentors who were all trained online this year. Departments conducted activities around campus, some on sports fields, including an amazing race to explore campus, making videos etc. The head mentors with the help of the academic mentors did a great job in ensuring the first years had a good time getting to know one another. Thanks to the following staff and head mentors who were instrumental in the success of the mentor day.

Staff: Muhsin Osman (Mech); Elaine Opitz (Chem), Sunetra Chowdhury (Elec), Siddique Motala (Civ), Simon Hull (Geomatics), Krystle Ontong (CEM), Simone le Grange and Buhle Mathole (Arch)

And the head mentors: Shalom Abiodun (Mech), Masungulo Maluleke and Nomvelo Ngubane (Chem)

Gregory Da Silva, Rumbidzai Mashumba, Zolile Zoko, Gianluca Patrizi, Ntokozo Radebe, Andani Makhado (Elec)
Samir Koovarjee and Nakedi Malesa (Civ) Tanweer Nujjoo (Geomatics) Concheta Van Deventer (CEM)



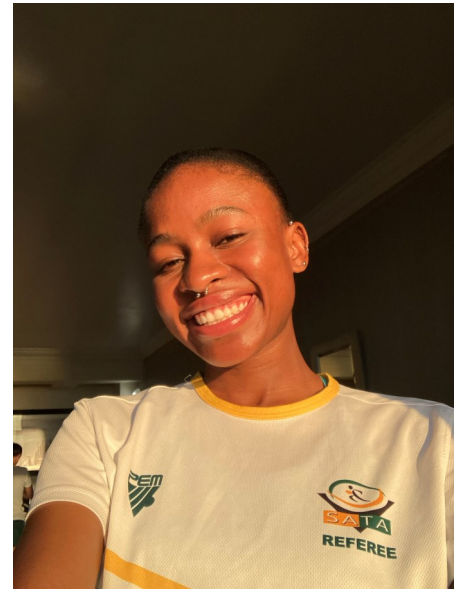
Touch rugby ref

Nakedi Malesa is an extraordinary young woman. She is a final-year civil engineering student. She is the deputy head mentor for the civil engineering first year mentor programme. Earlier this year she was one of the orientation leaders who worked tirelessly over two weeks to ensure that the first year students felt welcomed to UCT. In 2020 she was elected as a member of the 2021 EBE undergraduate student council where she held the treasurer portfolio. On the side she is a referee for touch rugby. Over the Easter weekend she had the privilege of representing Western Province Touch Association in refereeing at a Junior National Touch Rugby Tournament in Durban.

Nakedii said, "It was a whole lot of fun. I enjoyed getting to ref each of the teams and reunite with my home association, Easterns Touch Association."

Next year is the Junior Touch Rugby World Cup which will be held in the UK, and Nakedi has been selected to represent South Africa as ref at the tournament

Nakedi said, "I am still processing everything, but I am so grateful to Western Province Touch Association for allowing me to be a part of their association. I have a lot to work on until the world cup, but as of right now, I am looking forward to representing my country in this new adventure!"



Aqualibrium Competition

The SAICE WC Aqualibrium competition was held on 9 April 2022 in the New Engineering Building on upper campus. Zindzi Tendo, chair of SAICE UCT and her team organised the event and assisted the 14 teams who participated.

Dr John Okedi, a lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering, opened the event with a talk on the state of water in South Africa.

The teams, comprised of two to four members, were introduced to pipe networks and the mechanics of pipe flow, followed by a one hour challenge to build a water reticulation network that evenly fills multiple reservoirs. After the challenge, the teams were taken on a tour of the civil engineering labs, followed by an open day talk by Professor Moyo, head of the Department of Civil Engineering

The team from Parel Vallei emerged as the winner and will represent the Western Cape in the National Aqualibrium competition later in the year.



Postgraduate orientation welcome

On 10 February the faculty, together with the EBE postgraduate student council hosted an EBE postgraduate orientation programme. The new postgraduate students were introduced to the council members. Professor Abimbola Windapo, deputy dean for postgraduate studies gave them a brief introduction to postgraduate studies in the faculty. Professor Hans Beushausen, deputy dean for research and strategic innovation spoke on the EBE research landscape and strategy and how postgrads fit in. This was followed by Professor Peter Meissner from the Office of Postgraduate Studies, Nazeema Ahmed who spoke on EBE psychological support and Safia Lagerdien gave an overview of the Careers Service Office and what they offer.



Architecture outreach for open day

This year the UCT annual open day was held virtually. Buhle Mathole, a lecturer in APG, was hoping to host ten learners from Fezeka High school on campus so they could experience the campus and attend the virtual open day in the Centlivres Building. Unfortunately, due to transport issues, this could not happen, and instead, Buhle and APG mentors, Simamkele Nontenja, Matheka Hape & Aphiwe Nyezi, took the virtual open day out to the school. They engaged with the ten interested learners and gave them an idea of what studying architecture at UCT entailed before joining the online APG presentation by Clint Abrahams and various staff members and students.



March 2022 Graduation

The graduates and their parents did not let the rain spoil their graduation day on 29 March. There was such a good turn-out of graduates, and their parents and friends celebrated in style.

