

# Faculty Newsletter



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## Message from the Dean

The Faculty is currently in the formal budgeting process, and the faculty budget was presented to the University's Planning & Budgeting Working Group on 11 September. Faculties were requested to effect a 6% overall saving over the next four years on the 2013 base budget.

The Ad Hominem promotions for academic staff have been completed, and the PPS for PASS staff will be completed at the end of September.

The new admission policy for 2015 is being refined, and the Faculty Admissions Committee is in the process of evaluating the policy against the Faculty's current student demographics before feedback is provided to the DAC and the Faculty Board.

The Faculty confirmed its size and shape commitments to the DoHET with

the major growth at undergraduate level coming from architecture, with limited growth in the entry level students in the engineering programmes. The growth at postgraduate level will be around 1% per annum with the introduction of four new master's programmes in 2014.

The Faculty is considering online learning, and the strategy is to test this first in the CPD space to see how it works and what the risks are. This is an exciting space, but we need to guard the quality of our courses.

The Faculty has submitted two names for the NEB and the process is with the Naming of the Building Committee. The final snagging work is being completed in the NEB before the building can finally be handed over to

the university.

The Teaching and Learning building is on track and should be completed in June 2014. There will be some discomfort with the building process, and we once again ask staff to bear with us during this time. Everything will be done to ensure minimum noise and interruption to the academic year. The Centlivres refurbishment is on-track to be completed in the first quarter of next year.

It is that time of year again when HR issues are surfacing, with staff feeling tired and overworked. I urge you to make time for yourself, and seek support from the various services offered through Occupational Health section in the HR Department.

## Ad Hominem promotions

**Congratulations to the following staff members who received their ad hominem promotion which will take affect from January 2014.**

**Ms Tania Katzschner** from Architecture, Planning & Geomatics will be promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

**Dr Marcos Rodriguez-Pascal** from the Crystallisation & Precipitation Research Unit in Chemical Engineering, will be promoted from Research Officer to Senior Research Officer.

**Ms Renee Smit** from Electrical Engineering will be promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

**Dr Paul Barendse** from Electrical Engineering will be promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.

**Dr Fred Nicolls** from Electrical Engineering is to be promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.



**Associate Professor Kobus van Zyl** from Civil Engineering is to be promoted from A/Professor to full Professor.



**Associate Professor Genevieve Langdon** in the Department of Mechanical Engineering is to be promoted from Associate Professor to full Professor.

## Future Foreshore Project

Hotels to create the feeling of a coastal city, canals, monorails, urban parks, high-way tunnels, water towers, residential flats, affordable housing, and elevated boulevards were some of the ideas for the Future Foreshore project presented by the final-year civil engineering students at an “open house” review of their work on 19 and 20 August.

It was still work in progress but staff from the City of Cape Town, and the university, were invited to come and discuss the design projects with the students.

The brief was to provide conceptual solutions for the foreshore precinct, taking into account the design, plans and ideas formulated by the architecture and urban planning students. The ideas were to be focused on creating vibrant, shared, and attractive environments for the public. The projects covered hydraulic, geotechnical and structural design, transport, hydrology and urban water management. With a final hand-in date of 26 August, the students were working to tight deadlines on a project which was the subject of their capstone fourth-year design course, and which at the same time formed part of the “World Design Capital Cape Town 2014” collaboration

between the City and EBE.

Professor Mark van Ryneveld, the fourth-year civil engineering design course convenor, said “The Future Foreshore project has provided a complex and multidisciplinary public project – good preparation for the real world, and lots of chance to engage across disciplines and between city and university. We have learnt so many lessons. The ill-defined and open-ended nature of the project was certainly a challenge.”

This was followed by a presentation of student work by the final-year electrical engineering students, with an emphasis on creative and innovative solutions for a “smart city” taking into consideration energy efficiency, climate change, mobility and technology. Professor Ali Baghai-Wadji, the course convenor, said “There were some very interesting and creative ideas. It was good to see engineers thinking out of the box.”



*Civil Engineering students engaging with staff from the City of Cape Town*

The curator, Ralph Borland, will now be identifying projects for an exhibition to be held in the City Hall in April 2014 as part of the World Design Capital. A smaller exhibition will be held in the Leslie Social Science Building on 16 and 17 December – for the EBE graduation ceremonies.



## Strategic new research project

A strategic new research project between Astrium, the European number one space-technology company with more than 18 000 employees, and UCT, has been successfully negotiated. The considerable effort of a number of people deserve recognition. At Astrium these include Guido Schwartz (Head of New Business), Dr. Philipp Behruzi and Francesco de Rose. The UCT team consisted of A/Prof. Arnaud Malan as well as Piet Barnard and Warda Sablay from the RCIPS office.

The project will commence in 2014. It is valued at over R2.3 million over three years and will involve the UCT elemental computational fluid dynamics tool in the development of internationally ground breaking modelling technology for space applications.

The involvement from Astrium will include Guido Schwartz, as well as two senior scientists. The UCT team will



be composed of A/Professor Arnaud Malan and two PhD students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

This project marks a significant milestone in South Africa entering the Space Technology game at a strategic level. The premier European space company has identified UCT as a strong research partner, which has resulted in a very important project for all parties. The intended work will see the installation

and licensing of South African technology at Astrium for the purpose of design. The work is, therefore, expected to have short and long term economic and business impact for South Africa.

Guido Schwartz will be visiting the Faculty on 20 September 2013 to table the signed contract.

While he is in Cape Town, Schwartz will be an independent observer at an attempt to set a new world record for a water propelled rocket by two mechanical engineering students. The rocket is 2.4 metres high and is expected to reach a height of 800 metres, with calculations and preliminary tests suggesting that the UCT device will set a new world record.

The launch will take place in Malmesbury on Saturday 21 September.

## First EBE teaching retreat



In spite of some very cold, rainy weather a group of eighteen EBE members of staff participated in the first EBE Teaching Retreat held in June at Mont Fleur outside Stellenbosch. The

retreat took the form of a series of workshops facilitated by Associate Professor Jeff Jawitz from the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED).

The workshops enabled staff to take some time to reflect on their effectiveness as teachers. Jeff emphasised the complexity and personal nature of teaching. Participants developed skills to draw on various forms of feedback on teaching, and reflected on ways to respond constructively to feedback from people like students, colleagues and external examiners. Alternative approaches to course evaluations and peer observation of lectures were considered, and some time was spent on developing a teaching portfolio.

The Dean joined the group for one of the sessions, and stayed on for Mont Fleur's legendary supper. The workshops provided a highly productive and practical environment for staff to interact around teaching, and to get to know one another a little better.

It is planned to make the Teaching Retreat part of EBE's annual calendar of events.

## Honorary Degree for Professor Bathe

Professor Klaus-Jürgen Bathe was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree on Sunday, 1 September 2013. The ceremony took place ahead of the fifth Conference on Structural Engineering, Mechanics and Computation (SEMC 2013), where he was one of the keynote speakers.

Professor Bathe, a UCT alumnus, is regarded as a giant in the field of computational mechanics and ranks among a handful of pioneers of a powerful procedure called the Finite Element Method. This is a numerical method for simulating on computer the response of complex structural and fluid systems in engineering and the sciences - from bridges and cars to biomedical and nano structures.



He has made fundamental contributions in theories and procedures that are used worldwide in computer programmes. On a more practical level, he has developed one of the most advanced and widely used finite-element programmes, called ADINA. His book *Finite Element Procedures* is a classic in the field. His work has helped create safer engineering structures, devices and machines which continue to benefit millions of people worldwide.

He retains strong links with UCT and established the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe scholarship for engineering students in 1997.

He is a mechanical engineering professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States.

## New Master of Philosophy specialising in Space Studies

In 2014, a new Master of Philosophy specialising in space studies will be offered in the Faculty. Dr Peter Martinez is the course convenor and the degree will be based in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Space on the seventh level of the Menzies Building has been made available for a space lab. The courses will be presented by leading South African and international space experts.

The space domain, by its nature, is multidisciplinary. This MPhil programme provides an interdisciplinary postgraduate qualification that exposes



participants to all the key aspects of space science and technology, with emphasis on space applications for societal benefit. The programme provides

a balance of the scientific, engineering and application aspects of space technology, as well as the policy, financial, commercial and regulatory aspects.

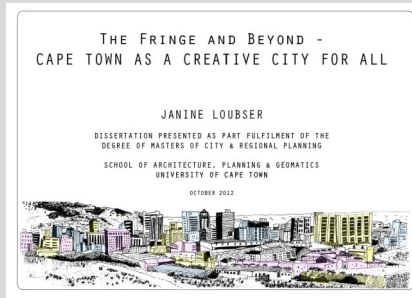
The academic curriculum and research components of the programme will be developed in alignment with several needs required to support sustainable development in Africa. These needs are being identified by the SA National Space Agency, the emerging African Space Policy of the African Union Commission and the United Nations space applications programme.

## International excellence in spatial planning award

“The Fringe and Beyond: Cape Town as a Creative City for All” was the title of Janine Loubser’s thesis which impressed the judges of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). In September, she will be awarded the RTPI’s Education Award 2013: for Excellence in Spatial Planning Research – student entry.

Loubser, a 2012 master’s graduate in City and Regional Planning, is presently working at City ThinkSpace, a prominent consultancy in the city.

Her supervisor, Dr Nancy Odendaal, said, “The MCRP programme is the only RTPI-accredited planning degree in Africa, and one of the few ones outside Britain.



We were accredited in 2012, so this is our first student entry.”

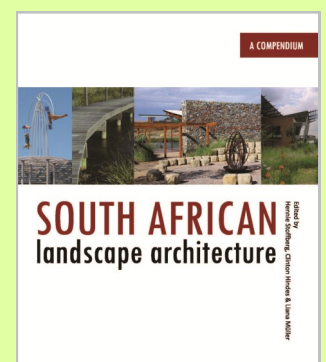
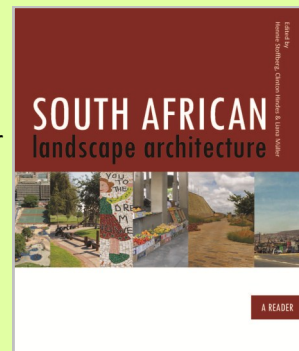
The awards were open to all planners, architects, surveyors and developers, members and non-members of the RTPI. The emphasis of the awards

was on originality and regional significance, especially in highlighting how the project had led to an enhancement of the physical environment and to recognisable social and economic benefit in terms of greater human happiness, safety and efficiency.

The awards will be presented in September at the Planning and Research conference held at the University of West England. “Janine was a joy to supervise. She is committed and talented. For a supervisor, this is often enough, but this award is wonderfully affirming and indicative of the fact that our work is internationally relevant,” said Odendaal.

## Award of excellence for two landscape architects

On 24 August, Clinton Hindes and Liana Müller received an Award of Excellence in the category “Publications & Research” from the Institute for Landscape Architecture of South Africa for the book pair *South African Landscape Architecture – a compendium and a reader*. Liana and Clinton edited these publications together with Hennie Stoffberg. They also contributed chapters to both books.



## Murray & Roberts Des Baker architecture award

The 2013 Murray & Roberts Des Baker Architecture Student Design Competition brief challenged architecture students to design, build, and install a full-scale Dialogue Box, as a kit-of-parts, not exceeding the spatial boundaries of the six square faces of a regular hexahedron.

A group of nine third-year Architectural Studies students, led by Rupert Jordi, were placed third and received an order of merit for their project Understory: the layer of life which exists beneath the canopy of a tree.

Their project was the creation of a neutral dialogue space that has the ability to travel to multiple sites in its quest to facilitate the resolution of South Africa’s complex socio-political and historical issues. The term Understory is borrowed from botanical studies and refers here to the acts of transformation that occur beneath the canopy of the five trees and speak to the



notion of a shared narrative.

“We are happy with the result and have really enjoyed the experience. We

have learned a huge amount which we wouldn’t trade for anything and feel a massive sense of achievement at designing something which was highly successful in the dialogue that it created,” said Jordi.

He added that it had been a wonderful experience to take a design further than the crit room walls and to realise their design and see it being used by the public. The challenges they faced in confronting the actual building of the structure were large and complex. At times, they felt the brief was far too demanding. In previous years students only had to do posters and scale models - a far cry from building something real.

“But at the end of the day we have learned such valuable skills and gained so much experience that we all agree the brief should always call for real-life projects like this,” Jordi said.

## Faculty News

### Welcome to new staff

Cheryl Thomas joined the Faculty Office at the beginning of August as the postgraduate officer.

Kim Hendricks joined the Faculty Office at the beginning of August as the admin assistant for the postgraduate section.

Louise Tait has joined the Energy , Poverty and Development group in the ERC as a researcher.

Dr Ramesh Govind joined the Division of Geomatics in June as a senior lecturer.

Dr Siew Leng Tai joined the Centre for Bioprocess Engineering in June as a senior lecturer.

Mr Kyle Hauslaib joined the Department of Chemical Engineering in June as a Chief Technical Officer.

Mr Loyiso Louw joined the EBE Faculty Office in July as the departmental assistant.

Mr Lawrence Bbosa joined the Centre for Minerals Research in July as a senior lecturer.

Ms Maria Moorlach has been appointed from July as a senior research officer in the Energy Research Centre.

Ms Kim Easton joined the Crystallisation & Precipitation Research Unit in August as a laboratory technician.

Miss Alta Du Plooy joined the Division of Geomatics in August as a senior secretary.

A/Professor Marcus Zuidgeest joined the Department of Civil Engineering in September.

Ms Anastacia Haddon joined the Department of Construction, Economics and Management in September as an administrative assistant.

## Long Service Awards

Congratulations to the following staff members who received their long service award. Their commitment and contributions to the Faculty are greatly appreciated.

Marc Wüst	Chemical Engineering	10 years
Heidi Tait	Faculty Office	10 years
Heather Sundström	Chemical Engineering	10 years
Penny Parker-Ross	Materials Engineering	10 years
Erica Le Roux	Faculty Office	10 years
Julie Thompsett	Architecture	15 years
Janine Meyer	Architecture	15 years
Samantha Reizenburg	Faculty Office	15 years
Lee-Anne Kallam	Chemical Engineering	15 years
Julian Mayer	Mechanical Engineering	35 years

## Retirements

At the end of 2013 the following staff members will be retiring:

After 44 years in Surveying/Geomatics at UCT, Mr Sydney Smith will be retiring at the end of the year.

Prof Trevor Gaunt who has been in the Department of Electrical Engineering for 17 years will be retiring at the end of the year but will be continuing with his research work.

After 26 years at UCT, Mr Stephen Schrire will be taking early retirement from the Department of Electrical Engineering.

## Congratulations

On 23 August, Liana Müller from the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Anno.



Suzana Savvi, a post doc in CeBER, married Paul Sutton on 3 August 2013 at the Tokai Methodist Church.



## Appointed to SABS

Congratulations to Dr Denis Kalumba from the Department of Civil Engineering, who has been appointed onto the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) national working committee to draft the new South African Geotechnical Design Standard.



## Transformation activities

### DINNER WITH THE DEAN

The annual "Dinner with the Dean" event took place on Tuesday evening 20 August and was attended by EBE staff as guests of the Dean and the Transformation Committee. The University's Ombudsman, Ms Zetu Makamandela-Mququlwa, was the speaker for the evening. She provided an informative and engaging talk that outlined her role in assisting in arbitrating on behalf of academic and PASS staff in a confidential manner.

Mrs Susan Batho, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, had the following to say: "I was delighted to be included in the invitation to the recent Dean's dinner organised by EBE's Transformation Committee. This is a wonderful way of getting to know staff in other departments in a relaxed atmosphere."



*Susan Batho, Mark van Ryneveld and Zetu Makamandela-Mququlwa*

## Invitation to a talk by Professor Jonathan Jansen

The members of the Transformation Committee

invite you to a talk by

**Professor Jonathan Jansen**

on Friday 4 October at 14h00

in LT2A, Leslie Social Sciences Building.



Professor Jansen is the Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State. He joined the university in 2008 when it was a deeply divided campus. Through his leadership the university has transformed into a model of integration worth emulating.

Prof Jansen is a strong proponent of intellectual freedom and the first black president of UFS. He initiated a process for campus-wide racial integration among students. In 2010 the university was awarded the World Universities Forum Award for Best Practice in Higher Education, which praised, amongst other things, the racial integration and harmonisation of the student community.

## Visitors to the Faculty

On 15 August, Professor Mike Inggs hosted the CEO, Dr Sandile Malinga, and six senior managers from the South African National Space Agency (SANSA). The aim of the visit was to discuss collaboration opportunities between SANSA and UCT, particularly in engineering but also in mathematics, the NASSP programme, and Space Weather. Professor Danie Visser, the Dean of Science and EBE, as well as the relevant academic staff attended the meeting.

## High-level Swiss delegation

A high-level Swiss delegation led by Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann visited the Faculty on 5 September. He was accompanied by the ambassador and various ministers and presidents of top Swiss universities. Dr Olaf Conrad, Professors Alison Lewis and Sue Harrison from Chemical Engineering, and a representative from Physics gave brief presentations to the delegation on their research work. The delegation's main areas of interest for the visit were energy and the environment, and how UCT turns research into business.

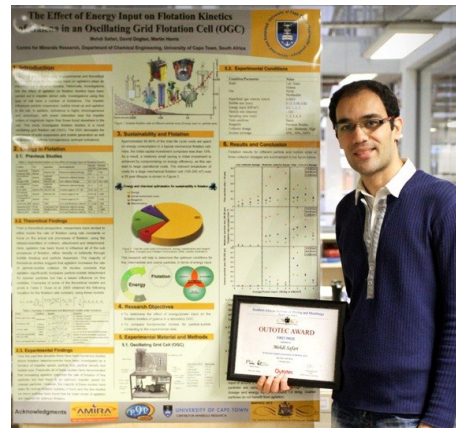


## Student happenings

### First prize at Min Proc 2013

Mehdi Safari, a PhD student in the Centre for Minerals Processing, received first prize for the best student presentation and poster at Min Proc 2013, the Southern African Mineral Beneficiation and Metallurgy Conference which was held at the Vineyard Hotel in August.

The title of his project was “The Effect of Energy Input on Flotation Kinetics “. His supervisor is Professor Dave Deglon, and his co-supervisor is Martin Harris.



### New 2014 EWB council



EWB UCT continues to go from strength to strength. It now has the support of EWB SA, which has been set up by the 2011 EWB UCT chair, Wiebke Touissant, and is supported by industry.

The 2013 EWB UCT committee has been involved in a wide range of projects ranging from biodigesters to solar geysers to a flood-prevention manual, to name a few. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members and wish them all the best as many of them go out into the work place.

We look forward to working together with the 2014 EWB council and wish them all the best during their term.

*Front Row: Naeema Hoosain (CAO), Rudo Ndhuni (Treasurer), Byeronie Epstein (Marketing Manager), Lauren Brooks (Events Coordinator)*

*Back Row: Kaboyamodimo Nare (Secretary), Rowan Nicholls (Chairperson), Kimaya Reddy (Corporate Relations & Sponsorship), Yuan-Shiun (Kevin) Wu (Deputy Chairperson and Projects Co-ordinator)*

### EBE undergraduate and postgraduate student councils get involved.

Members of the undergraduate and postgraduate student councils hosted the 100-UP Grade 11 learners on Saturday 24 August. The 80-plus learners were split into groups and were given a problem to solve in their communities. The student council members told them about the different roles each EBE discipline would play in solving the problems.

The learners were very enthusiastic and really enjoyed dealing with real problems which affect their daily lives.

Phumlile Ngobeni from the Undergraduate Student Council said, “It was exciting to see their faces light up when they came up with solutions to solve the problems they face in their communities.”



## Best Paper award for Communications Research Group



Petro Ernest, a doctoral student from the Communications Research Group in the Department of Electrical Engineering, has won one of the three best paper awards at the 16th Southern African Telecommunication Networks and Applications Conference held in early September, at Spier in Stellenbosch.

The paper, titled "Fast Route Optimization Considering Mitigating

Packet Loss for Proxy MIPv6 with Coordinating MAG," proposed a route optimization scheme for reducing packet loss and delay in next generation wireless networks using Proxy Mobile IPv6 mobility management protocol.

Petro co-authored the paper with his supervisors, Dr Olabisi Falowo and Prof H. Anthony Chan, and a collaborator, Dr Linoh Magagula.

## Best Paper award at International Aerospace Conference

Drewan Sanders, a master's student in the Aeronautical Research Group in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, received the best paper award at the International Aerospace Conference of South Africa in early September.

His paper was titled "The effects of

atmospheric turbulence on fuel consumption in extended formation flight." His supervisor is Professor Chris Redelinghuys.

Three other postgrads, Jordan Adams, William Tipping-Woods and Roberto Gomes, also gave excellent presentations.



## L'Oréal UNESCO For Women in Science Fellow

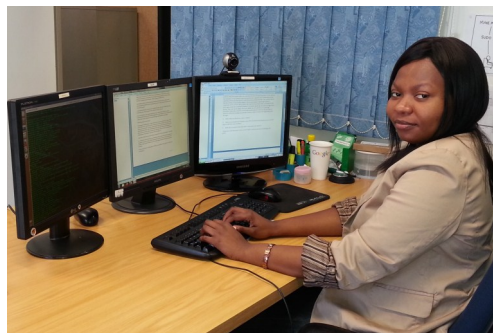
Joyce Mwangama is one of four UCT students who were selected to receive the 2013 FWIS fellowship.

Joyce has received five awards in just two years, including her most recent FWIS fellowship.

These include being named a Google Anita Borg Scholar, receiving the DST's Doctoral Fellowship in 2012, receiving a Special Faculty Award for her community involvement, and a research associateship award.

Joyce has completed two degrees at UCT – a BSc in electrical and computer engineering and an MSc in electrical engineering. She is currently working towards her PhD in the Communications Research Group. Her supervisor is Neco Ventura.

Outside of her research, Joyce works



part-time as a teaching assistant and research associate, and is involved in numerous volunteer and leadership positions within the UCT student body and local community. She is also the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) pre-university activities co-ordinator for the Africa region, where she assists with promoting

engineering and sciences to high school learners. In addition, she is the IEEE Region 8 (Europe, Middle East, Africa) women-in-engineering co-ordinator, responsible for promoting the advancement of women in the IEEE fields of interest as well as encouraging young females to pursue careers in science and engineering within the region.

Joyce says winning the FWIS fellowship validates her research efforts. "It boosts my confidence in my work, and makes me feel that my research is worthwhile. Sometimes when pursuing a PhD you come across mental barriers relating to your research and the relevance of what you're doing. In that sense, this fellowship shows that others acknowledge that I am doing something important," she says.

## EBE's flagship mentor programme



Civil Engineering Mentors

Wednesday 11 September saw the foyer of the NEB buzzing with 160 mentors who were invited to a lunch to thank them for the contribution they had made to the faculty's first-year mentoring programme. June Pym from the EDU programme in the Commerce Faculty was the guest speaker. She honoured the mentor students for giving up their precious time to give back and support the first-years in the difficult transition to university life. A few of the mentors shared their experiences and all had a positive message to give about how much they had gained from the programme



## Alumni Activities

### Gauteng networking event

On 1 August the Dean hosted an alumni event in Johannesburg where Dr Steven Lennon, Eskom Group Executive for Sustainability, was the guest speaker. His topic was the South African Power Sector and Sustainability.

The topic attracted over 60 EBE alumni and no one went away disappointed. Lennon gave the alumni hope for the energy situation in Africa. He said that if there was a "cellphone" in the energy sector it would be energy storage. He added that there were a number of game changers out there which could change the future of energy.



*Erica Johnson and Wiebke Touissant*



*Allan R. Mellish, a 1948 civil engineering graduate, talking to Mandisa Zitha*



*Dr Steve Lennon and his wife*



*The Dean with Khanyisa Cekiso*

### Western Cape Eskom corporate chapter

On 3 September, Eskom hosted the first Eskom corporate alumni chapter with 60 alumni and friends of the Faculty attending the event held at Eskom's Bellville offices.

Alwie Lester, the General Manager for Eskom Western Cape, said that Eskom was the biggest recruiter of engineers in the country and therefore the relationship with the Faculty was critical. Over 40% of graduates at Eskom in the Western Cape are from UCT.

The Dean gave a presentation on the Roadmap for the Future: EBE's achievements and vision, in which he identified the areas where the alumni could play a role.

Promise Ntuli, a 2005 electrical engineering graduate, said she was very impressed with the developments in the Faculty and was glad to see the social responsive aspect of the Faculty.



*The Dean, Promise Ntuli and Alwie Lester, General Manager: Eskom WC Operating Unit*



*Senitra de Bruyn, Monique Meder, Vuyolwethu Matiwane and Tebello Mello*



*Mandisa Zitha, Nonhlanhla Mtetwa and Nyameka Zunguzane*



*Erlind Segers and Brent Potgieter*

### 50-YEAR REUNION

Mandisa Zitha, the EBE alumni officer, is working with a group of 1963 graduates to plan a 50-year reunion for the weekend of 6 to 8 December 2013. The reunion is for chemical, electrical, civil and mechanical engineering graduates. If you are in contact with any 1963 graduates, please send their contact details to [Mandisa.Zitha@uct.ac.za](mailto:Mandisa.Zitha@uct.ac.za).

## Architects' networking event with industry

Third-year, honours and master's architecture students were invited to an evening to network with local architecture firms, which included many alumni. Bronwyn Horn, a third-year architecture student, organised the event with the assistance of the Cape Town Institute of Architecture.

A fourth-year student gave a short talk on her internship experience and a third-year student described their major project. The students had the opportunity to network and chat to representatives from the architecture firms. This evening forms part of developing closer relationships with the architecture industry in the Western Cape.

Bronwyn said, "A lot of students said the evening was a valuable experience, and expressed enthusiasm about how the evening turned out."



## Alumni giving back



It is truly great to see young alumni starting to give back to the Faculty.

Portia Gama was the first recipient of the Postgraduate Alumni Scholarship which was set up by Dr Ntokozo Mthembu in 2007. He did his PhD in engineering management and said that all his studies were supported by bursaries and scholarships and he wanted to plough back into the institutions that had supported him.

When Portia received the award she said "I hope that one day I will be able to do the same for a postgraduate student in need." This year she has made her first contribution and says she hopes to make it an annual contribution.

Portia graduated with a BSc in Electrical Engineering in 2008 and a Master's in Engineering Management in 2011. She is presently living in Copenhagen, Denmark.

## Visiting alumni

Mlamli Booi, (BSc Electrical Engineering 1986 and MSc 1989) came to visit the Faculty on Friday 6 September.

Mlamli is the CEO and founder of Z-Coms ICT strategy in Johannesburg.

He attended an alumni breakfast with the Dean in Johannesburg, and decided to take the opportunity, when he was in Cape Town, to visit the Faculty and see the new building.

## Civil Engineering alumni

Nazeema Ahmed, the faculty counsellor, is co-ordinating a pilot mentoring programme for the second to fourth-year Civil Engineering students. A call was made to civil engineering alumni and the response was overwhelming.

Nazeema now has 96 civil engineering alumni who have offered to mentor and have been paired with a second, third or fourth-year student. Mentors have a wide range of expertise and the experience varies from a few new graduates to others who have decades of experience and are CEOs of large companies.

This pilot will be evaluated at the end of the year and if successful, it will continue into next year and be rolled out to the other departments.