

Faculty Newsletter

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Message from the Dean

The semester started off with the annual Faculty Safety Week with Mr Alex Stramrood from Eskom giving the plenary session on Tuesday 24 July.

I would like to thank the health and safety representatives who drive the agenda of safety in their departments. It is very rewarding to see how safety has become an integral part of the day-to-day activities in the departments and how seriously staff and students are taking safety issues.

This year the safety week was followed by an energy-efficiency campaign. We ran a pilot project to see if we could reduce our energy consumption. I would like to thank everyone who gave us feedback and their ideas on what needs to be done to reduce our energy consumption. We will be holding a session to discuss this further with the relevant role players in the university.

The HIV/Aids campaign took place on Wednesday 15 August with a good turnout from staff and students. The undergraduate and postgraduate student councils were very supportive of the campaign and encouraged students to know their status.

The ECSA follow-up visit to Electrical and Chemical Engineering took place on 3 and 4 September. I am pleased to say that all programmes were fully accredited until the next visit in 2015. Congratulations to both departments for their hard work and input.

Congratulations to Edgar Pieterse and Sue Harrison on the renewal of their SARCHi Chairs. This is indeed well-deserved and we are grateful for the contribution that they make to-

wards the overall research output of the Faculty.

Professor George Ekama's NRF A-rating has been reconfirmed. This is indeed a great honour for the Faculty and the recognition of his work helps us achieve our vision to become the faculty of choice for national and international students and staff. Congratulations also to Heinrich Wolff from Architecture, who received a C1 rating.

It has been a stressful time for staff members in Centlivres with all the building alterations going on around them. We are aware that the conditions are not ideal and I would like to thank them for their patience and cooperation. We look forward to seeing the new refurbished Centlivres Building soon.

International Architecture Exhibition for Noero



Jo Noero from the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics was the only African invited to exhibit at the 13th International Architecture Exhibition la Biennale di Venezia, which runs until 25 November 2012 in Venice, Italy.

Renowned architect Sir David Chipperfield, the director of the exhibition, personally invited Noero to exhibit alongside some of the world's top architects, including Bernard Tschumi, Rem Koolhaas, and Herzog & de Meuron.

Jo's exhibition was titled Common Ground / Different Worlds. "Common ground is almost always necessary for transformation, translation and expression in art and architecture," he says.

International Organisation has its first African President

Professor Mark Alexander was elected President of RILEM which is an international organisation concerned with research in materials and structures and has been in existence since 1947 with its headquarters in Paris. It started off as a very Eurocentric organisation but in recent years has been making great efforts to internationalise and has groups in South America, China, the Russian Federation and possibly India. It is the first time that RILEM has had an African president.



Postgraduate students, the Dean and Professor Pilate Moyo seen with Professor Mark Alexander at a celebration tea

Faculty Advisory Board

The Faculty Advisory Board meeting took place on Friday 4 May. The new board members are Mr Norbet Behrens, general manager for group strategy at Sasol, Mr Neville Nicolau, CEO of Anglo Platinum, Dr Steve Lennon, managing director of the corporate services division at Eskom, Mr Stefan Antoni, CEO at SAOTA, and Mr Pieter Uys, CEO of the Vodacom Group. The Faculty executive, including deputy deans, assistant deans, HODs and members of the Faculty office, also attended the meeting.

The Dean gave an overview of the Faculty which highlighted the strategic objectives of the Faculty and the challenges we are facing. Professor Jenni Case gave a presentation on aca-



Stefan Antoni, Neville Nicolau, Francis Petersen, Norbet Behrens and Steve Lennon

demic development and curriculum revision and updated the board on the programmes that have been developed to assist in improving the throughput

rate. Neville Nicolau of Anglo Platinum and Steve Lennon gave presentations on the industries they work in and the challenges they are facing. In closing the meeting, the industry members gave their feedback on the faculty and highlighted a few concerns they had around transformation, how we are addressing key areas such as energy efficiency, climate change, finite reserves and resource capacities. They emphasised the importance of graduating students who are not only technically competent, but are also able to deal with the complexity of the work place today.

Community members complete CPD course

In the April newsletter we reported on the collaboration between the first-year city and regional planning master's students, the Langrug community, Stellenbosch municipality and an NGO.

The School of Architecture facilitated a basic planning skills course for community members. Trevor Masiy attended the course, and says that it opened his eyes to his rights in terms of legislation and the constitution but also to understanding his own community. "It was a good course that set the tone for the work we'll be doing with UCT in the future," he says.

The community members, who completed the course, came together with the planning students, staff from the school of architecture and the EBE Faculty, the Stellenbosch municipality and the NGO, to celebrate their achievement in completing the course.



Community members seen at a function at UCT with Basil Walker from Stellenbosch Municipality, Francis Petersen, Tanja Winkler, Liana Muller, Aditya Kumar, CORC technical coordinator and a Langrug project manager and Alta Steenkamp.

International Recognition for Geomatics staff

Emeritus Professor Heinz Ruther has received a Fellowship from the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) in recognition of his sustained, excellent service to the ISPRS and its aims.

Dr George Sithole received the Eduard Dolezal Award which is awarded to assist individuals or representatives of institutions from developing countries who have permanently implemented a practical application of photogrammetry, remote sensing or GIS to participate in the ISPRS Congress.

Celebrating Women's month

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) hosts the South African Women in Science Awards (WISA) annually to recognise and reward the achievements of South African women scientists and researchers.

Distinguished Women in Science Award



At the event on 24 August, Professor Alison Lewis of the Department of Chemical Engineering received the top award in the blue-ribbon category for Distinguished Women Scientists: Physical and Engineering Sciences.

These awards go to women scientists and researchers who have made an outstanding scientific contribution to advancing science and building the knowledge base in their respective disciplines. The criteria used for

this category include consideration of the nominee's teaching and research experience, research and innovation outputs, national and international eminence, and experience in supervision and mentorship aimed at achieving equity and redress.

DST Fellowships

These awards are made to six master's and six doctoral students who are currently involved in fulltime study or research leading to a master's or doctoral degree respectively. These awards recognise outstanding ability and potential in research, enhance the women's research experience and output and encourage more young women to complete research degrees.

Joyce Mwangama from the Communications Research Group in Electrical Engineering received a DST fellowship for her doctoral studies. Joyce was recently named as a Google Anita Borg Scholar, which is awarded based on the strength of candidates' academic performance, leadership experience and demonstrated passion for computer science.

Gladwell Nganga from the Concrete Materials and Structural Integrity Research Unit received a DST Fellowship for her doctoral studies.

Lombe Mutale from the Concrete Materials and Structural Integrity Research Unit received a DST Fellowship for her master's studies.



Lombe Mutale, Gladwell Nganga
and Joyce Mwangame

Dr Tanja Winkler received the Excellence in Teaching Award for her innovative teaching methods from the Women in Engineering and the Built Environment (WIEBE), a programme based at the University of Johannesburg.



Rachel Mugai from CoMSIRU was one of 25 winners of the Green Talents competition 2012 which is awarded to outstanding young scientists by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany. Rachel will be attending the Green Talents International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable

Development in Berlin in October 2012, where she will receive her award. She has been given the opportunity of studying at an institution of her choice for three months in 2013.

On Wednesday 1 August, Professor Jenni Case gave her Inaugural Lecture to an overflowing Lecture Theatre in the Kramer Law Building.

The new struggle: understanding student learning in contemporary South Africa was the title of her lecture.

A podcast of Jenni's lecture can be found at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2012/>



Jenni Case with Letitia Snyman, ex headmistress of Rhenish Girls' and a mentor and great friend

Celebrating Africa



On Friday 11 May, the EBE student council, in partnership with McKinsey and Company, hosted a discussion on “Closing the infrastructure gap in Africa”. The speaker, Mukani Moyo, graduated from UCT in 2004 with a

BSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Moyo is currently an Engagement Manager at McKinsey and his work has been primarily in the mining, oil, gas and infrastructure sectors across sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, Nigeria, Zambia and Liberia. The work McKinsey has recently completed is on “How can Africa close the gap in infrastructure?” There is lots of interest in what is happening in Africa, and what the opportunities are in infrastructure, but investors want to know if there is a solid business case for investment in Africa.

On Tuesday 15 May, the Transformation Committee hosted Dr Matlotleng Matlou, Chief Executive Officer of the Africa Institute of South Africa, who addressed staff and students in commemoration of Africa Day. His topic was “Celebrating Africa and its Diaspora: how practical will the outcomes of the African Diaspora Summit of 25 May 2012 be?”



ICT aids sustainable water solutions

For the past four years, the iCOMMS unit under the leadership of A/Professor Ulrike Rivett has focused on the water sector, developing a number of mobile applications to support municipalities and give them the tools to easily and cost-effectively monitor the quality of the water supply they have a constitutional obligation to deliver.

It's a relatively new area of IT development and as part of her commitment to fostering growth in the field, Ulrike has partnered with David Schaub-Jones, co-founder of SeeSaw, a social enterprise that customises technology to support sanitation and water providers. Together, they organised a two-day workshop, aptly titled “*But Does it Float?*” at UCT in June.

The workshop brought together a diverse group of participants with the common interest of utilising information and communication technology innovations to leverage sustainable development solutions and offered them a unique space to engage with what Schaub-Jones calls “one of the early trends of this decade”.



Visit by Lonmin Representatives

On 11 May the Dean and Chemical Engineering hosted a visit from Lonmin's Executive Vice President: Human Capital & External Affairs, Barnard Mokwena, and Ashley Walbrugh, the Senior Manager: Talent, Leadership & Performance. Representatives from the EBE undergraduate student council were invited to join the meeting and Barnard said it was very pleasing to see students of this calibre representing the future. He said it was important that UCT graduates students who can adapt and be sensitive to the environment and the people they are working with.



Aubrey Mainza, Jenni Case, Ashley Walbrugh, Francis Petersen and Barnard Mokwena seen touring the facilities in Chemical Engineering

Energy Efficiency—Adjunct Professor



Adjunct Professor Louis Jestin has joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering to oversee the establishment of the Energy Efficiency Chair which is funded by Eskom. Louis is presently the Deputy Director of the Eskom Power Plant Engineering Institute.

CONFERENCES

Professor Rob Knutsen was part of the organising committee who organised the **Mechanical, Manufacturing and Materials Engineering conference** which took place at CPUT's Bellville campus in June. The conference was endorsed by SAIMEchE and organised by the mechanical engineering departments of UCT, CPUT and Stellenbosch University. It was an opportunity for postgraduate students to present their research in mechanical, manufacturing and materials engineering.

Professor Mark Alexander, A/Professor Hans Beushausen and Professor Pilate Moyo from CoMSIRU organised the **3rd International Conference on Concrete Repair, Rehabilitation and Retrofitting**, which took place on campus in early September.

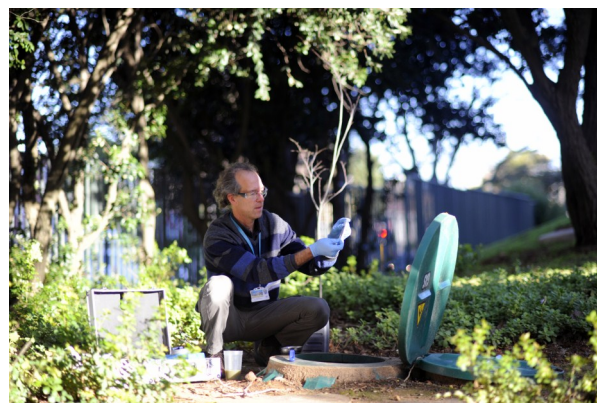
R2.5 million grant from the NRF

Associate Professor Harro von Blottnitz's Environmental and Process systems research group, in the Department of Chemical Engineering, has been awarded a R2.5 million grant by the National Research Foundation to support research into the emerging biogas innovation sector in South Africa.

Harro said: "As part of this project we will be supporting

biogas demonstration projects, both in urban settings in Cape Town and in rural settings, collaborating with the Department of Physics at the University of Venda, which has already developed some expertise in biogas technology in rural settings."

The project has received wide national media coverage. The full article can be read at www.ebe.uct.ac.za



Safety, Health And Environment campaigns

Safety

This year the second semester started off with the annual safety campaign, with Mr Alex Stramrood as the guest speaker for the plenary session on Tuesday 24 July. Alex is the Group Manager responsible for Occupational Health and Safety at Eskom. He has 28 years of safety experience and gave a very vivid presentation, showing some of the real-life outcomes of what happens when safety rules are ignored. He said there are three basic rules of risk management which people should consider: do not risk a lot for a little, consider the odds, and never risk more than you can afford to lose. He was pleased to see that the Faculty had introduced the focus on safety in the curriculum and said it was crucial that new graduates coming into the industry had the baseline safety requirements. He said that 96% of accidents were caused by unsafe behaviour and 4% by unsafe conditions, which were caused by human behaviour most of the time. He left us with the message: "Every day, in every decision we make, in every action we take—safety is personal and part of us."



Energy



An Energy Efficiency campaign was piloted for two weeks in August. Property and Services monitored three sub stations - Leslie sub station (Robert Leslie Complex and Kaplan Centre), Beattie sub station (Arts Block, Beattie Building, Centlivres, Geological Sciences, Humanities and Mech & Elect Eng) and the Engineering sub station (Menzies and Jagger Library). They compared both energy consumption and demand for the exact period in 2011 and 2012. In the end the Leslie sub station was the winner with a saving in consumption (3.26%) and demand (10.61%) compared to the same period of last year. While buildings off the Beattie sub station, (Arts Block, Beattie Building, Centlivres, Geological Sciences, Humanities and Mech & Elect Eng) had significant savings on consumption (7.29%), they increased their demand (3.43%). Engineering sub station unfortunately used more energy and had a higher demand than last year, albeit only marginally.

Health

The Health campaign was around HIV testing and on 15 August Student Wellness Services organised a mobile HIV-testing clinic to be parked outside the Chemical Engineering Building. It was great to see the response from staff and students and know that for next year we will need to increase the number of testing facilities.



DVC visits Department of Chemical Engineering

On 15 August, Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, visited the Department of Chemical Engineering. He updated the staff on the University's executive matters. Professor Alison Lewis and Professor Jack Fletcher gave him an overview of the department's successes and challenges. This was followed by an open forum before Professor Nhlapo was taken on a tour of the facilities in the building.



Urban Planning Law Reform in Sub-Saharan Africa



A gathering of urban planning and legal experts under the auspices of the African Centre for Cities and the Association of African Planning Schools took place in July at the Rockefeller centre in Bellagio. The meeting was to discuss urban and planning law reform in sub-Saharan Africa where, in many countries, unreformed, outdated or unimplemented laws are unable to respond to the many new forces now shaping urban settlements. The meeting agreed to consider a long-term strategy to bring about urban and planning law reform on the continent.

Professor Vanessa Watson (front row 3rd left) seen with delegates at the Rockefeller centre in Bellagio

Launch of international partnership

The City of Cape Town and the African Centre for Cities (ACC) recently launched the Mistra Urban Futures (MUF) Knowledge Transfer project with the vision to increase capacities to transform current unsustainable urban development pathways to more sustainable urban futures.

At the launch, Alderman Belinda Walker, mayoral committee member responsible for environmental and spatial planning for the city, said that the African Centre for Cities had the same vision that they have for the city in creating fair, green and dense cities.

"We are already seeing benefits with the work that is being done and the researchers from the ACC are bringing academic rigour to the process which gives us a unique perspective on our work and our ideas."

MUF is an international centre supporting urban sustainability and believes that co-production of knowledge is a winning concept for achieving sustainable urban futures and creating fair, green and dense cities. Fair Cities is concerned with justice, social inclusion, rights and access. Green Cities' focus area responds to the critical need to develop localised response to



Left to right: Rob McGaffin, Anna Taylor (researchers), Zarina Patel (project co-ordinator), Belinda Walker (Mayoral committee member), Saul Roux and Anton Cartwright (researchers).

managing resource constraints and climate change. And the Dense Cities theme explores the role of urban densification in promoting access to urban qualities and services. These are all areas that the City of Cape Town has been addressing for a long period of time, both in policy and through projects and programmes in different localities in the City, therefore Cape Town is well situated to contribute towards international debates on the meaning and role of fair, green and dense in addressing urban

sustainable development challenges.

The research to be conducted by Anton Cartwright, Robert McGaffin, Saul Roux and Anna Taylor, all working from the ACC, will be the flagship studies of the new partnership known as the Mistra Urban Futures Knowledge Transfer Project. With this initiative, Cape Town now joins four other cities – Gothenburg in Sweden, Manchester in the UK, Shanghai in China and Kisumu in Kenya – that go under the spotlight.

CEM brings hope to Tembaletu

Tembaletu means 'our hope' and this week a group of UCT construction studies students brought hope to this special-needs school which is situated in Guguletu and caters for disabled children across the Western Cape.

Over the past couple of weeks the students have raised R52 800 for the community build which forms part of one of the first-year courses. They have also received donations in equipment, materials, cement, free plants and paint from various local industries.

They have brightened up and restored the tyre garden to make it a great place for the children to play and learn about gardening, fixed up a very run-down caretaker's cottage, connected a walkway to make it easier for the children to reach their dining room, planted plants, and organised the library. "The help we have received from various companies has

been tremendous," said Ryall Jacobs, chair of the Association of the Built Environment Students at UCT, and who played an instrumental role in organising



CEM first-year students uplifting Tembaletu School in Guguletu.

the community build. "Without their help, this build would not have been possible."

The school faces tremendous challenges in maintaining the school grounds as their budget goes into the maintenance and running of the transport which collects the children from all over the Western Cape. Mr Bernard Pather, principal of the school, said, "The UCT students do not realise the difference they have made to the school, and how they have changed the lives of the learners. We greatly appreciate their input and hope it will be a lasting relationship."

Yusuf Abrahams, a student who participated, said "It has been a very humbling experience to see how these kids battle with the basic day-to-day activities. It is a great initiative which I am proud to be part of."

EBE Research Workshop

In June, Professor Sue Harrison organised an EBE research workshop to discuss what would it take to raise the level (impact, profile and outputs) of research in EBE. Robust discussions took place around a number of issues such as the logistics of making time available for research, sustainable funding opportunities, the alignment and mentoring of new staff, how postgraduate coursework is distributed amongst departmental staff.

Professor Harrison will present the outcomes of the workshop and the way forward at the next Faculty Board.

Aurecon invests in Human Capital Development

Aurecon has committed R2 million over the next five years to support civil engineering postgraduate students at the University of Cape Town. "The aim of the programme is to encourage black South African students to further their studies in the fields of civil engineering. I am greatly encouraged by the work being done in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, and look forward to the next five years," said Albert Geldenhuys, Aurecon's General Manager, South Africa.

Three students have been awarded bursaries for 2012. Mpfane Deyi, a PhD candidate whose research area is in water transport and distribution, Leighton Leukes, an MSc (Eng) student specialising in structural engineering and structural materials, and Janina Kanjee, a master's student specialising in structural engineering. "It has been an honour to be awarded this bursary. It is great to see that industry is prepared to support research and invest in our personal development,"

said Kanjee. Each student has been given a mentor from Aurecon who will be available to assist and guide them during their studies.



Left to right: Leighton Leukes, Janina Kanjee, Francis Petersen (Dean), Albert Geldenhuys (General Manager: Aurecon), Mpfane Deyi and Alphose Zingoni (HOD Civil Engineering).

New Staff

Welcome to Mandisa Zitha who joined the EBE Faculty Office in July as the EBE Alumni Officer.



Mandisa will be responsible for providing opportunities for our alumni to cultivate a long-term relationship with the Faculty. Through special events, alumni news, social media, higher-education opportunities and many other initiatives, Mandisa will connect us with our regional and international alumni.



Amir Patel, Barry Downing, Alireza Baghai-Wadji and Andrew van der Byl

Electrical Engineering held a lunch to welcome a number of new staff members who have joined them recently

Amir Patel has joined as a lecturer on a three-year contract. He is registered for his PhD.

Professor Alireza Baghai-Wadji joins the Department from Melbourne University but has worked all over the world. Africa is the only continent he had not worked on. His research interests are electromagnetics, electronics, photonics, signal processing and computational engineering.

Andrew van der Byl is working with Mike Inggs as a research officer, working on SKA related projects on a three-year contract. He is currently registered for his PhD.

Moegsien Southgate and **Rubin Van Schalkwyk** joined the Minerals Processing Research Unit in May as Research Assistants.

Elizabeth Starck joined BISRU in June as Admin Assistant

Michael Champanis joined Civil Engineering in July as a Research Officer



The Energy Research Centre has welcomed a number of new staff members:

Anthony Dane joined in May as a Research Officer

Wendy Engel joined in June as a Senior Research Officer.

Alistair Stewart, Graham Gariseb and **Deliege Kapongo Wakapongo** joined in July as Energy Efficiency Researchers.

Resignations:

Karen Donovan from the ERC will be leaving at the end of October.

Christoph Held from Geomatics left at the end of May.

Beryl Stoffberg from CEM left at the end of June.

Muriel Mlanjana from CEM left at the end of July.

Fran Pocock from Chemical Engineering took early retirement at the end of July.

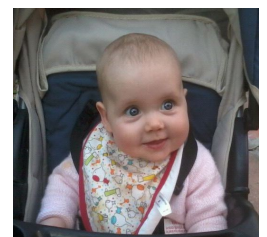
CONGRATULATIONS

This year Chemical Engineering has had a number of new additions to their family:

Paul Bepswa and his wife Neo celebrated the birth of their baby boy Tumelo, born on 4 January.

Aubrey Mainza and his wife Margaret celebrated the birth of their baby girl Mambo, born on 16 January.

Kirsten Corin and her husband Andrew celebrated the birth of their baby daughter Catherine Charlotte, born on 16 February.



Caryn Fenner and her husband Tim celebrated the birth of their baby boy Zachery, born on 22 March.



Marlene and John Hyland celebrated the birth of their first grandchild who was born in Dubai on 23 August to their son Roger and his wife, Zinmar.

Bill Daubenton and his wife Lella celebrated their son Duane's wedding on Saturday 1 September.

Olabisi Falowo from the Department of Electrical Engineering married his Namibian wife, Mehafo, at a ceremony in Cape Town on 29 June and at a second ceremony in Namibia on 7 July.

Student news

Two UCT chemical engineering graduates **Farai Mashayamombe and Siphesihle Radebe**, received the Undergraduate Student of the Year prize which was awarded at the Chemical Technology Awards evening on 27 June in Johannesburg. The prize is sponsored by Vega Instruments SA and was awarded for their paper entitled “The role of media size on the energy consumption in an Isamill.” Aubrey Mainza, Lawrence Bbosa and Ditend Tesh from the Centre of Minerals Research were the supervisors for their final year project.

Peter Malati, a post-doctoral candidate in chemical engineering, received an award from the National Youth Development Agency’s Youth Awards for academic excellence. He runs a chemistry project for rural kids in six Mpumalanga high schools.

A paper by **Yousef Ghorbani**, a Minerals to Metals student, paper titled “Large particle effects in chemical/biochemical heap leach processes – a review” – is one of the top 25 hottest articles, Mineral Engineering 2011.

Neehal Mooruth, a PhD student, and **Rob Van Hille**, a senior researcher in the Department of Chemical Engineering, received the WISA (Water Institute of South Africa) award for the most outstanding contribution to industrial water technology.

Matthias Brodner, a chemical engineering MSc student, was voted the most inspirational entrepreneur by the delegates at the AIESEC Student Apprentice Challenge. The organising committee deemed Matthias to be one of Africa’s leading young entrepreneurs. Overall he finished in third position and won an international internship with anyone of the 1000 partner companies of AIESEC.

Ross Burnham, a former Chemical Engineering MSc student at the Sasol Advanced Fuels Laboratory, was placed third at the finals of the Young Person’s World Lecture Competition which was held in London. This is the second year in a row that a former chemical engineering graduate has been placed in the top three. Ross presented a talk entitled “Flying into the future: the effect of fuel composition on seal performance in jet engine applications.” The talk was based on work performed during Ross’s MSc research which was conducted under the supervision of Dr Chris Woolard.



In May, the UCT IEEE student branch hosted visitors from the IEEE foundation. David Oyekodun, the outgoing Chair of the IEEE student branch gave a presentation on the work they have been involved in. The visitors were taken out to an orphanage in Nyanga where the IEEE students had installed a solar water geyser and solar panels. Professor Leah Jamieson, President of the IEEE Foundation was very impressed at how the students had worked together with a community to solve a problem.



Standing: Graeme Paul, Matthew Niemann, Michael Schmid, Sumayyeh Patel, Daniella Masciotti, Sarah Pineo, Rahla Schaffer, Piet Van der Westhuizen, Seated: Professor Francis Petersen, Patricia De Lille (Mayor), Mashilo Moabelo

At a function held in the Mayor’s Dining room, the top academic students across the EBE departments received their City of Cape Town Corporation Medals for their academic excellence. The Mayor said she was proud to have partnered with UCT to recognise the students who shine in their studies and inspire other students to strive for excellence.

OBITUARY

Kevin Japp, a MSc student in the fuel cell team of HySA/ Catalysis, in the Department of Chemical Engineering died in his sleep on 21 July.

Professor Jack Fletcher said “Kevin was a sincere person of notable warmth and enthusiasm—a truly wonderful friend and colleague. His varied scientific background and his focused research approach made him well suited for the transition to PhD studies—a goal which, sadly, will now remain unfulfilled.

TRANSFORMATION

Construction Economics and Management staff celebrate diversity

The Department of Construction Economics and Management is celebrating their very diverse staff body by hosting monthly lunches where they experience food and learn more about the culture of one of their staff members. The different cultures in the department are Xhosa, Nigerian, Zimbabwean, Zambian, Malay, Afrikaans, British and Dutch. Below, staff are seen enjoying Xhosa food.



Cultural Evening



Dr Kalumba from Civil Engineering with his wife Phumzile and their children.

The Faculty has international students from 49 countries around the world and to celebrate this diversity the annual cultural evening was held on 31 August in Jameson Hall. Over 120 postgraduate students and staff were entertained by talented EBE students. There was ballroom dancing, an Afro-Jazz band, an accordion player, djembe drums and a fire performer. It was a great evening where staff and students relaxed with family and friends.

Trip to Imizamo Yethu



Over 30 staff members visited Imizamo Yethu, an informal township in Hout Bay, as part of the Faculty's Values and Culture programme. The visit gave staff an opportunity to visit a township and the washing platforms which the second-year architecture students, together with key staff members (Mike Louw, John Coetzee, Shafiek Matthews and Kevin Fellingham) and members of the local community, had built.

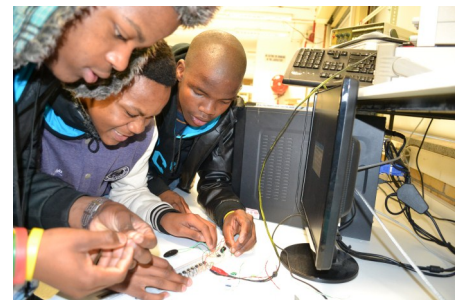
The washing platforms provide a more dignified space for the washing of clothes and the integration of these with shared toilet facilities where these are in close proximity. The platform projects are run by the second-year architecture lecturers and this is the third platform of its kind. The intention is to build a total of eight platforms over a period of eight years.

Dinner with the Dean

On 26 July, the Values and Culture working group held the second Dinner with the Dean where representatives from the academic and PASS staff in each department are invited to join the Dean for dinner. The event provides an opportunity for staff to interact with the Dean and colleagues in an informal setting. The guest speaker was Dr Jonathan Clarke from the Schools Development Unit and he spoke on the state of education in the country and the Vice-Chancellor's Schools Initiative Project.

Schools events

- Rene Toerien from the Department of Chemical Engineering held the annual work shadow programme for Grade 11 learners who wish to learn more about chemical engineering.
- Simone Le Grange held the annual Architecture schools programme for 30 high school learners who spend three days at the school finding out more about studying in architecture and the application process.
- The Lead Global programme took place in June and 20 high school learners from local high schools and from America spent two weeks in the Faculty finding out more about all the engineering fields.
- The Faculty was represented at careers evenings at Springfield Convent, Westerford, Herzlia, Luhlaza, South Peninsula, and Belgravia High.
- EBE students held a GirlEng programme and were involved in the 100-Up and the MSEP programmes over the June/July holidays.
- Over 70 potential applicants and their parents have been to visit the Faculty to get a better idea of what we offer in EBE and to see our facilities.



NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING

Naming of the Building

The completion of the New Engineering Building is fast coming up and will need to be named, as well as the Extended Snape Building which will be developed in 2013.

You are invited to submit, in writing, proposed names for one or both of the new buildings, together with a motivation (2 pages max per motivation) to Gita Valodia by 30 September. The Dean's Advisory Committee will consider the proposals, and select names that will be put to the Naming of Building Committee (NOBC) and then to the University Council for final approval. The proposals to name the Civil Engineering Board Room, the Snape Board Room and the Dean's Board Room the John Martin Room, will also be put to the NOBC for final approval.

Progress on the Building

The link (breakthrough) between the New Engineering Building and the Chemical Engineering building for Levels 4 & 5 is scheduled for the first week in October. This involves extending the two passages in Chemical Engineering into the NEB. This area will be dry-walled off and contractors will not have access to the building. Those directly affected have been informed and will be moved to new areas over the next couple of weeks.

From 29 October the plan is still on track to move in furniture and equipment for Civil Engineering and the following week staff will start moving into their new offices.

Visit to the New Building

Staff from the PIC and User Groups, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering and the Faculty Office were taken on a tour of the new building by Michael Wentworth, an architect from SAOTA.

