



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

FACULTY NEWSLETTER

ENGINEERING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



We finished the first quarter of the year having overcome several challenges, such as the frequent protests on campus, which resulted in the transition from in-person to online teaching and learning within a short time frame, registration challenges, and the late release of NSC results, to mention a few.

I would like to recognise all staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that we continue to deliver on our primary purpose of teaching, learning and research in the faculty.

We began face-to-face interactions throughout our different areas at the start of the year, and it was amazing to see so many people back on campus, which created a great energy. The March graduation ceremony returned to its traditional format and took place in Sarah Baartman Hall where 687 graduates were honoured across three ceremonies.

I'm delighted that three of our EBE staff members are among the NSTFSouth32 finalists, and I wish them the best of luck when the winners will be announced in July.

All the best for the rest of quarter two.

DEANERY UPDATE

Appointment of Assistant Dean for Curricula Review, **Associate Professor Chris Von Klemperer**

Professor Marianne Vanderschuren term as Deputy Dean responsible for transformation and social responsiveness has been extended until July 2024.



AWARDS AND HONOURS

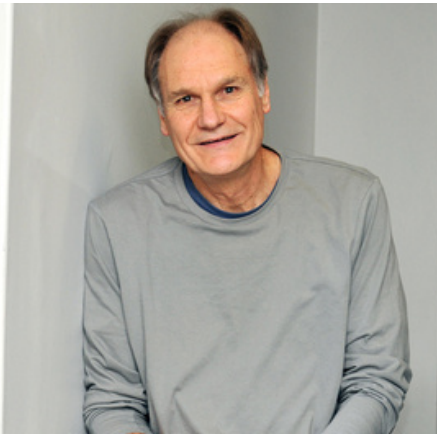


Professor Sunetra Chowdhury was awarded one of two chairs in Energy and Power Systems Modelling.



Professor Mark Zuidgeest was elected as a member of the South African Academy of Engineering (SAAE).

OBITUARIES



- **Staff:** Emeritus Professor George Ekama of EBE's Civil Engineering Department passed away on 19 February 2023. The news has been received with great sadness by friends, colleagues and the academic community. [Read the article 'An Ode to Emeritus Prof George Ekama'](#)
- **Student:** Andile Mzolo, a civil engineering student, passed away on 28 March 2023.

PUBLICATIONS & BOOK AWARDS



- Professor Nancy Odendaal successfully published her book: Disrupted Urbanism - Situated Smart Initiatives in African Cities.
- Entrepreneurship at UCT book launch took place on 1 February – The book is edited by Alison Gwynne-Evans and features several successful entrepreneurs coming out of EBE. [Read More about the book.](#)



Faculty Welcome Back Event



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

Welcome to all of our new staff, and congratulations to those on this list who may not be new to the Faculty, but who have assumed new roles in the first quarter.

School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics:

- Dr Matthews Siphwe Mphuthi, Lecturer

Department of Chemical Engineering:

- Mr Obakeng Jona, Lecturer
- Ms Tracey Van Heerden, Lecturer
- Mr Bryce Mc Call, Research Officer
- Ms Sibongile Nyimbanya, Laboratory Assistant
- Dr Caitlin Courtney, Lecturer
- Dr Sherry Bremner, Senior Lecturer
- Dr Terry-Ann Franklin, Senior Lecturer
- Dr Gordan Gambu, Senior Lecturer
- Dr Sara Burness, Lecturer
- Dr Mmboneni Tshivhase, Chief Scientific Officer
- Ms Naseeba Abbas, Lecturer
- Ms Kalpana Maraj, Lecturer

Department of Civil Engineering:

- Dr Obiora Amamifechukwu Nnene, Senior Lecturer

Department of Electrical Engineering:

- Ms Nobukhosi Dlamini, Software Chief Technical Officer
- Mr Matthew Church, Chief Technical Officer
- Mr Hoosain Salie, Technical Officer
- Dr Paul Omondi Amayo, Senior Lecturer

Department of Mechanical Engineering:

- Dr Sherlyn Gabriel, Senior Lecturer
- Mr Shane Ferguson, Finance Administrator
- Dr Leon Malan, Senior Lecturer

Future Water Institute:

- Dr Megan Cole, Junior Research Fellow

Faculty Staff:

- Mr Justin Marthinus, Communication & Marketing Manager

FAREWELL

- Refilwe Botle left the Department of Chemical Engineering at the end of January.
- Gabrielle Reeve left the Professional Communications Unit at the end of March.
- Shilpa Rumjeet left the Department of Chemical Engineering at the end of April.
- Andrea Alexander left the Faculty office in April and joined another department within UCT.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2022/2023 NSTF-South32 Awards Finalists



Category: TW Kambule-NSTF Awards: Researcher

Dr Daniel Ramotsoela, *Senior Lecturer: Department of Electrical Engineering*



Category: Engineering Research Capacity Development Award

Prof Denis Kalumba, *Director: Postgraduate Studies, Department of Civil Engineering; and Head: Geotechnical Division, and Director: Geotechnical Research Laboratory*



Category: NSTF- Water Research Commission Award

Prof Kirsty Carden, *Department of Civil Engineering and Interim Director: Future Water Research Institute*

Vice-Chancellor's Social Responsiveness Award for 2022

Congratulations to Mr Clint Abrahams from the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics for being awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Social Responsiveness Award for 2022. He received the award from Prof Elelwani Ramugondo, DVC for Transformation, Student Affairs & Social Responsiveness in March 2023.



FACULTY NEWS



UCT hosts German Education and Research minister for updates on German-funded research projects

The Catalysis Institute at the University of Cape Town (UCT) hosted German minister of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, [BMBF]), Bettina Stark-Watzinger, and Western Cape premier, Alan Winde, who toured the institute and received updates on two large BMBF-funded green energy research projects under way at UCT. The visit took place on Monday, 27 March.

[Read more](#)



Space, place and culture: Lessons from KwaLanga

In KwaLanga's centenary year, UCT alumna, Carin Smuts recalled how a meeting in 1998 between Helen Lieberman and Zora Mehlomakulu and herself, changed her design thinking – and created a model for community participation.

[Read more](#)



Climate change app closes the gap between intention and action

On Wednesday, 15 March, the University of Cape Town joined thousands of citizens around the world working to mitigate climate change through the launch of the Climate Campaigners app.

[Read more](#)



Catalysis centre toasts to two decades

After 20 years in accelerating change in the world of catalysis, the University of Cape Town's (UCT) c*change (Centre of Excellence in Catalysis) has reached the end of its funding cycle.

[Read more](#)

FACULTY NEWS

New chair and secretary for FIG Working Group

For the period 2023 – 2026, Simon Hull has been appointed as chair of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working Group on land administration education, with Moreblessings Shoko as secretary.



This is a joint working group of FIG Commissions 2 (education) and 7 (cadastre and land management) with ties to the United Nation's Global Land Tools Network (GLTN) and the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA). The working group will be assisting the GLTN and NELGA with a review and update of their Teaching Essentials on Responsible Land Administration (TERLA) course notes, focusing on implementation guidelines, case studies, and anything else to add value.

ALUMNI NEWS



Nirvana Rampersad, a CEM alum was announced as a winner in #Top100Women in Construction for 2023.



Vishesh Gangaram, a CEM alum founded a company, EVERBLOOM, and in 2023 won the green and sustainability award of the year.



Tamir Shklaz, a Electrical Engineering alum co-founded Strive, a coding school that has taught more than 1000 kids and has trained and employed more than 60 teachers.

Send your news to Justin.Marthinus@uct.ac.za to be featured in future EBE Newsletters.

STUDENT NEWS

EBE student, Tariro Marekwa, Makes a Splash by Winning Water-Based Competition

After a 14-day think tank at the Wetskills Water Challenge 2023, EBE student **Tariro Marekwa** and her peers emerged as the winners. Their model uses systems thinking to consolidate the current efforts in the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

[Read more](#)



'Outstanding' PhD: A Testimony to Tenacity, Support – and a Dog Called Ralph

Getting across the line in only four years – and during a pandemic – takes a form of tenacity that's been well worked in PhD graduand **Caitlin Courtney**. In the acknowledgements that preface her highly praised thesis on a novel human urine treatment to make liquid fertiliser, Caitlin names many whose support lit her way. And among them is a dog called Ralph.

[Read more](#)

Tessa Chittenden Awarded Second Prize for Master's Dissertation

Tessa Chittenden was awarded the second prize for her Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) dissertation titled "Conceptualising a 'Living Urban Edge' for the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA), Cape Town" supervised by Tania Katzschner in the DAIDA Foundation Global Urban Thesis Awards. These awards aim to support postgraduates who, through their work, help improve the urban infrastructure and living conditions for vulnerable groups in the rapidly growing cities of developing economies. Tessa was selected for the top 10, which entailed defending her thesis to a panel of international judges. She was then awarded the second prize in the competition.



STUDENT EVENTS

EBE First-year Orientation Week

EBE First-year orientation programme took place in January and introduced students to the academic, social and cultural environment at UCT. Thank you to Disa Mogashana for coordinating the programme.



Mechanical Engineering



As part of the meet your mentor activity during orientation week, the first-year students walked down to the Mowbray Bowls Club for a braai and a game of bowls.

2 March: As part of a module on quality in the fourth-year 'Engineer in Business' course, mechanical engineering students visited Newlands Brewery and saw a world-class facility in action, producing more than 100,000 bottles an hour.

3 March: As part of a third-year course called 'Engineer in Society', mechanical engineering students visited District Six Museum to learn how the system of apartheid shaped South African society. Former residents who experienced the forced removals in the 1960s and 1970s took the students to visit the sites.

STUDENT EVENTS

EBE First-year Orientation Week

Construction and Property Studies Mentoring Day



Klaus-Jurgen Bathe (KJB) Leadership Programme Dinner



Every year, the KJB Leadership Programme celebrates the selection of 10 bright scholars drawn from UCT's undergraduate students represented across all faculties of the University of Cape Town. To date, 71 UCT scholars have received support from the Programme since its inception in 2014, and 22 of these have been from the EBE Faculty.

This year's KJB dinner was held at Moyos on 23 February in Kirstenbosch Gardens and was attended by around 40 guests including UCT staff, KJB Selection Committee members and Alumni of the KJB Programme. The theme was "Celebrating Leadership."

The evening was opened with a welcome and overview by KJB Programme Director, Prof. Alphose Zingoni (UCT Department of Civil Engineering), followed by speeches from Prof. Jurgen Bathe (Programme Founder and Funder) and guest speaker Pride Maunatlala (Entrepreneur and Board Member, Branson Centre for Entrepreneurship).

To learn more about the Programme visit: www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

MARCH 2023 GRAD STORIES

Zintle Mtsheke, chemical engineering student

It's been a rollercoaster ride since enrolling at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 2016, but Zintle Mtsheke is now clear on how she wants to effectively contribute to society as a chemical engineer: by joining a manufacturing company that puts sustainability at its core.

[Read more](#)



Daniel Le Jeune, Karen Le Jeune's son

Daniel Le Jeune, son of Karen Le Jeune, Senior Lecturer, Department of Construction Economics and Management graduated on 28 March 2023 with a Distinction in Computer Science Degree.

GRAD PHOTOGRAPHS

