

FACULTY NEWSLETTER

ENGINEERING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DEAN



For the faculty, the second quarter of the year was marked by a number of highlights, including the launch of EBE Talks, various faculty events, the endorsement of the African Centre for Cities and the Blast Impact and Survivability Research Unit for a further five-year cycle of accreditation to mention a few.

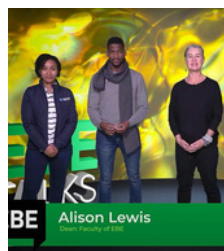
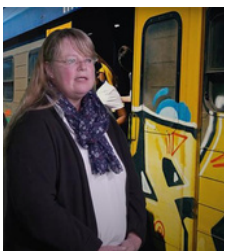
We also extend our congratulations to Professor Alphose Zingoni for obtaining an AI rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF). I want to sincerely thank all staff for their constant dedication during the second quarter. Thank you for your outstanding contributions.

Associate Professor Kathy Michell
Acting Dean

FACULTY NEWS

The Launch of EBE Talks

Dive into the cutting-edge world of EBE research with EBE Talks! This is the ultimate platform created by the brilliant minds at the UCT Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment (EBE) to showcase practical examples of research with a critical impact on industry and society – the work that is shaping our world. [Link to the talks here.](#)



WELCOME & FAREWELL

- **Nita Hendrickse** joined the Dean's Office as the new PA in June.
 - **Wayne Brandt** joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering in June as Chief Technical Officer.
 - **Yusuf Vawda** joined the faculty as the Menzi Design Lab Specialist in July.
 - **Wendy Wilson** started in the School of APG in July.
 - **Zita Jemaar** joined the faculty office as Administrative Assistant for Postgrad in July.
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- **Alma Viviers** left the School of APG in May.
 - **Neil Hassan** left the School of APG in June.
 - **Nico Wyngaard** left the Faculty Office at the end of July and joined the Faculty of Humanities.
 - **Sharon Blair** left the Department of Chemical Engineering: Catalysis Institute in July.
 - **Maryam Waglay** left the School of APG in July.

AWARDS AND HONOURS



Congratulations to **Professor Alphose Zingoni** on receiving an A1 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF). As defined by the NRF, "A-ratings are only given to researchers who are unequivocally recognised by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs."



Mr Saul Nurick (Senior Lecturer in CEM) has passed his PhD and is now **Dr Nurick**, he will graduate in December at WITS.

- The **Blast Impact and Survivability Research Unit (BISRU)** in the Department of Mechanical Engineering has been endorsed for a further five-year accreditation cycle by UCT's University Research Committee (URC).
- The **African Centre for Cities** has been endorsed for a further five-year accreditation cycle and has been recommended for Institute status by UCT's University Research Committee (URC).
- Congratulations to the **EBE CPD Team** on receiving a clean ECSA audit of the ECSA CPD operation.

FACULTY NEWS



EBE launches positive psychology programme to build resilience & academic success

After a successful pilot programme, UCT's Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment (EBE) will launch a faculty-wide, semester-long positive psychology programme for their students, with the aim of building resilience and supporting academic success.

[Read more](#)



The Department of CEM joins forces with HelpAGirl campaign

The Department of CEM joined forces with HelpAGirl Campaign at the Annual Career Expo in Khayamandi. HelpAGirl Campaign aims to educate and empower young girls to reach their full potential.

[Read more](#) about HelpAGirl Campaign



African robotics developing in leaps and bounds

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) African Robotics Unit (ARU) has used an innovative new strategy, inspired by the movement of the cheetah, to allow for a powerful jumping movement in robots.

[Read more](#)

PUBLICATION & BOOK AWARDS



A/Prof Nic Coetzer from the School of APG, new book "**An Architecture of Care in South Africa**" has been published with Routledge.

Professor Tomá Berlanda from the School of APG co-edited a 96-page book entitled: "**Landwalks: Across Palestine and South Africa.**"

Here he is Pictured with co-editor **Meghan Ho-Tong**.



FACULTY EVENTS

UCT OPEN DAY

The UCT Open Day took place in May and produced an impressive attendance rate.



FACULTY EVENTS

EBE AWARDS EVENING

The annual EBE Awards evening acknowledged outstanding students from the 2022 academic year and featured Pride Maunatlala from the Branson Centre for Entrepreneurship as guest speaker.



PHD JULY GRAD 2023

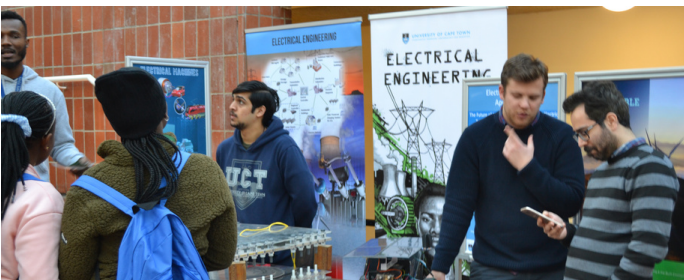
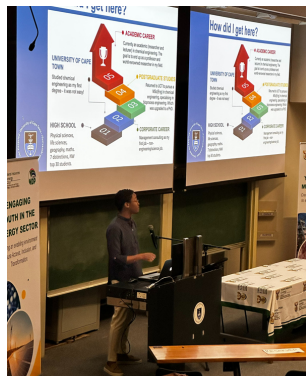
Featured Story: As **Danielle Hill** takes to the stage to receive her PhD in Architecture and Planning from the School of APG, that short walk of academic fame in her red robe will be a poignant moment. [Read more.](#)



STUDENT EVENTS

LEARNER FOCUS WEEK

Department of Mineral Resources and Energy hosted a Learner Focus Week at UCT. UCT's Department of Chemical Engineering research groups and The Department of Electrical Engineering participated in workshop sessions and exhibitions which provided learners with information about studying mining and energy-related fields.



SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS



Nurunisa Hendricks, the Faculty Human Resources Business Partner, did a talk at the Great Girls event on Saturday, 22 July. **Great Girls** is a non-profit project run by a diverse group of women in Cape Town, that aims to bridge the gap between high-school education and full-time employment for disadvantaged girls.

They volunteer their time and expertise with young women in grade 11 and 12 who are looking for support. The goal is to ensure that South African girls leave high school equipped with the skills to either find meaningful full-time employment or to pursue further studies.

FACULTY NEWS



Youth Month: UCT's cyber security ace, Dr Daniel Ramotsoela

Dr Daniel Ramotsoela (31) – a senior lecturer in the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Department of Electrical Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment (EBE) – has emerged as a finalist in this year's "Science Oscars", as the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) awards are known.

[Read more](#)



Apprenticeship programme boosts young aspirants

With millions of South Africa's young people desperate for jobs and for opportunities to develop and ultimately earn a good living, the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Department of Mechanical Engineering within the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment has a story of hope to tell. It has been creating such opportunities for aspirants for more than a decade, with excellent outcomes.

[Read more](#)

STUDENT NEWS



UCT student Kai Goodall wants to help society through his passion for engineering

EBE student Kai Goodall has been in the news frequently because of his passion for engineering and how it can be used to create social innovation projects that will benefit society in South Africa and beyond. You can learn more about Kai through this [video feature](#).

Recently, Kai and the (UCT) NextGen Engineers team received top honours in the RS International Innovators Championship 2023 for young innovators.

[Read more](#)

ALUMNI NEWS

M&G Mail & Guardian (M&G) annual list of 200 Young South Africans. Every year, the M&G honours young changemakers and influencers who are making an impact in their respective industries. The below EBE Alumni have made the list:



Nicholas Bush (34) invests his time in the field of manufacturing and beverages. Bush is the founder of Drifter Brewing Company and Cape Evergreen Cannabis Farm and Under the Table Cannabis Club (a consultancy that facilitates a digital cannabis club) and director of Bature Brewery in Nigeria – a fast-growing beer brand in West Africa. He also supplements that work with non-profit organisation (NPO) commitments. He holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering degree from UCT.



Joseph Lumbahe (32) is an artificial intelligence aficionado at Aizatron Group and the co-founder and chief technology officer at Bus54. Bus54's influence is in mobility technology with a focus on digital infrastructure servicing intercity bus transportation with a footprint all over the African continent. He won the Rising Star Award at the Africa Tech Festival Awards in 2022 and was selected as a 2023 Obama Leader. He holds a BSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering degree from UCT.

Alumni's DIY foam fire extinguisher most popular hack



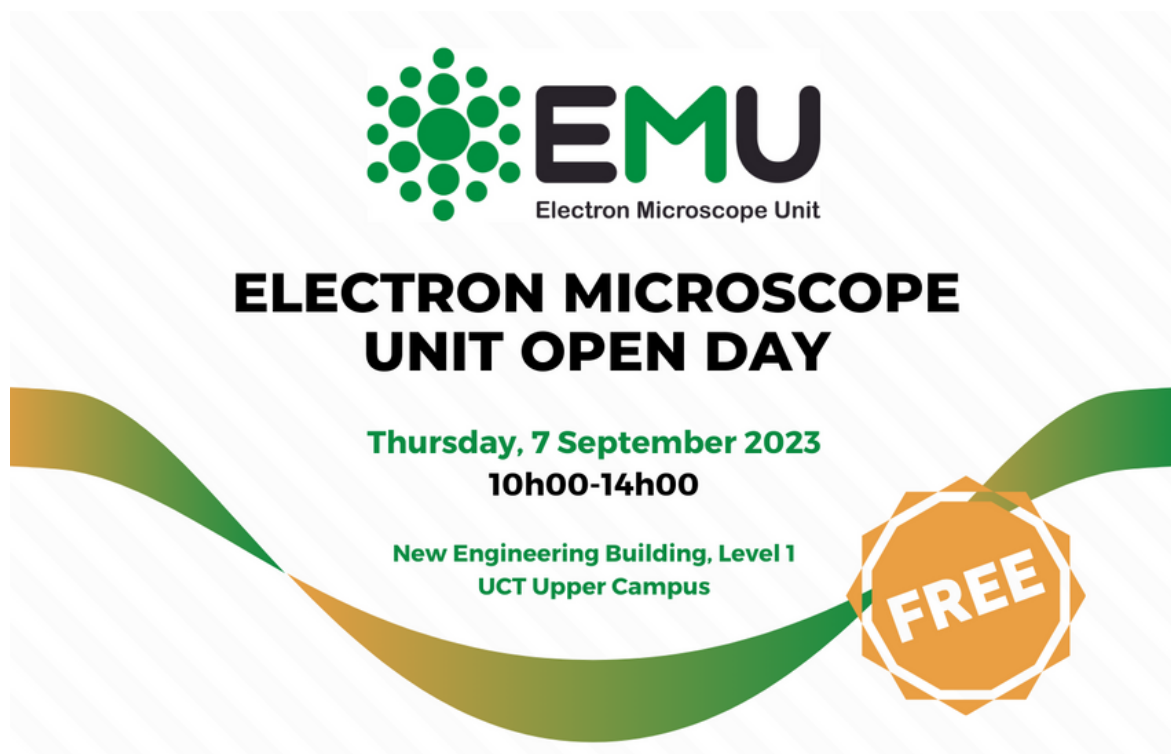
A do-it-yourself (DIY) foam fire extinguisher developed in 2015 by two University of Cape Town (UCT) students to combat fires in informal settlements has been given a new lease of life via international open-sharing platform dooiy.org. The device was designed for their final-year chemical engineering project. The former high school and university mates and graduates Desania Govender and Yandisa Sojola are now working in Ireland and Secunda respectively.

[Read more](#)

To have your news featured in our EBE Newsletter, please send it through to Justin.Marthinus@uct.ac.za

UPCOMING EVENTS

EMU Open Day - 7 September



UCT Inaugural Lecture: Professor Sebastian Skatulla - 13 September



UCT INAUGURAL LECTURE SERIES

Topic: What has structural mechanics to do with rheumatic heart disease and global climate change?

Date
Wednesday, 13 September 2023

Time
18:00 SAST

Venue
Snape Teaching Studio 3B
Snape Building
UCT Upper Campus

