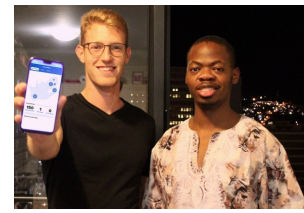


Faculty Newsletter



Message from the Dean

A big thank you to everyone for the contribution you are making to ensure that we can begin online teaching on 28 April 2020 and support our students as best as we can. I have had quite a bit of feedback on how organised and pro-active EBE is. Many thanks.

Well done to the Faculty Office staff who have captured over 1400 applications for 2021. Already! It is great to see that we are looking ahead and planning. This will be vital for us as an institution if we are to be able to survive, build resilience and thrive through this crisis.

During these challenging times, it is really important to celebrate the achievements of our staff and

students. The newsletter is full of great stories.

I know that many of you have the task of home schooling your children, that you have small children at home who need continuous attention or that you have vulnerable family members who need special care. What is also heartening is hearing about how many EBE members are involved in initiatives to care for the community at large. In all of this, remember to be kind to yourselves. Take time out to reflect and slow down. Reach out to friends and family.

Keep safe and stay at home. We will come through this together.

Inspiring colleague and graduate

Congratulations to Noziphiwo Sigwela, who graduated in March with a Bachelor of City Planning Honours degree. Nozi achieved this while working full-time as the Principal Library Assistant in the Built Environment library and being a mother to two girls. The start of her day is at 4 am with her family before she comes to work where she can spend up to twelve hours a day, splitting herself between her work and studies. She is presently registered for her Master's in City

and Regional Planning and is hoping to complete it by the end of this year. A Facebook post on her achievements reached over 7 000 people with lots of comments. One said, "Nozi is so amazing. She is always there to help and uplift everyone around her despite dealing with her own struggles." And another said, "Keep on inspiring everyone around you."

Read her [full story here](#).



Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Calm.

EBE are working together to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS:

- NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE: 0800 029 999
- PROVINCIAL CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE: 021 928 4102
- WHATSAPP NUMBER: 0600 123 456 (Whatsapp "Hi" and follow the prompts)



Equipping the next generation of leaders

Twenty-two emerging leaders from the mining sector from 17 countries across Africa attended the second LEAD programme (Leaders in Extractives and African Development) at the University of Cape Town. The first week was held on the university's campus and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Phakeng opened the event. It comprised a full programme of immersive learning on core topics such as The Implications of the Changing Global Context for the Extractive Sector in Africa, Implementing the African Mining Vision, and Leadership Development and Leadership Practice, and many more. The programme aims to equip the next generation of leaders in the mining sector with the skills required. The participants are early-career professionals who are working in or engaging with the mining sector, equipping them with the leadership skills that will allow them to catalyse sustainable development across Africa.

Thanks to the Mining Indaba support, the participants can attend the Indaba, which gives them a



The Vice-Chancellor with the LEAD participants and presenters
Photograph: Candice Lowin

unique opportunity to interact with the mining industry, CEOs, ministers, advisors and thought leaders. It also provides a range of practical opportunities to test and challenge some of the concepts presented in the first week.

The Minerals to Metals group in the Department of Chemical Engineering hosted the LEAD programme. UCT Adjunct Professor, and programme director Caroline Digby said, "We are very grateful

for the support we have received from the Mining Indaba, Anglo American, German Development Cooperation, and the Sustainable Minerals Institute."

One of the participants from last year said, "I feel I have been challenged a lot about leadership and how I can influence change that will reflect in the lives of the people, especially those that I am in direct contact within my line of work."

Winner at Transport conference

Bianca Ryseck, a PhD student in Transport Studies, was one of the student essay winners at the 2019 Southern African Transport Conference held in Pretoria, where she presented her essay on journey-planning tools for urban public-transport systems in South Africa. At the same conference, her paper on equitable information access was placed third in the Paper Award for professionals under 35 years of age.



National Academy of Engineering

Professor Sue Harrison has been elected as one of 18 international members to the National Academy of Engineering. She is one of just six from the African continent to be elected to the academy.

Election to the Academy is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honours those who have made outstanding contributions to “engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering



literature” and to “the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/

implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.” Election of new members is the culmination of a yearlong process.

Professor Harrison has been recognised for her work in biochemical engineering and its application to mining and environmental remediation. She is the Director of the Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research in the Department of Chemical Engineering and is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation.

Four-week bridging course in APG

In January, the Centlivres Building was abuzz with students who had signed up to do an intense four-week bridging programme. The programme is offered to students who do not have a design-based undergraduate degree, who wish to enter the honours in landscape architecture or the master’s in urban design. Professionals were also able to register for individual courses and gain CPD points. Besides doing the courses for bridging purposes or to obtain CPD points, anyone who wishes to improve their spatial and visual thinking skills can register. One student who completed the Introduction to Spatial Design course is using it to build his portfolio for application into an architecture programme.

The students came from a wide range of backgrounds such as engineering, geography, environmental and geographical science, BTech in Landscape Architecture and fine art. The three courses offered were Introduction to Design Computing, Drawing for Design, and Introduction to Spatial design. These courses introduced the students to a typical built environment



Dirk Smit, course presenter with some of the students who attended the course

design studio and its thinking, while developing core skills for built environment disciplines such as landscape architecture and urban design. At the end of the course, students designed and prepared a formal exhibition of the week’s products. The students attending said it had been challenging but exciting.

Geotech conference hosted in Cape Town

A successful 17th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held in Cape Town in October 2019. Associate Professor Denis Kalumba was the Chair of the conference organising committee, and Ms Lita Noluthungu was the Director for the conference programme.

This prestigious event, organised by the South African Institute of Civil Engineers in conjunction with the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), was preceded by the African Young Geotechnical Engineers conference. The ISSMGE Board and Council meetings, as well as the International Geosynthetics Society board meeting, were also held during the conference.

More than 250 delegates and 28 exhibitors from 39 different countries across the globe attended the conference, consequently fulfilling the aim of bringing together a wide range of engineers, scientists and academics to exchange knowledge



in the field of geotechnics, and its engineering and environmental applications. The top six countries in terms of number of participants were South Africa, United Kingdom, Germany, Uganda, Nigeria and Sudan.

Besides parallel sessions, workshops and short courses, the three-day conference also hosted the 17th Jennings Lecture presented by the world-renowned unsaturated soils expert Professor Delwyn Fredlund (Canada), and the Mercer Lecture on geosynthetics for construction on soft foundation

soils delivered by Professor Kerry Rowe (Canada). Additionally, two special lectures by Professor Buddhima Indraratna (Australia) and Professor Antonio Gens (Spain) were presented, as well as a Bright Spark Lecture by Dr Charles MacRobert (South Africa). All the published papers are available as open access papers on the [ISSMGE Online Library](#)

The next African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering will be held in Algeria in 2023.

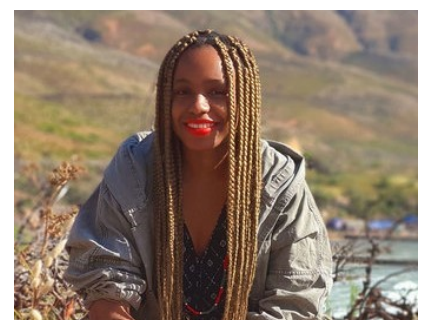
Publishing deal for ChemEng lecturer

Resoketswe Manenzhe, a young lecturer and PhD candidate in the Centre for Minerals Research in the Department of Chemical Engineering received the 2020 Dinaane Debut Fiction Award!

The R35 000 prize comes with a publishing deal from [Jacana Media](#). We look forward to seeing her book

Scatterlings on the shelves in September 2020.

The competition accepts full-length English novels from unpublished writers who are SADC citizens. Resoketswe started writing her novel in 2015 and submitted it in June 2019, so it has been quite a long and rigorous process.



International scholarship for ChemEng graduate

Jabulani Nyathi, a chemical engineering 2019 graduate, is the recipient of a Cecil Renaud Overseas Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to the best and brightest young South Africans who completed their secondary schooling in KwaZulu-Natal. It is granted annually for postgraduate study in the United Kingdom at a university of the student's choice.

Growing up in Nelspruit, at the age of 12 Jabulani's life changed when he was offered the opportunity to attend the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School. He said, "Ever since, I have been fortunate to have people believe in my potential and invest financially to ensure that I get the education I have been afforded. Coming from a single-parent home meant that finances would be a major hurdle for me to realise my dreams. However, this has thus far not been a hindrance which I feel blessed to say."

Jabulani is passionate about making a positive impact in the world. He believes his talents have been given to him to make a change. He hopes to use his chemical engineering background to create a future for generations to come, where their needs will be met. He is waiting to receive his acceptance into the MPhil in



Engineering for Sustainable Development at Cambridge University.

"I am excited for the opportunity that the Cecil Renaud Overseas Scholarship has unlocked and incredibly grateful for the well-rounded education and foundation that I received at UCT in the Chemical Engineering Department," Jabulani said.

New KJB scholars for 2020



Professor Alphose Zingoni, Programme Director (centre) and Tammy Matose the Programme Administrator (back left) with the new scholars.

Photograph by Angus Rule

The annual dinner of the Klaus-Jurgen Bathe Leadership Programme was held on 27 February 2020. Eleven new scholars were inducted into the programme, bringing to 61 the total number of students supported by the programme to date. Five of the new scholars are from EBE. Guest speaker Associate Prof. Salome Maswime (UCT Health Sciences Faculty) spoke on authentic leadership to the 80-strong audience who attended the event.

The EBE scholars are: Liz Mubari (Mechanical & Mechatronics Eng), Karabo Makole (Civil Eng) Reginald Nyakonda (Electrical Eng) Patrick Mwaka (Civil Eng) and Lucy Wills (Chemical Eng)

New book for A/Prof Whittal

A/Professor Jenny Whittal from the Division of Geomatics has written a book together with Roger Fisher, titled *Cadastral, Principles and Practice*.

Fisher is a retired professor of land surveying at UCT and in the UK. Both authors are past presidents of the Institute of Professional Land Surveyors of the Western Cape while Fisher is an honorary life member of the SA Geomatics Institute. The book explains the principles of cadastral law and its interpretation in the practice of professional land surveying. It is the first publication of its kind in over 45 years. It is a comprehensive text for aspiring and practising land surveyors, and those in the property business and land administration.

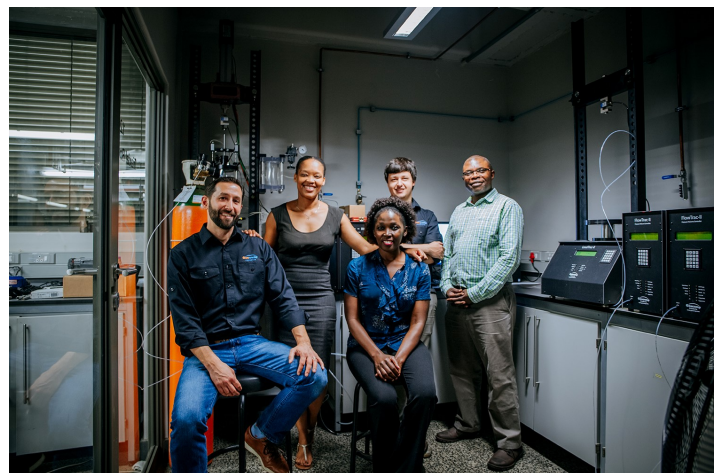
“While working full-time and running a family, completing the writing and publication of a book such as this was an ambitious project. It took us three years of research and writing over weekends and evenings to complete. The backing of our national Geomatics Institute provided the necessary encouragement and assistance. The printed book is a satisfying achievement and I hope an important academic and professional contribution,” said Jenny.



New equipment for Geotech Engineering

The Geotechnical Engineering Group of the Civil Engineering Department recently acquired a state-of-the-art cyclic triaxial with an advanced, high-performance linear actuator. This equipment, manufactured by Geocomp Corporation in USA, has been installed in the laboratory and offers unmatched automation from test start to finish, coupled with a feedback control system for the most accurate results. With this new addition, determination of dynamic soil parameters for designing foundations for structures such as wind turbines will now be possible.

Thanks to the funds received from the University Equipment Committee for the acquisition of the cyclic triaxial, the Geotechnical Engineering Group is in a position to enhance its research programme.



Brian Jones from Geocomp Corporation, Lita Nolutshungu, Faridah Chebet, Artur Apostolov from Geocomp Corporation, and A/Professor Denis Kalumba

Co-design workshop

In 2019, Kathryn Ewing from the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics (APG) was awarded an Engage Scholarship Teaching and Learning grant which kick-started a partnership with the Gugulethu community and the urbanStudio, called Gugulethu HOPE.

The urbanStudio Gugulethu HOPE focuses on the neighbourhood of Gugulethu, informing the relationship between social, spatial and economic systems. The studio brings the learning into creative play. It focuses on the development of spatial strategies for a local area. "The making of any spatial plans involves an exploration into both timeless qualities and contextually relevant factors of its time. It must be responsive to contextual factors and local citizens which are connected to its time and place," said Kathryn Ewing.

Ewing convened a co-design workshop on campus in March with community representatives from Gugulethu attending. This was the third workshop which allowed for vertical and horizontal learning. The two previous workshops were held in Gugulethu with urban design students, community members and fieldworkers, combined with fieldwork walkabouts.

Forty-four students from urban design, landscape architecture, planning and architecture attended the co-design workshop together with the Gugulethu community members, field workers and staff. Ewing said, "The idea is that young people are part of the process from both university and community that



allows for the work to be action-orientated while sharing knowledge through innovative ideas to create solutions for public-space development in a low-income, high crime neighbourhood."

The two fieldworkers involved in the workshop were Nontsika Mnotosa and Xolile Ndzoyi. Over the past four years, Nontsika facilitated student fieldwork in Gugulethu with Master of Architecture students and Francis Carter, a lecturer in APG. Xolile Ndzoyi is a respected leader within Gugulethu and has worked with Kathryn on previous work since 2014 in Gugulethu and Nyanga through the Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading Programme working on participatory design projects. Xolile initiated the WALL OF HOPE project, a public-space-upgrade project on Steve Biko Road a few years ago. In 2019, Xolile and Nontsika suggested a potential partnership with the students to create a new way of looking at public space with the youth of

Gugulethu. Xolile and Nontsika selected the community representatives, and they are Buhle Booi, Wanda Ncana, Khulukezi Nderu, Thobi Nolubabalo, Mark Qabayi, Luyanda Sidia and Wawa Siyengo.

With the closing of the university, Ewing said, "We will take the project into Term 2 as an online studio project for an interdisciplinary studio including students from Master of Urban Design and Master of Landscape Architecture. This also links to the Urban Design Representation course, where they will untangle the presentation aspects of the project and develop a narrative. The intended outcome is to create an online story and online resources as funding motivation for an upgrade or design-build project for a public space in Gugulethu in the future. We are reviewing how to engage the community online during this process, so it remains one of collaboration and engaged knowledge production."

Graduation March 2020

It was with great sadness that the March 2020 graduation ceremonies were cancelled. The graduates were able to come onto campus to collect their degree certificates before campus closed down. Here are three photographs of civil engineering graduates who were able to collect their certificates.



Victor Sylivery who is registered for his master's degree in civil engineering



Hlumelo Marepula who is registered for her master's degree in civil engineering.



Georgina Herbert who in 2020 is working for Aurecon in Cape Town

Inspirational graduate

For almost two decades Tsepiso Tshivhase had gone through life keeping an “enormous”, tragic secret from his family. The 27-year-old University of Cape Town (UCT) civil engineering graduand was just six years old when his mother was gruesomely murdered in 1999. His father was the alleged perpetrator and took his own life that same day. Despite this, Tsepiso will be one of the many graduands graduating in absentia due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Read more on [UCT News](#)



Thesis award for top honours student



University of Cape Town civil engineering honours graduate Mwana Mwale was not only top of the 2019 class, she’s also won second place for her research thesis in the South African Institution of Civil Engineering National Investigative Project (IP) Showdown.

The IP Showdown showcases the country’s best emerging engineers, who present their research projects to an audience and panel of judges. The winners reflect a “new breed of engineer”: technically adept and proficient in written and verbal communication.

Read more on [UCT News](#)

Women take top spots in civil engineering

For the second year in a row, women have taken most of the top spots in the final-year civil engineering class at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Four of the top five students from the class of 2019 are women.

They are Mwana Mwale, who was top of the class, Ameenah Abrahams, Tarie Mufunde and Rhonda Hyde. Mwana also won second place for her research thesis in the South African Institution of Civil Engineering [National Investigative](#)

[Project Showdown](#) earlier this year. Tarie was third in the Growthpoint Greenovate Awards for innovative and green engineering honours thesis for South African universities. She is also a member of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme 2018 cohort.

Read more [UCT News](#)



Staff

New staff

Mr Colin du Sart joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering in January as a lecturer.

Dr Mohamed Fadlalla joined the Catalysis Institute in the Department of Chemical Engineering in January.

Dr Krystle Ontong joined the Department of Construction Economics and Management in January as a senior lecturer.

Ms Moreblessing Shoko joined the Division of Geomatics in January as a senior lecturer.

Resignations

Ms Lisa Williams, postgraduate administrator in the Faculty Office, left at the end of March to join the Research Office.

Professor Genevieve Langdon from the Department of Mechanical Engineering left at the end of March to join the University of Sheffield.

Mr Richard Whittemore from the Department of Mechanical Engineering left in January.

Congratulations

Dr Elaine Govender-Opitz, a lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering, was selected for the DHET Future Professors Programme. All 26 universities submitted nominations and, out of 130, Elaine was selected as one of 29 suitable candidates.



The programme is aimed at fast-tracking senior researchers to full professorship at South Africa's public universities. The programme was initiated by the former Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Naledi Pandor.

Dr Jonathan Jansen is the project leader for the DHET Future Professors Programme Phase 01. The first meeting of the programme took place at the end of February at the Stellebosch Institute for Advanced Study. The programme consists of two components, a residential programme followed by an international engagement.

Farewell to Professor Genevieve Langdon

The Department of Mechanical Engineering hosted a lunch to say farewell to Professor Genevieve Langdon, who left UCT at the end of February to join the University of Sheffield as Professor of Blast and Impact Engineering. From 1 March, Professor Brandon Collier Reed took over as the head of the department. Genevieve joined UCT in 2004 as a postdoc working with Professor Gerald Nurick.



Alumni return to visit APG

On Tuesday 25 February two 1967 architecture alumni, Rodney Morgan and Menno Meinesz, returned to their alma mater to visit the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics. They were very impressed with the building and enjoyed spending time with the HOD, Philippa Tumubweenee, who updated them on the changes in the School and the degrees that are offered. They visited the Built Environment Library, where they met Diane Steel before Nozi Sigwela gave them a detailed tour of the library which they thoroughly enjoyed. They were hoping to find their theses but were told that they were in the process of being digitized. They said that they had an unforgettable tour, and were pleased to see all that was happening in the School.



Rodney Morgan, Nozi Sigwela and Menno Meinesz

ElecEng graduate doing great things

As group lead for Medical Image-based Inferencing and Distributed Diagnosis in the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Division of Biomedical Engineering, Dr Tinashe Mutsvangwa has established himself as an expert in the development of advanced medical imaging and analysis. He was recently elected to the highest professional membership grade of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.



Tinashe is a 2003 Electrical Engineering graduate.

Read more on [UCT News](#)

Assisting with science expo projects

In March, Esta Burger, a science teacher at Spine Road Secondary School in Mitchell's Plain, brought a group of Grade 11 learners to the Department of Electrical Engineering. The learners were planning engineering projects for the annual Eskom Science Expo but needed feedback on their ideas. Dr Amir Patel, Robyn Verrinder and Justin Pead kindly gave up their time to spend the afternoon with the learners. Their topics ranged from creating a ventilator system for taxis to balancing of a bipedal robot and using friction to generate static electricity.



How lockdown resembles a sailing trip

Over the weekend I managed to speak to some of my sailing friends to consider how this situation resembles a sailing trip. We agreed on the following. Of course we are not doing the lockdown out of choice. By Francois Viruly



On longer trips, there is no opportunity to get out. For weeks you are in a very confined space — some 20 or so days from Cape Town to Rio — but it can be longer. A long sailing trip is a total lockdown with no opportunity to get anything that you might have forgotten on departure.

Meals become more important and have to be regular.

You can't be overwhelmed by the potential risks around you, especially those that you can't control.

Don't look at the weather forecast and screens the whole day —once — twice a day is enough.

Resolve conflict and tension immediately.

Keep on going in the right direction and as efficiently as you can.

Live according to the diurnal cycle and admire the stars, the wind and the sea.

Appreciate what you have left behind for a while, and look forward to the arrival.

The trip may take longer than you thought but you can't influence that.

Influence and handle what you can control and don't worry about the rest.

At the end of the day sit back and discuss the highlights / lowlights of the day and don't allow one day to just roll into the next.

Ensure that everyone has specific responsibilities for the good of all.

Keep up the humour and accept that your brain is a great bit of virtual-reality equipment.

Your dreams will start changing as the trip progresses, and they will become more vivid.

Sometimes you just will need time on your own.

As a leader accept that some of your decisions will be unpopular.

In a house you have a lot more than you would ever have on a yacht.

Response to COVID-19



John Coetzee, the Principal Technical Officer in the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, has produced protective shields for medical practitioners with resources he has at home. He is looking for a source for acetate or flexible plastic, so if anyone has any contacts, please contact John.Coetzee@uct.ac.za. So far the masks have gone to dentists, Groote Schuur hospital and a pharmacy in Ottery.

Dr Reuben Govender, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is working with Prof Sudesh Sivarasu and his team at Biomedical Engineering. He has been helping with mechanical design guidance, and how to manufacture at the prototype level for designs that need to be scaled up to manufacture thousands of units.

Professor Amit Mishra from the Department of Electrical Engineering invited students to participate in a remote idea challenge. The brief that went out to students was:



The German chancellor has already named it "the biggest challenge for German solidarity since WW II". We in South Africa have our own unique set of local challenges which makes both European and Asian solutions not so effective. We need ideas, ideas that are viable and feasible. We hereby invite you to this idea-challenge. You can work in groups and propose a solution to one/many challenges of handling and containing Corona/Covid-19 in South Africa.

He received a few good proposals and gave the students personal feedback and encouraged them to join a number of world-wide COVID hackathons. Amit also added a [video](#) to facilitate and encourage more people to think of ways in which we can solve the range of pain-points created by COVID-19.



Anabel Matalanga, a final-year civil engineering student, together with some Commerce and Humanities students, has developed a

platform focused on youth empowerment and a progressive African mindset. Their vision is to create sustainable solutions to the unique challenges in Africa.

They are running a COVID-19 Afro-Solution competition with UCT students.

Professor Marianne Vanderschuren, in her role as Deputy Dean for Transformation and Social Responsiveness, and Nazeema Ahmed, the Faculty Psychologist, organised an online Zoom meeting for staff across the faculty. The meeting was for staff to connect with one another and find out how everyone is coping. Staff were given an opportunity to reflect on the past three weeks, discuss the challenges they are facing, and what they would need to continue the lockdown. Everyone found it useful and Nazeema will arrange for another meeting to take place.

Response to COVID-19

Thabo Mabuka, a chemical engineering graduate, is currently working as a project development manager for a medical manufacturing and supplies company. In 2018, he was the academic chair for the EBE postgraduate student council. Last year he started an online based research platform which is focused on research in Africa called the African Research Initiative (ARI). Following the outbreak on COVID-19, ARI is working on a COVID-19 research project to help inform strategies of dealing with COVID-19 post lockdown in Africa. ARI works by recruiting anyone who is interested for each project. There is currently a lot of UCT alumni and people from other African countries working on ARI projects.



ARI COVID-19 RESEARCH PROJECT

AFRIKAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE
Sawubona, Kuwkaribisha, Bienvenue, Welcome!

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AFROCENTRIC RESEARCH?

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19, the African Research Initiative is embarking on a research project focused on Africa to help inform strategies on how to deal with COVID-19.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: AFRICANRESEARCHINITIATIVE@GMAIL.COM

WHAT IS THE RISK OF COVID-19 IN AFRIKA?

ARI AN ONLINE BASED RESEARCH PLATFORM

Mohamed Ziyaad Mukuddem, a 2012 mechatronics graduate, and a group of UCT engineering alumni have formed ctc19.co.za. They are looking for any help with people who have 3D printers. They have delivered over 100 face shields already and have many more requests coming in from doctors around the Cape.

COVID-19 dashboard 'by and for South Africans'

When South Africa confirmed its first positive case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Leen Remmelzwaal, a doctoral candidate in computational neuroscience in the Department of Electrical Engineering was in Switzerland visiting family. On returning to Cape Town, he was shocked by how little data was available to the public and by the amount of misinformation online.

"People wanted to know what was going on, but it was difficult to get a comprehensive overview of the official data. New articles were providing bits and pieces of information but not drawing a complete picture," he said.

Initially, Remmelzwaal got to work on an Excel spreadsheet, charting the number of cases since the first confirmation and shared it with his family who began requesting daily updates. He soon realised that it



would be a lot easier to maintain and share the updates with a web-based dashboard. With the broader public's need for information, the dashboard which was initially intended for his family soon evolved into a simple and intuitive website: COVID-19 Stats SA.

Read more on [UCT News](#)

Two EBE Alumni develop Coronapp

In an effort to quell panic and provide South Africans with reliable and accurate information about the coronavirus (COVID-19), two University of Cape Town (UCT) alumni have built [Coronapp](#), a centralised online platform for information about the disease.

Tamir Shklaz and Wisani Shilumani are the brains behind Coronapp.

Shklaz recently graduated from UCT with a degree in electrical and computer engineering. Since graduating, Shklaz has been working full-time on his start-up, [Quillo](#), which he began working on during his third year at UCT. Quillo is a digital marketplace for second-hand textbooks and other items needed at university.

“I am incredibly passionate about empowering people through the use of technology and education,” said Shklaz.

Shilumani graduated from UCT in 2017 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He started developing apps and websites as a side passion while he was studying, the



most notable of which is [WeSit](#), an on-demand babysitting platform. Shilumani is currently working full-time at Allan Gray, doing what he loves most: software development.

Read more on [UCT News](#).

Follow EBE on [Instagram](#) to see the daily posts on dealing with COVID-19

Visit the [EBE website](#) to for COVID-19 documents, From the Dean’s Desk

[UCT COVID-19 updates](#)

[FAQ s](#)

Increased ICAS services

While ICAS on-site counselling is suspended for now, the same counsellors are now available to conduct telephonic counselling. You can access these services by:

- Calling toll-free for counselling over the phone: **080 111 39452**
- Sending a please-call-me to: ***134*905#**

Emailing uct@icas.co.za

ICAS recently launched a new online app, [ICAS On-the-Go](#), which allows you to chat live with an ICAS counsellor. The app gives you and your family access to a 24/7/365 Employee Wellness Programme and information to address some of your health and wellness needs.

