

Faculty Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for the commitment and passion that they have shown throughout the year. It has certainly been a challenging year with the large number of first-year students and dealing with the shortfalls of the National Senior Certificate. I am extremely grateful to the staff who went out of their way to assist in addressing some of the problems that were experienced with the first-year class. It is this commitment and passion that makes us unique.

At the end of December, Professor Lucien Le Grange will step down as Director of the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics. I would like to thank Lucien for his leadership and the role he has played in guiding the school and staff through this time of many changes. Professor Vanessa Watson will be Acting Director for 2010, during which time a longer-term appointment will be made for 2011 onwards.

Professor Bob Tait's tenure as Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering comes to an end on 31 December 2009, after five years at the helm. He has agreed to stay on until April 2010 to provide continuity for the next Head of Department, who is Professor Chris Redelinghuys. I am very grateful for Bob's generosity and for the role he has played in leading the Department. I look forward to working with both Vanessa and Chris in the new year.

The Project Implementation Committee of the New Engineering Building is confident that building will begin in June/July 2010. Once we have a detailed plan of the building process we will communicate this to the Faculty and the wider university community.



2010 will bring its challenges with the early start of the new year. The Faculty Office has plans in place to best deal with the implications of the late release of the NSC results and the early start of the academic term. I ask that we all support them where we can during the difficult times.

In 2010 transformation will remain a key focus area for the Faculty. Work will continue in the key strategic areas that were identified for 2009. There will be ongoing awareness programmes around safety, health and the environment and I look forward to seeing the development of a set of shared values for "one EBE".

I wish you and your families a peaceful and happy time over the holiday season.

Kind regards
Francis

DEAN'S FORUM—1 DECEMBER 2009 13h00—14h00 MENZIES 9

All PASS and academic staff are invited to interact with the Executive of the Faculty. It is an interactive session where staff can ask questions and debate issues that are raised.

The Dean will address 2009 and the progress on the 2009 key priorities and what we can expect in 2010.

Make the most of this opportunity to find out what is going on in the Faculty and what 2010 holds for you.

WORLD AIDS DAY—1 DECEMBER

The theme for World AIDS Day 2009 is

'Universal Access and Human Rights'.

Knowing your status empowers
you to make choices.

Support people with HIV/AIDS



STUDENT NEWS

UNIQUE HOUSING DESIGN AWARDED

Anton van den Berg, a master's student in the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, received the "Chartered Institute of Housing Student Award 2009" at the Southern African Housing Foundation National Awards Ceremony on 13 October 2009, held at the Spier Wine Estate in Stellenbosch. It is the first time an architecture student has won this award.

Anton was acknowledged for his BAS honours project, which was directed at confronting the difficult and problematic problem of mass housing in South Africa. His project strategically identified the 'entry level' housing market (teachers, police, medical support professionals, etc.) as a critical area of intervention that has been neglected.



Anton's project was considered to be unique in contributing design knowledge that spanned policy, design, implementation, management and economic considerations. It is rare for design students to work in such an integrated manner.

Anton's supervisor, Professor Iain Low, said: "What we need in South Africa is the presentation of viable housing alternatives in the public realm. Design demonstrations can shift social consciousness and engage community and society in a very powerful manner. Through this carefully considered design speculation, Anton van den Berg has presented such an option which is worthy of being built."



From left to right : John Hopkins, CEO SAHF, Minister Bonginkosi Madikizela, MEC for Housing, Western Cape, Anton van den Berg and Steve Benson, past President of the Chartered Institute of Housing

ESKOM ACADEMIC AWARD COMPETITION

In October, Benjamin Lunsky was the first runner up in the Eskom Award Competition and received R3 500 in prize money. In 2008 Benjamin received the ECSA medal for being the best student graduating with a degree of BSc (Eng). He was in the Department of Electrical Engineering and is presently working as a junior engineer at Tellumat (Pty) Ltd.

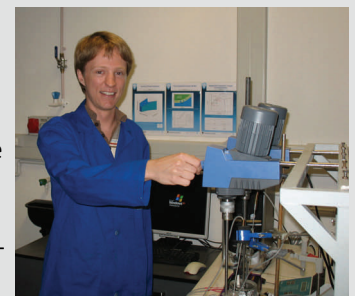


BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

In recognition of the importance of attracting young engineers into the field of mine water management, the Water Institute of Southern Africa – Mine Water Division, together with the International Mine Water Association, awarded a prize to the best technical paper presented by a student at the International Mine Water Conference held in Pretoria in October. Students from around the world were invited to participate.

Dyllon Randall, a PhD student in the Crystallization & Precipitation Unit in the Department of Chemical Engineering, was awarded the prize for his paper titled "Seeding for selective salt recovery during Eutectic Freeze Crystallization". Dyllon was also a co-author of a paper by his supervisor, Professor Alison Lewis, which recently won the best-paper prize at the Water in Mining conference held in Australia.

Dyllon has recently returned from The Netherlands where he spent two and a half months at the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) on a research scholarship. Researchers at the TU Delft are the pioneers of the research done in the area of Eutectic Freeze Crystallisation (EFC) and they have the only operational EFC pilot plant. Work is being done in the Crystallization and Precipitation Unit to adapt the research to the South African context in order to treat mine water.



Dyllon Randall in the ICE lab

ARCHITECTURE STUDENT WINS TOP AWARD

John Edwards, a final-year master's architecture student, has won the eighth annual SOLVE new talent award for his lighting design - the Vuvu Lamp which was inspired by the vuvuzela. An alumnus from the School of Architecture, Micha Koren who graduated in 2008, made it to the list of finalists.

The competition was open to both students and amateur students for the first time. The judges looked for a simple, unique design that was also eco-friendly. John said: "I thought I'd just try out an idea this year—and the outcome has exceeded my expectations."

2010 STUDENT COUNCILS

Congratulations to the new members of the undergraduate and postgraduate student councils.

Undergraduate

Iketleng Nwabisa Letsoha	Chairperson
Lubabalo Luyaba	Vice-Chair
Nthabeleng Hatlana	Secretary
Alice Wong	Treasurer
Thando Mthembu	Academics & sport
Michael Mudau	Academics
Siyaduma Binza	Transformation & student life
Lesedi Nake	Rag, outreach & Events
Mulumba Randy Kabuya	IT
Mohammed Shirzadi	Sponsorship & publications

Postgraduate

David Wright	Chairperson
Valdmir Mtei	Vice-Chair
Doreen Nabaho	Treasurer
Gatien Nzenguét Boukondo	Secretary
Margaret Lombe	Academics
Yousef Ghorbani	Social/Outreach
Wadzanai Madangambe	Marketing
Tracey Van Heerden	Social/Outreach

Congratulations!

On Monday 19 October, the Dean hosted a tea to celebrate success in the Faculty. This included staff who received their ad hominem promotions, and a number of staff and students who had recently received awards.



*Back, left to right: Francis Petersen, Keith Cattell, Michael Claeys, Brandon Reid, Paul Barendse
Front, left to right: Genevieve Langdon, Jenny Whittal and Marianne Vanderschuren (missing from the photograph is Alta Steenkamp)*

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CELEBRATES SUCCESS

The Head of Electrical Engineering, Professor Barry Downing hosted a function in the Department to celebrate success and to acknowledge new staff who have joined the Department this year.

- Albert Martyn celebrates an incredible 40 years in the department. He will be taking early retirement at the end of 2009.
- Paul Barendse was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer
- The Department has restructured its administrative office to provide better service to the staff and students and to fit into the structure of the Faculty Office. The staff and their portfolios are:

Janine Buxey - Departmental Manager
Karen Van Wyk - Undergraduate Administrator
Nicole Moodley - Postgraduate Administrator
Marlene Joubert - Financial Administrator
Carol Koonin - Part-time Administrator

A new Receptionist position has been created to assist with all the queries from students, staff and visitors. Ela Waqu, who has been in the Department since 1987, is the new Receptionist. Ela is able to speak seven of the official languages and has a great knowledge of the Department, so is well suited to this new position.

Dr Alexander Murgu joined the Faculty earlier this year as Senior Lecturer and in June Pierre Bizimana joined the department permanently as the IT Technical Officer.



Seen at the function left to right: Nicole Moodley, Paul Barendse, Barry Downing, Karin Van Wyk, Ela Waqu, Alexander Murgu, Marlene Joubert, Pierre Bizimana, Albert Martyn, Carol Koonin

The 2009 Ad Hominem promotions are:

Associate Professor Keith Cattell to Professor
Associate Professor Michael Claeys to Professor
Dr Brandon Collier-Reed to Associate Professor
Dr Genevieve Langdon to Associate Professor
Dr Jenny Whittal to Associate Professor
Dr Marianne Vanderschuren to Associate Professor
Dr Alta Steenkamp to Associate Professor
Dr Paul Barendse to Senior Lecturer

NEW STAFF MEMBERS IN ERC

The ERC has 2 new Senior Research Officers, who joined the Centre in September 2009.

Mr Mavo Solomon

Mavo graduated from UCT with a BSc (Eng) Mechanical and MSc (Eng). He also has a BSc (Maths and Physics) from Vista University.



Mavo worked for Eskom for six years—at the Nuclear power plant outside Cape Town and at their head offices in Megawatt Park in Johannesburg. He also did a short stint at the Development Bank of Southern Africa. In 2008, Mavo took time off to focus on his music career and he has released his debut contemporary African folk album, iSiGiDiMi (which means “important message”). In the album he features some of South Africa’s legendary musicians, such as Hugh Masekela on flugelhorn, Khaya Mahlangu on saxophone/flute and Tlale Makhene on percussions. Mavo performs with a live band and has graced Queenstown, Johannesburg and Pretoria performance and club stages. He also entertains at corporate functions and events.

Dr Brett Cohen



Brett graduated from UCT in 1992 with a BSc in Chemical Engineering and in 1998 with a PhD.

Brett then worked in consultancy and the IT sector for a while before spending five years as a research fellow at the University of Sydney, Australia. He worked in the area of Multi Criteria Decision Analysis and strategic planning as

applied to sustainability of energy, minerals and water supply systems. He then joined the Department of Chemical Engineering at UCT as a senior researcher where he was able to continue with his research and also did some lecturing. He has joined the ERC as a senior researcher in the Energy systems analysis and planning group.

CEM WELCOMES DR WINDAPO



Dr Abimbola Windapo joined the Department of Construction Economics and Management as a senior lecturer in August 2009. Her career spans 22 years after graduating from the University of Ife, Nigeria with a BSc (Hons) degree in Building. She obtained her master’s degree with distinction in Construction Management in 1990 and in 2005 received her PhD, both from the University of Lagos. She was a Senior Lecturer at the University before being elected to the position of Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences

CONGRATULATIONS

Associate Professor Jenni Case was one of four UCT scholars who were initiated into the Academy of Science of South Africa. Membership of the academy is by election only, and the “academicians thus represent an organised, independent but responsive scholarly voice to help guide the development of the country and its people”.



WEDDING BELLS



On 10 November the Department of Construction Economics held a function to celebrate the wedding of Dr Stephen Allen and his wife, Rachel, which took place on 19 September 2009 at Gretna Green in Scotland.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

The African Centre for Cities has received an additional tranche



Nancy Odendaal

of money from the Rockefeller Foundation for the work Nancy Odendaal is doing with the Association of African Planning Schools. The additional funding will be used to encourage research and publishing by planning academics. They will be focusing on case methodology with the aim of developing expertise in this field. Understanding planning legislation in the African context will also be a major focus.

Three workshops on case study research will be held throughout Africa. These will be used as a catalyst for future publications with the aim of producing a special edition of a journal. The workshops will also create an opportunity to distribute text and books by academics who use case methodology to the African Planning Schools.

Nancy has recently completed a trip around Africa visiting the following African Planning Schools: Universities of Free State, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Witwatersrand, and North-West in South Africa, Kenyatta and Nairobi Universities in Kenya, Copperbelt University in Zambia, the Catholic University of Mozambique in Beira and Ardhi University in Tanzania.

She hopes to complete her visits to the 31 planning schools by mid-2010.

COMMUNITY BUILD

For the past five years, first year Construction Studies students participate in a Community Build as part of their service learning programming. Mark Massyn and Karen Le Jeune, lecturers in Construction Studies, organise the community build with the Niall Mellon Township challenge programme.

The build gives the students an opportunity to learn and apply typical trade skills used in the construction industry and to engage with informal settlement communities. In September the students joined the build in Mbekweni and Wallace-dene and assisted in completing 14 houses.

As part of the challenge the students are asked to fundraise and this year they raised R7640 for the Niall Mellon Township Trust. Karen Le Jeune attended a lunch on 11 November with the MEC for Housing, Mr Bonginkosi Madikzela, to celebrate the 8th Irish Building Blitz.



Students showing their designs for the hard hat competition

Student Mentors



First-year mentors at the event

The Dean held a function on 26 October to thank the first-year mentors for the role they have played in assisting first-year students to adjust to university life. Some first year students attended the function and spoke about the role the mentor played in their life and how it had benefited them.

2009 Graduation Ball



The 2009 EBE student council with Professor Francis Petersen and Mary Hilton

The 2009 Graduation Ball organised by the EBE student council took place on 14 October at the Pigalle Restaurant in Green Point.

CRYSTALLISATION AND PRECIPITATION UNIT

Staff and students in the Crystallisation and Precipitation Unit have recently received a number of awards.

Head of the Unit, Professor Alison Lewis, received the best-paper award at the Water in Mining conference held in Australia in September. Alison was one of three keynote speakers at the conference. The title of her paper was: "Worth its salt - how eutectic freeze crystallisation can be used to recover water and salt from hypersaline mine waters". It was co-authored by two of her PhD students, Traci Reddy and Dyllon Randall, and a Master student, Rinesh Jivani.

Alison's project "Coaltech—Treatment and purification of brines and acid mine drainage" was one of the finalists in the 2009 DTI Technology awards in the research collaboration category. The research collaboration is with Leslie Petrik of UWC, and the project was funded by Coaltech.



Rinesh Jivani, (MSc student) Sinetemba Nkukwana (lab manager), Professor Alison Lewis and Traci Reddy (PhD student) seen in the temperature control room (-5°C) in the Ice Lab which is used for their research work in Eutectic Freeze Crystallization. The second temperature control room has a temperature of -20°C

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES IN TEACHING FET CHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemical Engineering hosted over 100 local Science Teachers at their annual Science Teachers' afternoon.

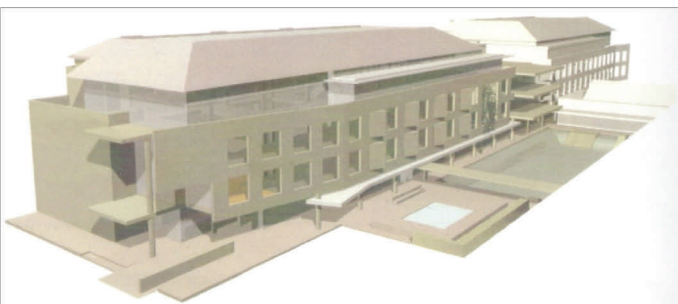
The theme for the afternoon was "Responding to the challenges in teaching FET chemistry."

The NSC curriculum for Physical Sciences has introduced a number of new topics in the area of Chemistry, such as a much expanded coverage of Organic Chemistry. At the same time, Chemistry remains a subject with its own particular challenges for teaching in a conceptually meaningful way, eg. moving between the macro-, micro - and molecular scale and the understanding of chemical phenomena.

The afternoon helped teachers deal with some of these challenges and included a range of different talks across relevant topics. The teachers were given a pack with a CD with all the information covered during the afternoon.



Enjoying the afternoon, left to right: Goodluck Kavhura (Heritage College), Memory Dizha (Masiyile High School), David Destorie (Harold Cressy High School), and Abel Muchinapaya (Oaklands High School).



Artist's drawing of the New Engineering Building

NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING

The Planning Implementation Committees (PIC) and User Groups have been set up for the two major building projects in the Faculty. The New Engineering Building's PIC is chaired by Professor Paul Bowen and the User Group by Professor Keith Cattell. The Centlivres Building project is the retrofitting of the building and the PIC is chaired by Professor Romano Del Mistro and the User Group by Professor Vanessa Watson. The Departments have been tasked with drawing up an academic plan for the new space, which will then be presented to the University Building Committee before building can begin. Preparation for the new engineering building should begin in June/July 2010.

FINAL YEAR FAREWELL



Professor Dave Root seen at the farewell dinner for the final-year Construction Studies students, which was held on 23 October.

Silas Darby, who graduated from UCT in 1988 with a BSc (Quantity Surveying), was the guest speaker. He is presently the project manager for the Green Point Stadium.

PROPERTY CAREERS EVENING

On Thursday 12 November, the Construction Economics and Management Department, in partnership with RICS, invited third and fourth-year Property Studies students, alumni, staff and property industry professionals to a Career Discussion and Farewell evening. The evening was an opportunity to network with industry and to find out more about career opportunities. It was also a farewell to the Property Honours class of 2009.

DATES TO DIARISE

1 December	Dean's Forum @ 13h00
14 December	Engineering Graduation
14 December	Launch of the Hydrogen Catalysis Competence Centre @ 16h30
16 December	Built Environment Graduation
17 December	DAC Indaba
26 January 2010	Residences open
27 January 2010	EBE Orientation
5 February 2010	First day of classes for first years
8 February 2010	First semester begins
10 - 19 March 2010	Zamani Project Exhibition in the Centre for African Studies Gallery
17 April 2010	University Open Day
13 & 14 September 2010	ECOSA visit

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT—SCIENCE NETWORK

Dr Marianne Vander-schuren from the Centre of Transport Studies is involved in a EU ACP programme for a Transport and Environment—Science and Technology (TEST) Network.



The TEST Network will be led by the Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York, the Institute for Transportation & Development Policy-Europe (Germany) and the Centre for Transport Studies at UCT in collaboration with Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique), Makerere University (Uganda), Ardhi University (Tanzania), University of Zambia and the University of Zimbabwe.

In February 2010, all the partners will be attending the 'kick-off' meeting which will be hosted by Marianne at UCT. Each partner will receive around R600 000 over three years and they will have to co-finance R100 000 towards the programme.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OPEN DAY

On Tuesday 17 November, the Department of Mechanical Engineering held their annual Open Day which is a celebration for the final year students. Four students presented their thesis to the audience. The Best Oral presentation award went to Dean Symington. Delta Dlamini was awarded the Penny Wilson Memorial Prize for the most congenial final year student in 2009 voted by the class.



Delta Dlamini and Prof Bob Tait

VALUES AND CULTURE SURVEY WINNERS

In October, the Values and Culture working group ran a survey with staff and students to get a sense of what type of values people are experiencing and what values people would like to see in the Faculty. As this was such a busy time of year it was decided to offer a Netbook as an incentive for staff and students to complete the survey. A total of 801 responses were received. The data will be collated and will be presented to staff and students

A random draw was made and Soraya Shaffie from the Division of Geomatics and Johann van der Westhuizen, a first-year Civil Engineering student, were the winners of the Netbooks.



Jonathan Marks (Values and Culture-working group co-ordinator), Soraya Shaffie, Francis Petersen and Johann van der Westhuizen

Thank-you to all those who participated.

NEW STAFF MEMBER FOR ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

In September, Niven Stanley joined Architecture and Planning as the Departmental Assistant. Niven worked previously for the Department of Social Development in the Logistical Information Systems section.



GEOMATICS WELCOMES A NEW SENIOR LECTURER



Dr Mahmoud AbdEl-Gelil is the new senior lecturer in the Geomatics division. Mahmoud has a BSc Civil Engineering (University of Alexandria, Egypt), MSc (University of Alexandria) MASC (Ryerson University, Toronto) PhD (York University, Toronto). Before

joining the Division of Geomatics in October, Mahmoud was a Ryerson Post Doctoral Fellow in the Civil Engineering Department at Ryerson University in Toronto, where his research subject was: "Heave signal analysis and GNSS/INS integration."

JOHANNESBURG ROADSHOW

On 5 November, the Dean, together with Professor Paul Bowen, Professor Jack Fletcher and Mary Hilton, hosted a dinner for industry representatives to update them on the Faculty and to discuss the problems the Faculty is facing with the new NSC curriculum. The presentation by the Dean was well received and the industry representatives welcomed the interaction and felt they had a better understanding and look forward to working more closely with the Faculty.

RETIREMENT

On Thursday 12 November the University held the annual Retirees Dinner in Smuts Hall. Professor Cyril O'Connor will be retiring at the end of the year after 33 years at UCT. Cyril joined the Department of Chemical Engineering in 1976 and was Dean of the Faculty from 1998 to 2008. We are delighted that we will not be saying good-bye to Cyril as he will be continuing with his research work in the Centre for Minerals Processing.



Professor Cyril O'Connor and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price at the Retirees Dinner (Photograph courtesy of Roger Sedres Photography CC)