

Faculty Newsletter

Message from the Dean

It is hard to believe that the final year exams are around the corner. Applications for undergraduate study in 2010 are coming in fast and the Faculty Office has made over 700 offers to the high academic flyers. The applications and offers are being closely monitored to ensure we do not overshoot our targets for 2010.

Earlier this year, the EBE student council requested a debate on academic development in the Faculty. I was delighted to chair a discussion panel on 11 September and would like to thank everyone who participated. I look forward to the ongoing discussion and welcome any ideas or comments on the topic (*article on page 3*).

The Faculty remains committed to the 5 strategic priorities identified for 2009 and I am pleased that progress is being made in all areas. I once again encourage PASS and academic staff to get involved and give their input to these key priorities.

The Faculty's Employment Equity plan, which spans from 2010 to 2015, has been completed and submitted to the University's Employment Equity Office for the Department of Labour. I would like to thank all the staff who were involved in getting the plan finalised.

Transformation remains a key priority for the Faculty and it should remain on top of our agendas to ensure we all embrace it within our day-today activities.

Following on from the development of the EBE strategy, we are now in the process of finalising business plans for the 2010 to 2014 cycle.

In November I will be hosting a dinner in Gauteng for our industry partners. This year a number of bursary companies will be invited so that we can update them on the Faculty and the challenges many of our students are facing.



Important Dates:

Graduation Ball	14 October
Lectures end	27 October
Consolidation week	28 October
Exams start	2 November
Graduation (Engineering)	14 December
Graduation (Built Environment)	16 December
Residences Open	26 January
Orientation 2010	27 January
First day of lectures 1st years	5 February

40 years in the Faculty

On Wednesday 2 September the Geomatics Division hosted a function to mark the notable achievement of a number of staff members who have worked in the Faculty for 40 years. Dr Julian Smit, who coordinated the event, said: "40 years is a very notable milestone in their employment at UCT. We wanted to acknowledge their contribution to the Faculty."



Seen at the event are left to right: Professor Francis Petersen, Hubert Tomlinson (Mechanical Engineering), Sidney Smith, (Geomatics) Professor Heinz Ruther, (Geomatics), Patrick Kanye (Architecture & Planning), and Albert Martin (Electrical Engineering).

Prestigious Fulton Award

The Concrete Materials & Structural Integrity Research group received a Fulton Award for a special category: Repair and Maintenance project.

The award was for the research done by Associate Professor Pilate Moyo on the concrete retrofitment solutions utilised at the Van der Kloof Dam spillway bridge.

The judges' citation said: "Of particular interest was the fact that the bridge span structures were modelled to assess the dynamic behaviour thereof and that further on site vibration-based dynamic tests were done to support these findings and from these results ingenious retrofitment details and techniques were proposed in order to strengthen the bridging structure adequately."

The Fulton Award recognises and rewards excellence and innovation in the use of concrete. The awards are held in high esteem both locally and internationally.

Pilate worked with BKS (Pty) Ltd and the client was the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF). Thanks to this award, the Research Group will be receiving a lot more dam assessment work.



Seen with the award are members of the research group: Dr Hans Beushausen, Associate Professor Pilate Moyo, and Professor Mark Alexander

UCT Transport expert invited to speak at UNEP – Green Global conference



Dr Marianne Vanderschuren

Dr Marianne Vanderschuren has been invited as a transport expert to speak on "the stakes of eco-mobility" at the United Nations Educational Programme (UNEP) – Green Global conference which takes place in France from 26 to 28 November 2009. Marianne is from the Centre for Transport Studies in the Department of Civil Engineering.

The conference is organised by Planetworkshops, an international forum on sustainable development. As a preamble to the Copenhagen intergovernmental negotiations, the conference will bring together political figures, business leaders, scientists, opinion-makers and the media in a special environment to discuss the vital stakes of sustainable development, and initiate common participants.

Marianne has been working on a transport chapter for a UNEP energy book. She has been responsible for the data, potential measure and the impacts on Africa and it was through this connection that she was invited to present at the conference.

"I am delighted and feel honoured to have been invited to contribute to this incredible initiative," Marianne said.

Rural Rocks!

Rural Rocks – a team of five postgraduate Chemical Engineering students—are the UCT winners of the Sanlam interuniversity "Creativity for Progress Competition." Five UCT teams competed and Bev van Nijkerk from Sanlam said: "This year the standard was extremely high. UCT can be extremely proud of the students who presented their projects."

Sanlam introduced this competition last year to find practical solutions to the socio-economic challenges facing South Africa. "It allows us to tap into the creative thinking of our diversified young, talented students and to encourage innovative solutions for the sustainable development of South Africa," said Frank Louw, sponsorship manager of Sanlam Group Marketing.

The theme for this year's competition was "Rural areas are failing to retain and attract skilled people and graduates, resulting in economic stagnation. How would you remedy this?" The projects had to be practical, innovative and implementable as well as being deliverable on a shoestring budget.

Read more at www.ebe.uct.ac.za



Left to right: seated Naadia van der Bergh, Mluleki Mnguni, and Allison Kasozi. Standing left to right: Doreen Nabaho and Bernelle Verster

Academic Development panel discussion

On Friday 11 September the EBE undergraduate student council and the Faculty invited staff and students to a panel discussion on Academic Development. The panel was: Professor Ian Scott (Director—Academic Development Programme Central Unit—CHED), Professor Francis Petersen (Dean), Dr Howard Pearce (Aspect Coordinator), Thandolwenkosi Mthembu (Architecture student) and Lubablo Luyaba (Aspect student).



Panel left to right: Ian Scott, Thando Mthembu, Francis Petersen, Howard Pearce and Lubablo Luyaba

The discussion covered: what is meant by Academic Development; how the faculty is responding to Academic Development; what the faculty is delivering; how the students are experiencing academic development and what are the key deliverables for the Faculty

A few of the issues raised at the discussion were:

- language problem
- lack of computer skills
- mentoring and tutoring
- support outside the classroom
- what happens after ASPECT?

The Dean said that Academic Development is a critical aspect within the Faculty and the staff are taking it seriously. He will be meeting with the Heads of Departments to discuss how they are responding to Academic Development as each department has different needs. He reiterated that we need to learn from one another and that research needs to be done to improve what we are doing. The discussion remains open and any ideas or comments should be sent to the Dean. (ebe-speaktothedean@uct.ac.za)

International Visitors

In August, members of CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems) attended the Cigre Southern African regional conference in Somerset West. The International Symposium on High Voltage Engineering took place the following week at the CTICC and was co-hosted by Wits, KZN, Stellenbosch and UCT. With all the international visitors in Cape Town, Professor Gaunt took the opportunity to host a meeting on campus for members of the Cigre working group: "Pollution and environmental influence on the electrical performance of power systems."



Members of the working group: Back: Trevor Gaunt (ZA, observer), Wilhelm Schwardt (Germany), Bob Hill (USA), Clive Lumb (France), Ricardo Garcia (Brazil), Dong Wu (Sweden), Igor Gutman (Sweden), Nishal Mahatho (ZA), Simon Rowland (UK) Front: Alberto Pignini (Italy), Roy Matsuoka (Japan), Terri Nakachi (Japan), Jan Reynders; Secretary (ZA), Chris Engelbrecht; Convener (Netherlands)

HAPPY SECRETARY'S DAY

On Wednesday 2nd September 2009 each department in the Faculty received a beautifully boxed chocolate cake from the Dean to celebrate Secretary's Day.



Cheryl Wright from Civil Engineering

Thank-you to the Department of Electrical Engineering

Ella Waqu joined the University in 1985 and worked in residences before joining the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1987 as a cleaner. In 1999 the University retrenched all the cleaning staff and Ella was devastated as she was the only breadwinner at home. She had an ill mother, several siblings and her own child to look after. It was a very traumatic time for her. Professor Downing, who was Head of the Department, and the staff in the department created a position in the Department so Ella was able to continue working.

For years Ella has wanted to let the Department know how grateful she is for what they did for her. "Nobody knew my circumstances—but without them I would have lost my house and not been able to look after my family. I am so happy and proud of Electrical Engineering. I don't have enough words to thank them."



Ella Waqu

New Staff in the African Centre for Cities.



Nancy Odendaal joined the African Centre for Cities in July as the Project Coordinator of the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS). AAPS is a voluntary, peer-to-peer network of higher education-based programmes and departments which educate and train city/urban and regional planners. A Rockefeller Foundation grant will be used to draw together over 30 African planning schools to build on the research capacity and to support and develop planning education in Africa. Nancy is currently on a journey across the continent visiting various planning schools as part of the project's investigation on how revitalising planning education in Africa can be achieved. Her tour of over 30 schools will last for the next two months.

Visit her blog: <http://aaps-coordinator.blogspot.com> to follow her journey

Ntombini Marrengane also joins the ACC from the World Bank in Pretoria to manage the new programme on State of Cities Reports for various African countries. Ntombini's research explores urban public policy challenges that arise from the impact of HIV/AIDS.



Ismail Farouk joins us from Johannesburg where he has worked as a Geographer and Artist and has been involved in groundbreaking work in areas ranging from culture and urban regeneration to public art and the politics of space.



Caroline Skinner joined the African Centre for Cities in August. She is the Urban Policy Programme Coordinator for the research policy network Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO) and will be doing research into urban informality in the global south. Funding for this project has been received from the Gates Foundation.

Caroline is the co-author of a new book "Working in Warwick – including street trades in urban plans". While writing the book, Caroline was a researcher at the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She has been involved in policy and advocacy work at a local, provincial, national and international level and her work questions the nature of the informal economy with the aim of developing more appropriate policy responses.

Working in Warwick offers a fresh look at street traders' lives, the role they play in city life and their contribution to its economy. Through the text and photographs, this book shows that it is possible to include street trading in urban plans in a way that adds to the vibrancy and attraction of cities. This is not a common perception of street trading or of urban planning, which makes this book all the more significant.

Warwick is a vibrant street-trading area situated in a transport hub in the east-coast city of Durban. Ironically, before the book was published, the Warwick informal trading market was earmarked as a site for the development of a new shopping mall. This has opened up interesting debate in the KZN media.

Engineers Without Borders (EWB)

On Saturday 19 September members of the EWB committee and volunteers went out to the Kensington Night Shelter where they worked hard, cleaning mould, stripping and priming window frames and fixing light fittings. Chrislene Sadan, the manager, said: "I am extremely grateful for the work that the students were able to do. It lifts the spirits of the residents who use the shelter."

A big thank-you to Ann Steiner who donated 20l of paint; to the Department of Civil Engineering for the "warmer oven"; and to the Dean for the donation the Faculty made to the project.

Brennan Hodkinson, Chair of EWB, said: "It was a great day and we managed to achieve a lot. We look forward to arranging many more and would really like to encourage staff to participate."



The Everyday and the Extraordinary

On Wednesday 9 September Professor Jo Noero's exhibition - THE EVERYDAY AND THE EXTRAORDINARY - was opened at the Iziko National Gallery. The exhibition is about three decades of Jo's writing about, teaching and practising architecture.

The exhibition offers an attempt to chart South Africa's cultural, social and political change through architecture and is structured around three decades of design. The 1980s - a **period of uncertainty and upheaval**, the 1990s - a **period of transition**, and the first decade of the 21st century - a **period of transformation**. Each decade can be viewed as a reflection of the state of the country. In its deepest sense Jo's work is a mirror of our times. (*Iziko National Gallery*)

In the 1980s Jo was very active in the anti-apartheid movement and his work is grounded in a social conscience. He was involved in building projects which played a role in uplifting the communities. His first clients were Bishop David and Maggie Nkwe for whom he built a home, and he went on to design the Orlando Children's Orphanage for Maggie. David Nkwe introduced him to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who appointed him as the diocesan architect.

"The exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Bishop David Nkwe, who was an inspiration and a friend."

Jo joined the School of Architecture and Planning at UCT in 2000 as the director of the school until 2005. He continues to lecture and be involved in the school at all levels. He is an internationally recognised architect and his work has been widely published and exhibited throughout the world. He is an honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and has lectured and taught in the UK, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Botswana, Namibia, and throughout the United States. The Iziko National Gallery



describes Jo as one of South Africa's most celebrated architects.

In 1993 he received the Institute of South African Architects (ISAA) National Award of Merit for the Duduza Resource Centre, which was initiated by community members. The centre was built to house informal educational projects to address the lack of basic skills in the community. In 1994 he was awarded the ISAA Award for Excellence for the Soweto Careers Centre. After extensive consultation with the community, the centre was designed to exude a feeling of empowerment.

The Nordic Institute of Architects awarded the Ruth and Ralph Erskine Scholarship to Jo for both these Centres. This was the first time a South African has received this prestigious award. In the words of the award, it is made for:

"Planning or architecture which is: Functional, Environmental, Ecological and Beautiful; and which is to the advantage of underprivileged and deprived groups in any society."

Over the years he has continued to receive awards of merit for outstanding design as well as a number of prestigious international awards for his work.

In 2006 he received the Royal British Architects Lubetkin Award for the Red Location Museum of Struggle. In the words of the judges, "the Red Location Museum brilliantly rises to the challenge using architectural skill of the highest order to produce an unforgettable experience that is both viscerally and intellectually moving ... this is an architectural tour de force."

At the opening, Dennis Goldberg, who had his house built by Jo, said: "Jo designs a home where you can relax and enjoy your surroundings. He takes into consideration the culture and the community around you."

The exhibition is well worth a visit and will be on until 30 November 2009.

Masakh'iSizwe Bursary Programme

The Department of Transport and Public Works' held an event in Jameson Hall on Saturday 5 September for their Masakh'iSizwe (let's build the nation) new bursary holders and their parents.

The programme has over 90 students in the EBE Faculty. Bursaries are available to students studying Architecture, Construction Management, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Town & Regional Planning.

The closing date for applications is 23 October 2009. Application forms can be found at: <http://www.ebe.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/>



Seen at the event were l to r: Dr Mamphela Ramphele (Chair of the Masakh'iSizwe programme), the Premier, Helen Zille, Nasima Badsha (CEO of CHEC), and the Dean, Professor Francis Petersen

Best Paper Awards

Eugene Golovins (PhD) and Keoikantse Marungwana, (Master's), from the Communications Research Group in the Department of Electrical Engineering, were awarded two of the three Best Paper Awards at the recent Southern African Telecommunication Networks and Applications Conference (SATNAC 2009), which was held in Swaziland in September.

The Communications Research Group is led by Neco Ventura. SATNAC is hailed as the major Southern African annual ICT event showcasing achievements in postgraduate research output and features discussions by telecom industry leaders on new trends in cutting-edge ICT and telecom technologies.



Eugene Golovins and Keoikantse Marungwana

Three honorary Professors for the ACC

A warm welcome to Jenny Robinson, AbdouMaliq Simone and Ivan Turok who have recently been appointed as honorary professors to the African Centre for Cities.

Professor Jenny Robinson is from the International Development Centre at the Open University in the UK where she lectures Geography in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Professor AbdouMaliq Simone is from the Department of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. His areas of supervision are urban life, socio-economic development, postcolonial theory, space and society, materialities and social life, new regionalisms, politics in the Global South, youth culture and religions.

In 2008, Professor Ivan Turok was seconded to the ACC from the University of Glasgow under the Mellon Foundation's mentorship project. He is an international expert on cities and economic development and is the director of research in the Department of Urban Studies

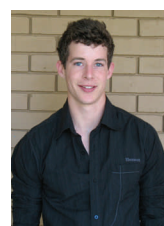
SRC 2010

Two EBE students have been elected onto the 2010 SRC.



Wandile Mamba
Vice President Internal.
3rd year Chemical Engineering.

"I am very excited for next year and trust I will not let the students down."



Erik de Ridder
Societies Coordinator
2nd year Civil Engineering

Professor Edgar Pieterse's inaugural lecture

African Cities: Grasping the Unknowable

26 August 2009

Almost all future urban growth in African cities will take the form of slum growth. This is just one of the stark differences between urbanisation in Africa and elsewhere.

Edgar's lecture illustrated the African city as an "elusive mirage clouded by limited data".

Despite the fact that Africa experiences the fastest rate of urbanisation compared to all other regions, with the United Nations predicting that the continent will double its urban population in the next two decades, there is an "absence of a well-rounded body of thought on the specificities of African urbanism," he said. Edgar argued that there has been a "tendency to focus on individual or micro practices in order to surface nuance, texture, variability, diversity and of course, contingency".

"We need to find ways in which we can clarify the knowledge agenda that will be able to articulate macro-trend data and perspectives with insights about the novelty of contemporary urban life as it comes into being at this late capitalist moment, when Africa remains an afterthought, an invisible placemat for larger power struggles, and the globalised allegory for failed modernisation," he said.

Edgar described African macro-urbanisation trends, starting with the fact that the continent is still in the beginning of its urbanisation transition, with only 38% of the population presently living in cities. Another trend is that the vast majority of African urbanites reside in small cities with populations of less than half a million, which is "fundamentally different to the typical scenario of megacity explosions that is popularly associated with urbanisation".

Another unique and concerning trend is slum growth.

"Informal, auto-constructed, makeshift shelters house 62% of African urbanites. In other words, the shanty city is the real African city," said Edgar. "Clearly, for both what we know and do not know, the African city is indeed an edge, a site of danger, for there are an impossible many dimensions to grasp at once."

(Daily News—www.uct.ac.za)

