Message from the Dean

I am proud to inform you that your alma mater remains firmly established as a leading research and teaching faculty on the continent. A number of new developments in infrastructure, adoption of new technologies and innovation are indicative of the exciting times ahead for the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment. You can be reassured that the quality of the degrees offered continues to be of a high standard and relevant to the needs of today’s society.

There are exciting new research initiatives in the faculty, with a number of new master’s programmes introduced in 2014. The faculty is venturing into new areas such as space studies, nuclear engineering and geotechnical engineering (see page 6).

The faculty continues to grapple with supporting students who are under-prepared for university study. A great deal of time and resources are going into academic development to ensure we increase our throughput rate. Through the generosity of funders, the ASPECT Programme (Academic Support Programme for Engineering in Cape Town), developed to assist students from schools that do not prepare students adequately for tertiary education, has made an impact on the success for many students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the alumni who have supported the faculty over the years. We would like to see more alumni getting involved in the activities of the faculty. If you believe the UCT engineering or built environment degree has made a meaningful contribution in your life, please support our programmes to advance the academic and professional lives of a new generation of students. We hope that you share in our vision for the faculty. For more information on how to contribute, you can contact Mandisa Zitha.
International award for Electrical Engineering project

A shack fire project from the Department of Electrical Engineering at UCT received the People’s Choice Award for the 2014 Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC). The international competition provides aspiring entrepreneurs with mentoring exposure and prize money to transform their ideas into businesses that will have positive real world impact.

Approximately 11% of South Africans live in shacks and nationally there are ten reported shack fires per day. On New Year’s Day 2013, a fire in the BM section in Khayelitsha left 4000 homeless.

In response to this challenge, Mr Samuel Ginsberg, a senior lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering and his team developed a low-cost fire-detection device and an integrated alert service designed for shack-dwellers worldwide. The device has been named Khusela, a Zulu word which means protect. The proactive early-warning system networks individuals within communities and with authorities to mitigate the loss of life and property caused by shack fires.

Early this year, members of the team Paul Mesarcik and David Klugman, both recent UCT graduates, presented the Khusela project at the Europe, Middle East and Africa round of the competition which was held in London. As the winners of that round, in April 2014 David Klugman and Francois Petousis presented at the worldwide finals at Berkeley University in California, where they received the People’s Choice Award. The project has received seed funding from the Technology Innovation Agency and the $1 500 prize money will help them meet their target. They are working in partnership with CORC, the local branch of Shack-Dwellers International, which will assist them in rolling out the devices to informal settlements.

The project was also the winner of the local round of the SeedStarsWorld contest and a finalist in the local Better Living Challenge competition. For the SeedStarsWorld contest, members of the team will be off to Switzerland in February, where 30+ startups from all corners of the world will compete for prizes such as an equity investment of up to US $50 000. They will also have the opportunity to meet and network with European investors, expand their business and connect with other great founders.

SMEC Global Young Professional of the Year

In 2002, Sekadi Phayane graduated with a BSc in Civil Engineering. She completed her MPhil in Transport Studies in 2006. In 2013 she was named SMEC Global Young Professional of the Year. This award recognises the contribution of one young female and one young male for outstanding contribution to their role, to SMEC as an organisation and to the broader industry.

Sekadi works in SMEC’s Johannesburg Office as Section Manager, Roads and Highways. She has ten years’ experience in traffic and transportation planning.
Space Expert joins the Department of Electrical Engineering

Professor Peter Martinez is the coordinator of the new Space Studies programme at UCT.

Prior to joining UCT, Professor Martinez was involved in the development of the South African national space policy and the associated preparatory activities that led to the creation of the South African National Space Agency.

Professor Martinez was with the South African Astronomical Observatory, a facility operated by the National Research Foundation. He is the current Chairman of the South African Council for Space Affairs and has extensive experience in multilateral space diplomacy through his involvement with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, where he chairs its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics and of the International Institute of Space Law, and several other professional bodies.

On 21 July the first cohort of the MPhil specialising in Space Studies commenced their coursework. The participants received lectures from a number of local and international presenters in topics such as orbits and astrodynamics, earth observation, satellite communications, rockets, space policy, space commerce and space law. The participants also had an opportunity to interact with a cosmonaut, who shared his experiences of training for spaceflight aboard the Salyut space station in the early 1980s. Subsequent modules in the programme will explore these and other topics in more depth. Find more information on the website.

Prestigious awards for Professor Langdon

Professor Genevieve Langdon from the Department of Mechanical Engineering has been recognised for the excellent research work she is doing in the Blast Impact & Survivability Unit. She is considered a leader in experimentation on lightweight materials and blast loading.

Prof Langdon was the runner-up in the Distinguished Young Woman: Physical and Engineering science category for the 2014 DST Women in Science Awards. She has also been awarded the South African Association for the Advancement of Science British Association medal for 2014. It is one of the highest awards for original scientific research in South Africa.

Teaching and Learning award

Congratulations to Professor Jenni Case, who received the CHE-HELTASA National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award for 2013. Five winners are identified and the applicants are subjected to a rigorous selection process. “The top five applicants in the country were deemed to have made very significant contributions to university teaching and learning and to be able to share their philosophy, insights and innovative ideas with academics across the sector,” said Professors Diane Grayson, Director: Institutional Audits, CHEC, and Brenda Leibowitz, convenor of the awards committee.
The Centre for Minerals Research has acquired a QEMSCAN (Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals by Scanning Electron Microscopy) that is able to identify valuable minerals in ore of such low quality that it was previously thought of as sub-economic.

Largely subsidised by the National Research Foundation, the R14-million QEMSCAN machine provides detailed quantitative analysis of minerals, rocks, soils and man-made products, far more quickly than was previously possible. The key is a high-energy accelerating electron beam that scans the surface of an object and produces a colour-coded picture of the minerals it comprises.

"You can see QEMSCAN as a potential tool to unlock process mineralogy of complex ores," says Dr Megan Becker, who heads process mineralogy at UCT’s Centre for Mineral Research. Becker said that the new QEMSCAN machine will be vital to maintaining the highest quality of research and industrial performance. As high-quality ore stocks become depleted, mining companies are forced to revisit those ores that had relatively small concentrations of the minerals they desired. Before QEMSCAN technology, says Becker, analysing these samples was a laborious matter of poring through microscopes and recording data manually.

"We know that these easy-to-process ores are running out. The mining industry will be forced to overcome a mineralogical barrier using innovative technology to unlock the value of rocks that are currently considered sub-economic. "In order to do so, we need to remain focused on both the technology and the people, and the successful use of process mineralogy requires the appropriate training of future generations both to acquire and to interpret the results that are obtained through ever-increasingly sophisticated technology, as well as effective communication between the multi-disciplinary teams comprising engineers, scientists, business people and society."

The new QEMSCAN will be available to industry and other institutions in the region. Applications may include those related to mineral processing, minerals beneficiation, metallurgy, economic geology, environmental science, oil and gas, archaeology, environmental science, soil science and viticulture.

1969 Civil Engineering graduate receives 2014 Stockholm Water Prize

Professor John Briscoe, who now teaches at Harvard University, was named the 2014 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for combining "world-class research with policy implementation and practice to improve the development and management of water resources as well as access to safe drinking water and sanitation".

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), which presents the award, said in a statement that Briscoe was living in a small village in Bangladesh in the mid-1970s, where he learned first-hand how infrastructure for protection from floods and droughts could transform the lives of the poor. Later that decade he worked as an engineer in the government of the newly independent Mozambique, learning there that "you were a credible policy-maker only if you could resolve basic problems of building and running infrastructure".

His "genius lies in his fusion of science, policy and practice, giving him unrivalled insights into how water should be managed to improve the lives of people worldwide," says SIWI. Briscoe says he was "very surprised and honoured" upon hearing that he had won the prize. "I am delighted for the recognition this gives to thinking practitioners, of which I consider myself one," he said. "At the end of the day, it is what happens on the ground that matters. All policies must be judged by whether they make a difference on the ground. I believe that the years I spent working at the micro level is what enables me to be an effective policy-maker."
Duncan McKenzie Fraser (1946 - 2014)

Duncan Fraser graduated with a first-class honours degree in Chemical Engineering at UCT in 1968. After completing his PhD and working for three years at the Caltex refinery in Milnerton, he returned to lecture in the Chemical Engineering Department at UCT in 1979. He quickly became engaged in the challenges of teaching an increasingly diverse student body.

Duncan played a significant role in curriculum development and in establishing two Academic Development Lecturer posts in the Chemical Engineering department. He was also a founder member of the Centre for Research in Engineering Education (CREE) and actively involved in the broader development of UCT’s undergraduate education.

Duncan’s research on teaching and learning in engineering education was internationally recognised and he was regarded as a leader in the field. Most recently, he was recognised in his appointment as President-Elect to the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFiEES).

Professor Duncan Fraser retired from the UCT Chemical Engineering Department at the end of 2011 as an Emeritus Professor, after 32 years on the academic staff. His passing at the age of 67 has been a shock to a wide community of academics and students with whom he was still very actively engaged. His legacy is not only the field of Engineering Education at UCT, which he pioneered, but also the influence that he had on the many students, staff and colleagues who were mentored, encouraged and inspired by him.

Emeritus Professor Vincent Louis Granger

Emeritus Professor Vincent Louis Granger was the first permanent Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at UCT, from 1972 to 1982.

In 1935, he entered UCT to study civil engineering and during his second year of study met his wife, Estelle, at the Fresher Social in Jameson Hall. Vincent graduated in 1938 with a BSc (Eng) in civil engineering, gaining a first class for his thesis. He joined the Cape Town City Council as a junior engineer. World War II started, and Vincent joined the 3rd Field Company South African Engineers Corps and in 1940 he was sent on active service to East Africa.

At the end of the war, Vincent went back to the Cape Town City Engineering Department. Professor Snape, whom he had met through his father, encouraged him to return to his studies, and whilst earning his living as resident engineer on the Cape Flats, he did three-years of part-time study and laboratory work at UCT, and was awarded his PhD in 1948.

In 1951 he resigned as District Engineer and he spent the next fourteen years in Zimbabwe and Zambia before returning to Cape Town in 1964 as Senior Assistant City Engineer of Cape Town.

In 1972 he was appointed as the first permanent Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at UCT. In his book Memories for My Family, he says, “University life proved to a very busy, productive and rewarding time. It was as though my career had been leading up in preparation for those eleven years.”

On 22 August 1972 he gave his inaugural lecture, titled The Engineer and Tomorrow. In December 1974 he took a group of 30 students to England on an educational engineering tour to expose the students to a wide range of modern construction, heavy and light industry, several research establishments and other organisations, including universities. He was granted six months’ study leave in 1976, and spent his time in England studying major engineering projects and visiting British universities to study their organisations of engineering education.

In 1979 he was appointed to the CSIR council by the State President. He considered this appointment as the greatest distinction in his working life. He was also elected Chair of the CSIR’s Western Cape Building Research Advisory Committee.

In 1982 he retired from the University as an Emeritus Professor. For a short while after he retired, he was a consultant to a Johannesburg consulting firm before retiring fully to spend time with his wife, Estelle. They moved to the Helderberg Retirement Village in Somerset West, where he died on 8 November 2013. His wife, Estelle, had died in 2005.
Exciting new postgraduate courses

In 2014 the Faculty introduced a number of new postgraduate programmes to develop graduates with much needed skills for the country.

**Master’s in Sustainable Mineral Resources**

This is a trans-disciplinary and inter-institutional degree offered through the Minerals to Metals Research Initiative within the Department of Chemical Engineering. This programme has been developed as part of the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) project of the United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP). It is to be delivered on a decentralised basis by two African universities (University of Cape Town and University of Zambia in Lusaka) in partnership with other South African and Japanese universities, and the United Nations University, based upon a common set of course instructions.

Email: Professor Harro Von Blottnitz

**Honours and Master’s in Nuclear Power**

The programmes are interdisciplinary and provide a balance of the scientific, engineering and applications aspects of nuclear power, including the policy, operating, safety and regulatory aspects.

Email: Emeritus Professor Trevor Gaunt

**Master’s in Civil Infrastructure Management and Maintenance**

This is offered in the Department of Civil Engineering and aims to produce graduates with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage effectively in structural and materials engineering with respect to maintenance, rehabilitation and management of civil infrastructure. The broad areas of interest are deterioration science, assessment technologies, and renewal engineering.

Email: Professor Pilate Moyo

**Master’s in Geotechnical Engineering**

The programme aims to provide advanced conceptual understanding, detailed factual geotechnical knowledge and specialist technical skills appropriate for those who wish to widen their professional scope and work towards a career in the field of geotechnical engineering.

Email: Dr Denis Kalumba

**Master’s in Telecommunications**

This will have its first intake in 2015. It is offered through the Department of Electrical Engineering and aims to provide knowledge, skills and aptitudes for engineers to adapt to the rapidly changing technological landscape. It is a must for the serious graduate interested in a telecommunications career. It is perfect for the working engineer who wants to get ahead - it is based on block release (one week per course).

Email: A/Professor Mqhele Dlodlo

**Master’s in Space Studies**

This programme is offered in the Department of Electrical Engineering and provides an interdisciplinary postgraduate qualification in the key aspects of space science and technology and space applications for societal benefit. The programme provides a balance of the scientific, engineering and applications aspects of space technology, as well as the policy, financial, commercial and regulatory aspects. The degree comprises coursework and a dissertation. The programme is designed to accommodate students who cannot be resident in Cape Town for the full duration of the degree.

Email: SpaceLab or visit the website

Continuing Professional Development

The CPD unit at the University of Cape Town is accredited to run courses that will be acknowledged for obtaining CPD credits. Visit the CPD website for more information or call Sandra Jemaar on 021 650 5793.
The new Geotechnical Laboratory in the Department of Civil Engineering has recently gone from a manual laboratory to a fully automated one with the latest high-tech soil testing equipment installed. Thanks to a grant from the DoHET and the University Equipment Committee, the Geotechnical Research Group managed to procure four fully automated soil testing machines that will enable performance of a range of soil tests which include Cyclic Triaxial, Consolidation, Triaxial, Direct Simple Shear, Direct Shear and Permeability.

All the equipment, manufactured and supplied by the Geocomp Corporation (USA), comes as complete self-contained units with all of the capabilities required to perform fully automated soil tests and to automatically record and store experimental data which will save students an enormous amount of time.

The stress-controlled cyclic triaxial testing equipment with a state-of-the-art microprocessor and a computer controlled cyclic equipment unit completely automates triaxial testing of soils. Local companies undertaking projects requiring determination of dynamic soil parameters for designing foundations for structures such as wind turbines will now be able to request tests using this new apparatus. This will enhance the interaction between the department and the local construction industry. Two master’s students, Byron Mawer and Sam Wagener, whose research is on dynamic soil parameters for designs of foundations for wind turbines and off-shore pile foundations, will carry out their testing programme using this equipment. A PhD candidate and staff member, Faridah Chebet, who is looking at using waste plastic bags as soil reinforcement material, is utilising it to assess the reinforcing ability of the plastic elements especially in sands that are prone to liquefaction. The second machine is the automated consolidation and swell equipment, which is used for testing incremental consolidation and swell in soils to predict structural settlement beneath foundations. The incremental consolidation test with the new equipment may be completed in 24 to 48 hours on most materials, compared to tests in manual consolidometers that may take weeks to complete.

The Direct Simple Shear (DSS) equipment, the only one of its kind in the country, is a universal shear system capable of performing the consolidation and shear phases of a direct simple shear test under full automatic control. The Large Direct Shear box equipment acquired in 2013 and funded by the University Equipment Committee was one of the first fully automated soil shear testing systems in the country.

Prestigious international award for John Bewsey

In November last year, John Bewsey’s KNeW process beat five other shortlisted technology processes to take the prize for the best Water Management and Supply solution at the prestigious annual Institute of Chemical Engineers awards, held in the UK. In the process called KNeW, the polluted water from mining or other industries is neutralised, filtered to remove coarse particles and precipitated heavy metals, and then pumped through an ion exchange battery to remove all the dissolved ions, leaving behind water of any desired quality.

John graduated from UCT in 1963 with a BSc in Chemical Engineering. At the age of 27, he was given the job of manager of one of the biggest fine chemical plants in South Africa. At 28, he started his own company with a partner, and since then, he has built a number of chemical plants across South Africa, in the USA and in Mauritius.

In 2003, he and two partners who share 105 years’ experience in agriculture, started Trailblazers Technologies Pty Ltd, where they create the processes and technologies needed to solve problems and then find an interested party to run the business.

For the last ten years, Professor Jenny Case from the Department of Chemical Engineering at UCT has invited John to talk to the first-year students on the world of work and where they should be directing their efforts when they leave university. He impresses on them that they are getting an education so they can find the solutions to the real-world problems.
Class of 63/64 celebrates 50-year reunion

On Friday, 6 December 2013, 19 alumni from across the engineering departments attended a 50th year reunion. They came from across South Africa and included one from America. Mike Shand, a civil engineering graduate, said, “We were amazed at the developments that have taken place in the Engineering and the Built Environment Faculty as described by Prof Petersen and were impressed by the new building. The very enjoyable cocktail function gave us the opportunity to get to know our former fellow students again.”

Postgraduate students showed the alumni around the labs, and spoke to them about the new developments in the departments.

2013 Gauteng alumni networking event

On 1 August the Dean hosted an alumni event in Johannesburg where Dr Steven Lennon, Eskom Group Executive for Sustainability, was the guest speaker. His topic was the South African Power Sector and Sustainability.

The topic attracted over 60 EBE alumni and no one went away disappointed. Lennon gave the alumni hope for the energy situation in Africa. He said that if there was a “cellphone” in the energy sector it would be energy storage. He added that there were a number of game changers out there which could change the future of energy.

On 3 September 2013, Eskom hosted the first Eskom corporate alumni chapter with 60 alumni and friends of the faculty attending the event held at Eskom’s Bellville offices. Alwie Lester, the General Manager for Eskom Western Cape, said that Eskom was the biggest recruiter of engineers in the country and therefore the relationship with the faculty was critical. Over 40% of graduates at Eskom in the Western Cape are from UCT. The Dean gave a presentation on the Roadmap for the Future: EBE’s achievements and vision, in which he identified the areas where the alumni could play a role.

Western Cape Eskom alumni

On 3 September 2013, Eskom hosted the first Eskom corporate alumni chapter with 60 alumni and friends of the faculty attending the event held at Eskom’s Bellville offices. Alwie Lester, the General Manager for Eskom Western Cape, said that Eskom was the biggest recruiter of engineers in the country and therefore the relationship with the faculty was critical. Over 40% of graduates at Eskom in the Western Cape are from UCT. The Dean gave a presentation on the Roadmap for the Future: EBE’s achievements and vision, in which he identified the areas where the alumni could play a role.
EBE alumni getting together

2014 Gauteng networking event

The EBE Alumni office recently organised the Annual Gauteng Alumni Event on 5 August at Eskom Megawatt Park. Prof Bheki Sibiya, CEO of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, was the guest speaker. His presentation, titled Some Causes, Impact and Implications of the Mining Strike, concluded in a robust question-and-answer session with alumni in attendance. The event was preceded by a meeting to initiate a UCT-Eskom chapter, chaired by Lungile Jacobs - Deputy Director and Head of Alumni Relations. The event was well attended by both Eskom staff and alumni from other companies.

REUNIONS

A 40-year reunion for the civil engineering classes of ‘72, ‘73 and ‘74 is taking place from 17 to 19 October and Mandisa Zitha is in talks with alumni who wish to organise a reunion for those who graduated in the 80s. For more information email Mandisa Zitha.

Alumni giving back

In 2009, Portia Gama was the first recipient of the Alumni Postgraduate scholarship which was established in 2007 by Dr Notokzo Mthembu. The scholarship assisted her to complete her Master’s in Engineering Management degree. On receiving the scholarship, Portia said she hoped that one day she would be able to do the same for a postgraduate student in need. And this she has done. For the past two years, in recognition of her mother, she has donated money to the Alumni Postgraduate scholarship fund, which will go towards assisting a postgraduate student. She is married and living in Denmark where she is working as an assistant to the Executive Vice President for Business Development and Alliances. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Alumni Postgraduate scholarship may contact Mandisa Zitha.

Effective Writing for Business and Industry—an e-learning course

Good written communication remains the cornerstone of successful professional and business practice. Whether you are sending an email, writing a report or making a proposal, you create an impression. In business, you cannot afford to make the wrong one. Associate Professor Jane English from the Professional Communication Unit at UCT is the presenter. Click here for more information.
**Producing leaders for South Africa**

Professor Alphose Zingoni from the Department of Civil Engineering has been appointed to the position of Programme Director of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe leadership programme. Professor Bathe graduated from the Department of Civil Engineering in 1967. In 2013 he was awarded an honorary DSc degree by UCT. The primary goal of the programme is to produce graduates with outstanding leadership qualities, who have a strong sense of social justice. It is expected that they will go on to play leading and significant roles in business, government, industry and civil society.

![Professor Klaus-Jürgen Bathe and Professor Alphose Zingoni](image)

Funding of nearly R10 million has been made available for the first five years of the programme. The scholarships are valued at R120 000 and will cover tuition and UCT residential fees (including meals), as well as an allowance for books, stationery and transport. Undergraduate students who are registered for full-time degree studies at UCT, in any of the six faculties of the university, will be able to apply to enrol in the Leadership Programme after their first year of study (which they must have passed with an aggregate of at least 60%). The first cohort of students will be expected to take up the awards with effect from January 2015.

**Budding entrepreneur**

Parikshit Bohra, a master's student in the Department of Electrical Engineering at UCT, has recently had his company Barit Botswana, a web-services company, rated by Start-up Ranking as one of the top 10 start-ups in Botswana.

The company has launched a web classifieds service which promises to provide a platform for local entrepreneurs to promote their products and services free of charge.

Parikshit said, “We are working on launching a location-based multilingual USSD service, a new way for people to advertise and browse adverts, without the need of internet, as in the case of Botswana the cellphone penetration rate is much larger (>120%) than internet penetration (<30%). So this will be a one-of-its-kind service, and we are hoping to connect people in the remote areas to the main cities of Botswana through this service and hence increase our own business reach.”

Parikshit has presented on the New Venture Planning course at UCT, and at the Media24 tech chat, on the journey of his African start-up.

![Parikshit Bohra](image)
Professor Dee Bradshaw honoured

Professor Dee Bradshaw graduated from UCT in 1981 with a chemical engineering degree and obtained her PhD in flotation chemistry from UCT in 1997. She joined the Department of Chemical Engineering in 1983, where she was a lecturer and researcher until 2008, when she joined JKMRC at the University of Queensland in Australia. In September 2013 she was honoured with an Award for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision. With more than 4300 research higher-degree candidates and over 2300 advisors across UQ, only a small number receive this prestigious award.

Professor Bradshaw was recognised for her ability to mentor postgraduate students at every stage of their studies. Described as a leader who nurtures and develops students, and brings out the best in them, Professor Bradshaw is highly regarded among her peers and students alike.

Message from the EBE Alumni Officer

Dear EBE Alumni

It is with pleasure that I write to you again to report on our alumni activities over the last year.

From my window, I can closely monitor the progress of the New Teaching Building being constructed. Where there was only a foundation in December, is now a three-storey building complete with windows and roofing.

The Alumni office has been a hive of activity, as we endeavour to strengthen our connection with alumni.

With the support of Eskom, we were privileged to have Dr Steven Lennon as our speaker for our 2013 Gauteng Alumni Event. The topic The State of Energy Sustainability in SA addressed the causes of and solutions to our energy problem. There was great interest in this topic from our alumni.

I am honoured to have worked with a small committee from the classes of 1963-64 to plan the 50-year reunion in December. Though we had a small group of 19 (the majority from Civil Engineering), the alumni were delighted to reconnect with each other, as well as to tour the new facilities and their old departments. The event was followed by snacks and drinks in the New Engineering Building.

A group of alumni met in the Chemical Engineering Building for a networking event in June 2013. The speaker, Prof Gordon Pirie, the Deputy Director of the African Centre for Cities at UCT, reminded us of the importance for engineers documenting their work and processes.

We recently hosted a well-attended annual Gauteng Alumni event for 2014 with honoured speaker Prof Bheki Sibiya, CEO of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa (COMSA). Through a detailed power-point presentation, he described Some Causes, impact and Implications of the Mining Strike. His presentation was followed by equally informative questions and comments from our alumni.

Last but not least on our programme is the Civil Engineering 40-year reunion coming up in October (17 to 19). We are looking forward to a jam-packed weekend that will include a cocktail function on campus, tour of the Civil Engineering department and the new buildings, a formal dinner and a surprise event. We still have limited spaces available for alumni and their partners if you belong to the Civil Engineering classes of 1972-74. Please contact me directly to book your space.

I wish to thank all alumni who have attended the networking events in both provinces. I hope you will continue to maintain this lifelong connection with the Faculty.

I am grateful for the donations received from alumni, mainly towards bursaries and scholarships. These have been critical in supporting worthy students who are financially needy, but sometimes ‘fall through the cracks’ of the funding system. The faculty continues to grapple with supporting students who are under-prepared for university study. It is through the generosity of alumni that we are able to continue with the Academic Support programme (ASPECT). This is critical to ensuring that we increase our throughput rate, and maintain the high profile of our Engineering degree.

Please contact me directly at Mandisa Zitha should you wish to make a donation

I appreciate your support of the Engineering and the Built Environment Faculty, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Warm regards

Mandisa Zitha

EBE Alumni Officer
Infrastructure projects

New Snape Building (left) and New Engineering Building (right)

New Engineering Building

Architecture’s digital workshop, Centlivres

Design Lab, 2nd level, Menzies Building

Imaging and Analyses Facility in the New Engineering Building

Landscape architecture bench outside Centlivres

2nd Level, Menzies Building