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Dear Members

We have crossed the 2014 halfway mark! You are already able to spot some beautiful magnolia blooms and other buds are almost bursting with a new energy to open and show their beauty.

To top the month of July SAIIE26, our flagship conference took place at Glenburn Lodge. This year saw a good turnout of delegates and we were delighted by the quality of work presented, the variety of topics covered and the depth of engagement from the audience. We had impressive keynote speakers including Lynette Milne who outlined government’s infrastructure development plan, a work of such ambition that this alone could have been the topic of a conference. We were further entertained by the irascible Clem Sunter who put a couple of red flags onto our collective horizons. Our tutorials were exciting and covered fields as diverse as design inspired by nature and the latest technology in modelling and Simulation.

We had several student competitions and we were proud to welcome the Fresh Connection Challenge winners as well as the national winners of the prize for the best IE project completed during 2013. It was a pleasure to introduce our community to the future of our profession.

Our topic was “making connections”. Between people, between organisations, between ideas and solutions. We were delighted that our sponsors connected with us, and our thanks goes to them, as they made SAIIE26 possible and great.

It is great to report that Charles Harebottle and Teresa Hattingh have successfully negotiated the establishment of a SAIIE Wits Chapter. As this happened just before the June examinations, activities will only start after the June/July holiday break. A warm welcome to all our new SAIIE Wits Students.
Jacques Faure has been in contact with the president of ESTIEM (European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management). This is an exciting opportunity and ways for future collaboration and the building of a fruitful partnership will be discussed. Link to the ESTIEM website www.estiem.org.

The Fresh Connection Supply Chain game was a success, with the teams from WITS taking 1st and 2nd places and TUKS the 3rd spot. A second round is planned for the second semester. Hanno van Wyk is planning to organise a Teach the Teacher course, where trainers from the Netherlands will present a full-day course to lecturers from different departments to ensure that more competitive teams will participate in the international rounds of the game. Courses will be hosted in Gauteng and in the Western Cape Province.

In stark contrast, a family had to bid a loved-one farewell. And, the industrial engineering fraternity shares their sadness as Eric Brett was one of the pioneering ‘Class of 63’ who obtained a B.Sc (Industrial Engineering) degree in South Africa. SAIIE expresses its sincere sympathy to his family on/with their bereavement.

Eric studied at the University of Pretoria and this class was honoured in 2013 during its golden ‘anniversary’. He said, "When I heard that I had qualified as an IE, I was elated and felt that I had achieved the impossible. The transition from the ‘slide rule’ generation to the computer generation was an experience beyond my comprehension. All the new developments and techniques that occurred during the fifty-year period, have kept me in awe. One of the major challenges was explaining to people, on so many occasions, what an IE does."

And today, 51 years later, many IEs still struggle to explain exactly this.

"To all the other dreamers out there, don't ever stop or let the world's negativity disenchant you or your spirit. If you surround yourself with love and the right people, anything is possible." Adam Green. These wise words are especially poignant at this time.

SAIIE and other Events

A friendly reminder to all interested in The Road to Registration for Candidate Engineers, Technologists and Technicians course - it will be presented by Allyson Lawless from the Candidate Academy at the Resolve Office in Midrand on Wednesday 6 August 2014. Please register online at http://www.saiie.co.za/events/cpd

You are invited to attend the Transport Forum SIG’s monthly meeting on Thursday 7 August 2014, with the topic “Regional Expansion: Overcoming logistical challenges to enable Southern African supply chains”. The Venue: Auditorium, Maritime School of Excellence, 20 Langeberg Road, Bayhead, Durban from 12:00 to 19:00. Booking is essential. Send an email to info@transportsig.com. Click here for the agenda.

proSET, a sector of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) cordially invites you to attend the discussion forum on “Energy in Transport – in search of sustainable modes for the future” on Thursday 21 August 2014. Venue: The Protea Hotel Balalaika, 20 Maude Street, Sandown, Sandton in Johannesburg from 09:30 to 16:30. Click here for more information and to register your attendance.

A Call for Papers on ‘Technology, Innovation and Management for Sustainable Growth’ has been issued for the 24th Annual IAMOT Conference to be held at The Westin in Cape Town from 8 to 11 June 2015. The University of Pretoria will be hosting the conference. The deadline for submissions is Monday 1 September 2014. Read more
A very interesting article was published in the American Society of Engineers (ASCE) Online Newsletter of 18 July 2014. The topic, “U.S. Engineering Employment to Grow by Quarter-Million Jobs”. Read more

So until again, think about this, “If you hear a voice within you say, 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.” Vincent Van Gogh, Dutch artist.

Corporate Partner Sponsors for SAIIE26:

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