



Edition 3: 2012

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Executive foreword



RAISING THE BAR: Mathavha Edgar Sabela

Let's strive for engineering excellence. Better still, let it be more than a catchy phrase, but an actual verb. Engineering excellence may indeed mean different things to different stakeholders, yet what remains undisputed is that it is aiming for a higher level.

Throughout the month of March, it was heartening to see the momentum being sustained and in some instances, even multiplied. The energy encapsulated within Young Professionals (YPs) is exhilarating. The feedback from YPs is most appreciated.

This is not the end – let's take it further to where you are. Let's connect on mediums that transcend geographical and digital divide by latching onto Facebook and the website (www.engenius.org.za). We need you to contribute. We need your pictures, activities and articles so that we can showcase practical examples of the pursuit of engineering excellence.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to more YP encounters!

Regards,
Mathavha Edgar Sabela
ECSA Executive: Strategic Services





LET'S ENGAGE: Phindiwe Nkosi

"Fireball!" That's the word that comes to mind when we think of YPs. Perhaps this imagery could be perpetuated by the undeniable energy, interest and drive that we experience whenever we are in the midst of YPs. It is contagious and most appreciated.

We felt this buzz during the training for YPs during the Sci-Bono Engineering Week and during our various encounters with you during the month of March. Our intention is to open up our communication channels even more so that we can hear from you even more! Let's raise the banner by being even more relevant to you. Tell us what you want to hear about.

We hope that you will appreciate just one of our initiatives in the form of Dr Allyson Lawless and the tremendous work that she has undertaken for the embitterment of the industry particularly young graduates and the country at large.

Happy reading on the first month of colourful Autumn ☺!

Regards,
Phindiwe Nkosi (ECSA) and Liesel Kirsten (Engenius)



DYNAMIC COMMUNICATOR: Liesel Kirsten





They posed on the floor, made a few dance moves and laughed before posing for photos. One thing was clear – the Young Professionals were in the vicinity for the Engenius Training Session for Young Professionals on 7 March 2012, right here at ECSA.

“As YPs, it is easy to give up when we don’t get the necessary support to pursue our dreams and projects. This training was very useful because it encourages us and provides us with support,” said Ditiro Petlele and Gaopalelwe Mesaba. This was seconded by Sifiso Khathamzi who also expressed great delight at the video.

The training was the first of its kind and included sharing methodology and providing hands-on workshop worksheets, brochures, DVDs and support through collaboration with Engenius partner organisations.

“The idea of the engineering packs is great! It is a great idea. We just need more coordinated efforts to get even more primary schools on-board. All in all, the presentation, training and event as a whole was great,” concluded Cherise Small.

The next Engenius Training Session will take place in Bloemfontein, Free-State province on 19 April 2012. For more information, [click here](#).



BOLD: Young Professionals (YPs) show-off their youth at the first Engenius Training Session for YPs held at ECSA on 7 March 2012



GROUP PHOTO: Ditiro Petlele, Gao Palelwe and Cherise Small (in random order) pictured with other YP’s during the YP training at ECSA on 7 March 2012





Click on the image above to share with the world how the engineering activities that you are involved with *make it happen!*



HOPE: Julia with GirlEng-Turfloop, Girls of Hope



REACHING OUT: Nakampe Modike

- To stand a chance of shining on our [Engenius website](#), send us your profile, including your photo as well as a summary of the engineering projects that you are involved with that are *shaping our world* [Click Here](#)
- Send us your ideas on 1-2 hour engineering workshops for learners [Click Here](#)
- [To add someone to the mailing list](#) [Click Here](#)
- [To view archived YP newsletters](#) [Click Here](#)
- Engenius Training Session will take place in Bloemfontein, Free-State province on 19 April 2012 [Click Here](#)
- We are proud of our YPs who have reached out to the following people and made it happen. These include, but are not limited to, Julia Phala (172 learners from the neighbouring village schools and 375 learners from grade 10, 11 and 12 studying mathematics and science) and Nakampe Modike (98 high school and 430 primary school learners) and YPs came together at the Sci-Bono Engineering Week to touch about 1 500 learners.

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TAKING A STAND: Dr. Allyson Lawless (Managing Director: SAICE Professional Developments and Projects and ECSA Council Member)

Things don't just happen. There's usually a catalyst who puts in blood, sweat and tears and a dash of wisdom for us to see and enjoy the blossoms of change that will benefit us for generations to come. One such amazing person is Dr. Allyson Lawless (Managing Director: SAICE Professional Developments and Projects and ECSA Council Member). Brace yourself as we engage her a little more.



HANDS-ON: Dr. Allyson Lawless makes it happen

Among the many roles that Dr Lawless is skilfully heading up is the ECSA Working Group which highlights the need to support the development of young graduates. The group tackles the challenges which candidates face in preparing for professional registration. Amongst these are the lack of adequate mentorship, repetitive work, limited opportunities to gain solid experience and a lack of understanding that development of engineering skills is a long term process and investment. A perennial problem is the conundrum facing many graduates that they can't get a job because they have no experience but can't get experience because they have no job!

"Young Professionals matter. The development of future leaders within the engineering sector is of the outmost importance to not only ECSA, but South Africa's future and the African landscape at large. When one looks at the statistics, it is clear that something needs to be done to address the development of our young professionals and preserve the industry for our future. We need to act now more than ever before," says Dr Lawless.

For more information on Dr Lawless' work, [click here](#).





Warren Hurter

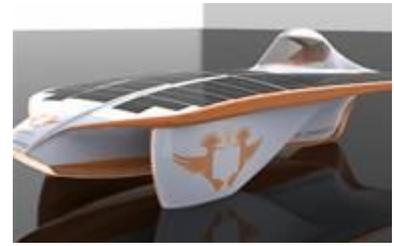
No one thought they could. Even some lecturers doubted it. It was a lost case, but today it is a personal, institutional and in many ways a national victory. Warren Hurter (24), a Masters in Mechanical Engineering student along with the team and mentors have excelled in a remarkable way!

It is a first of its kind in South Africa. A truly remarkable invention that is sure to attract due recognition and historical significance in many years to come. According to the website (<http://www.uj solar.co.za/>): “a group of undergraduate students (2011) at the University of Johannesburg has taken on the challenge of producing the University's first solar-powered car with the intention of taking on the best of the best at the South African Solar Challenge 2012.” This is just the beginning, with plans already in motion for a next generation, high performance vehicle to compete in the 2014 race.

It is of worth mentioning that Hurter is in the engineering industry to improve people's lives. The idea of creating and giving birth to things is captivating. “When we started, no one believed that we could pull it off. We did. I am so grateful to my Supervisors Michael Grobler and Nickey Janse van Rensburg, as well as a dedicated team, for making it possible. Today, even those who doubted are proud of us and cheering in our corner,” says Hurter.

The website further states that the students are required to design, manufacture and race a solar powered vehicle across South Africa to compete with teams from across the globe.

For additional information, [click here](#).



Ilanga I (photo from <http://www.uj solar.co.za/>)



Ilanga II (photo from <http://www.uj solar.co.za/>)



Captivating learners at the Sci-Bono Engineering Week



CAPTIVATING: Liesel Kirsten talks to learners at the Sci-Bono Engineering Week



Learners at the Sci-Bono Engineering Week

The Sci-Bono Engineering Week took place from 12-16 March 2012. The Engenius sessions were hands-on and had the children being edu-tained in various exciting ways that included building and cardboard versions of the Bloodhound SuperSonic Car.

“As Educators, we are often challenged when it comes to coming up with ideas to captivate young minds into the sciences. There is indeed a great skills shortage in various disciplines such as engineering and we are happy to see presentations such as these spur fresh interest in our learners to pursue such career paths,” said Obert Raphahlelo and Kuda Kulube.

The Educators were pleased to see the level of engagement and participation, particularly from the learners. They were so excited, they wished that an emphasis should be placed on the required subjects at the end of the session. “Keep up the good work,” concluded Raphahlelo and Kulube.



GETTING INVOLVED: Masike Mosikane, S'busiso Jele, Farai Muverengwi, Liesel Kirsten, Obert Raphahlelo and Kuda Kulube,



Learners at the Sci-Bono Engineering Week during a workshop

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About us



About ECSA:

Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) is a statutory body established in terms of the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 (Act No. 46 of 2000). ECSA's predecessor was established by the Engineering Profession of South Africa Act, 1990 (Act 114 of 1990). For more information, [click here](#).

About Engenius:

Engenius is a nationally coordinated campaign which aims to promote the Engineering profession to all children, particularly those from previously disadvantaged communities through collaboration with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and engineering Voluntary Associations among others. For more information, [click here](#).

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This newsletter is intended for **Young Engineering Professionals only**.

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