



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Fakulteit Ingenieurswese, Bou-omgewing en
Inligtingtegnologie / Lefapha la Boetšenere,
Tikologo ya Kago le Theknolotši ya Tshedimošo

Department of INFORMATICS

Newsletter

September 2019

A sea of red!

Department of Informatics spring graduation

No less than 7 PhDs in the Department Informatics were awarded at the EBIT and EMS 2019 spring graduation. Congratulations to the graduandi and their supervisors! ■



Ronel Smith and Marita Turpin



Aurona Gerber and Henriette Harmse



Nstako Baloyi and Sylvia Papadopoulos



Brenda Didi-Quvane and Hanlie Smuts



Noel Zhakata and Carina de Villiers



Alta van der Merwe, Pierre le Roux, Aurona Gerber



Lizette Venter and Phil van Deventer

In this issue:

DSR growing
world-wide - 2

Winter school
with a twist - 3

#ChooseUP - 4

I3E2020 - 5





From Prof Carina's desk

In the Department of Informatics there are many special events that one may reflect on. Certainly one of the most special ones is when a PhD student, after years of hard work, graduate. We are extremely proud that 7 PhD's were awarded at our spring graduations - 4 in the EBIT faculty and 3 in the EMS faculty. We would like to congratulate the graduandi on the outcome of their hard work and hours spent on their research studies. A VERY SPECIAL thank you to the supervisors and co-supervisors that supported the students, reviewed their work, guided them and encouraged them when they felt despondent.

During the past few months we not only cele-

brated the graduation of our students, but we also focused on very successful engagements with prospective students. Grade 11 and 12 learners - and their parents - that visited our campus during different events, were exposed to what we offer in the Department and at UP; sometimes in quite entertaining ways! Thank you to the department and assistant lecturers that sometimes used their weekend to support these initiatives and prospective students.

Now just for the last stretch of the year, a busy time in the Department with our annual planning, final lectures, examinations and ABET accreditation visit coming up. Wishing you all of the best for the last few months.



Design Science Research growing world-wide

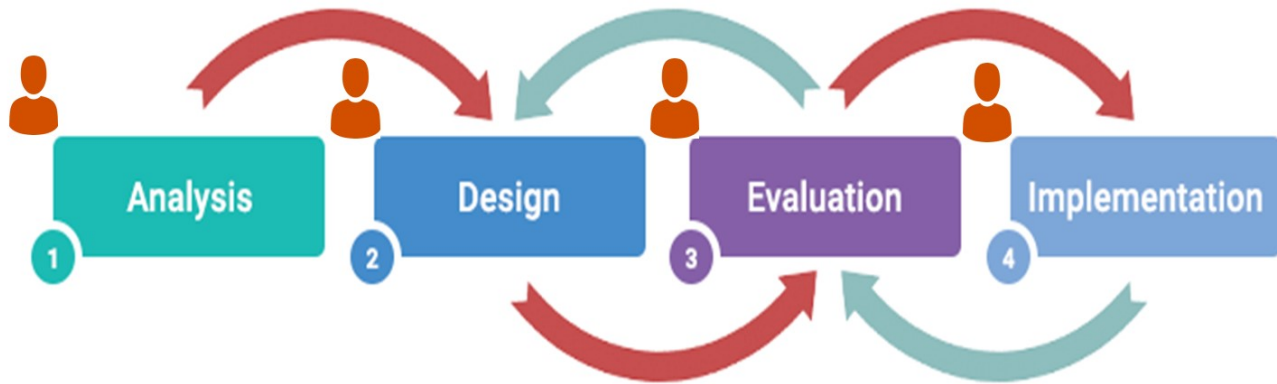


Prof Robert Winter (St Gallen), Prof Alta van der Merwe (UP) and Prof Al Hevner (University of South Florida)

Prof Alta van der Merwe recently attended the 14th International Conference on Design Science Research in Information Systems and Technology (DESIST 2019) in Worcester, USA. The conference was attended by more or less 80 participants with world-leaders such as Al Hevner and Samir Chatterjee involved in paper presentations, workshops and posters. Design Science Research (DSR) is a relatively new research approach and the international and national community of academics using the methodology are growing. At the conference the themes included relevant topics such as DSR in HCI, DSR in Data Science and DSR in Business Analytics and Process Management. ■



WINTERSCHOOL with a *twist*



During the July 2019 recess, the Department of Informatics was part host to a group of 40 Grade 11 and 12 learners whom attended Information Technology week.

The Assistant Lecturers (ALs) assisted in exposing these eager learners to the art of system requirements gathering and design. Much fun was had as each learner group of four, had a “client” in the form of an AL or Lecturer. Each client explained his / her requirements for their system to the students who had to “document” it. After requirements documentation, the groups swapped their requirements - to the shock of most - with another group that had to interpret the requirement list and draw wireframes as an initial step in the design process.

Learners’ work were “judged” based on the best requirement documentation, best design and best fit between requirements and design. Each winning group received a small gift from the department.

Whilst the judging took place, the ALs participated in a panel discussion with the students on why they would be wrong not to become **#Informatics Fanatics!**

“A beautiful product that doesn’t work very well is ugly.”

Jonathan Ive
Apple

Many thanks to all the ALs that assisted!, especially Marissa that explained requirements documentation, Zubair whom explained wire-framing and Bruce that were the independent Head Judge!

Special thanks also to Cailin that assisted with the eye tracking sessions! ■



... #ChooseUP ... #ChooseUP ... #ChooseUP ... #ChooseUP ...

On Saturday, 17 August 2019 about 14 000 prospective students (grade 12 learners), their families and friends attend the #ChooseUP Day. The grade 12 learners who have been provisionally accepted into their first year of study in 2020 visited the different UP campuses. They were given tours of lecture halls and residences, and pertinent information about UP and their prospective courses were shared. The Department of Informatics presented 3 contact sessions where an overview of the department and the degrees in the department were presented. There was great interest in the different degrees and many prospective students decided on the day that they would like to enrol with the Department of Informatics.

A special thank you to the staff and assistant lecturers that supported the event and for working hard to guarantee that the parents and prospective students had a great experience! ■





I3E2020

SKUKUZA, SOUTH AFRICA

6 - 8 April 2020

Department of Informatics hosting international conference in 2020

The annual I3E (e-Business, e-Services and e-Society) conference is the flagship event of IFIP WG6.11. The focus of this workgroup is Communication aspects of the e-World. Dr Marié Hattingh and Prof Machdel Matthee attended this conference in Swansea, Wales in 2016. They were so impressed with the friendly reception and supportive nature of the IFIP WG6.11 members, they offered to present the conference in 2020.

So, in 2020, this conference takes place from 6 - 8 April at the Skukuza conference centre. The theme of the conference is *"Responsible design, implementation and use of Information and Communication Technology"*. The keynote speakers are **Prof Irwin Brown**, an NRF B-rated researcher from the Department of Information Systems at UCT and **James van der Westhuizen**, owner of KnowHouse and specialist on design thinking and innovation.

The multi-disciplinary nature of the topics of the conference, gives researchers from the areas of Informatics, Business Management, Information Science and Computer Science the opportunity to show case their research to leading international researchers.

Please join us to show case the talent of South Africa!

Important dates:

Submission date: 30 October 2019

Notification to authors: 10 December 2019

Final version submission: 7 January 2020

Early bird registration: 10 January 2020

For more information, visit <http://i3e2020.org>

Conference chairs

Marie Hattingh, Machdel Matthee and Hanlie Smuts



Irwin Brown



James van der Westhuizen