

Prof Roelf Sandenbergh concludes an era as Dean

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October 2014 brings to an end the third term as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology for Prof Roelf Sandenbergh. He was appointed Dean of this newly restructured faculty in 2001, when the disciplines of engineering, the built environment and information technology were combined into a single faculty.



Prof Sandenbergh joined the University of Pretoria in 1974 as lecturer in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering. He became Head of the Department in 1996, and Chairperson of the School of Engineering and Dean of the Faculty in 2001.

He is a registered professional engineer, who obtained his undergraduate, as well as his postgraduate qualifications from the University of Pretoria. His academic qualifications include the degrees BEng (Chemical) (1972), MEng (Chemical) (1975) and DEng (Metallurgical) (1983). Furthermore, he is a fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering, a member and past Chairperson of the Professional Advisory Committee on Metallurgical Engineering of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), an honorary life fellow of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and a member and former President of the Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa.

He contributes to teaching, research and consulting in the fields of extractive metallurgy, corrosion and failure analysis.

His vision as Dean was for the faculty to make significant local

and international contributions to the training of professionals in the disciplines served by the faculty, and to the transformation of the University of Pretoria into a leading research-intensive university. As Dean, he encouraged the development of initiatives that would attract larger numbers of students to the programmes of the faculty, for the faculty to achieve higher success rates with its programmes and research activities, and to ensure the optimal utilisation of the faculty's cutting-edge facilities. He also focused on the development of the faculty's human resources, with the aim of having its alumni join the ranks of internationally recognised scholars and professionals. Many of the successful initiatives in the faculty were made possible through the attraction of external funds, which is testimony to the success with which the faculty achieved its objectives.

Prof Sandenbergh insists that he cannot take credit for all the achievements of the Faculty in the past 13 years, and that the role he played was merely one of catalyst. However, the accessibility of the Faculty's programmes to all population groups in South Africa, the growth in its postgraduate component, and its strengthened relationship with industry can be seen as highlights during his period at the helm of this strong faculty.

Since 2001, the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology at the University of Pretoria has made a significant contribution to expanding South Africa's skills base through the leading role it plays in teaching, research and community engagement. This success has been achieved through sustained and dedicated teamwork between students and staff, and with the support and cooperation of its industry partners. 📍