

# Department of Construction Economics shines at industry conferences

Lecturers and students of the Department of Construction Economics exhibited a strong presence at a number of international and local conferences in 2009.

## CIDB Conference

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Conference, held in Midrand in September, seven out of 28 papers were presented by the University of Pretoria (UP). Hendrik Tryhou received the award for the best student paper, entitled *Property Valuers' Perceptions of Green Buildings in South Africa*. Prof Chris Cloete in the Department of Construction Economics was his supervisor. The intention of the 6<sup>th</sup> CIDB Conference was to bring together postgraduate researchers, academics and industry representatives from South Africa to deliberate on issues of common interest with the aim of improving the status of the construction industry beyond 2010.



*Hendrik Tryhou is a professional associated valuer. He runs his own business, mainly doing commercial property valuations, in Nelspruit. He holds BCom Hotel and Tourism Management (1997) and BCom Marketing (Hons) (1998) degrees from UP. The MSc Real Estate will be conferred on him in 2010.*

## COBRA International

The department presented 12 papers at COBRA International – the Construction, Building and Real Estate Conference of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The 2009 conference took place in Cape Town in September. The scope of COBRA covers the entire spectrum of real estate. This ranges from planning, design, financing, procurement and management of the construction process, to the investment, management and occupation of real estate. This positions COBRA as a unique forum in providing a wide perspective of the built environment.

## Built Environment Conference

The department presented four papers at the fourth Built Environment Conference, held in Livingstone, Zambia, in May, and three at the Quantity Surveying Conference in Durban in October. The fourth Built Environment Conference, organised by the Association of Schools of Construction of Southern Africa (ASOCSA), provides an additional forum for researchers and practitioners from developed, developing and underdeveloped nations to address fundamental problems and constraints that affect the built environment.

## International conferences

The department presented papers throughout 2009 at international conferences in Cyprus, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Estonia, Rome, Bologna, Siena, Kuala Lumpur and Gainesville, Florida. The papers covered a wide range of issues, including land reform and building contracts, investment in Botswana and Zimbabwe, service delivery models, valuation issues, property finance, and the implementation of artificial intelligence models to predict crime in shopping centres. ➔