

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA EXCELS



→ Saurabh Sinha and engineering student Jannes Venter, celebrate their victory with one of the adjudicators looking on.

Jannes Venter of the Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering, University of Pretoria was recently awarded first prize for his paper submitted to the DAC/ISSCC student design contest (SDC).

heim, California. A special invitation was also extended to the pair to present their paper as a poster at the International Solid State Circuits Conference (ISSCC), San Francisco, California in 2005. Both conferences were partially co-sponsored by the IEEE. ☺

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Co-authored by supervisor Mr Saurabh Sinha, the paper titled 'The design and implementation of a fractional-N frequency synthesiser for cellular systems' was submitted for the conceptual category of the SDC. The problem addressed in this project was the design and implementation of an integrated fractional-N frequency synthesiser for cellular systems, implemented with an active inductor voltage controlled oscillator (VCO), with the aim of satisfying some specifications of the global system for mobile communications (GSM) cellular standard. The authors were invited to receive the prize of \$4 000 (about R27 000) at a special awards ceremony in the Design and Automation Conference (DAC) Pavilion on the DAC exhibit floor in June this year in Ana-

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Professor Carina de Villiers, Head of the Department of Informatics at the University of Pretoria, and Chairperson of the School of IT until 2005, has been accepted as an international evaluator to accredit Information Systems programmes. The accreditation falls under ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). ABET handles accreditation of Engineering (IEEE), Information Technology, Information Systems and Computer Science programmes in the United States of America.

De Villiers attended the training in New York in August 2004 and will do accreditation visits, mostly at American universities from 2005. She is the only person accepted as an evaluator from Africa. She hopes to apply for accreditation of the Department of Informatics at the University of Pretoria in 2006, making this the first university in Africa with a fully internationally accredited degree.