



Annual Review 2005

Deeks walks the talk

I feel privileged to have served as President of SAICE during what was a watershed year for the Institution in many respects having seen the adoption of a new Constitution and By-laws (instituted by 2004 President, Ron Watermeyer), SAICE's move to our own building, a significant increase in our annual budget (to nearly R10 million), and the publication of Past President Allyson Lawless' research 'Numbers and Needs: Addressing imbalances in the civil engineering profession', to mention just a few.

SAICE enjoyed a year of increased relevance and recognition of its role against the backdrop of industry developments such as the arrival of the long awaited boom in construction activity in infrastructure and other capital projects, the impending shortage of civil engineering skills, and the erosion of technical skills and politicization of appointments within some local authorities. We took part in television and radio interviews on the matter of the skills crisis and engaged with government and industry

stakeholders at the highest level.

SAICE moved into its own building in Thornhill Office Park in April and the bold decision proves to have been a wise one, with much enhanced facilities available to individual members and structures.

Visits were undertaken to 15 branches country-wide, which offered an opportunity to engage membership and decision makers on a range of issues, including CPD, Identification of Engineering Work, the skills crisis and industry prospects, and registration with the African Council for Construction and Project Management Professions. Where the opportunity presented itself, a presentation was also made on the theme of my presidential address, "Safety in Numbers for Construction". My wife, Michèle, accompanied me on visits to four of the branches, an experience which she thoroughly enjoyed. Five addresses were made to students and staff of universities.

SACPCMP recognizes SAICE as a

"voluntary association" and in that capacity the Executive Director and I served on its VA Committee, where we continue to play a leading role in professional matters. The new 10-person Council appointed by the Minister includes our current President, Sam Amod.

As secretariat of the Africa Engineers Forum, SAICE hosted the highly successful and well-attended AEF Workshop on 'Capacity Building for Professionals in the Water and Sanitation Sector' in March.

In June we hosted a visit from ICE's Keith Seago, Vice President: Regions and Amar Bhogal, Deputy Director General (since retired). This opportunity allowed SAICE to engage our ICE colleagues on a broad range of issues as well as the future form of our co-operation and how best to serve the interests of our joint members.

We attended ASCE's Conference in Los Angeles in October, giving us further opportunity for networking with our American and other

international colleagues. Together with many other international institutions, we had earlier signed the Engineer's Charter, committing ourselves to combating the scourge of corruption in engineering and construction.

We also paid a courtesy visit to Prof Alvaro Carma Vas, of the Mozambican Ordem dos Engenheiros, in Maputo.

I would like to thank the Executive Director and his seemingly tireless staff at National Office, all office bearers, committee and panel chairmen and members, Council members and indeed the whole SAICE "family" for the support they gave me during my presidential year. I must also thank Michèle and our children for their love and encouragement during what must at times have been a challenging year for them. The year was one of great enjoyment and personal growth for me and I will treasure its memories for a long time to come. I look forward eagerly to taking up my place on Council in 2006 as immediate Past President under Sam Amod's able stewardship.



Civil dynamics 'gijima'

For me, the 2005 Review is number 15 with SAICE.

When I joined the National Office in 1991, little did I realise that my term with SAICE would be as productive as I would have envisaged. When Dr Bingle Kruger passed me the 1990 SAICE Strategic plan at my interview with him, Louis de Waal and Pr Alan Kemp somewhere late in 1990, I became excited about the prospects of what could be achieved. Fresh from a three year period at the Housing Trust, I KNEW that change was the buzz word. I knew that where there was a will, there was bound to be a WAY. Where there were a coming together of minds, great things could be achieved. But little did I know and least of all expect that SAICE would become what I like to call the Premium Institution of the built environment in South Africa, a la americanspeak. Little did I think ahead that far. Even our leadership dreams of 1990 would be surpassed. In 2005 our Institution HAS arrived, but it demands of us all to keep

running – Gijima would be our watchword, something that suited me well, since the Zulu speaking staff in Richard Bay called me “the man that walks fast” It was once said that if you stand still, little changes, but if you start moving it becomes a dynamic situation.

The results of year 2005 demands that the SAICE Lelapa or SAICE family has to keep delivering at the levels that we have achieved. The achievements demand ever greater sacrifices or, can one call it joys of the never-a-dull- moment SAICE.

There are challenges ahead according to the optimists and problem solvers. The pessimists call these challenges problems and they are warning of negative consequences for almost everything that needs solutions. SAICE membership numbers are stable and even declining, but yes student numbers are on the increase, so how do we entice young people to join the crowd and enjoy the Wonderful World of SAICE with all

its opportunities and benefits? Yes we are transforming but are we succeeding on the one hand and failing on the other hand?

2005 was NO exception to what we have become accustomed to: Change is inevitable, change brings new horizons. Change for the better is always better. The rocky road to the future, whether we like it or not is not only a South African phenomenon but is common to the world. I believe that SAICE has the answers to much of what is needed, as was so well illustrated in Numbers and Needs. We are pioneers at home and abroad and we mostly know what the term 4X4 REALLY means and that 'n Boer maak 'n plan is not an Afrikaans saying but a way of living for everybody in South Africa.

This REVIEW brings the reader a snapshot, a couple of lines in a NEVERENDING story. It is only one stop and reflect on the road created by SAICE during its 103 year history..

For sustainable development and appropriate investment in our people assets I thank my SAICE Lelapa in the form of our SAICE Mike Team office bearers, committee and panel members, our farflung Branch and Division empire, my 2005 staff the Carla E&T team Dawn, Lungelwa, Angelene, the Memory Administration team Elsabe, Fridah, Merriam, The Debbie Finances team Daleen and Magda and of course last but not least Team Communication Marie, Verelene and Zina and Contractor team Joanne, Pieter, Sarie and Barbara. Also a GREAT thanks to my colleagues abroad, especially Sam Kundishora AEF, Russ Jones WFEO, Tony Marjoram UNESCO and Meggan Farrell and Marisa Sherard at ASCE

I salute support team MY FAMILY Ria, Maartje & Jan & Marja & Anja, Johnet & Pieter, Jac

SAICE Gijima, Voorwaarts, Hamba Kahle

@ home @ SAICE House



Building

After a little more than a century, The South African Institution of Civil Engineering, the 'learned society' established in 1903, has found a permanent home in Midrand. Building 19, Thornhill Office Park, was officially opened by 2005 SAICE President Mike Deeks during an interesting basement 'smoker' celebration, fondly remembered by many engineers from their university days.

The Thornhill development, deemed to be in a professional class, satisfies a number of criteria for SAICE:

- Generous parking, good 'public' visibility, good access;
- Reasonable price in the current market conditions;
- Appropriate finishes;
- Office layout possibilities virtually unlimited;
- Security in keeping with typical office parks in the vicinity;

Provides for growth in SAICE; A marketable portion would be available for letting.

SAICE's new home would probably last as long as the Institution is in existence. *Long live the civil engineering profession!*

Facilities

SAICE House provides an excellent conference/workshop/meeting facility with data projectors and an adequate sound system. There are two conference rooms with seating for 90 delegates, one of which can be divided into two smaller sections. A well-equipped kitchen makes for easy catering for in-house and outside caterers. The well-appointed offices provide an environment conducive to productive and happy working hours.

The BIG move to SAICE House in Thornhill Office Park with its

professional conference facilities ensured that some of the Education and Training courses could be held at our own premises. This provided wonderful networking opportunities with new and existing members.

Bookshop

The SAICE Education and Training department again exceeded all previous years' activities and income.

In the SAICE bookshop, 4 266 publications were sold to the value of R812 706.00.

The Manager: Education and Training, Carla de Jager, had an opportunity to meet colleagues at Thomas Telford Publications and the Institution of Structural Engineers in London, as well as the American Society of Civil Engineers at their conference, which was held in Los Angeles during October 2005. As a result of these meetings,

the agreement with Thomas Telford Publications Ltd was renewed and adjusted to operate more effectively.

The GCC 2004 document has proved to be a winner. This general conditions of contract is wholly owned by SAICE. It is one of only four documents or suites of documents approved by the Construction Industry Development Board for use in procurement of construction works by governmental structures in the RSA

SAICE on top

Awards and accolades

Honorary Fellows, Gold Medal and President's Award

At the members' luncheon on 4 February, Mike Deeks' inaugural presidential address 'Safety in Numbers for Construction' was well received and well reported on in the media. *Honorary Fellowships* were awarded to Alec Hay, Dr. Bingle Kruger and Dr. Ross Parry-Davies.

The *Gold Medal* 2005 was awarded to Allyson Lawless and the 2005 *SAICE Award for Meritorious Research* went to researcher Kevin Wall with the project 'Water services infrastructure operation through franchising'.

Project awards for 2004 took place on 12 October 2005 at the Volkswagen Conference Centre, Midrand. In the *Community-based*

Projects category, a commendation was awarded to the project 'Amadiba Road'. The category *Technical Excellence Projects* saw the 'Thesen Islands Development' project taking the much sought-after winning plaque with commendations awarded to the 'Deepening of West Quay East London Harbour' and 'Sebokeng/Evaton Leakage Reduction' projects. In the *International Projects* category a commendation was awarded to the 'Kagera Sugar Mill Rehabilitation Project'.

SANRAL-SAICE SMART Award

At the same function, the SANRAL-SAICE SMART Award, awarded for the first time, was won by Dr. Nick Dekker for the 'Roodeplaat Dam Dry Chamber' and a commendation went to Mr Bryan Perrie, Dr. Peter Strauss and Dr. M Slavik for

'cncPave - an innovation in concrete road Design'.

The winner of the SAICE photo competition was Rudy du Preez with his photograph, 'Sky eye' and the runners-up were Marius van Collier with 'Reach for the sky' and Henk Aartsma with 'What a view!'

Boss of the Year

How do you do justice to a multi-faceted person such as Dawie Botha when you are limited, in the first round, to a maximum of 700 words in reply to ten diverse questions about your boss? This was the dilemma faced by SAICE National Office staff.

In the following round, 70-word elaborations on a set of statements such as, "Real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination" had to be made. As

we indeed experience Dawie like this we could honestly reply, "Dawie lives the vision and dream of 'Proudly South African' and was instrumental in founding the Africa Engineers Forum. His pioneering spirit enhanced the Institution's image - crucial to any nation's development and stability. SAICE became the vehicle to influence people locally and internationally. Inherent faith in people, conviction, enthusiasm, perseverance led to SAICE becoming world-renowned - accepted, respected, a world leader. The American Society of Civil Engineers, Institute of Civil Engineers UK and others can attest to this."

This daunting task formed the basis of our nomination of Dawie for the 'Boss of the Year' competition organised by the 'Career Success' magazine and resulted in him being chosen as one of the six finalists for

this very prestigious award. Needless to say, National Office was abuzz with excitement! When the phones started ringing and the photographers arrived the reality of the situation really dawned on us! It became quite hectic with interviews on radio and for magazines.

When we met the other five finalists, we could see why they were there! Each and everyone worthy of being the title-bearer of 'Boss of the Year'. On Friday, 14 October during the luncheon at the Sandton Sun and Towers Intercontinental Hotel, Ornella Trinco, one of the founders of the 'Boss of the Year' competition, finally announced the winner - Ismael Dockrat, chief executive of Wesgro!

Although Dawie did not become the title-bearer, we all realised that the big winner in all this was SAICE

itself! With the exposure that Dawie had received, SAICE's image was boosted and the understanding of what civil engineering is all about, was enhanced. Of this competition Trinco, one of the founders of the 'Boss of the Year' competition, said, "The 'Boss of the Year Award' has become the telescope finding the stars in the galaxy of South African workplaces." In referring to Dawie she remarked, "In Dawie the engineering field has found a true navigational star that has changed their course. Dawie's influence and impact in the community he leads and serves is of a huge magnitude, and he has brought recognition, excitement and stellar dynamism to the field." What more can we add?

Bridge Building Competition

This competition for high school learners was established 18 years ago and is still going strong. The

competition creates awareness of civil engineering for the learners, educators and the general public. The finals were held at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Newtown, Johannesburg, at the end of July. Seventeen teams participated including teams from Zimbabwe and Namibia. The winning teams received substantial cash prizes. First and second places went to St Johns College and Zimuto Secondary School respectively, both from Zimbabwe. Placed third was Hoër Tegniese Skool Daniel Pienaar.

Rand Water-SAICE Centenary schools Water Competition

The mutually beneficial competition for high school learners was established when both Rand Water and the South African Institution of Civil Engineering celebrated hundred years of existence in 2003,

as part of their centenary celebrations.

It was with great sadness that we learned of Lourens Human's passing away. As Professor Kobus van Zyl of the University of Johannesburg said, "Lourens Human played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Rand Water-SAICE Centenary Schools Water Competition. He was one of the people who initiated the competition, and he took on the main responsibility for running it. Without Lourens' commitment and dedication, there would not be a competition today."

The final of the 2005 competition was held at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Newtown, Johannesburg early in September. Hoër Tegniese Skool Drostyd in Worcester came first to take the prize to the Western Cape. St Johns College from

Richard Bay came second and Umqhele Secondary School from Ivory Park in Midrand came third. All three winning teams received substantial cash amounts for themselves and their schools.

The competition has been well received by educators and learners alike. The success of the competition was illustrated by, among others, the fact that the late Dr James Hlongwane, CEO of the National Science and Technology Forum, never missed the finals.

Media coverage

This was a particularly interesting media year in view of the exposure which was generated through the publication of 'Numbers & Needs: Addressing imbalances in the civil engineering profession', as well as Dawie's nomination as one of the six finalists in the 'Boss of the Year'

2005 competition.

After Dawie's RSG interviews in October, SAICE national office was inundated by telephone calls and emails. There was good coverage over radio, as well as in the specialist press. SAICE even made it onto TV this year, with both Dawie and Mike Deeks as the stars.

Topics ranged from concerns with safety issues in the industry to the civil engineer's input towards creating quality of life through the provision of, for example water and other infrastructure. The issues surrounding the lack of service delivery by local authorities and its direct link to the shortage of skilled civil engineering professionals in the sector made for excellent exposure as to SAICE's role in the industry.

Both the SAICE competitions received coverage on radio and

television, as well as in various magazines.

Furthermore, SAICE received some coverage in the regional newspapers and even regional radio stations on the presidential visits and the competitions, enhancing SAICE's image in our branches.

Topical talk

New divisions

The SAICE council approved the formation of two new Divisions namely the Project Management Division and the International Division. It was envisaged that these Divisions would be necessary to serve the needs of the members in a changing environment.

SAICE turnover: Financial Report Dr Martin van Veelen

Over the last number of years the activities at SAICE have increased dramatically, as is reflected in the financial statements. A few years ago the annual income/expenditure was about R5 million. For 2005 this now stands at well over R10 million.

The increase in income has mostly to do with an increase in the activities that support SAICE's

strategic plan, specifically with respect to our outreach efforts, which are now bearing fruit. The income for Education and Training over the last year was R2.4 million, almost 25% of our total income.

During 2005 the income again exceeded the expenditure by an amount of R625 000. Together with the retained income of about R400 000 in 2004, SAICE now has an accumulated surplus of R1 million. This allows us to embark on projects with more confidence. Nonetheless, the surplus represents only 10% of the annual budget, and there is no reason for complacency.

Another positive sign is that our income from membership fees has substantially increased. The number of members who fail to pay their membership had decreased, while most members now make use

of the 'early bird' discount opportunity. Membership fees comfortably cover the cost of running SAICE National Office and the administration of the Institution.

Despite the accumulated surplus and increased income, the financial policy remains cautious. All efforts are made to minimise expenditure, and our National Office staff are to be congratulated on their efforts. The successes of the past year are mostly due to a dedicated group of people, ably led by Dawie Botha, who are always prepared to walk the extra mile in the interest of the Institution.

CPD, Courses and Conferences

SAICE facilitates professional reviews as part of the Engineering Council's process for registering professional engineers. During 2005, a total of 84 Professional

Reviews were arranged for Candidate Engineers.

The Education and Training department has refined its processes in arranging courses and conferences. Various courses were arranged at national level, including two international and one national conference. A total of 1424 delegates attended for these courses and conferences. Our highlights included:

- The conference of the South African Society of Intelligent Transportation Systems (SASITS) was held in at the Cape Town International Convention Centre during May.
- The Ecological Sanitation conference, ECOSAN, which was arranged on behalf of CSIR Boutek, was held at the Durban International Convention Centre

during May and with representation from 27 countries.

- The road show of the General Conditions of Contract for Construction Works (2004), which took us to 15 centres country-wide and was attended by 604 delegates.

SAICE is in discussions with ASCE to bring the ExCEED programme (Excellence in Civil Engineering Education) to South Africa. This programme is aimed at enhancing engineering education at tertiary level.

With the introduction of compulsory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for renewal of professional registration with ECSA from 1 January 2006, the Education and Training panel put a system in place for validation of CPD

activities of other providers.

SACPCMP

SAICE was one of the first voluntary societies to qualify in terms of recognition by the SA Council for Project and Construction Project Managers. The SAICE membership remains frustrated with the slow rate of registrations with this Council. The reason for this is that the number of applications far exceeded the expectation of this Council and their capacity constraints proved to be a problem. SAICE is continuously liaising with them in this regard through the Voluntary association committee. A possible change of policy on which engineering professionals would be required to register unfortunately means that some of the current applicants need not have applied. SAICE is monitoring the situation and will

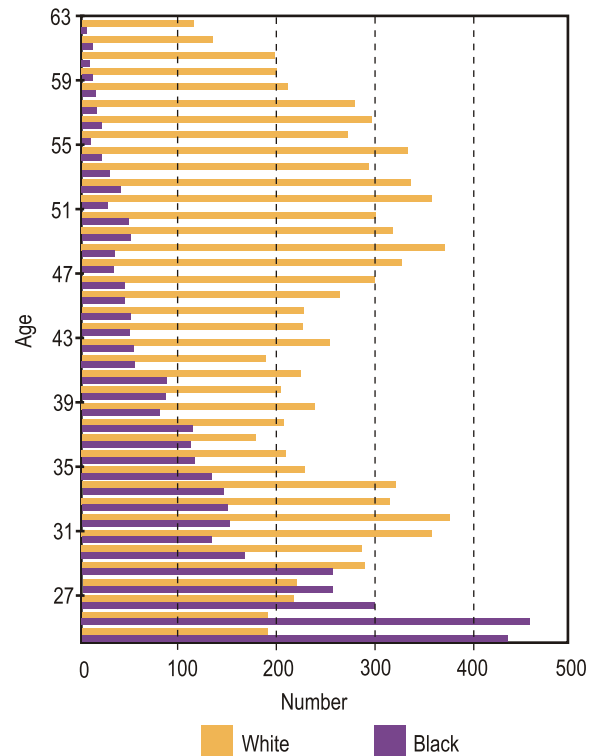
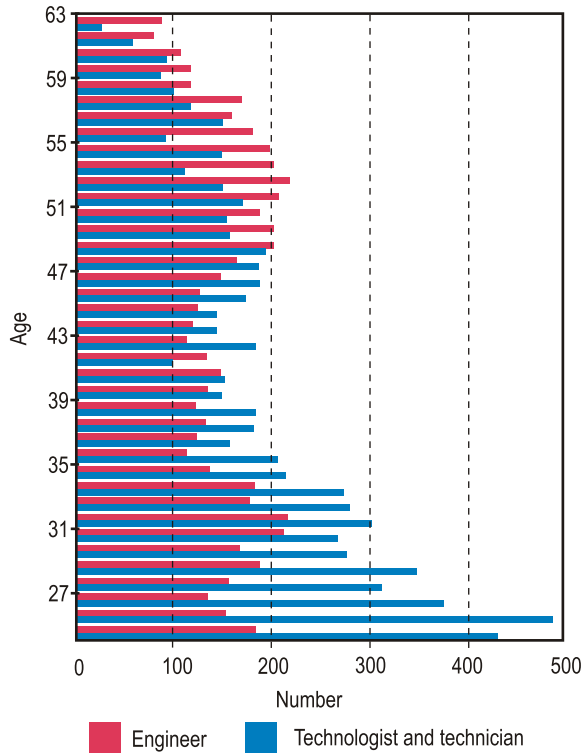
advise its members as matters develop.

Identification of engineering work

The Engineering Council of South Africa has established a task force to develop a draft which will identify the areas of work that would be defined as the sole premises of the engineering professional. This initiative is necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Engineering act and eventually will form the basis of the regulations to be promulgated by the Council for the Built Environment. In turn this will mean that for the professions covered in the Built Environment, there will at last be a measure of protection against individuals operating as for example engineers, without having the appropriate qualifications. For the public this means ensuring quality professional work to a

greater extent. SAICE President Of 2004, Mr Ron Watermeyer is well versed in this area and is the SAICE representative at ECSA. His inputs are well formulated and therefore appreciated tremendously.

This process is however a daunting task and will eventually have to be measured against and matched with the work of the various other professions like Architects and Quantity Surveyors. The process was bound to take some considerable time but it is deemed to be of critical importance in South Africa and abroad to move in this direction.



Longitudes & latitudes



AEF

SAICE hosted a two-day planning workshop in Johannesburg on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWA) and the Africa Engineers Forum (AEF) in March. Representatives from fifteen countries attended this important event. Countries attending from outside the SADC community were Ghana, Kenya, Seychelles, Uganda, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The workshop assessed

- the need for training and capacity building and the development of best practices in the SADC region, the role of SADC and the Africa Engineers Forum (AEF) in the development of capacity in Southern Africa,

the availability of resources (expertise, knowledge, etc.) in the different SADC countries, and

- Best practice information to ensure sustainable water supply and sanitation projects in the region.

It was important to convey the status of capacity building in Africa within an international arena of players. The World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO), Engineers Against Poverty (EAP) and Engineering Mobility Forum (EMF) were present to share some principle concepts about pertinent related issues. Russell Jones, President of the WFEO's Committee on Capacity Building defined capacity building as "the dedication to the strengthening of economies, governments, institutions and individuals through education,

training, mentoring and the infusion of resources". Doug Oakervee said that the EAP could provide assistance with exploratory scoping studies; pre-tender support and advice; 'live' project support and advice, as well as project evaluation. SAICE and the EAP also signed a memorandum of co-operation.

This workshop was of real importance to all the countries as a concerted effort has to be made to realise or even only partially address the eradication of backlogs in water and sanitation provision by 2015, set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002.

ASCE

Our relationship with ASCE remains strong. The 2005 congress in Los

Angeles covered the issue on how to deal with Corruption which remains a top priority with professional societies of today. In the second place the challenges to deal with Natural disasters were highlighted, especially after the devastation caused by Katrina.

ICE

The links with ICE are facilitated by the ICE-SAICE committee under the leadership of Andrew Baird and Alec Hay. Much time was spent to debate the best structures to serve the local ICE membership who for example receive the SAICE Magazine. A visit by an ICE delegation addressed this very specific issue as well.

Civil 'Imbiso'

Branch visits

SAICE Branches fulfill an important role. They provide a local meeting place for members, provide CPD opportunities, nominate candidates for awards and identify worthy projects of excellence, nominate Fellows and arrange competitions like Bridge Building and Water Networks. The activity level of SAICE Branches varies substantially and often according to the individuals who come forward to serve on the relevant committees. It is however clear that the pressure on the professional in today's world is increasing. To contribute to SAICE on a voluntary basis is therefore well appreciated. It is therefore laudable that our visits are still well attended. An amazing variety of issues are addressed and the diversity of our Institution membership contributes to the satisfaction that the National team feels when returning home after a series of visits.

The changing environment is however taking its toll and the Witwatersrand Branch has effectively stopped functioning. The main reasons seem to be that the Gauteng area simply has too much to offer in terms of professional activities arranged by our colleagues in the SA Association of Consulting Engineers, the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, The SA Institute of Steel Construction the Concrete and Cement Institute and many others as well as SAICE National OFFICE, the SAICE Divisions and so forth. That does not mean that all SAICE needs are fulfilled in terms of what Branches are involved in and the support structures that they provide for national activities. Vice President Johan de Koker therefore undertook to investigate and facilitate solutions to overcome the issues associated with the demise of the Wits Branch in particular.

Divisions

The SAICE Divisions remain the so-called technical powerhouse of the institution. Regular meetings of their committees ensure that the issues of the time are addressed. The Transportation Division is for example interacting with the Department of Transport in a formal way after the idea was mooted during a SAICE delegation met with Minister Jeff Radebe. The Joint Structural Division interacts with SA National Standards and various other Divisions have again in 2005 provided the vehicle for local as well as International liaison and input. The Divisions also play a major role in the magazine in the sense that the material for the feature of the month is provided by them. In addition they recognize excellence in the form of awards such as the Geotechnical Division Jennings Memorial and their Gold Medal which was awarded to Peter Day, a stalwart in geotechnical engineering and one of the longest serving committee members in their history.

Governance

In 2004 several changes were made to improve the SAICE Governance structures.

The approval of a new Constitution and Bylaws which was developed over the past two years is worth mentioning. The changes included changing to a substantially new Code of Ethics, reducing the number of Council members slightly, revising representation at the Executive Committee which became the Executive Board, removing the term Technical from Technical Divisions to allow the Division structure broadened possibilities. Only two Committees remained in place namely one for Finance and Administration and Membership. All other committees were renamed Panels. The Professional Relations committee was disbanded since it became clear that many of the issues handled by that committee were of such an important nature that the

Executive Board should address these issues directly.

In addition the membership categories were expanded in such a way that SAICE can provide a more inclusive home meaning that registered professionals other than those with ECSA, but associated with civil engineering may now also become corporate members of SAICE. A category for Professional Technicians was added in the corporate membership session.

The implementation of the new Constitution, Bylaws and governing structures started in 2005, but will continue for some time. At the end of 2005 it was realized that some changes will have to be made to what was envisaged, since experience with the structures and operations is indicating necessary adjustments.

The changes are intended to improve the way in which SAICE does its work and to evolve its

structures to strive to world practice principles. In many ways SAICE is however leading the way and creating unique ways to govern learned societies of the 21st century.

Photos here

Sincerely yours

Magazine

Eleven attractive editions of the **magazine**, often featuring topical news and contentious viewpoints, appeared during 2005, thanks to the sterling efforts of our editor, Sarie Moolman, who consistently aspires to produce a magazine of high standard. An attractive first for the magazine during 2005 was the inclusion of contributing authors' photos and contact details. Another first was the printing of additional copies of the July 2005 magazine, which featured construction, for mailing to approximately one thousand carefully selected potential advertisers. Our advertising agent, Barbara Spence, has in fact contributed enormously during 2005 to the growth of the magazine by generating increased advertising income, which could be ploughed back into the production of an ever-improving magazine.

Contributions from the SAICE Branches and Divisions, regarding their features in the magazine, remain an essential part of the magazine content, and the Editorial Panel therefore aims at encouraging increasing participation from this source.

Journal

The publication of technical papers on civil engineering is one of the core functions of SAICE, distinguishing it as a learned society. SAICE's archives in fact boast just short of 1 400 papers published over the last century. Our quarterly technical **journal** is accredited with the Department of Education, and we will be applying for international ISI listing () during the course of 2006. In line with modern trends the electronic version of the journal is also hosted on both the SAICE and Sabinet

websites. During 2005 the *Best Paper Award* was resurrected and awards were made for the previous two years, the winning papers being the following:

2003: Potential application of end-use demand modelling in South Africa - JE van Zyl, J Haarhoff, ML Husselmann - Vol 45 (2) 2003
2004: Towards a mechanistic structural design procedure for emulsion-treated base layers - JJE Liebenberg, AT Visser - Vol 46 (3) 2004

Website

An average of 7 000 hits are registered monthly. This popular **website** keeps members, industry leaders and the public up to date with a number of SAICE issues and events. The site fulfils a crucial role in SAICE's communication process.

Flipchart

The information overload sends many messages to us at SAICE. In the first place our members want to be informed, but on the other hand they ask us not to increase the volume of communication. The world demands instant replies, JUST IN TIME information and it is not uncommon that the email has replaced the telephone. National Office is trying to adjust and satisfy the needs as far as possible. One such new communication vehicle is the email FLIPCHART model implemented during the year. It is intended to alert and inform on an ad hoc basis and will remain brief and to the point. The Flipchart is hopefully an acceptable response to members who do not want another newsletter on their e-desks or office desks but assist with being in-touch-in-time which remains a huge challenge in today's world.

Uniquely in touch

SAICE and its environment

A learned society has to remain in touch with the fast moving world in more than one way. SAICE Outreach programmes are examples of how SAICE in contact with the needs of the times. The institution not only responds but also takes the lead to change the environment in a way that is often unique to South Africa, and in that sense pioneering new initiatives. Foundations for the future are being laid by SAICE, all the time all the way.

'Numbers & Needs: Addressing imbalances in the civil engineering profession'

South Africa's economy and the quality of life of its citizens depend on the supply and efficient management of infrastructure. The bulk of social and economic infrastructure identified in the Millennium Development Goals

(MDG) is the domain of the construction industry and the civil engineering profession.

Service delivery is at the heart of the South African democracy and at the heart of service delivery is the civil engineering profession, whose role it is to create infrastructure and to mentor. SAICE realised that there is a crisis in civil engineering capacity. Under the visionary leadership of Allyson Lawless the research for 'Numbers & Needs: Addressing imbalances in the civil engineering profession' proved the notion to be correct. In October 2005 this project was completed, published and launched.

SAICE is actively pursuing appropriate interventions for the challenges identified, including

- Contacting civil engineering professionals overseas to encourage them to return to South Africa.
- Locating retired engineers willing

to work in local government and/or supervise and coach young graduates.

- Assisting with experiential training and job opportunities.
- Leading reform where necessary in terms of deploying civil engineering professionals.
- Career guidance.
- Administering the LGSETA bursaries and SAICE's SPEBS.

In 'Numbers & Needs: Addressing imbalances in the civil engineering profession', the problems and solutions are discussed in detail. A host of solutions and interventions were mooted. *To succeed will require collective effort involving political will and the cooperation of all tiers of government, the private sector, academic institutions and the civil engineering workforce.*

SPEBS

Since its inception in 1992, until the end of 2004, the SAICE Patrons'

Engineering Bursary Scheme (SPEBS) has granted 220 bursaries to 136 students during the various academic levels of their courses towards the National Diploma or the Degree in Civil Engineering. SPEBS bursars achieved excellent results, mainly due to the bursars' hard work, but certainly also partly due to the scheme's stringent academic performance requirements. SPEBS depends entirely on donations and we hereby express our sincere appreciation to individuals, institutions, companies and SAICE units for their continued support. to 136 students during the various academic levels of their courses towards the National Diploma or the Degree in Civil Engineering. SPEBS bursars achieved excellent results, mainly due to the bursars' hard work, but certainly also partly due to the scheme's stringent academic performance requirements. SPEBS depends entirely on donations and we hereby express our sincere appreciation to individuals, institutions, companies and SAICE units for their continued support.

Rubbing shoulders

SAICE Networks

The SAICE networking and connecting mechanisms provide numerous opportunities for rubbing shoulders with decision makers in all walks of life, both locally as well as abroad. Over the years many relationships developed from meetings and participation in related organizations and structures. By utilizing these relationships, capacity building is enhanced, many activities are facilitated and the SAICE profile is elevated.

It does however putting severe strain on the system in the sense that the successes are breeding successes and more demands. For SAICE it remains difficult to prioritize its external involvement, but the challenges are addressed in an exemplary way.

- Meetings and discussions with decision makers in Government structures take place on an

ongoing basis at all three levels. A notable example is the relationship with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. This has resulted in the funding for a substantial number of initiatives in the Water and Sanitation sector for South Africa as well as for the signatories of the Africa Engineers Forum Protocol. In this regard funding was also received from the Belgian Government.

- SAICE is a member of the National Science and Technology Forum and of the Science, Engineering and Technology and Associated groups section of the NSTF. At a SETAGAGM in 2005 Dawie Botha was elected to serve as Chair of SETAG for a two year term and as such he also serves on the NSTF EXCO. Prof Alex Visser is an alternate on the SETAG EXCO and Prof Elsabe Kearsley is assisting with the communication of the NSTF

Awards.

- SAICE remains committed to the Built Environment and in 2005 nominated members to serve on for example ECSA and SACPCMP.
- At the AEF meeting in February of 2005 an agreement was signed with Engineers against Poverty and Petter Matthews. Ron Watermeyer is the SAICE contact.
- Late in 2005 Tony Marjoram of UNESCO accepted an invitation form SAICE to hold its Engineers and Technology against Poverty forum at SAICE House in 2006
- In October 2005 Dawie Botha was invited to join a task group at the ASCE Conference in Los Angeles where the formation of an International Region for ASCE was discussed. He was offered the position as governor of the sub Sahara section of ASCE for their 3600 members in this area, but he could not accept, due to

capacity problems

- SAICE National Office has become a meeting place for many and associated with this handles hundreds of queries per annum regarding callers who needs information or input regarding the built environment and the networks associated with professional societies.
- After the formation of the Capacity Building committee of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, Dawie Botha was invited to become a member of this committee due to his role in and contribution to and development of the AEF Protocol of Understanding. The third meeting of this committee took place in San Juan in Puerto Rico in October where Dawie for example introduced the Numbers and Needs publication. This has led to the possibility that UNESCO will promote a similar initiative for all countries in the world.



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