



COMMUNIQUÉ TO ALUMNI
APPOINTMENT OF DEAN: FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Thursday, 16 August 2018

Dear Alumni

I am delighted to inform you that Prof. Herman Vermaak has been appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, with effect from 1 August 2018. On behalf of the entire university community, I would like to wish him all of the best during his tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. I am confident that, with the support of our staff, particularly those in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, the entire student body, and our Alumni, Prof. Vermaak will take the faculty to greater heights.

Prof. Vermaak is a distinguished Engineer, and a specialist in Automation, Robotics and Renewable Energy. He holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Twente in the Netherlands and is a registered Professional Engineer and Technologist, as well as a qualified artisan.

Prof. Vermaak is not new to academia and leadership in the higher education sector. He has been working in the higher education sector for more than 23 years, as a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor at CUT. He was Head of Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering at CUT for 11 years, and has been the Assistant Dean for Research, Innovation and Engagement in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology since January 2017. In addition, Prof. Vermaak was the first holder of the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) Chair for Engineering Development at CUT. Furthermore, he received a number of awards, including the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award in the category Established Researcher, which he received twice, and the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award in the category Advanced Teaching Career. Prior to joining the academe, Prof. Vermaak worked in the industry for ten years, at the Goodyear Tyre Company and the General Motor Corporation, respectively.

Prof. Vermaak has been involved with the Accreditation Committee of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) for more than ten years. He served as team leader for several accreditation visits at engineering faculties within South Africa, as well as Chairperson and member of seven international review panels who conducted institutional and programme reviews. Three of these panels acted on behalf of the International Engineering Alliance (IEA), which governs the International Engineering Accords. He is also a programme evaluator and assessor for the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and a representative of ECSA with CHE.

He has published and co-published more than 30 articles in journals and conference proceedings; presented and co-presented more than 40 papers at international and national conferences; and successfully supervised more than 30 master's and doctoral degree students. Prof. Vermaak was awarded a DAAD Visiting Professor sponsorship in 2018. Finally, he is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE); a senior member of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE); and an established researcher, with a C-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

I kindly request you to warmly welcome Prof. Vermaak in his new position, and to provide him and his family with all the necessary support to successfully execute his duties.

Kind regards

Prof. Henk de Jager
Vice-Chancellor and Principal