

SAIEE Student Chapter Press Release

On the 17th of September 2014 during the 63rd Bernard Price Memorial lecture held at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), the SAIEE Eastern Cape Student Chapter was initiated. Wise words from a wise man, the then SAIEE President Dr Pat Naidoo said, "For you to be recognised as a student body, you have to organise yourselves first before anything else can be organised for you by the responsible authorities." This was a challenge set for the students to tackle the task at hand.

Mr Ikho Bambiso and Mr Tafadzwa Bhowa current Student Chapter Mentor and President respectively, organised the first meeting with students so as to brief them on how to register as student members under SAIEE. The registration fee was stated in the meeting, forms were distributed and registration commenced within the same week. A solid Student Chapter Committee (SCC) was established to ensure progress was made and to motivate other students on how the chapter would be a positive factor, not only for department of Electrical Engineering, but also for the future of their careers.



First ever Student Chapter Committee (SCC) meeting in October 2014

(From the Left Back ; Mr Tafadzwa Bhowa, Ms Rishongile Makhubele, Mr Ashley Jaca, Mr Neo Cheka, Mr Athenkosi Madolwana, Mr Edwin Ribisi

From the left Front Mr Maanda Nevhudzholi, Ms Nompumelelo Gwabuzela)

To show appreciation, passion and to attain favour and noticeability, the students designed their own NMMU Student Chapter t-shirt.



Front and Back view of the Student Chapter T-shirt

The Student Chapter was then officially launched on the 19th of November 2014. Dr Pat Naidoo was invited as the main guest speaker since he inspired and motivated the students to start the student chapter. Other guests from SAIEE who were at the launch included, Mr Stanley Bridges (SAIEE CEO), Ms Minx Avrabos (Editor of Wattnow magazine), Ms Gerda Geyer (Secretary) and Mr Dawid Bester (SAIEE EC President 2014). Mr Kenny Ramjee a representative of ECSA was also present.



Some of the guests who were present during the Launch of the SAIEE Student Chapter
(Mr Stan Bridges, Mr Dawid Bester, Dr Pat Naidoo)



(Ms Gerda Geyer, Ms Minx Avrabos)

During the launch of the Student Chapter, the student chapter committee was introduced to the audience as can be seen on the picture below.



Student Chapter Committee of 2014

During the launch, two students who were busy with their in-service training within the Municipality were invited to share their experiences within the work world. Their presentation helped the other students in knowing what to expect when they do start their in-service training as well.



Students share their experience in doing in-service training



Pictures of the students who attended the launch of the SAIEE Student Chapter

During the year 2015, the Student Chapter had two events. The first event was held on the 8th of October 2015. The event was about registering with ECSA. Mr Rod Harker kindly gave an informative presentation to the students who attended this event. He explained in depth the importance of Registering with ECSA and the different Registrations that can be applied for by students or even people who already in the workplace.



Mr Rod Harker and Mr Kenny Ramjee took some time to take pictures with the SAIEE Student Chapter Committee

From the Left Back: Mr Coenraad Strydom, Ms Nozuko Koloki, Mr Rod Harker, Mr Tafadzwa Bhowa, Mr Kenny Ramjee, Mr Athenkosi Madolwana, Ms Rishongile Makhubele, Ms Phindile Mngomezulu, Ms Nompumelelo Gwabuzela, Mr Ashley Jaca

From the Left Front: Mr Ikho Bambiso, Mr Edwin Ribisi

The second event was held on the 3rd of November. The event was Career Event with the aim of showing the students the different careers available after they leave the University for the work place. Guests from the three Electrical Engineering Fields: Telecommunication, Industrial /Automation, Power Systems were invited. These guests included students who were currently doing their in-service training and also individuals who also working within industry.



Students sharing how they are doing within their in-service training

From Left: Ms Unathi Ndodana (Transnet), Mr Ambesikhaya Ngobo (Design Automation), and Mr Neo Cheka (Bosch)

Professor Gerhard Gruhler who is a visiting Professor from the Reutlingen University in Germany also attended the event as a guest speaker. His presentation was about the partnership their university has with industry in Germany. He also spoke about studying abroad opportunities for students and the possibilities of students doing their in-service training abroad.



Mr Tafadzwa Bhowa with visiting Professor Gerhard Gruhler from Reutlingen University in Germany

The main guest speaker was the Mr Andre Hoffman who was the SAIEE President in 2015. He spoke about his life as an Electrical Engineer, the challenges he has faced as well as the opportunities that have come his way. He also mentioned how fulfilling it has been to be the president of SAIEE.



Mr Andre Hoffmann sharing his life experiences as an Electrical Engineer

The SAIEE Student Chapter also has a Facebook as shown below. The page is used to inform students of upcoming events



Screenshot of the Facebook page

2014 Student Chapter Committee



Tafadzwa Michael Bhowa
President



Maanda Nevhudzholi
Vice President



Nompumelelo Gwabuzela
Treasurer



Zusiphe Belani
Treasurer



Rishongile Makhubele
Media & Marketing



Edwin Ribisi
Media & Marketing



Athenkosi Madolwana
Media & Marketing



Nonkululeko Ngcongca
Secretary



Neo Cheka
Events Co-ordinator



Ashely Jaca
Events Co-ordinator



Mr Ikho Bambiso
Mentor

2015 - 2016 Student Chapter Committee



Tafadzwa Michael Bhowa
President



Nompumelelo Gwabuzela
Treasurer



Nozuko Koloki
Treasurer



Rishongile Makhubele
Media & Marketing



Athenkosi Madolwana
Media & Marketing



Phindile Mngomezulu
Secretary



Edwin Ribisi
Secretary



Coenraad Strydom
Events Co-ordinator



Ashely Jaca
Events Co-ordinator



Mr Ikho Bambiso
Mentor

NMMU SAIEE Student Chapter President's Message



Tafadzwa Michael Bhowa
2015 – 2016 NMMU SAIEE Student
Chapter President

Promoting Networking and Interaction between Students and Industry

It is my honour to be the President of the NMMU SAIEE Student Chapter for the past year and to represent this current year as well.

Following the emotive words from Dr Pat Naidoo that encouraged the NMMU Electrical Engineering students to be organized, a student chapter was formed. It is the only one in the Eastern Cape and the 4th in South Africa following after Wits, UCT and Stellenbosch chapters.

From the onset of the student chapter, not many students managed to register as student members under the voluntary organization, SAIEE. Focus on core

business and determination of the committee members I have been working with, has made a substantial difference on the number of students who have managed to register.

Some challenges were experienced as some of the committee members had experiential training commitments which forced them to work out of PE. These individuals could no longer be part of the committee hence a reshuffling was needed and replacing vacant portfolios.

As the student chapter, our main drive for 2015 - 2016 is to focus on promoting Networking and Interaction between the Students and Industry. We believe building a firm relationship with Industry encourages confidence in every individual to sell themselves well, increasing their employability.

Events and site visits to relevant Electrical and Electronic Engineering plants will assist the students to experience Engineering work unfolding in their hands. Students can gain ideas on how to tackle some Engineering work, be it a school or work projects.

Our hope is to gain support from responsible authorities so that we can continue the good work that has been already done and make this year better than the previous years.

Special thanks to the department of Electrical Engineering NMMU for the unending support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bhowa' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tafadzwa Michael Bhowa