



*Editorial*



### Message from the Head of the Department

August is a unique month as it is a blend of the eight month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and one of seven Gregorian months with a length of 31 days. It derived the name from Augustus Caesar one of the remarkable Roman leaders

as a mark of honour to defeated Queen Cleopatra, the last ruler of Egypt, this being her birth month.

In South Africa this month is symbolic as the 9<sup>th</sup> of August is marked as the National Women's Day, one of its kind in the World. This commemorates the national march of women on this day in 1956 to lodge petition against legislation that requires African persons to carry the "pass" special identification documents which curtailed an African freedom of movement during the Apartheid era. They marched to the Union building in Pretoria to protest against the proposed amendment to the pass law of 1950.

The female student of the Department of Town and Regional Planning under the auspices of the Site track celebrated this month by organising a mind blowing and awesome event that set Doornfontein Campus ablaze and tongues wagging that Town Planners has come again with a difference in what they termed "Ladies Banquet". The event was very colourful and the first of its kind as it is portrayed in this edition thus recapping the need for planners to be gender sensitive and expository of the opportunities for women to participate fully in planning at all level. The fun did not die down yet as the Department provided venue for the South African Planning Institute (SAPI) evening event that featured reputable speakers from academia and industry.

The month also saw the Department embarking on a technical tour of one of the remarkable "Urban Renewal Projects" at Alexandra and "Mixed-Income Housing Development" at Cosmo City. This expedition exposed the student's to a practical understanding of the realities and issues on the ground as planners need to understand community dynamics and reciprocities since "planners should listen to other voices and ensure that our planning reflect differences and diversity". What an edition with more !!!

George Onatu  
Head of the Department  
Department of Town and Regional Planning

### Inside this e-Newsletter :

- Editorial ..... 1
- Climate Change Documentary..... 2
- Ladies Banquet ..... 2
- Site Excursion ..... 2
- Student Paper Competition ..... 3
- TRP @ LinkedIn Group..... 3
- Research Focus @ TRP..... 4

Vision Statement :  
Department of Town and Regional Planning

***"A Planning Institution of  
Diverse Choice Excelling in  
Teaching, Research and  
Practice"***

## CLIMATE CHANGE DOCUMENTARY

The British High Commission represented by Catherine Pye who is the Climate Change Policy Officer paid a tribute visit to the Department of Town and Regional Planning to show a film that raises increasing awareness around climate change issue which is one of the most topical issues that development planners are faced with in globalised world of today. The film called "The Age of Stupidity" is a documentary drama animation hybrid from Director Fanny Armstrong and Oscar-winning producer John Battsek. The actor stars as an old man living in devastated world of 2055 with so many environmental problems. He watches archive footage from 2008 and asks "Why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance". This film also attracted a wide audience when it was shown at Rhodes University in conjunction with Environmental Faculty. It really stimulated a lot of debate among the B.Tech students who were stunned at the calamity of oil spillage and other environmental degradation that is threatening our environment today.

## LADIES BANQUET

The 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 for the first time Site Track opened its doors to all the ladies in the campus. The motive of the event was very simple and straight forward, empowering the ladies in different aspects of life. The Programme Director, Katlego Maserumule welcomed the guest and introduced Ms Refilwe Matebana for the opening and prayer. Consecutively the audience were showered with words of wisdom and encouragement. The first guest was the influential and vibrant Ms Julia Paris the librarian, motivational speaker, life coach and a mother. She empowered the ladies spiritually, and reminded the ladies about the essentiality of consciousness and direction. With her enthusiasm, she asked the ladies what their purpose was and whether they knew that they are a gift to the universe. Need I say more? As if the audience didn't get enough, SR Badiri from the DFC campus clinic, blessed us with her talk about Women's Health. From her presentation the ladies were moved by the pictures they saw about various sicknesses STI, HIV/AIDS. She encouraged the ladies to be conscious of their bodies and that they should take care of themselves. The ladies were motivated to know their status, get tested and live a positive life. "A man was made from dust but a woman from the bones of man". Refilwe Mamogale a student in B.Tech Mining Engineering in sharing her likes and dislikes, aspirations, goals and achievements introduced herself and expressed her gratitude for the invitation. Work environment preparation was her topic, with no

doubt she kept the audience captivated by relating her experiences. She shared the challenges within the corporate environment and how the ladies can cope with these challenges. She mentioned that Corporate world is a very competitive environment and the ladies should try to absorb a positive way of competing and climbing the ladder of success.

## SITE EXCURSION



The Department of Town and Regional Planning organized a site excursion to Alexandra and Cosmo City for its students regarding the Urban Renewal projects. The Alexandra Renewal Project (ARP) is a joint urban regeneration project between all three tiers of government: the private sector, the NGO's and the Community Based Organization. The Cosmo City is one of the best practices of the mixed-income housing development in South Africa incorporating the low, middle and high income households. The student's were briefed about the history of the project, besides site visits to various areas of Alexandra which included Pan African shopping centre, the hostel renovation, East Bank, Juskiem river etc. The site visit reechoes the challenges that a Town Planner faces in the planning and execution of such projects. The visit to the Cosmo City Mixed-Income Housing Development showcased the students of successful Public Private Partnership (PPP) on a brownfield development and integrated sustainable human settlement planning. The Department on behalf of University of Johannesburg is highly thankful to the officials: Mr. Lance Fernn, and Mr. Siphon from Alexandra Renewal Project (ARP), and Ms. Christiana Myburg from Basil Reeds Development for extending their cooperation and facilitation of site visits and presentations.

The Department of Town and Regional Planning is pleased to announce the winner of the first Student Paper Completion launched in June 2010.



From the six topics, the best paper award has been judged to Mr. Thando K. Madonsela (B.Tech student) for his paper on “Community Participation in Planning Process”, under Theme-4.

He is presently working as Chief Town & Regional Planner at Department of Human Settlements, South Africa.



## TRP @ LinkedIn Group



With the launch of the LinkedIn Group in May 2010, the group has reached to 85 members by the end of August, 2010. The group represents students, alumni's and faculty members and is generating a lot of interest with an active contribution from the members. Besides the job opportunity announcements, the popular discussions raised and participated by the members for the month of August included:

*Global Warming; Contribution of Town Planners in the Development of a Country; Opportunities in the Town Planning; Sustainable Development and Role of Planners; Idealistic Nature of Planning Profession*

For connecting to the group, you may send a request mail to Mr. Aurobindo Ogra at : aogra@uj.ac.za . Alternatively, the request can be made by accessing the group profile directly at LinkedIn groups.



## Newsletter Link

The previous issues of e-Newsletter **UJ plan** can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.uj.ac.za/EN/Faculties/engineering/departments/trp/Newsletter/Pages/home.aspx>





**George Onatu**, Head of the Department

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Housing, Housing Finance, Low Income Housing, Mixed Development, Informal Settlements, Urban Land Use Management, Local Economic Development

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The department welcomes academic, research, and consulting collaborations based on its current research focus areas. The faculty members can be approached at the department or contacted on email.



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