Mining Engineering
50th Anniversary

Mining Engineering was recognized as an important discipline in the South African context when the programme in Mining Engineering was initiated in 1958, just 3 years after the founding of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Pretoria in 1955.

As a specialized discipline, the number of students was at first relatively low, but the programme has steadily grown over the years into the present leading department, with many alumni serving the mining industry with distinction. The university is grateful for the generous and continuous support and cooperation with industry that has enabled us to attract experienced mining engineers such as professors J. De V. Lamprechts, F.Q.P. Leiding, A.N. Brown, A. Fourie, N. v.d. Merwe, and R.C.W. Webber-Youngman, to lead the department.

Over the years the department faced many challenges, with student numbers following the ebb and flow of the fortunes of the industry, but it has proved to be resilient and ready to turn challenges into opportunities. The change of the language of tuition to English to facilitate access, the present strong emphasis on leadership skills grounded in sound technical skills, and contributions to inculcating a safety culture in mining operations serve as excellent examples.

I would also like to especially thank the Tuks Mining Alumni Association and the Advisory Board of the Department of Mining Engineering, who through the years have contributed very significantly to the care and growth of the department.

I would like to thank the Department of Mining Engineering for the very significant contributions that it made over the years to the Faculty, the profession, and the industry. I believe that the best years of the department still lie in the future, and would like to challenge the department to take teaching, research, and industry involvement to even higher levels of excellence.

W. Uys
Chairman and Trustee of the Board
Minerals Education Trust Fund

50th Anniversary of the Department of Mining Engineering
University of Pretoria

The Minerals Education Trust Fund (METF) is extremely proud to be associated with the University of Pretoria and in particular with the Department of Mining Engineering. It is an honour and a privilege to congratulate all of you on behalf of the METF on 50 years, making a significant difference in South Africa’s mining industry – an industry that depends strongly on the high-quality, high-calibre mining engineers trained by this esteemed institution. It is with much pride that we reflect on the years since the METF joined hands with the Department of Mining Engineering to ensure stability among its ultra-important teaching staff. The highlight of our relationship with the Department is surely the amazing transformation journey over the past 10 years. We now have a professional home open to all South Africans who wish to become the best of the best mining engineers. To imagine a South African mining industry without the Tuks mining engineers is simply impossible.

As an alumnus of this Department I am personally also particularly honoured to serve Tuks Mining, together with my METF Board and subcommittee members. I know that we will leave a legacy that will do South Africa’s mining industry proud. Whilst congratulating the Department of Mining Engineering and wishing them everything of the best for the next 50 years, I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the chief executive officers and captains of industry who so unselfishly support the METF, enabling us to continue serving the University of Pretoria.

W. Uys
Chairman and Trustee of the Board
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