

## **Launch of the Unit for Construction Materials**

"We are like concrete," said Prof Billy Boshoff at the official launch of the Unit for Construction Materials in the Department of Civil Engineering, Stellenbosch University. "Concrete consists of different materials, some more expensive, some unpredictable, but together they make concrete. No ingredient is more important than the other one, because if you take one ingredient out, the concrete will not work." Hereafter he acknowledged all present - individuals, institutes and industry - for their important roles in the Unit.

The Unit for Construction Materials (UCM) was officially launched on 13 April 2016 at a dinner held appropriately in the new concrete laboratory. The event was well attended and numerous prominent figures in the construction industry were present, including Hanli Turner and John Sheath, the President and the CEO of the Concrete Society of Southern Africa (CSSA) respectively, and Bryan Perrie, the Managing Director of The Concrete Institute (TCI).

The UCM strives to be a centre of excellence and a top institute for construction materials in South Africa for teaching, research and consulting. Research and student training are at the core of the UCM. During his speech, Prof Boshoff highlighted the importance of industry collaboration and partnership. Special emphasis was put on the fact that research must have both academic value and relevance for the industry on the short or long term. Providing a consultation service to the industry, especially where these services are not available at commercial laboratories, is also a high priority for the UCM.

The UCM is interested in all aspects of construction materials, but the four main areas of the current focus are:

- \* Eco-friendly construction materials
- \* Fibre reinforced concrete
- \* Fresh and young concrete
- \* High performance concrete

More information about the UCM can be found at [www.sun.ac.za/ucm](http://www.sun.ac.za/ucm) or [bboshoff@sun.ac.za](mailto:bboshoff@sun.ac.za).

Caption, from left to right: Dr Riaan Combrinck (UCM), Prof Eugene Cloete (Vice-Rector Research), Prof Billy Boshoff (Head UCM), Ms Wibke de Villiers (UCM) and Prof Hansie Knoetze (Dean: Engineering).

## **Bekendstelling van die Eenheid vir Konstruksiemateriale**

"Ons almal wat hier saam is, is net soos beton," het prof Billy Boshoff gesê by die amptelike bekendstelling van die Eenheid vir Konstruksiemateriale in die Departement Siviele Ingenieurswese, Universiteit Stellenbosch. "Beton bestaan uit verskillende materiale waarvan party duurder en party onvoorspelbaar is, maar saam maak dit beton. Geen bestanddeel is belangriker as die ander een nie, want as jy een bestanddeel verwyder, sal die beton nie werk nie." Hierna het hy aan almal teenwoordig - persone, instansies en industrie - erkenning verleen vir die belangrike rol wat elkeen in die Eenheid speel.

Die Eenheid vir Konstruksiemateriale (UCM) is op 13 April 2016 amptelik bekendgestel tydens 'n diniee wat heel gepas in die nuwe betonlaboratorium gehou is. Die geleentheid is baie goed

bygewoon deur verskeie vooraanstaande persone in die konstruksiebedryf. Dit het ingesluit Hanli Turner en John Sheath, onderskeidelik president en hoofuitvoerende beampte van die Betonvereniging van Suid-Afrika (CSSA), en Bryan Perrie, besturende direkteur van die Betoninstituut (TCI).

Die UCM streef daarna om 'n sentrum van uitnemendheid en topinstituut vir konstruksiemateriale in Suid-Afrika te wees ten opsigte van onderrig, navorsing en raadgewing. Navorsing en opleiding van studente is van kernbelang. Tydens sy toespraak het prof Boshoff die belangrikheid beklemtoon van samewerking en vennootskappe met industrie. Hy het spesiale klem daarop geplaas dat navorsing vir industrie op die kort- en langtermyn akademiese waarde én relevansie moet hê. Die UCM ag dit ook as 'n hoë prioriteit om konsultasiedienste aan industrie te lewer, veral waar hierdie dienste nie by kommersiële laboratoria beskikbaar is nie.

Die UCM stel belang in alle aspekte van konstruksiematerial, maar die hoofareas is tans:

- \* Ekovriendelike konstruksiemateriale
- \* Veselversterkte beton
- \* Vars en nuwe beton
- \* Hoëverrigtingbeton

Meer inligting oor die UCM is beskikbaar by [www.sun.ac.za/ucm](http://www.sun.ac.za/ucm) of [bboshoff@sun.ac.za](mailto:bboshoff@sun.ac.za).

Underskrif, van links na regs: Dr Riaan Combrinck (UCM), prof Eugene Cloete (viserektor: Navorsing), prof Billy Boshoff (hoof UCM), me Wibke de Villiers (UCM) en Prof Hansie Knoetze (dekaan: Ingenieurswese).

