



NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK

Job Shadow Day

The Young Professional's Forum (YPF) of the South African Association of Consulting Engineers (SAACE) invited all firms to get involved in its Job Shadow Day which took place from July, 30 – 3 August, 2007. The aim of the Job Shadow Day was to expose learners not only to the engineering environment but to Consulting Engineering experience in particular.

Firms had to choose a school from their local community and invite pupils from the school to spend a day with the firm during National Construction Week experiencing 'A day in the life of a Consulting Engineer'. The idea of the initiative was to encourage young pupils to choose 'engineering' as a career.

The initiative took the form of a competition where the firm that submitted

the best entry depicting the day was crowned the winner. The award was based on the events of the day and the nature of the experience gained by pupils.

Firms that took on the challenge included four of Kwezi V3 Engineers' branches, SSI (A DHV Company), Infraconsult Engineering, BIGEN Africa Group Holdings, BKS Engineering and Management, Africon, TWP Consulting, Ninham Shand, TPA Consulting and Henwood and Nxumalo Consulting Engineers. During the visits students from various high schools across South Africa were exposed to the inner-workings of the engineering industry. The shortage of engineers in South Africa was entrenched as well as the social benefits of being an engineer. Site visits exposed students to a practical insight into

engineering and the integration of the various engineering disciplines including civil, electrical, instrumentation, mechanical, mining and geology, process, transportation, construction, etc as well as the various aspects surrounding Consulting Engineering like project management, project financing, etc.

A panel of judges from the YPF adjudicated the entries and awarded BKS Engineering and Management as the winner. The prize is one free registration for the SAACE/SAFCEC Conference that is being held at the Lord Charles Hotel in Sommerset in Cape Town at the beginning of October 2007, valued at over R2 000.

For more information about SAACE contact Graham Pirie on (011) 463 2022.



Thabiso (quantity surveyor at BKS) at the Pretoria University residential area with students from David-Helen Peta Secondary School in Atteridgeville. BKS Engineering and Management was crowned the winner of the Job Shadow Day competition by SAACE's YPF.



SSI hosted 15 grade 11 and 12 learners of KwaMpande High School – a fun staw-bridge building competition was held.



Students from Primrose High School in Germiston went on an educational tour to one of Infraconsult's construction sites.



Over 50 learners from Alexandra Secondary School, Eqinisweni Secondary School, Garsfontein High School, John Vorster High School, Menlo Park High School and Willow Ridge High School, were inspired by BIGEN Africa, on the road to becoming engineers. The Johannesburg group visited the Marlboro Gautrain site and the electrical cable site in Alexandra. The Pretoria group was taken to the Olievenhoutbosch Ministerial Housing development.



Over 20 scholars, all children of staff members at Africon, are now looking upwards to their future in engineering after an in-depth and exciting presentation tracing the history of civil engineering from the days of Napoleon up to the present, including practical hints on how to train as a civil engineer today.



TWP Consulting specifically chose to invite an all-girl team for Job Shadow Day given their under-representation in the engineering profession. The girls spent time with senior staff in all the engineering disciplines and remarked that engineering came across as a 'proud' profession.



Tiaan Bowman (site engineer at Ninham Shand), explaining construction activities of the Sunderland Ridge Wastewater Treatment Plant near Centurion to the selected students from eight high schools in Atteridgeville in Pretoria.



Innocent Nkosi from TPA Consulting takes the three learners, from Kloof High School in KZN, through a finished road design on plan, explaining the various elements including horizontal, vertical and super-elevation design.



The broad field of engineering and its career opportunities were highlighted to 139 science and maths learners from various schools in KZN by Henwood and Nxumalo Consulting Engineers.



Kwezi V3 Engineers, Cape Town, hosted learners from Bellville Technical High and Elsies River Secondary High, giving them a fresh and exciting look into the field of engineering.



Kwezi V3 Engineers, Pretoria, took maths and science high school students on a construction site visit.



Kwezi V3 Engineers, Newcastle, hosted top students for Job Shadow Day.



Wian Steynberg (left) from Kwezi V3 Engineers, Kimberley, took Gideon van Tonder – a matric student from Diamantveld High School in Kimberley who has shown interest in studying civil engineering – on a site visit to Kathu.