

THE *Art* OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

U@UJ

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PROF KEEES IMMINK

RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREE

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EXCELLENCE

UJ EXTENDS ITS TEACHING AND LEARNING FACILITIES

NOTEWORTHY

UJ COMMEMORATES JUNE 16 WITH 1976 STALWARTS AT SOWETO CAMPUS

ENGAGED

RADIOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT CHANGES ITS NAME AND COURSES

PEOPLE

MANDELA LEGACY LIVES ON AT UJ WITH UJ'S 'HOW TO SERVE' THEME





Digital pioneer Prof Immink inspires UJ engineering graduates

Engineers have the power to change our world. New environments present new opportunities, driving innovation and a call for change.

THIS WAS THE message from Prof Kornelis (Kees) Antonie Schouhamer Immink that inspired graduates at UJ on 10 June 2014.

Prof Immink, one of the most prolific inventors of the 20th century in consumer electronics, accepted an honorary doctoral degree – Doctor Honoris Causa for Technical and Scientific Research during the University’s second graduation series. UJ’s Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment conferred the honorary doctoral degree on Prof Immink as acknowledgement for his instrumental role in the development of digital audio, video and data recording systems, and for the profound impact his contributions and inventions has made in today’s digital society.

In his address, Prof Immink expressed his gratitude for receiving an honorary doctorate from the University and spoke about his passion for science and engineering, saying: “I am an engineer because I have a sincere passion for science and engineering. I’ve had this passion since I was a young boy. I have always loved everything that moves - from steam engines, to bicycles and locomotives, to sailing boats and planes.” Prof Immink added that “I would have loved to work side-by-side with James Watt on the design of a new steam engine. Or to have worked with Michael Faraday on developing the first electrical motor. These are fascinating inventions by pioneering engineers.”

He emphasised that engineers have throughout history changed the world



ABOVE (FROM LEFT)

Prof Njabulo Ndebele, Prof Kees Immink, Prof Ihron Rensburg at Prof Kees Immink’s doctoral conferral

PHOTO: JAN POTGIETER



BELOW

Ambassador Patrick Gaspard

PHOTO: JAN POTGIETER

USA Ambassador asks UJ graduates: What do you have in your hands?

“WHAT IS IN your hands graduates? Surely you have more power in your hands. You are the most powerful generation that this world has ever known.” These inspiring words from US Ambassador to South Africa, Ambassador Patrick Gaspard, infused a standing ovation from Graduates at UJ on 22 May 2014.

Ambassador Patrick Gaspard accepted the honorary doctoral degree - Doctor Legum (Doctor of Laws) honoris causa – on behalf of President Barack Hussein Obama. UJ’s Faculty of Law conferred the honorary doctoral degree on President Obama in acknowledgement of his social and intellectual achievements that strengthen international diplomacy during the second graduation series, scheduled from 22 May to 11 June 2014.

In his frank and inspiring address to the audience, Ambassador Gaspard spoke about the fire of his righteous anger, saying: “I’m angry that too many of our brothers and sisters will never have the opportunity that you and I have had to pursue excellence. I’m angry that some of you will be turned away from meaningful employment because you don’t have the right relatives. I’m angry that there’s a radius of hunger from Detroit to Diepsloot.”

He urged the young graduates to use their degrees for the good of their communities and to roll up their sleeves to make a marked difference in the lives of those around them.

we live in. “Book printing, gunpowder and even the industrial revolution are the results of engineering. Steve Jobs hired John Sculley from PepsiCo with the legendary pitch, ‘Do you want to sell sugared water for the rest of your life? Or, do you want to come with me and change the world?’ Sculley went on to join Apple, one of the world’s biggest technology companies. The results were evident. So, yes, ‘Engineers do change the world!’”

Prof Immink concluded: “An engineer must be creative and be able to solve technical problems. To be an inventive engineer, you have to be willing to live with the bipolar feeling that either the problem at hand is too complicated or that you are just too dumb to solve it. An engineer must have an excellent education. To achieve excellence in engineering requires good governance in our academic institutions and beyond, and the freedom to conduct independent research. To the new engineers and scientists gathered together in this room, I’d like to say ‘Spread out over the world, and change it to a better one’. You can do it; your fellow engineers and scientists of the past have paved your way.”

This was the second honorary doctorate the University awarded this year. An honorary doctoral degree - Doctor Legum (Doctor of Laws) honoris causa was awarded on US President Barack Hussein Obama in acknowledgement of his social and intellectual achievements that strengthen international diplomacy in May 2014. US Ambassador to South-Africa, Ambassador Patrick Gaspard accepted the honorary doctorate on behalf of US President Obama. ❖

→ Link to story and videos:

www.uj.ac.za/EN/Newsroom/News/Pages/Digital-pioneer-Prof-Immink-inspires-UJ-engineering-graduates.aspx

He highlighted the power that our youth possess in a technologically advanced society. He said; “In one hand, you have degrees that say that you are indeed brilliant and beautiful. In your other hand many are even as I speak scrolling through your smartphones which concentrate more human capital in your hands than has ever been deployed in recorded history. What is in your hands? You could use your data to stream and watch yet again the attack Beyonce’s sister launched on Jay Z. You could go down that rabbit hole again. Or you might combine that law degree and smartphone and create a tool that completely changes the interface and accountability between civil society and government. What is in your hands?” ❖

YOU ARE THE MOST POWERFUL GENERATION THAT THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN

