



## From the Director's Desk



As 2022 draws to a close I want to take the opportunity to look back on a year that turned out much differently than anyone could have imagined. While it was and still is, certainly challenging in many ways, it also showed how strong we are as a University – even in the toughest of times. We took pride in the fact that when the pandemic brought the world to a halt and forced us to keep our distance from family, friends and one another, the work we did helped us stay connected and made the difficult times hopefully a little easier.

The reliability of the service we provide at CEA and the quality of the content we offer defines us. We rose to the challenge. Our networks and platforms passed the test, and we proved to be both robust and extremely flexible in the face of change. I'm proud to say that while 2020/21 might have slowed us down, it certainly didn't stop us. This year we completed our online testing successfully, saw wonderful staff achievements, bid farewell to our data system manager Ashley and worked on our projects in a time when we were forced to adapt to very adverse circumstances.

I missed the energy of being in a room together with a group of colleagues and having the opportunity to share with them and learn from each other. The reality now is that we have returned to the office and you've all shown what we can achieve when we work and think as a team, even when we can't be together physically.

So, I want to thank you all for the hard work and commitment you've shown over the past year. Our combined strength is what makes us successful as a department. I hope that when you're celebrating the holidays with friends and family that you look back on the year with the same sense of accomplishment that we all should feel.

I wish you and your families all a happy holiday season.

Naziema Jappie

# Featured articles: Visitors

The Centre for Educational Assessments welcomes national and international visitors who want to explore the possibilities of collaborating with the department. The department encourages these visits and considers hosting delegations as an excellent way of building meaningful and productive relationships.

## Rutgers delegation



CEA received delegations from Rutgers, The state university of New Jersey in August 2022. The delegation from Rutgers were hosted by CEA management at UCT. The visits aim at cementing an existing relationships and promote collaboration where discussions focused on the importance of assessment and how to deal with barriers in assessments and ensure inclusiveness.

## Walter Sisulu University delegation



CEA received delegations from Walter Sisulu University (WSU) in September 2022. The delegation from WSU were hosted by CEA Research and Development Team at UCT. The delegates attended a workshop on 'How to design and develop placement tests'. The workshop was extremely informative with highly knowledgeable guides on test development cycle, developing diagnostic assessments as well as understanding student's needs.

# Featured articles: Woman's Month Celebration

The Centre for Educational Assessments established Women's Month Celebration by profiling women in our department where they share stories and the journey in the field of work. We are celebrating women of our time and create a keepsake for the young and upcoming female in Educational Assessments.



## I am Precious Mudavanhu

*“Encouraging each other that being a woman doesn’t mean that one is limited. There are a lot of opportunities out there for women and one who is determined to achieve their goals will do so even in the face of opposition.”*

I am married with 3 girls. I studied Computer Science and Statistics, but I majored with statistics. I am currently working as a Statistician. I like participating in sporting activities like tennis and basketball. I am a devoted Christian and believe in the ministry of reconciliation given to us by the Lord Jesus. I participate in church and personal outreaches for the furtherance of the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

***I got into this career because*** growing up my strength has always been in mathematics, and I enjoy doing Mathematics. I chose statistics specifically because that the branch of Mathematics I enjoyed the most and enjoyed working the data and Statistical software’s.

***A typical “day in my work life” would be*** I usually start off my day with checking and responding to emails, outstanding items as well as high priority items.

***What I love most about my field is*** working with data and getting insights from the data.

***One thing people don’t realise (myth/surprised to learn) about my career field is*** working with data is trick but easy. Anyone can manipulate, and analyse data, however it might not be the right way to work with that data, and one might end up misinterpreting the results.

***One of the biggest career highlights for me*** when I was promoted to a project leader. It was a huge responsibility, but I enjoyed doing it and learnt a lot from the experience.

***My biggest goal/dream is*** to become a data scientist.

***I would love to see more women in my field because*** it’s not labor intensive, can work remotely which takes away some of challenges that women face is some field where they work long hours, and in nonflexible environments and missing out on their roles as mothers and wives.



***My advice for women wanting to enter this field*** there are no limitations, and there are a lot of opportunities. The field is very broad you can find your own space.

***We need more women in this field because*** it's a field open to anyone who loves it.

***One thing this industry/fields needs more of is*** free software's that enables anyone at home to play around with data early enough

***I believe mentorship is*** key to success because it helps one streamline their career early enough

***One way I think women can help each other more is*** encouraging each other that being a woman doesn't mean that one is limited. There are a lot of opportunities out there for women and one who is determined to achieve their goals will do so even in the face of opposition.

***One way business and corporates can help women in this field*** more bursaries and internships

***One thing I wish I knew when I started*** should have not majored only in Statistics, but should have put more time and effort in computer science because they are a great combination in the field



***I am most passionate about*** seeing young girls especially those that feel like they have made the biggest mistake of their lives come out of their situations and become successful

# Featured articles: CEA Employee Spotlight

Centre for Educational Assessments' employee spotlights feature is a great way to share our employees' stories. CEA use the employee spotlight posts as a way to showcase our employees and give them a voice in our Department, while creating a sense of community by allowing our employees to share what they do on a daily basis.

*I am  
Juandre Alard  
Logistics Project Assistant*



*“One thing that I wish people knew about my job is that we work very hard and not afraid to go the extra mile”*

I have been in CEA for Ten (10) Years, I don't have much to say about the culture but what I can say about the department is that I have learnt so much in the time that I have been part of the team. I enjoy what I do in my job specifically my specialty of work.

We are a team of woman, mothers and wives that come from different age groups and different opinions, however we work well together as a team and get the job done during our busy times of the year. I am also the youngest among the staff members.

Our biggest accomplishments as a team is that we work very well together and we always strive to do our best at our job and push through regardless of the situations and even when time is against us.

My role has not evolved at all but my responsibilities has evolved. So far I have not managed to do any courses that I wanted to but in my daily job I have grown in what I do and the

ways in which I approach things regarding my job, professionalism, confidence etc.

*My three wishes are Peace, Prosperity and to live in a crimeless world.*

*One thing on my bucket list is to travel around the world with my husband*

*I am  
Shaunda Swarts  
Logistics Project Assistant*



*“Growing with the team is my biggest accomplishments”*

I have been with CEA since 2013. Nothing unique for working for the department, and the job is stressful. However, the logistics team is awesome and I have grown with the team but not professionally.

My role evolved over time with additional responsibility on the online testing which were added as part of my key performance areas.

*My wish is to explore other faculty/department for professional growth.*

# Featured articles: CEA Employee Spotlight

*I am  
Carol Harrington  
Logistics Project Assistant*



*“My inspirations is people that treat others with respect”*

I have been with CEA for the last 13 years. CEA culture is amazing and the most unique part about working for CEA is to be part of the journey of future academics. The team is amazing and the biggest accomplishments with the team is that we do meet our deadlines every single time.

My role evolved over time, we all got a lot of more responsibilities. I have grown professionally and I learned a lot about myself and my behaviour.

One thing that I wish people knew about my job is how we work together as a team

*My three wishes are happiness, health and to help other people.*

*One thing on my bucket list is to travel the world.*

*I am  
Melissa Peters  
Logistics Project Assistant*



*“I’ve learnt a lot from my teammates and grew with them as we are a bunch of powerful woman”*

I have been with CEA for 13 years. There is nothing unique about working for CEA. However the Logistic Team is amazing you will not find another team like us!!!

The biggest accomplishments is growing together as a team. My role evolved over time and we now have hybrid testing.

Professionally I’ve learnt a lot from my teammates and grew with them as we are a bunch of powerful woman.

One thing I wish people knew about my job is how pressurizing and stressful it can be.

*My wish is to explore another Faculty/Department*

*One thing on my bucket list is to go overseas*

# Featured articles: CEA Employee Spotlight

I am  
**Rachelle Hanslo**  
*Logistics Project Assistant*



*“My biggest accomplishments with the team is the ability to consistently meet deadlines.”*

I have been working at CEA for 13 years. The most unique part about working for the department is dealing with online testing, as well as pen and paper testing. My biggest accomplishments with the team is the ability to consistently meet deadlines.

My role in and of itself has not changed, whilst I've learnt a great deal during my 13 years. My favorite benefits is discounted tuition for my daughter.

I have grown professionally in which my confidence when dealing with our customers has increased, and I've been able to improve my Excel skills.

The one thing that I wish people knew about my job is that I don't think people grasp just how stressful my job is. There's a difference between making it look easy, and it actually being easy.

My three wishes are;

- Legitimate camaraderie, honesty, and mutual respect in the workplace
- To live in a world where there is no crime.
- Going overseas, specifically Paris and Rome 😊

One thing on my bucket list is going mountain climbing

# Featured articles: Staff news

## Staff Return to Campus Meeting

CEA hosted a return to work welcome meeting. Staff embraced the lessons learned from remote working and looked forward to the reality of returning back to office working.

The department continues to adhere to the best reasonably practicable strategies that mitigate the spread of the virus and implement containment strategies of cluster outbreaks.



## Staff Strategic Day Away

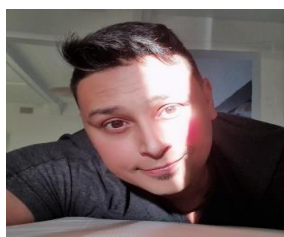


### CEA Team held its 2023 strategic Day away in October 2022.

The team used the day away to strengthen its objectives, coming up with new strategic plans to improve the department's services and acknowledging and celebrating milestones as well as coming up with strategies that ensures more milestones in the near future.

Additional communications and marketing as well stakeholder engagement will follow to convey the department's services through different mediums.

## FAREWELL ASHLEY HATTINGH-NIEKERK



CEA staff bid farewell to Ashley Hattingh-Niekerk (Data Systems Manager) who left the department at the end of October 2022. Ashley has been an important part of our Department's success, and we wish him well in his Future Opportunities!





[#CEADMISRSSymposium2022](#): The Centre for Educational Assessments hosted its 5th Diagnostic Mathematics Information for Student Retention and Success (DMISRS) Symposium.

The theme of the symposium was “**What does it take to teach Mathematics for and in higher education?**”  
The Symposium was attended by experts from different universities and contributed to the community of practice.

For more details about DMISRS Project follow this link: <http://dmisrs.co.za/>



## Conferences


CEA staff, Tatiana Sango, Math Lead and Precious Mudavanhu, Statistician attended IACAT Conference held in Germany from 20 to 22, September 2022.

They jointly presented on “*Investigating feasibility of Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) for NBT Mathematics assessment*” which is part of their ongoing research on Computer Adaptive Testing from the National Benchmark Mathematics Testing.





CEA Host Monthly Brown Bag Seminar to discuss commonalities in teaching, learning, assessment, and research.



**CEA**  
Centre for Educational Assessments


The Centre for Educational Assessments at UCT cordially invites you to a Brown Bag Lunch Series on:

**Academic literacy demands in mathematics problem-solving:  
Polya's strategy through the AL lens**

Joint Seminar Offered by Sanet Steyn and Tatiana Sango

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS (CEA),  
CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (CHED), UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Date: 19 August 2022  
Time: 13:00 - 14:00 AM  
Venue: TEAMS (Join on your computer or mobile app)  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)



**CEA**  
Centre for Educational Assessments

The Centre for Educational Assessments at UCT cordially invites you to a Brown Bag Lunch Series on:

**Investigating feasibility of Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) for NBT Mathematics assessment**

Joint Seminar Offered by Tatiana Sango and Precious Mudavanhu

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS (CEA),  
CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (CHED), UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Date: 28 October 2022  
Time: 13:00 - 14:00 AM  
Venue: TEAMS (Join on your computer or mobile app)  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)



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