

Twins are top of civil engineering class

Twins Tercia and Talia da Silva proved that engineering is no longer a man's world when they received their BEng degrees cum laude in April 2010. According to Prof Elsabé Kearsley, head of the Department of Civil Engineering, the top five students who graduated in 2010 were all women, and all passed with distinction.

They performed well throughout their four years of study, with Talia's average being a fraction higher than her sister's. This earned her the Vice-Chancellor and Principal's medal for the best student in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology. She was also the first female student in the history of the faculty to have received this honour.

In addition, Talia also received the medal of the Engineering Council of South Africa for the most outstanding achievement in the final year of study in civil engineering, the Stewart Scott International Prize for the most innovative research project of a final-year student in civil engineering, the BKS-DW de Vos

medal for the best achievement in the final year, the prize of the South African Institute for Steel Construction for the best steel design and the ITS Prize for the best student in transportation planning.

She also received the Eskom Academic Award for being the top academic student out of all South African universities, having obtained the highest average marks during the final year of a four-year engineering degree relevant to Eskom.

Talia is currently employed by Jones and Wagner Consulting Engineering in Johannesburg, while Tercia works in the geotechnical department of BKS Consulting Engineers in Pretoria.



→ Twin sisters Talia and Tercia da Silva were among the top five students in the civil engineering class who graduated from the University of Pretoria cum laude in April 2010.