

1. Institute Timeline

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen

On being asked to give a speech this morning, I thought it would be apt to call upon the salient points regarding the history of Saint and its illustrious council members seeing that this Institute is now 50 years old this year.

The introduction of NDT to South Africa can be traced back to the late 1940's when the 1st isotope was imported into the country.

During the late 1960's, a number of companies and individuals found it necessary to combine their efforts to promote NDT here, and this led to the formation of the South African Association for Non-destructive Testing.

The inaugural meeting, during which the first council was elected, was held on the 24th September 1968 at the SABS in Pretoria, with the 1st council meeting following on the 19th November.

In 1981, in line with other recognised professional bodies, the name was changed to the South African Institute for NDT.

The SABS and the AEC provided the foundation and were the early drivers of Saint with council meetings being held at:

- Λ Old Johanians Golf Club,
- Λ H. Rohloff in Wynburg,
- Λ SABS – Pretoria,
- Λ Indserve,
- Λ Eskom,
- Λ Sande,
- Λ Andtc,
- Λ Helvetia House,
- Λ and, at our current home, the CSIR.

2. Milestones

Some of the milestones that Saint achieved were -

In 1969/1970, Saint approached the Pretoria Technicon to facilitate NDT training with the 1st National Diploma for NDT being conceptualised thereafter.

Industry remarked that it would take too long for technicians to be placed into the field which led the Technicon to then go to the Dept. Higher Education and Training and ask for permission to offer the diploma courses as a standalone short course in UT and RT for a period of 3 years.

Permission was granted and this specific training ceased in 1988 after approximately 2500 RT technicians and 2200 UT technicians were trained.

Is there anyone in this room who is an alumnus of this particular training?

There were discussions during the 70's and even up to the 80's for Saint to join the SA Institute of Welding. There were many differences of opinion from likeminded individuals who are passionate about their business. Heated discussions ensued of which personal certification was the mischief-maker.

What has changed may I ask?

In fact, NDT is maintained as a working group within the IIW and, as you know NDT, has always been interlinked with welding but remains unexclusive as there are other material manufacturing processes to consider.

The creation of the Professional Body can also be added as an important milestone as it is functioning well despite increased opposition.

3. Chairmen and Council

Some information that I thought that you might find of interest....

The first ever chairman of the institute was Pieter Scribante. He was one of the Pioneers, a Visionary and a supporter of stand- alone science.

You could call Doctor Whitey Basson, NDT technology's right hand man, as he represented the Atomic Energy Corporation regarding the peaceful application of Ionising Radiation. He was also a pioneer in radiation safety and the safe use of isotopes.

Hasso Reisener, Bernd Rohloff and Henry de Lange were also instrumental in laying down the original foundations of the institute.

Chris Smallbone realised the need for an independent examination system which brought about the creation of SAQCC with the ensuing creation of the 3 NDT Levels.

Some chairmen did not preside over tea and biscuits council meetings all of the time. One apparently often opened a bottle of brandy and stepped on the cap thereby signalling it had to be consumed before everyone could depart from the meeting. It is alleged that another, usually stopped at a friend's house on the way home, got stuck into the friend's whiskey and had to sleep over until the next day.

It is unsure when the title of chairman changed to president, but I think it is still an honour to hold the title of either.

Another past president, Felix Chembe has been the first and only person of colour to be elected and the only who holds a MSC degree in NDT. Felix drove and facilitated the 1st National NDT conference that was held at the CSIR.

One president took part in the first and last flag parade, ala Olympics style in a casino during the Las Vegas world conference. This same president has been the longest running or serving on council.

Another interesting fact is that SAINT roots possess a German influence as Willie Vogel, Hasso Reisener and Heinz Rohloff all spent time in South African internment camps during WW2.

The longest council meeting took place over 3 days. The members were revising SAQCC multiple choice exam questions with these members being present – Eric Guest, Brian Rufus, Lew Wells and Robert Chaix.

The most dapper President was Alain Clavier in full feather with the scruffiest being the one that came to meetings in his overalls straight from site smelling of penetrant and mag particle fumes.

Other secretaries of note:

Arian Rohloff (Berndt's wife)

Stan Bottom

Neels van Tonder

Neville Budd (manager/office administrator - who established the original Images newsletter)

There is one council member among us who has been with us for the past 30 years, Robin Marshall.

4. Council Personalities

An enormous amount of time and effort was spent then, in establishing and promoting training in NDT. This ultimately led to the creation of the SAQCC.

Different interest groups were created that enjoyed various degrees of success.

Some of the past council members as well as Conference organising committee members hailed from various parts of the British Isles and witnessing their mutual dissension towards each other must have been entertaining at times, especially when the choice of a colourful language proved to be too much for some of the other participants.

Throughout the years, Saint council members strived to meet the Institute's objectives that they had set themselves and this work continues to this day.

5. Noteworthy Events

I am proud of the fact that we published 2 yearbooks during the past 5 years.

19th WCNDT Durban

In Amsterdam an idea began to germinate that South Africa could and should host a world NDT conference. The idea man was told that he was mad but was later offered an apology after the conference materialised.

In Montreal, there were 3 countries that had put in a bid for the 2012 world conference, England, Australia and us. Amanda van der Westhuizen (whose air ticket was sponsored by Afndt and Airbus) was the second woman ever to present a bid in front of the ICNDT Council. The use of the contents of one of a women's effective arsenal her tears, is widely thought to have been the ultimate weapon in garnering sufficient votes to win the bid.

We have held 2 national conferences - one at the CSIR and the other at Gallagher Estate and the 3rd one is being held here at the Accolades.

The Women in NDT conference during October 2016 was an enormous success and the following one is highly anticipated.

The addition of other awards to that of Reisener and H. Rohloff was an important decision. We are looking forward to handing these to the worthy recipients this evening at the gala dinner.

6. Thanks and Appreciation

Lastly, I wish to use this opportunity to thank all of the employers of the previous chairmen, presidents as well as council members for the sponsoring and/or financing their employees to attend conferences and meetings. Without these employers, Saint would not be where it is today.

Ours thanks go out to all the equipment suppliers who have made a footprint in Africa and that this footprint has assisted Saint in creating its own. They must also be lauded for bringing foreign experts to assist with training on new NDT technology.

The SAIW has always carried the cause of NDT to heart with Phil Santala and Chris Smallbone distinguishing that there is more to welding than just welding. Shaun Blake and Harold Jansen are also thanked for maintaining this unique synergy between Saint and their institute.

Chris Smallbone, Berndt Rohloff, Manfred Johannes and Robin were again invaluable in providing me with the material for this speech.

In closing, I salute our Saint forefathers who were a breed of their own - honest, hard-working men who stood for the NDT principles that we have adopted for ourselves today.

Thank you.

Keith Cain
SAINT President



SAINT - THE YESTE



SAINT - THE YESTE

INSTITUTE TIMELINE



SAANDT Council

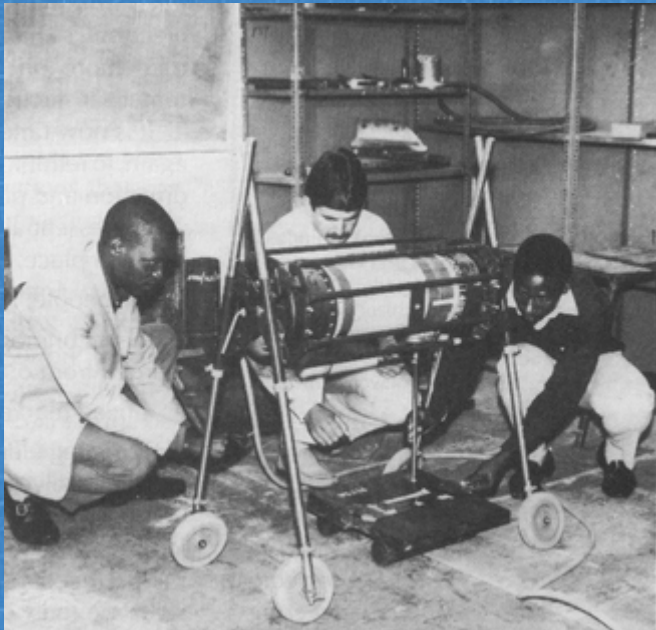
SAINT Council 2013



MILESTONES



SAIW Training of Disac
circa 1980's



CHAIRMEN & COUNCIL MEMBERS



P. Scribante, J.K. Basson

H.O. Reisener, P. Scribante, J.K. Basson

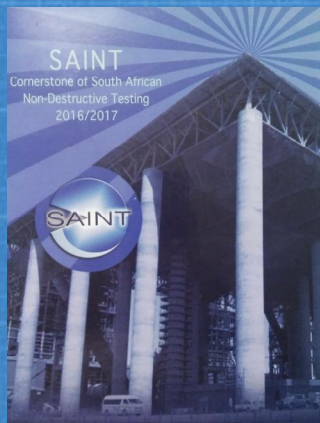
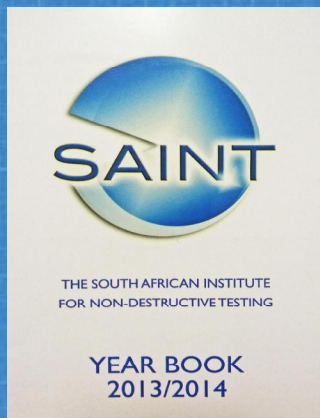


CHAIRMEN & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Marathon Meetings



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS



THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Everyday is a new
life to a wise man.

Dale Carnegie

