

The Leader

Newsletter of the School of Construction and Property Management

Issue Nr 33 - 21 February 2000

Research Day

On 3rd February, the school held its first Research Day. The event was well attended and the day started with Martin, Ghassan and Bob Wood setting the scene of how Research sits within the School and the Faculty. Professor Simon Marvin explained the SURF Project and the day continued with input on different aspects of Research - from writing bids, writing refereed papers, supervision of PhD students and a very complimentary presentation by Dilanthi Amaratunga on what it was like to be a PhD student in the School of Construction and Property Management (thanks Dilanthi!). The final discussion was on the RAE process. A big thank you to all who gave their time, when time is at a premium. There will be more Research Days, so if you missed this one - watch this space.

Mary Hamblett

FM Research Conference

On 19 January 2000 the School participated in the Conference entitled 'FM Research: More From the Leading Edge in the Industry', at Sheffield Hallam University.

Only seven papers were presented at this one day event and of these, two of our postgraduates, Dilanthi Amaratunga and Paul Featherstone, each presented their work in the facilities field. The papers were well received and stimulated some useful contacts for these two researchers.

David Baldry

Invitation to attend Internet module seminars.

The next module of our postgraduate IT Management MSc is delivering tutorials on 6 and 7 March. Members of the School are very welcome to attend sessions as they feel appropriate and beneficial to their School activities.

Ian Watson

Construction Productivity Network Presentation

John Hudson gave a presentation on briefing and initial design as part of a Construction Productivity Network Workshop on Design Processes for Lean Construction. The event was held on the 26th January at the Engineering Employer's Federation in London. Other presentations were given by speakers from Loughborough University, Cranfield University, W.S. Atkins Consultants, Sir Norman Foster & Partners and AMEC Construction. The theme was the collaborative research into the design process coming out of projects funded under the LINK and PIT schemes. There were approximately 80 delegates, mainly from construction firms and professional practices, and a lively debate ensued.

John Hudson

Postgrad News

We would like to welcome Mr Khairuddin Sulaiman to the School. Khairuddin is a PhD research student. His research topic is: "Obligations of the relevant professions in ensuring the safety and welfare of on-site construction workers". Khairuddin will be based in the Postgrad Room, Bridgewater, and his supervisor is Dr Peter McDermott.

Sandra Heyworth

Diary Dates for Next Fortnight

Tuesday 22 Feb -Tech Exam Board

Friday 25 Feb -Construction Management Board

Wednesday 1 March - Teaching & Learning Committee

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EPSRC Funding

EPSRC have confirmed funding of £316,756 (including industry input) over a period of two years for a project entitled *More Productive Minor Construction through IT* (MOPMI T). Peter Barrett will act as principal investigator with Ming Sun replacing Ian Watson as co-investigator. The project will look at how simple and inexpensive IT and communications tools can lead to greatly enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of minor construction projects, and will provide an accessible knowledge management system for operational staff that enables them to work in a distributed way with high levels of autonomy.

We will shortly be advertising for two RA's to join the project team and welcome possibilities (within the next six months maximum) from your current projects or programmes. One should be (construction) process orientated, the other IT solutions orientated.

Ali Mills
MOPMI T Project Administrator

ESRC/EPSC Funding

Further to recent application, SURFACE (the access lot) and Ghassan have successfully got through to the second round of an ESRC/EPSC joint initiative under the *People at the Centre of Communication and Information Technologies* (PACCI T) Programme.

The focus of the bid is 'The Impact of Teleworking on the Development of Social Inclusion for People with Disabilities', and will be submitted on 20 March 2000. It is an exciting opportunity to link the work on access to the IT focus within the School. It now just needs some serious hard work!

Rita Newton

Worcester School Talk

Catherine Williamson teamed up with Martin Betts to present construction as a viable career at Worcester Grammar school. Catherine graduated from our Construction Management course six months ago and currently works as Design Co-ordinator for Kvaerner, handling £60m budgets on city centre projects. Catherine gave a case study of her career to date, and her personal gains from choosing a career in this industry.

Sue Buckley

Undergraduate Recruitment Day

On 1 March 2000 the School is holding another Undergraduate Recruitment Day in which prospective students, often with their parents, are invited to presentations and interviews.

There is a very pressing need to considerably improve our recruitment for the 2000 entry. The candidates who attend on these days have all chosen their intended study programme and are now going through the process of selecting a University to attend.

It is important to maximise the impact on the day and to make our School the first choice for these candidate; I will circulate an e.mail highlighting some things we should be focusing on, for example:

- Taking the opportunity to talk informally to these prospects.
- Providing material from a research, teaching and enterprise perspective which could be displayed in the Bridgewater Foyer.

Your participation in the above would be greatly appreciated.

David Baldry

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This newsletter is for the School, about the School and by the School. It would be good to get input to this from anyone with information to share. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newsletter please do so through Rachael Rogan on 55334 or r.rogan@salford.ac.uk