Welcome to the September issue of the Property, Construction and Project Management ‘School News’. This is a bi-monthly newsletter covering the activities of the school in the community, industry, academia and research.

2011 has seen a successful start to the year with many great achievements for our students and staff. This newsletter is designed as a forum to celebrate these achievements, welcome new staff and provide an overview of the latest school news. The newsletter will be published bi-monthly and is designed with staff, students and industry in mind. I would like to congratulate everybody on their achievements so far this year and look forward to many more to come.

RESEARCH SEMINARS
RMIT University has a strong record of excellence and innovation in research and industry engagement. The school of Property, Construction and Project Management (PCPM) is hosting a series of free “Research Lunch Seminars” on innovative research techniques. The Wednesday lunchtime seminars started on Wednesday July 20th 2011 and will run on a weekly basis from 12:30pm - 1:30pm. The seminars are held in the PCPM Conference room - City Campus Building 8, Level 8, Room 13. Lunch is provided.

The PCPM research seminars have been structured around ‘research methods’ with the application to conducting applied research. The series will cover a number of methods (qualitative and quantitative) applied to data collection and data analysis in PCPM related disciplines.

These seminars provide an excellent forum for the school and industry to share knowledge on research techniques. The application to projects and implications for the wider community will be discussed. Industry are invited to attend these seminars (if you are interested please contact the editor). RICS members will be pleased to hear the seminars have been granted CPD status.

Upcoming Seminars
07/09/2011 John Garimort: Valuation Methods of Infrastructure
14/09/2011 David Higgins: Analysing Property Fund Data
21/09/2011 Peter Wong: Multivariate Data Analysis
28/09/2011 Frank Boukamp: Design Communication Ontologies

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Community
Three Peaks Race Easter 2011
Master of Project Management Program Director Dr. Neville Boyd crewed on the winning Melbourne-based catamaran “Peccadillo,” (skippered by Dr. Charles Meredith of Biosis Research) in the Australian Three Peaks Race, held by the Port Dalrymple Yacht Club, Tasmania each year since 1987.

The race involves a crew of four sailors, two runners and a land support team and it is a non-stop event, commencing at Beauty Point just north of Launceston on the Tamar River and finishing in Hobart on the Derwent River. En-route, teams have to scale:
- Mt Strzelecki (SAILING DISTANCE: 90 nms; RUN: 65 kms; ASCENT: 756 m),
- Mt Freycinet (SAILING DISTANCE: 145 nms; RUN: 35 kms; ASCENT: 620 m), and
- Mt Wellington (SAILING DISTANCE: 100 nms; RUN: 33 kms; ASCENT: 1270 m).

Celebrating Success
Project Management Team Building Cooking Class

The Project Management team celebrated the following achievements Guinevere’s PhD, Michelle and Derek ARCOM Papers and upcoming trip to UK, the Khalfan family’s new born baby and Guillermo’s key note and Elim and Nicole’s hard work. The PM team are going to run a lot of new courses next year and still have to work together to finalise the year 4 curriculum. This is all exciting and challenging and Program Director Dr Tayyab Maqsood says “We will need all of you on board working as a team to deliver this in the best way possible under whatever constraints we have got and I look forward to it very positively.”

New Arrivals
We congratulate the new parents in our school...

- Marsha and Anthony Lamb welcomed Aidan Timothy Lamb into the world 6th March 2011.
- Helen Lingard and Michael Kalinowski welcomed Emily Rose Lingard into the world 14th June 2011.
- Sheila and Tony Levett on their first Great Grandchild Mason Maxwell born 20th August 2011.
- Malik and Ambreen Khalfan welcomed Shaayan Azhar Malik Khalfan into the world 11th September 2011.
Student Success Stories
Jessica Siva PhD Student awarded a scholarship to Participate in the 2011 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers’ School

Jessica Siva, a PhD student in the School of Property, Construction and Project Management was awarded a scholarship to participate in the 2011 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers’ School (YRS). Following the success of the first YRS held in RMIT Vietnam in 2010, the 2011 YRS is an interdisciplinary intensive school to be held in Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan from 1-12 August under the theme of ‘Learning from Japan’s Experience on Urban Sustainability’. UNU-IAS is part of the United Nations University (UNU) system, comprised of a network of Research and Training Centres and Programmes assisted by associated and cooperating institutions and scholars. We congratulate Jess on a fine effort in a competitive field and wish her well!

RMIT CIB Student Chapter
The CIB Student Chapter Committee recently approved the establishment of a CIB Student Chapter at the RMIT PCPM.

The RMIT CIB Student Chapter seeks to provide a support network for postgrad and undergrad students in the dissemination and Sharing of research interests, skills, experiences and capabilities. It also serves as a platform to showcase the research identity, work and activities of its members and to engage with the wider academic community and industry. The Student Chapter Advisors are Prof. Kerry London, Dr. Tayyab Maqsood and Dr. Malik Khalfan. Membership of the RMIT Student Chapter is open to all postgrad and undergrad students (Honours level) involved with research-based activities. Members must: be currently enrolled in a postgrad/undergrad degree and have an interest in research areas related to the built environment, actively participate in the Student Chapter’s events and activities

Doctorate Completions
Congratulations to the following Higher Degree by Research students who have completed their Doctorate programs:
• Charles MacDonald (Doctor of Project Management)
• Ehsan Gharai (PhD PCPM)
• Justin Fidock (PhD PCPM)

Staff Awards
Francis Ormond Medal was awarded to Mr Ian McBean for his commitment, dedication and exceptional service to the University.

The Francis Ormond Medal is awarded to a member of academic or general staff of the University who has served the University with distinction or has given meritorious service which has not been recognized by the University by the award of an honorary degree or appointment to a senior management position within the University.

Assoc Prof David Higgins was awarded RMIT’s Visiting Researcher's Award.
Employer of Choice Program
The Employer of Choice Program is up and running with members of Industry partnering with RMIT in the following ways:
• Graduate Positions
• Student Placements
• Part-time ongoing roles for Undergraduates
• Full-time ongoing/contract roles for Postgraduates
• Thesis Experts (Undergraduate students in all Disciplines)
• Research - Grants, External Panel Members etc.
• Professional Development
• Industry Events
• Research Seminars
• Industry Opportunity Seminars
• Other Industry Connections
The Employer of Choice Program is also online
Twitter: @EmployerOfChoic
Facebook: employerofchoicepcpm@rmit.edu.au
Blog: http://rmitpcpmemployerofchoiceprogram.blogspot.com/
We welcome our new Employer’s of Choice and look forward to an ongoing, fruitful partnership in the future.

Events
RMIT PCPM hosted the annual API Young Property Professionals Careers Night

The API YPP held their annual Careers night in RMIT PCPM's Student Lounge. The event was held the night of Friday 29th July and by all accounts was a great success.

RMIT Open Day
Open day was very successful and well attended. Many prospective students and their parents and friends attended to look at the School and ask questions. The first three to four hours were particularly busy. Thanks to the admin staff and School Manager for preparing the materials and helping to set up on Friday.

RMIT PCPM Postgrad Info Session
Wednesday 19th October 2011
Building 8, Level 8, Rm 13
Register to attend www.rmit.edu.au/postgrad

RMIT PCPM Awards Night
20th October 2011 Eureka Tower
The Upcoming awards night will see students awarded for the highest GPA for each year level in each Program for 2010, the best 4th year Research Project Poster for each discipline and Industry awards will be given out including
• The Nucara Family award for the Property or Valuation student entering education at RMIT who needs to relocate from their principle residence in a regional area
• The Buxton Award for the student who achieved the highest overall results in the first year of the Construction Management program.
• The API Award for the Property or Valuation student who achieved the highest GPA in 3rd Year,
• The AIB Award for the Construction Management student who achieved the highest GPA in 4th year,
Invitations will be sent shortly.

Welcome New Staff
RMIT PCPM would like to welcome the new members of our team
• Dr. Jin Woo (Construction Management)
• Assoc Prof. Larry Bellamy (Construction Management)
• Dr Peter S. P. Wong (Construction Management)
• Prof Kerry London (Project Management)
• Ms. Mai Chaing (Finance Manager)
• Ms. Elima Finlay (Program Admin - Research and Industry Liaison)
Research News

The Academic staff at Property, Construction and Project Management have been busy conducting meaningful Research with some great results - here is a snapshot of a few of our achievements to date:

- Tracy Cook (PhD Student and Staff member) won best paper by a PhD student at the 2011 ARCOM conference (Association of Researchers in Construction Management) held at the University of the West of England, Bristol, UK. Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th September 2011.

- Prof Helen Lingard, Assoc Prof Nick Blismas and Tracy Cook (PhD Student) also won best paper of the Conference at ARCOM 2011

- Prof Ron Wakefield gave an invited keynote address at the CIB W099 conference on Safety in Construction in Washington DC titled “Research to Practice and Practice to Research - the RMIT experience” on August 25th

- Prof Kerry London did an invited Keynote at a conference in Dalian, China for Applied Economics Disciplines. The conference was the 2011 International Symposium on Applied Economics held in August. The annual ISAEBD 2011 conference provides a forum for engineers, and scientists from academic, industrial and governmental fields to address profound issues including technical safety, social, legal, political, and economic issues and to present their ideas, results, works in progress and experiences on all aspects of Applied Economics, Business and Urban and Regional Development. The Keynote topic was: “Industry-Academic Linkages: Creating and Maintaining Research Collaborations”. As a result Prof London has been invited to do another in Beijing by the Beijing Development Council in conjunction with Beijing University in 2012.

- Dr Usha Iyer-Raniga was the Reviewer for the Building Simulation Conference 2011, ERA A ranked Conference, co-hosted by IBPSA Australasia, an affiliate of the International Building Performance Simulation Association and the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air-conditioning and Heating, Australia’s peak body for the HVAC industry.

- Dr Iyer-Raniga was also the reviewer for EDG Notes produced by the Australian Institute of Architect and the reviewer for the Journal Historic Environment (HE) ERA A ranked journal, which brings together dynamic, critical interdisciplinary research in the field of cultural heritage and heritage conservation. Organising Committee Member, Association of Building Sustainability Assessor Conference (ABSA)2011 Conference.

- Dr Guillermo Aranda-Mena is the convenor of the school’s Research weekly seminars mentioned on page 1 of this newsletter. He is also Regional Australasia Editor for FACILITIES and A ranked research journal and has been invited as keynote speaker to the IBEA International Conference London

- Prof Derek Walker received an ARC Grant for the paper “Maximising the value of alliances in delivering infrastructure projects: a mixed methods management study of procurement innovation”. ARC linkage grant with QUT as Administering partner. The RMIT budget is $230,000 and the QUT budget is $328,000 over 3 years. Professor Walker is the CI from the RMIT side with the Alliancing Association of Australasia (AAA) as the industry partner. Dr Karen Manley from QUT is the other CI.

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Content to be sent to the editor by the end of October

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