Welcome to the January 2013 issue of the Property, Construction and Project Management ‘School News’.

Message from the Head of School...
Happy New Year. I wish you all the best for your endeavours in 2013.

2012 was a very busy year for the School in both research and teaching and enrolments for this year over all programs suggest it will be the same for 2013.

I would like to draw your attention to some highlights for 2012 that are reported in this issue. The first is the promotions round which resulted in us having two new Associate Professors in the School - Dr. Guillermo Aranda-Mena and Dr. Tayyab Maqsood. This is a great achievement and is a recognition of their contributions to the University and our professions.

Professor Helen Lingard and Associate Professor Nick Blishmas both had further success in the two ARC Linkage grant rounds continuing their impressive track records in category 1 competitive grants. Professor Kerry London, Associate Professor Tayyab Maqsood and Dr. Malik Khalfan were successful in receiving an EPA Waste Management grant. Professor Derek Walker continues his success in receiving grant support for his research from the Project Management Institute. Associate Professor David Higgins received a grant from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. Our first category 1 research grant in the property area.

Staff have also been successful in attracting industry support for their work. Towards the end of 2012 the Excellence in Research Australia rankings were announced. In the Field of Research Category 1202 (Building), RMIT was ranked at four star (out of a possible five) which indicates research at “Above World Standard”. This was equal highest with University of New South Wales in this category and means we are the equal top ranked research program in building nationally. We are very proud of this achievement.

Our awards night in October, 2012 was a great success and we are most grateful for the continued support of industry in sponsoring these awards. Highlights of this evening follow. Our growing partnership with industry provides a valuable resource for all our students and is also of great benefit to our academic staff. It is also a measure of our students industry readiness.

An exciting development for the School is the establishment of the RMIT Construction Work Health and Safety Centre. This Centre will focus on research that will significantly improve the health, safety and wellbeing of workers in the construction industry.

Professor Helen Lingard is the Director of the Centre. I shall look forward to an exciting 2013 and to working with you in teaching, learning and research in Property, Construction and Project Management.

- Ron Wakefield
POSTER AWARDS

RICS POSTER AWARD
Best Construction Management Poster
Presented by: Robert Van Raay
Should LED lighting technologies be the choice for future green buildings?
• Robert Rimbaldo
• Jamil Molinaro
• Gideon Luber
• Sami Baroudi

API POSTER AWARD
Best Property and Valuation Poster
Presented by: Chris Munn
What is the impact of the introduction of the carbon tax on commercial office property values?
• Koden Colman
• Rorey James
• Dwayne Delmenico
• Matt Gillett

PMI POSTER AWARD
Best Project Management Poster
Presented by: Chi Keen Low
The influence online collaboration tools have on the global construction industry
• Michael Piercy
• Mark Italiano
• Clinton O’Connor
• Dominic Tedesco
LONG STANDING INDUSTRY AWARDS

FRED NUCARA AWARD
Awarded to the student in Property and Valuation entering education at RMIT who needs to relocate from their principal residence in a regional area.

Presented by Fred Nucara
Winner: Patrick Monaghan

BUXTON AWARD
Awarded to the student who achieved the highest overall results in the first year of the Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management) program

Presented by Daryl Marson
Winner: Stephanie Keary

AIB AWARD
Awarded to the Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management) student who achieved the highest cumulative GPA in 4th year

Presented by David Burnell
Winner: James Eddy
Prof Ron Wakefield accepting on James Eddy’s behalf
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Construction Management

First Year Winner
LU SIMON AWARD
Presented by Jim Moschoyiannis
Winner: Stephanie Keary

Second Year Winner
BUILT AWARD
Presented by Marcus Dollman
Winner: Mohd Faisal Adlan Abdul Aziz

Third Year Winner
PROBUILD AWARD
Presented by Peter Southwell
Winner: Aaron Gubieski

Fourth Year Winner
LU SIMON AWARD
Presented by Jim Moschoyiannis
Winner: Lip Ning Vincent Chan
Alvin Chin Syen Kho accepting on behalf of Lip Ning Vincent Chan

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Project Management
Two joint first year winners

Rio Tinto
First Year Winner
RIO TINTO AWARD
Presented by Adrien Guiraud
Winner: Brendan De Neef

PMI
Project Management Institute
Melbourne Chapter
First Year Winner
PMI AWARD
Presented by Nigam Vaid
Winner: David Simon (in absentia)

SKM
Third Year Winner
SKM AWARD
Presented by Adam McDonald
Winner: Michael Buckthought

RMIT
Second Year Winner
RMIT PCPM AWARD
Presented by Dr Tayyab Maqsood
Winner: Jessie Hodgkin
Three joint Fourth Year Winners

Fourth Year Winner
JONES LANG LA SALLE AWARD
Presented by Andrew Read
Winner: Giulia Berto

Fourth Year Winner
RMIT PCPM AWARD
Presented by Dr Tayyab Maqsood
Winner: Courtney Smith (in absentia)

Property

First Year Winner
MIRVAC AWARD
Presented by Glen Greening
Winner: Hannah Rose

Second Year Winner
MIRVAC AWARD
Presented by Kate Hilbert
Winner: Nathan Barresi (in absentia)
School News

Property, Construction and Project Management

Third Year Winner
OLIVER HUME AWARD
Presented by Andrew Perkins
Winner: Rorey James

Fourth Year Winner
GROWTHPOINT AWARD
Presented by Michael Green
Winner: Brittany Mullins

Valuation
Three joint First Year Winners

First Year Winners
RMIT PCPM AWARD
Presented by Prof Ron Wakefield
Winners: Rowan Llewellyn, Gene Ew & Wei Chien Lee

Second Year Winner
ERNST AND YOUNG AWARD
Presented by Ross Hamilton
Winner: Luke Guirguis

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Third Year Winner
MUNICIPAL GROUP OF VALUERS AWARD
Presented by Graham Brewer
Winner: Matthew Deledio

Three joint Fourth Year Winners

Fourth Year Winner
API AWARD
Presented by Stephen Andrew
Winner: Ilias Megas

Fourth Year Winner
RMIT PCPM AWARD
Presented by Prof Ron Wakefield (on behalf of Judith Callanan)
Winner: Ryan Mathieson (left) and Ty Winduss (right)
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
Stockland Ervin Graf Scholarship Award

Presented by: Brinn Tavener
2012 Winner: Mark Ham

Stockland Ervin Graf Scholarship Award - Each year, Stockland offers a scholarship to a high performing student studying the Bachelor of Applied Science (Property and Valuation) degree at RMIT. The Scholarship was created in honour of the late Ervin Graf who founded Stockland in 1952.

Recipients have the opportunity to gain insight into the day-to-day operation of the property investment and development industry. The program is designed to ensure our scholars have the flexibility to work around their study. The Scholarship consists of a monetary prize of $12,000 as well as one year casual paid work experience with Stockland across a range of their business.

Stockland has awarded a total of 7 scholarships, to date, with all recipients going on to receive full time employment with Stockland at the completion of their scholarship year.
INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

PCPM supports its Nordic research collaborators

During October and November Merja Airola from VTT Finland spent time at the school to further her research study on Project Alliances in Australia. VTT is the Finnish equivalent of CSIRO. Merja brought her husband and three daughters with her so that the family could experience a very different October, November to their usual routine. Her daughters were also able to make new friends with the children of several of our staff. She was joined by her co-researcher Dr Pertti Lahdenperä from VTT on the same research project in late October and he was with us until the second week of December. Finland and the Netherlands use project alliances as a procurement form but there has only been a few of these so VTT is over here interviewing subject matter experts and project alliance partners, using RMIT as their base, in WA, NSW as well as Victoria. Their research is in line with that undertaken by Professor Derek Walker and supply chain implications in construction that is of interest to Professor Kerry London, Dr Tayyab Maqsood and Dr Malik Khalfan. Following the same theme, Dr Mattias Jacobson from the University of Umea, Sweden is visiting us from Early November to late January 2013. He also has an interest in temporary organisations and project alliances and is collaborating on a case study with Professor Derek Walker. Dr Jacobson spent several months with PCPM in 2010 while completing his PhD thesis write up. Construction PM researchers across Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark are highly active in the PM field and are amongst the world’s leading researchers in PM. Mattias’ partner Anna who has a PhD and is a qualified medical doctor is undertaking research and writing papers with collaborators at the University of Melbourne.

EVENTS

2020 Vision: Lessons for the Built Environment

The Property & Valuation group has started the year with the first of its ‘Active Partnership’ conference series and will be an ongoing series of events to be held throughout the year. This conference series has been designed to continue to build on our existing relationships with the property and built environment industry. We look forward to a strengthening of the relationship between your skills and experience, and our knowledge.

The first event was held in the Swanston Academic Building with the theme of thinking beyond the immediate and spend time to focus on the dramatic changes that our society is likely to see within the near future.

The keynote speakers were Mr Michael McAllum, and The Hon. Tom Roper. Each provided a “Big Picture” framework for our individual session specialist presenters to fill in the details. The areas of focus for this event were:

- The Obsolescence of Sustainability
- The Other Mining Boom – Data Spatial Analysis – Future land supply
- Infrastructure: The Funding Debate.

For more information please refer to our website at http://www.rmit.edu.au/propertyconstruction/activepartnership or contact John Garimort on 99255027

This event was run as a parallel session to the PRRES (Pacific Rim Real Estate Society) conference which was also hosted by the Property & Valuation group and ran from the 13th to 16th January. For information on this event please refer to the PRRES website http://www.pres.net or contact Judith Callanan on 99252644.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Ellis Judson, an HDR student at PCPM, together with Assoc. Prof Sara J. Wilkinson at UTS are Guest Co-editors of a special Issue on Built Heritage and Sustainability for the ICOMOS Historic Environment journal (Vol 24, Issue 2, 2012). Included in the special issue is a paper written by Ellis, on Reconciling heritage significance and environmental performance.

Ellis Judson has been awarded a grant from the Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Education Trust in the UK for research on reconciling environmental performance and cultural heritage significance. Following completion the research will be published in Findings in Built and Rural Environments (FiBRE).

RMIT PCPM IN THE NEWS

PCPM alumni got to see the final product of a design and construction project which they started back in 2010 when joining an elective across schools of architecture and design and RMIT University Melbourne and Vietnam campuses. The assignment was to plan, design and document a Day Care Centre for 70 children with learning difficulties in the area of Hoi Ann, Vietnam. The leading lecturing team included Dr Guillermo Aranda-Mena from School of PCPM and Dr Esther Charlesworth from School of Architecture. Guest speakers during the intensive in-situ studio included, architects, researchers and planners from Australia and Vietnam. Two RMIT reports emerged from this project including: “Report on Sustainability Recommendations for the Dien Ban Care Centre” and “The RMIT Guide to Live Projects in Vietnam”. A short article on opening of this project was recently published on The Age (http://www.theage.com.au/national/architect-students-turn-plans-into-reality-to-aid-children-in-vietnam-20120409-1wI6v.html). For further information on “RMIT Live Projects” contact guillermo.arandamena@rmit.edu.au

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

ARC Linkage Grant Round 2

Congratulations to Prof Helen Lingard, Assoc Prof. Nick Blismas and Prof Ron Wakefield for receiving an ARC Linkage Grant for the project: “Safe and healthy construction procurement and project management practices”

Partner Organisations:
Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd
Port of Melbourne Corp
Victorian Department of Business and Innovation

Project Summary:
The project will measure the impact that the construction industry’s clients can exert over the workplace health and safety (WHS) performance of projects. The project will identify client actions that have a positive impact upon WHS and will help embed WHS management practices in the procurement of major infrastructure construction projects.

2012 Staff Awards

Congratulations to our award winners in the 2012 Teaching and Research Awards
• Prof Helen Lingard - Research Excellence Award
• Dr Ehsan Gharraie - Doctoral Research Excellence Award

New Research Centre Approved: RMIT Construction WHS Research Centre

Since 2006, in PCPM there has been a sizeable growth in competitive research funding, industry-sponsored contract research and post-graduate research student enrolment in the area of Work Health and Safety (WHS).
The establishment of the RMIT Construction WHS Research Centre formalises the significant programme of internationally recognised construction WHS research in the School. The mission of the Research Centre is to bring together researchers, including academic staff and HDR students, to collaborate in a programme of industry-focused research that significantly improves the health, safety and wellbeing of workers in the construction sector. The new Centre will facilitate:

- The development of significant new research opportunities that are likely to generate new research funding from the ARC, other government agencies, and the private sector;
- The attraction of an increasing number of research students;
- An increase in quantity of high quality research outputs; and the opportunity for Centre members to engage in collaborative and multi-disciplinary research ventures.

Staff promotions

Congratulations to Dr Guillermo Aranda-Mena, and Dr Tayyab Maqsood who have been promoted to Associate Professor. Dr Usha Iyer-Raniga was also promoted to Associate Professor earlier in 2012.

Welcome new staff

We would like to welcome the following new staff to the School:

- Dr. Mary Myla Andamon
  Research Interests: Building energy efficiency and environmental performance, Indoor environmental quality (IEQ) and thermal performance, Sustainable buildings
- Mr Andrew Carre
  Andrew will be undertaking a PhD with us in the Building Science area and teaching into our Construction Management Program
- Dr. Maged Georgy Basta
  Research Interests: Sustainability, IT and AI applications in project planning and management, Modelling simulation and optimisation, Risk analysis
- Dr. James Wong
  Research Interests: Building energy efficiency and environmental performance, Sustainable buildings

Employer of Choice Program

About the Employer of Choice Program

The ‘Employer of Choice’ Program is a mutually beneficial relationship between the School of Property, Construction and Project Management, registered industry employers and property, construction and project management students.

The Program is designed to offer students the opportunity to gain structured employment experiences within industry to enhance academic learning, and offer employers preferential access to students and greater knowledge of student capability and development throughout their education program.

Companies that have registered with the ‘Employer of Choice’ Program will have job opportunities advertised by the School, to ensure that students receive employment with employers that have an understanding of a structured work experience.

For more information on the Employer of Choice program visit http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=yx2akja1y1xp1 or email elima.pozenel@rmit.edu.au

Upcoming Events

Employers of Choice keep your eye out for invitations to present at the PCPM Careers Day and the Industry and Research Awards Night - we will be looking for Industry Experts for 2013 and Award Sponsors. Please email elima.pozenel@rmit.edu.au to register your interest.

Research News

Projects provide Value for Money for Infrastructure Development in Australia?, Joint CIB W070, W092 & TG72 International Conference 2012, South Africa, January 2012 (CD ROM)

- Dr Malik Khalfan - Third International conference on Construction in Developing Countries, – July 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand – July 2012 in Thailand – Organising committee member
- Dr Malik Khalfan - CIB W102 Information and Knowledge Management Conference in Las Vegas in Sept 2012 –Organizing Committee member
- Dr Malik Khalfan - ARCOM in Edinburgh in Sept 2012 – Scientific Committee Member
- Dr Khalfan is a Joint Guest Editor along with S Azhar and T Maqsood on special issue on BIM for Australian Journal of Construction Economics and Building in 2012
- Dr Malik Khalfan continues reviewing articles for Construction Innovation Journal in 2012.
- Dr Guillermo Aranda-Mena is to deliver a seminar at the Politecnico di Milano as part of an international conference “Cities in Transformation Research and Design”, Architectural Research Centers Consortium. The event is organised by EMERALD scientific publishers and the title of his seminar is “Guide to Getting Published”. Guillermo is the Australasia Regional Editor for FACILITIES an A-rated academic journal and the most downloaded journal of the 17 titles in the Emerald suite of Built Environment. For further information contact Guillermo at guillermo.aranda-mena@rmit.edu.au or go to http://www.emeraldinsight.com/authors/index.htm
- A series of academic research seminars by PCPM academic staff and PhD researchers successfully concluded on Wednesday 3rd October. The seminar series has become increasingly popular since its inception back in 2005 by convenor Dr Guillermo Aranda-Mena “the research lunch seminar was something we always had back during my PhD years at The University of Reading. Organised by my former Professors Will Hughes and Ranko Bon always ensured exchange of ideas and exposure to research outcomes and activities. Also to nurture a culture for research and interaction across staff, PhD researchers and industry.” The seminar series is to re-start in March- if interested in presenting Semester 2 2013 please contact pcpm.research@rmit.edu.au
- Siva, J. and London, K. (2011) “Governmentality of megaprojects: using social network analysis to investigate client decision-making in international construction” was awarded the International Construction Business Management Symposium 2011 Emerald Distinguished Paper Award
- Research Project: Beyond Waste project funded by the Environmental Protection Authority and project managed by Sustainability Victoria
  - Chief Researchers: Prof London, Assoc Prof Maqsood and Dr Khalfan
  - Project Team: Mr Rob Anderson, Peng Zhang and Jessica Siva
  - Funding: Environmental Protection Authority and project managed by Sustainability Victoria
  - Project Summary: The Beyond Waste Fund is a $1.35 million initiative over four years to help businesses reduce the waste sent to landfill by supporting innovations that reduce the waste generated from their daily operations.

Contact regarding the newsletter can be directed to Mrs Elimina Pozenel elimina.pozenel@rmit.edu.au

Content for the next article is due 22nd Feb 2013. Please email photos and news articles to elimina.pozenel@rmit.edu.au to be included in the March edition of the school newsletter.