Welcome to the January 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.

2012 is set to be a busy year with enrolments increasing over all programs and a new offshore program opening in Hong Kong later in the year. In the new year we have added a new section to our newsletter - Staff Member in Profile and HDR Student in profile - each issue will showcase a different staff member and Research student going through in alphabetical order so you can meet the people behind RMIT Property, Construction and Project Management. We look forward to working with you in 2012.

Employer of Choice Program
The Employer of Choice Program has set off to a good start for 2012. The following organisations are now partnering with RMIT PCPM.

AIB
API
Aquenta
Ashford Homes
Baulderstone
Bayside Construct
Beaurepaires
Blueprint Group Australia PTY LTD
Brookfield Multiplex
Built
Camson Homes
Charter Keck Cramer
City of Stonnington
Classic Projects
CNK Urban Projects PTY LTD
Colliers
Common Equity Housing LTD
Contexx

Contract Management Systems P/L
Cooke and Dowssett PTY LTD
Cosgraves Property Advisors
Davis Langdon
Donmar Constructions
Drapac
DTZ
EB Research
Egan National Valuers
Ernst and Young
Fisher Murphy Valuers
Fitzroys
GormanKelly
Growthpoint
Halcrow Pacific
Hay Property Group
Henley
Herron Todd White (Murray Outback) - Mildura
IB Constructions
Icon Construction
ISPT PTY LTD
J G King Projects
Jones Lang LaSalle
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Employer of Choice Program
(cont...)
Kae-One Property Group
Kliger Wood Real Estate P/L
Knight Frank Valuations
KPMG
Locandro Group
LU Simon Builders
M3 Property Group
MAB Corp
Matheson Stephen Valuations
Meinhardt Group
Mirvac
Moobi Group P/L
Montlaur
MPG Fund Management Ltd
MR Constructions Victoria
Muller Partnership
Natural Pools
Oliver Hume Real Estate Group
PMI
PNP Property Group
Projectum
Real Property Matters (Aust) P/L
Renascent Constructions (Victoria) PTY LTD
RICS
Rider Levett Bucknall Victoria PTY LTD
RMIT Property Services
Rural Finance
Savills PLC
Schultz Building Group
Simonds Homes
SKM
Solid Support
Stellar Constructions
Stocklands
Thomson
Verve Constructions PTY LTD
Watpac Construction PTY LTD
Westernport Property Consultants
Wilkore Construction

If you are not currently registered with the Employer of Choice Program and would like to get involved please contact employerofchoicepcpm@rmit.edu.au or ring 9925 0315

Free to Register

SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

Signing up to the Employer of Choice program involves partnering with RMIT School of Property, Construction and Project Management with a possibility of the following categories (on an opt-in basis - you can opt in and out at any time)

• Graduate Positions
• Student Placements (Construction Management, Valuation and Property Undergraduates)
• Part-time ongoing roles for Undergraduates
• Full-time ongoing/contract roles for Postgraduates
• Industry Experts assisting final year students in their Research Project
• Research (PhD and/or Doctor of Project Management) - Grants, External Panel Members etc.
• Professional Development
• Industry Events
• Research Seminars
• Industry Opportunity Seminars
• Other Industry Connections

ADVERTISING

We can advertise using the following media:

• Blackboard—Blackboard is the student portal where students find their Course Outlines, lecture slides and other announcements from RMIT
• Our Website—Once registered, Employers of Choice will be added to our website. A page describing the company and benefits for employees will be populated when information is provided from the company contact, as well as a link to the organisations website.
• Bulletin Boards—Any posters, flyers or advertising material provided by your organisation can be displayed on our Bulletin Boards located in Building 8, Level 8—where a majority of classes are held.
• TV in Reception— Our reception area has a TV display where current roles will be displayed on the screen. There is high student traffic in this area.
• Student Email— students will receive an email regarding to opportunities. As part of their enrolment students are required to check their emails on a regular basis.
• Alumni Network—Alumni will be alerted about relevant roles
Ministerial Appointment to BEIIC
Professor Kerry London has been awarded a Ministerial appointment to the national Built Environment Industry Innovation Council. BEIIC is an advisory body to the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and as an innovation advocate for industry. The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Research is responsible for the Australian Research Council and also the Cooperative Research Centre program. The Council considers innovation challenges like climate change, sustainability and industry competitiveness as well as issues such as regulatory reform, workforce capability, skills needs, access to new technologies and other priorities for industry. Membership of BEIIC has been drawn from representatives from business, the research community, unions and government agencies. The BEIIC provides leadership to the built environment sector and meet in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. For further information you can read the website http://www.innovation.gov.au/Industry/BuildingandConstruction/BEIIC/Pages/default.aspx

PMI and PCPM Agreement Signed
In December last year the School and the Project Management Institute (Melbourne Chapter) formalised their relationship through an agreement which benefits both organisations. PCPM will see more PMI faces in the corridors as PMI use our facilities for their meetings and information days during 2012. PMI (Melbourne Chapter) will support the School through acknowledgement of the sponsorship at PMI events and increased interaction with PCPM students and staff at various functions during the year. The School is very pleased to be integrating the professional association for project managers into School activities for both staff and students in the coming months. The agreement coincides with 5 PCPM staff joining the Melbourne Chapter of the PMI in time for the 15 year anniversary gala last year which we hope will be the first event of many attended by our staff.

Guest Speaker – Fiji’s Institute of Valuation and Estate Management Annual Conference
Matt Myers, PCPM’s Sr Lecturer in Valuation was an invited guest speaker at the Fiji Institute of Valuation and Estate Management Annual Conference held in Pacific Harbour, Fiji on December 17th. Matt’s presentation was titled “Fiji’s Valuation Industry: Is it time for an overhaul?”, which was a commentary looking at current practices, issues, and challenges facing the Valuation Industry, and provided innovative (and some not) ideas on rebuilding Fiji’s valuation industry to meet the needs of providing a public service essential to the strength and well-being of Fiji’s economy. Matt was also interviewed by Fiji One News on various land and valuation issues in Fiji, which were subsequently broadcast on Dec 17th and 18th. Matt is also a Fellow of the Fiji Institute along with being a council board member.
Student Success Stories

Awarded Post Graduate Scholarship for PRRES Conference
Wejendra Reddy was awarded a Post-Graduate Scholarship to attend the Pacific Rim Real Estate Society Conference (PRRES) in January 2012. The PRRES Conference has achieved an ‘A’ rating with the Excellence in Research for the Australia (ERA) initiative and attracts around 150 academic papers covering widespread research activities in property. The PRRES scholarship is awarded to higher degree research students in the area of property based on the strength of the submitted research summary required for the Postgraduate Colloquium. Wejen’s PhD research “Fund Managers and their Property Allocation Decision Making Process” was selected for the award after a review by a panel of senior academic experts. Wejen also presented a separate paper at the main conference event on the results of the industry survey conducted as part of PhD research. Wejen is currently in the second year of his full-time PhD candidature at the School of Property, Construction and Project Management. The research is supervised by Associate Professor David Higgins and Professor Ron Wakefield.

Postgraduate study - Overseas
In property, undergraduate students are applying to leading international universities. In the recent months, David Higgins has provided six academic references for Cambridge University, London School of Business and CASS Business School, City of London University.

Staff Achievements
Promotions
The school of Property, Construction and Project Management congratulates Usha Iyer-Raniga on her promotion to Associate Professor.

Welcome New Staff
• Dr Hyemi Hwang and Callum Logan - Both these staff supplement our teaching and research expertise in the property and valuation area.
• We also welcome Professor Helen Lingard back from parental leave.

RMIT Research Seminars
Dr Guillermo Aranda-Mena will be hosting lunch time Research Seminars again this year. The schedules is:

7 March: Arthur Kelly “PhD Completion Seminar”
14 March: Helen Marshall “Introduction to NVIVO software for Qualitative Research”
28 March: David Higgins “ The Black Swan Effect and the Impact on Property Forecasting”
4 April: Usha Iyer-Raniga “Whole of Life Approach to Relocatable Classrooms”
18 April: Jessica Siva - TBC
24 April (Tue): TBC
2 May: John Garrimort “Valuation Transparency for Infrastructure”
9 May: Ian Ridley “Energy Efficiency and Health”

Industry and Students are invited to attend. Please RSVP the monday before for catering purposes to employerofchoicepcpm@rmit.edu.au

www.rmit.edu.au/propertyconstruction
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Staff Member In Profile...
Dr Guillermo Aranda-Mena

Trained as an architect in Mexico and Spain, Guillermo is currently a Senior Lecturer in PCPM. He holds a Masters of Science in European Construction Engineering (Loughborough University, UK) and a PhD in Construction Management (University of Reading, UK 1996-2003). More recently he completed a Postgraduate Certificate in ‘Virtual Design and Construction’ (Stanford University, USA 2008-2010). During his time at RMIT [2004 to date] Guillermo has been principal investigator of four CRC for Construction Innovation funded research projects: ‘Business Drivers for BIM’, ‘Mobilizing Construction’, ‘eBusiness Adoption in Construction’, and ‘Automated BIM Estimator’. More recently he was RMIT Project Leader for the National Guidelines for Digital Modeling BIM [CRC-CI 2008-2009] available at http://www.construction-innovation.info/.

Guillermo has successfully supervised a PhD in Workplace Architecture and is currently supervising research in the following discipline areas: Design/Project Management, Corporate Workplace, Procurement and BIM.

Since 2005, Guillermo has been the organizer and convener of the popular and well-attended PCPM Lunch Research Seminar Series as well as a number of industry events and exhibitions. He was also the instigator of the now established PCPM Research and Industry Nights both in Melbourne and Singapore.

Over the past few years Guillermo has also developed and maintained wiki-webs such as StudioBIM, The PPP Club and Building Systems Architecture as online rich media platforms to facilitate interaction with amongst students, their lecturer and guest industry experts.

Guillermo is Australasian editor of Emerald’s A-rated Facilities journal [http://www.emeraldinsight.com/products/journals/journals.htm?id=6]. He is also an active member of Architects Without Frontiers and is heavily involved in the design and construction of community projects in Australia, Asia and the South Pacific.

What else is ahead for Guillermo in 2012? This January he will present a paper at the Joint CIB Conference on Facilities Management, Procurement Systems and PPPs in Cape Town, South Africa (http://www.cibs.org.za/). He is also bidding to bring a Joint CIB / IBEA / BuildingSMART conference to Australia in 2013.

Higher Degree by Research Student in Profile...
Nor Haslinda Abas

Nor Haslinda Abas obtained her Master of Engineering (Civil-Structure) from the University of Technology Malaysia and Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM). Holding a scholarship from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, she is now doing her research in “Development of a Construction Process Assessment Tool for Evaluating Industrialised Building Systems (IBS) OHS Risk in Malaysia” in the pursuit of obtaining her PhD in Property, Construction and Project Management at RMIT University. The scope of the research is focusing on the residential building construction in Industrialised Building Systems (IBS) and traditional projects in Malaysia. The research will contribute in providing a way for designers to integrate construction process knowledge into design to eliminate or reduce hazards during construction. This project aims to come out with a model of best practice reasoning used by designers or decision makers when examining the OHS risks posed by their designs that is capable of assessing the OHS risks in both traditional and IBS construction. The fundamental idea will initiate construction designers or decision-makers to address safety in the design process and encourage them to examine carefully the probable OHS risk variables surrounding a process.
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:

- Assoc Prof. David Higgins Collaborative research with leading UWS and Curtin Uni academics to undertake research on “The Financing of Residential Development in Australia”. The lead RMIT researcher is Assoc Prof. David Higgins. This project will provide policy makers with an understanding of the complexity of property finance, its role in the supply of all housing types and tenures and the impact of the GFC on property lending.

- Prof Ron Wakefield, Prof Tony Dalton (GSSSP) and Prof Ralph Horne (CfD) have a Research Grant as part of the AHURI Research Centre focusing on “Current Labour processes and management of subcontractors: impacts on productivity in the housing construction industry”. The research aims to assess the impact of current work processes and management of subcontractors on productivity in the housing construction industry. It seeks to test the hypothesis that delays in housing construction are at least partly caused by difficulties in the work processes and/or management systems of subcontractors by tracking the current use and practices of subcontractors. The findings promises widespread implications for Australia’s residential housing construction sector and associated policies addressing the undersupply of housing.


- Dr Jin Woo was invited to lecture at the Zero Energy Building HRD Program at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, on 13 December. She gave a lecture on “Indoor environmental quality (IEQ) in green buildings”.


- Prof Wakefield, Assoc Prof Setunge (CCEE), and Dr Zhang (CCEE) have received an ARC Linkage Grant for research into the topic “A reliability based approach for sustainable management of community buildings”. This is a three year project funded by the ARC for the period of August 2009 to August 2012. The aim of this project is to address a major issue of maintaining service delivery and managing risk of failure of infrastructure assets owned by local councils. A working business tool will be developed based on fundamental understanding of behaviour of building infrastructure over a long period of time which will enable 79 local councils in Victoria to optimise their maintenance and capital expenditure with a realistic understanding of the implications of investment. The national benefit will be a significant improvement of service delivery to community through better design and management of council assets and a significant saving of maintenance cost of councils.

- Dr Jin Woo has served as an editorial board member for Australasian Journal of Construction Economics and Building (AJCEB Vol 11, No 4 published in December 2011).

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- J. Fien, R. Wakefield, E. Charlesworth, R. Horne, J. Altman (ANU), M. Christie (Charles Darwin), P. Sullivan (NT Housing), S. Hamilton (WA Housing). have received an ARC Linkage Grant to research into the topic: “More than a Roof Overhead: Meeting the Need for a Sustainable Housing System in Remote Indigenous Communities” The aim of this project is to provide frameworks tools to support decision making by government agencies and other housing organisations in the design, construction and management of remote Indigenous housing that is both affordable as well as culturally, socially and environmentally sustainable. As such the research is identifying, evaluating and recommending strategies through which investment in housing can maximize both housing outcomes, such as functionality and longevity, and non-housing outcomes such as improvements in family stability, health, education and economic development that are associated with improved housing.

- Our Visiting Professor from Loughborough University, Alistair Gibb completed his visit, which included an Engineers Australia Eminent Speakers tour of Australian capital cities where he showcased not only his work on Construction Occupational Health and Safety and offsite construction but also the work we have done at RMIT in both these areas.


- Prof Lingard, Prof Wakefield, and Assoc Prof Blismas have received a subaward agreement with Virginia Tech (Kleiner, Mills, McCoy) for research into “From finger-pointing to lifesaving: A supply chain approach to improving occupational safety and health in construction” from National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (USA)


- Dr Larry Bellamy is speaking at a Seminar on Designing Comfortable Homes presented by CCANZ in New Zealand as part of his current research on new materials and designs that improve the sustainability and performance of buildings.


• Prof Derek Walker is commencing a CRC research Grant 2011-2014 Chief Investigator on Maximising the value of alliances in delivering infrastructure projects: a mixed-methods management study of procurement innovation’ with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) the RMIT component is $230,000 as part of a $558,000 research project under QUT leadership


• Prof Derek Walker is commencing a CRC research Grant 2012-2013 Principal Investigator with Dr Beverley-Lloyd-Walker from Victoria University, on a US$50,000 Project Management Institute (PMI) competitive research grant Understanding Relationship-Based procurement (awarded November 2011) the RMIT component is $40,000.

• Assoc Prof Usha Iyer-Raniga is currently leading a project funded by the United Nations University- Institute of Advanced Studies for integrating sustainability education into engineering and built environment curriculum. The objectives of this project are: to integrate sustainability principles and practices in existing engineering and built environment curricula; offer professional development opportunities for existing academics; expand/develop further courses/offerings, and forge links and partnerships with industry. Universities involved in the project are from Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Philippines, China and India.

AusAide PacPSP Project: Training and capacity building in addressing land and natural resource issues in Disaster Risk Management.

Dr. David Mitchell, Director of RMIT’s Land Tenure Centre, along with PCPM’s Sr. Lecturer, Matt Myers, were awarded an AusAide grant under the Pacific Public Sector Linkages Program on “Training and capacity building in addressing land and natural resource issues in Disaster Risk Management” in Pacific Island Countries.

The first phase is for the secondment of academic staff from the University of the South Pacific (USP) to RMIT for three weeks in February. The three USP academics are Dr. Helene Jacot DesCombe (Lecturer at PACE-SD and Course Coordinator of DRM Course) Dr Toni Fisher (Lecturer at the School of Land Management) and Mr. Viliamu Lese (Research fellow at PACE-SD). The aim of the visit is for RMIT to provide the USP staff with training in the international lessons learned in land tenure and natural disasters, and also to work together to adapt this training material to make it of most relevance to the teaching and research activities of USP and the training needs of participants from other Pacific Island Countries.

The second phase is presenting the five-day training session to be held in Suva, Fiji in July 2012 to predominately governmental stakeholders from various Pacific island countries addressing capacity building addressing land and natural resource issues in Disaster Risk Management. The five-day training will be done by both the USP and RMIT Staff.
Doctorate Completions and Graduation

Staff Graduations 2011:
- Dr Guinevere Gilbert
- Dr Sarah Holdsworth
- Dr Ehsan Gharie

Doctorate Graduations 2011
- Dr Charles McDonald
- Dr Mario Arlt
- Dr Justin Fiddock

Events

RMIT will be hosting the next PRRES conference which is in January 2013. More information to follow in the next edition of PCPM News

RMIT Careers and Development - Careers Expo
The Careers Expo is an annual event for students to meet and discuss various employment opportunities with employers from more than 100 organisations. Students can find out about different opportunities including graduate positions, vacation work and cooperative placements. Penultimate and final year students are strongly encouraged to attend. Staff are also welcome.
Date: Tuesday 6th March 2012
Time: 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
Location: Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton Gardens
For further information visit http://www.rmit.edu.au/careers/gradexpo

RMIT PCPM Careers Day
RMIT Property, Construction and Project Management will be hosting a Careers Expo. As registered members of the Employer of Choice program you are invited to register for the day. Each Employer of Choice will have a table to set up at and will be able to engage with our students from all year levels. The day will be split into three sessions corresponding to the three sections of our school. Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Employer of Choice Alumni will be invited to attend the event. Your audience will include both students with previous work experience and those without.
Date: Wednesday 21st March 2012
Property/Valuation: 9:30am - 12:30pm
Project Management: 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Construction Management: 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Contact employerofchoicepcpm@rmit.edu.au for more details

Next Issue: March 2012
Content to be sent to the editor by the end of April to pcpmarketing@rmit.edu.au