Welcome to the May issue of ‘School News’. This is a bi-monthly newsletter for the School of Property, Construction and Project Management (PCPM), covering all staff achievements and staff announcements, program news, international news, new policies and procedures, committee information and any key dates/events. If you would like to contribute to ‘School News’, please send your submissions to ben.bucknall@rmit.edu.au by the 27th of each month.

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**Staff news – Conferences**

Simon de Garis has been accepted to present a research paper at the Annual European Real Estate Conference in Stockholm, Sweden from 24–27 June. The paper investigates ‘Market Rental Valuations for Rural Leasehold and Licensed land in Victoria, Australia’. Simon will also be visiting Finland and Norway after the conference.

Derek Walker will be presenting a paper at the PM GAC Forum and at the 2009 European Academy of Management Conference (11-14 May) in Liverpool, England.


Mark Vines will be presenting his paper at the Sixteenth International Conference on Learning, University of Barcelona, Spain from 1-4 July. The paper is currently being refereed for the Journal and investigates ‘Student Studies Transition from Secondary to Tertiary Education’.

This month we farewell Emma Keen, who is returning to England. Emma has made valuable contributions in co-ordinating marketing activities and industry engagement on behalf of the School of Property, Construction and Project Management, and will be missed! Emma will be replaced by Ben Bucknall from 18 May.

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**International news**

**Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management): Singapore**

There may be a number of new staff who are unaware of our Construction Management program that exists in Singapore and is managed by Singapore Institute of Management (SIM), assisted by Caroline Barnes and Kathryn Robson.
Students come in with advanced standing from a number of affiliated PolyTechs. The program is offered part-time over five semesters. Currently, approximately 330 students are enrolled over the five semesters, with new intakes in January and June.

Last year, two of the Singapore students graduated at the Melbourne ceremony and we are currently arranging for a student to complete his final semester with us here in Swanston Street in July.

Events

Student Lounge – After much carpet laying, the new student space is almost ready for use! Make sure you come along to the launch of this wonderful space on Thursday, 28 May from 4.30 - 6.30pm

Please RSVP to ben.bucknall@rmit.edu.au by 25 May for catering purposes.

An Industry Workshop on BIM was held at RMIT on Wednesday, April 29 as part of an International Conference by BuildingSMART. Attendees all agreed it was a great success.

Dr. Guillermo Aranda-Mena also launched his National Guidelines and Case Studies on the same day.

Green Building and Design Conference 2009 - Green Materials

Held at the Melbourne Convention Centre, this highly regarded, annual professional training conference, hosted by the RMIT Centre for Design, has been a must for everyone involved in the sustainable built environment for the last seven years. It brings together architects and designers, policy makers, energy consultants, building owners and the building industry.

Taking place over 9-10 September, the conference can be attended in-person or online. For expression of interests, please contact: nicola.willand@rmit.edu.au

Attendance at the conference may be extended into a single course and used towards gaining a postgraduate certificate at RMIT University. Participants of the two-day conference may choose to participate in four two-hour workshops before and after the conference and complete assignments as directed. The postgraduate discipline is related to the fields of engineering, environmental, architecture, construction and planning.
Program News

Study Tour to the Fiji Islands (Elective Course BUIL 1161)

Open to all RMIT undergraduate PCPM students, the purpose of the study tour is to introduce property related issues in a developing small island country. The course has an orientation towards property valuation, investment and development particularly with consideration to social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability.

Tentative tour dates are 25 August to 6 September. To sign-up for this trip, see the PCPM receptionist to pick-up the form that is submitted at the HUB.

Commencing in Semester 2 this year, the Master’s elective in Sustainability promises to be an engaging and relevant course. For more information contact Usha Iyer-Raniga.

Research

ARC Discovery Grant

A number of staff have recently submitted applications for ARC grants and other publications.

‘Do you see what I see? Innovation in the assessment and resolution of different OHS risk judgements in construction design.’

Submitted by Nick Blismas, Helen Lingard and Ron Wakefield, the paper intends to examine how construction occupational health and safety (OHS) incidents are linked to design of the industry’s product and processes.

The research will elicit a more complete picture of design-related OHS risk and maximise the opportunity for risk reduction through design.

‘Managing the contradictions between innovation and the process focus in modern project management.’

Submitted by Jennie Carroll, the paper identifies project management as crucial to effective organisational innovation and investigates the contradictions between the process focus of project management, and the observed negative effects of process focus on organisational innovation.

Research outcomes will include an empirically-based framework that enables researchers and project managers to identify and analyses aspects of project management that inhibit innovation.
‘From finger-pointing to lifesaving: A ‘supply chain’ approach to construction OSH’

Submitted by Nick Blismas and Helen Lingard, in partnership with Virginia Tech’s Brian Kleiner, this large five year project is part of a program of research projects being proposed to NIOSH through Virginia Tech’s Center for Innovation in Construction Safety and Health Research and its many partners.

New school policies

PCPM Website – Please beware that the school’s homepage has a new URL (web address), it is now - www.rmit.edu.au/propertyconstruction

Please include the new URL on all your business cards, email signatures, class powerpoints, etc.

The old school URL www.rmit.edu.au/pcpm - will remain 'live' for 12 months, until all 2009 marketing collateral runs out.

The site’s architecture has been updated and you will notice a few changes to the school’s website, as each discipline now has its own sub-homepage. The disciplines are:
- Construction Management
- Project Management
- Property and Valuation
- Real Estate

There is now a new process for updating the school’s website. The DSC College now has a dedicated web team who updates all DSC’s schools web pages within a 48 hour period. If you require any changes to the school’s website, please email dscweb@rmit.edu.au

Items of interest

› **Student Lounge** – After much carpet laying, the new student space is almost ready for use! Make sure you come along to the launch of this wonderful space on Thursday May 28, from 4.30pm til 6.30pm

› **Wall Mural** – To tie in with the new lounge area, you may notice another change around the corridors. To be installed this month, there will be a wall mural that integrates the design of the RMIT wedge, which interweaves and drops out to create depth, perspective and interest. The colours move from oranges through to greens to match the new student space, carpet and
furniture. Key phrases from the School’s mission statement are displayed and act as ‘markers’ along the wall to engage and inspire our students.

- Corporate Books – A new publication tailored for industry has been created, with the aim of increasing awareness amongst relevant organisations about the School’s programs. Designed with a shelf-life of 3-5 years in mind, customised fliers are able to be inserted within for relevant industries.

- Ron Wakefield has recently become a member of the National Committee for Construction, Engineering Australia.

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