

President's Update

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the IEEM Alumni newsletter for 2006.

On May 11 the *Industrial Engineering Opportunities in Australia* Speaker night was held and received an overwhelming response with an unprecedented number of guests making an appearance.

The night was a wonderful success with a great deal of feedback to the alumni council members stating how worth while and informative each of the presentations were.

For those who were unable to attend the evening, we decided to summarise the key points from each speaker.

Rob Murphy, Manufacturing Manager of Armstrong World Industries – a global leader in the design and manufacture of floors, ceilings and cabinets – began the evening with an enlightening talk about his company and the current state of manufacturing in Australia. Rob stated that the future of Australian Industry is perhaps not as gloomy as some experts have been saying. Although some sectors of manufacturing are defecting to offshore locations, certain areas within industry in this country such as design and technical trades are actually increasing.

Grant Mitchell, Production Area Manager of Holden Engine Operations gave a fantastic address about his particular experiences from university through to his current position. Grant then went on to stress the value of the "*Industrial Engineering Toolbox*" and the many aspects of industry in which it can be applied to.

Edwardo Vom, Business Development Manager of Vision Systems Bio provided a particularly revealing speech about the medical instrumentation industry – one which does not tend to receive quite as much publicity as other industries despite its undeniably high impact on society. Edwardo opened the eyes of not only the undergraduate attendees but also the alumni with details of the importance and complexity of Vision Systems' business.

Finally, Dr. Damien Kennedy provided some interesting statistics on the industries in which recent IEEM graduates have chosen to work. These statistics are summarised below.

Damien stated that overall, 55% of graduates work in the manufacturing industry where the automotive and manufactured goods industries accounted for 41% alone.

Dr. Kennedy then went on to state that while 45% of IEEM alumni work in the service industry, a fairly even spread exists across the consulting, retail and private business sectors of the industry. Interestingly, 7% of graduates work for their own (or family) companies and 66% are in senior management positions by the age of 35.

The alumni council would like to thank Rob, Grant, Edwardo and Damien for their involvement on the night and in particular for providing such valued input to the event.



Above: The 2006 Speaker Night – Industrial Engineers came out in droves to attend the evening.



Above (from left): New Additions to the IEEM Alumni Andreas, Ozi and Dean with current undergraduate Nick.

On July 19, we had the 3rd annual reunion dinner where we celebrated with the students from years gone by and in particular, the class of 1986. There was a healthy turnout to the event and past students and staff were able to catch up on the years gone by and relive some of the moments during their studies. Dr Damian Kennedy presented the class of 1986 with commemorative Monash University pens to acknowledge their achievements to maintain a tradition that is growing each year.



Dr Damian Kennedy presenting commemorative pens to Linda Thomas and Chris Hung.

The alumni would like to thank everyone who attended this function, in particular,

Chris Hung who did an excellent job in contacting the class of 1986 and bringing everyone together for the evening.

Tanya Seidel
IEEM Alumni President 2006

Next Function 2006

Once again, the Alumni will be hosting a Christmas break up function in the month of November. In the past, these functions have been extremely successful at bringing together past students so that they can catch up and reminisce on times they shared while studying as well as helping everyone wind down after the year that was.

Christmas Drinks Function

**When: Thursday
November 16th,
2006
6:30pm**

**Where: Racecourse Hotel,
Caulfield
(opposite Monash
University)**

Cost: TBA

RSVP: 9/11/06

To RSVP please contact:

Tanya Seidel

Mobile: 0438 771 408

Email: seidel_tanya@hotmail.com.

Or

Paul Simmenauer

Mobile: 0425 706 484

Email: paulsimm@melbpc.org.au

IE Projects

As a part of the IEEM course, final year students are required to carry out an industry based project on which they base a detailed paper. These projects typically run from March through to November.

With the continual expansion of the IEEM course, the faculty is constantly looking for new companies to base these projects at. Students in past years have delivered significant outcomes for these companies and have developed many skills and gained a great deal of experience in the process.

The functional areas in which students have carried out projects have been quite diverse. Such areas include (but are not limited to) process improvement (manufacturing and business), quality assurance, lean manufacturing, maintenance, simulation modelling, cost reduction, database management and facilities management. Students have worked on projects in these areas for both the manufacturing and service industries.

If you think that your firm may benefit from supervising such a project or would like to know more about the IEEM final year project program, feel free to contact either Peter Gregory or Paul Wellington directly.

Peter Gregory:
9905 3709
Peter.Gregory@eng.monash.edu.au

Paul Wellington:
9902 0172
Paul.Wellington@eng.monash.edu.au

SPONSORS

In order to develop into a stronger alumni organisation we are seeking sponsors that are able to provide some financial assistance. This can be as a form of monetary sponsorship or sponsorship of events or scholarship programs. Funds collected from our sponsors are essential in enabling us to hold bigger and better functions and further grow our alumni presence.

Sponsors will be rewarded through regular sponsor advertisements in our newsletters and flyers that are distributed to all alumni members. They are also able to have a presence by logos etc at our events and functions. This ensures that our sponsors will reach a large and varied and influential audience within the business and industrial environment.

A Brief Chat with.....Paul Simmenauer

In what year did you graduate?

2004

Have you always been an IE or have you worked in other positions/industries?

I started my Engineering degree in 1998 part-time as a mature age student after working at CSIRO for eleven years in the Optical Systems Engineering section as a Precision Optician.

What made you choose to study the IE degree?

When I started the Engineering degree I expected that I would major in the Mechanical stream, but after attending

an exciting presentation by final year IE students and Damian Kennedy at the Clayton campus, I reconsidered my goals and transferred into IE. I also attended an IE Alumni event where recent graduates were discussing their interesting careers at NAB, Holden, Woolworths and Ernst & Young. These guys sounded like they were having fun in their jobs and I wanted to be part of it.

What was your first graduate engineering role and what was the job description?

I was employed as a contract Project Engineer at Nestle Peters Ice cream in Mulgrave for what was initially only going to be a two-month period. I ended up staying there for sixteen months working on plant risk assessments, machine guarding, conveyor layouts and other small projects.

Where did that lead?

I was transferred to Nestle Foods in Pakenham to manage safety projects for the factory using the skills I had developed at Mulgrave. I spent the next five months prioritising risk control measures, conducting risk assessments and designing machine guarding and platforms.

Where are you employed now?

The lure of permanent employment led me to Robert Bosch in late 2005 where I am employed as an Industrial Engineer in the automotive component industry. Robert Bosch is currently implementing many of the lean manufacturing techniques that were covered during my degree.

Why do you think IE is a great career choice?

Industrial Engineers can apply their flexible skills in a broad range of industries, whether this is in the manufacturing or service industry. Many IE's have established successful careers in process improvement, supply chain/logistics, lean manufacturing and management. IE's need to be good communicators as their roles will often involve contact with many different organisational levels within the business from the shop floor to senior management.

Do you keep in touch with your fellow Alumni?

Yes, I have made many good friends during my time studying IEEM at Monash University. I plan to visit some overseas student friends in the not too distant future.