

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

President's Update

Hi and welcome to the first edition of the IEEM Alumni newsletter for 2005.

You are probably aware that two years ago a group of academic staff and past Industrial Engineering graduates met to form the Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management (IEEM) Alumni Council. At that time, a President in Jackie Cook and a Vice-President/President-elect in Alan Emerson were elected to lead the Council.

Membership of the IEEM Alumni is free of charge to all Monash University Industrial Engineering graduates and of course, all IE graduates from Caulfield before C.I.T. became part of the Monash umbrella.

Your Council members for this year are:

Grant Mitchell (President)
Tanya Seidel (Vice President/President-elect)
Panos Miltiadou (Newsletter)
Alan Emerson
Rick Lapeyre (Treasurer)
Peter Livanos (Minute secretary)
Derek Karadimos (Newsletter)
Michael Burns

And from the Monash faculty:

Dr. Damian Kennedy
Paul Wellington
Prof. John Price
Peter Gregory

I would like to thank the members of last year's Council for their work – particularly Alan Emerson, the outgoing President - and welcome the new Council members in Rick, Peter, Derek

and Michael. I also congratulate Tanya on her election to VP! If you have some interest in becoming involved then please contact us via the details within this newsletter.

The goals of the Alumni Council are:

- To keep IEEM alumni in contact with each other, Monash IEEM staff and current students of IEEM.
- To utilize the business experience of the alumni, as appropriate, in areas of IEEM course content, development, marketing and promotion to industry and potential students.
- To provide educational, networking and social opportunities for alumni.
- To foster relationships with related professional bodies.

This year we intend to focus heavily on the current IEEM Alumni database and thus we have made a point of trying to broaden the Council's membership to include both new graduates from this year and from the late 80s/early 90s.

As we successfully staged some events last year, we intend to arrange two functions in 2005.

The first will be a reunion dinner on **June 29th** focusing on the graduates of 1985. We are hoping to arrange tables for the graduates of 1995 and 2000 also - given they too will be celebrating 10 and 5 year milestones. Further details are contained within this newsletter.

The second function for the year will be the annual Christmas drinks – tentatively scheduled for **November 17th**. This will

be a somewhat special occasion as not only will it be a celebration of 21 years of IE at Caulfield but it will also be a "Goodbye to Caulfield", with the IE course relocation to Clayton starting in full in 2006.

Please put these dates in your diaries and make a point of coming along to catch up with fellow Alumni. I believe that everyone who has attended in the past has enjoyed themselves and I hope you will too. You might even meet a prospective employee or employer.

I hope to see you in 2005!

Grant Mitchell
President IEEM Alumni Council 2005

FIRST FUNCTION 2005

The first function of the year will be the annual 20th Year Reunion; the graduating class of 1985 will be our honoured members. The event takes place on **June 29th** and will commence at **6.30 pm** at **Florina's Greek Tavern in Glenferrie Rd Malvern**. The cost is **\$45 per head** and includes entree, mains, desserts and tea/coffee. The restaurant is licensed or BYO. The upstairs room holds 60, so hurry to let us know if you'd like to join us - it will fill up quickly. Partners/friends are welcome to attend.

It will be an excellent opportunity for Alumni from all years to reunite with classmates, lecturers and other alumni members to catch up on good old times, and network. The event also hopes to attract five and ten year graduating members as we look back on the last twenty years. So please join us to make

this a successful and memorable evening.

Cash payment can be made on the night. Any assistance in getting as many alumni to attend would be appreciated.

To come along please contact: **Anna Maltezos** at Monash University on **9903-2335**, or by email at :
anna.maltezos@eng.monash.edu.au

Or **Grant Mitchell** on **9647-1840** or by email at:
grant.mitchell@gm.com

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 in the form of monetary or event sponsorship and 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. Sponsorship presence via logos etc at our events and functions is also available. This ensures that our sponsors will reach a large, varied and influential audience within the business and industrial environment.

we also hope to function as well as the 1983 yacht that made history.

JOHN BERTRAND; GEARED US FOR SUCCESS

On the 2nd of March, Alumni members were invited to attend a Monash Alumni function with guest speaker John Bertrand. The event was a breakfast function held at the Sofitel Hotel.

It was once said that the head of the skipper who lost the America's Cup would replace the trophy in its glass case at the New York Yacht Club, such was the level of expectation and emotion.

John Bertrand had adopted the theory taught many years ago to produce a feat many thought not possible, victory in the Americas Cup.

John has an obvious **“never give up”** attitude. This can be seen in the many yachts that had sunk before his famous 1980 victory, and the really expensive “Australia One” which we all remember seeing sink. John and the team he put together worked to achieve their goals. “Stay focused, and never stop trying”. This is a piece of advice we should all carry with us in our personal and working lives.

Another surprise for us all was the outcome of the raffle. All in attendance were asked to leave their business cards for the raffle draw. Our very own council member Rick Lapeyre won the prize, tickets to the ‘Monash Performing Arts program’.

This event encouraged team building with many of us in the audience receptive to the themes of trust and co-operation. As the IEEM Alumni council



Above: Rick collects his prize.

THE IEEM DATABASE

Please note that for the alumni to work effectively one of the main goals is to contact and establish links with as many alumni as possible. In the near future we hope to contact you all to establish a sound database in which we can keep alumni networked and informed about the IEEM degree and industry. If you have recently changed jobs or know of alumni that may not be on our records please contact one on the council members. Your assistance would be appreciated.

A BRIEF CHAT WITH NELSON DECOSTA

The first edition of the IEEM Alumni newsletter for '05, sees Derek Karadimos and Panos Miltiadou interviewing Nelson DeCosta about his graduate role experiences and how that has lead him to his current role.

1. In what year did you graduate?
2002

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

My first graduate position was with PBR Australia. My position at PBR was in Benchmarking. This involved purchasing different callipers and hand brakes manufactured by different companies around the world and having them tested to reveal critical data points. The data analysis also involved electronic actuated brake systems.

3. What positive impact did your company have enabling you to gain experience?

The main area of experience that I gained from PBR was in communication skills. This was the first time, excluding Thesis that I was required to associate with Departmental Managers on a regular basis and present crucial data to General Managers.

4. How did you find the transition from university to working life and were you prepared?

I found the transition from University to working life a little bit daunting at first. By the time you get engrossed into different projects, the transition became much easier to handle. University prepared me up to a point. There were many areas in my University life didn't prepare me as well as I would have liked. Having said that, I have learnt an enormous amount about the business and processes throughout the business where much of our learning's at University can be adopted.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years and what skills do you think you will need to get there?

In 5 years I see myself in a managerial role with the company perhaps in the

Sampling and/or Warehousing areas. To get there, I need to increase my level of product knowledge and increase my

knowledge of lean principles and process engineering.

6. What is the most interesting project you have worked on a Feltex?

At any given time I could be working on up to 8 different projects at the same time but one of the most interesting project that I have worked at Feltex would have to be a project I called 'Creasing and Roll-up Damage'. This project involved carpet that was getting creased and damaged while being processed through up to 5 different processes. This required me to research the areas where these problems are occurring and advise departmental managers where the issues are and my proposed solution. In doing this, I was required to Chair meetings with different departmental and Quality Control Managers. I found this project one of my most interesting because different solutions were proposed and implemented and a decrease in creasing and roll-up damage was seen.

7. Did you have a mentor as a graduate and what was their influence on you as a young engineer?

My mentor as a young Engineer at Feltex was and still is my boss. She, also a graduate from Monash University in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management, is well respected throughout the business and provides expertise to all her staff. Since I have started her product/process knowledge and advice has been first grade. She has influenced my development here at Feltex greatly.

Thanks,
Panos and Derek (Newsletter editors)

IEEM CASE STUDIES- HAVE YOU GOT A STORY FOR US?

One of the main issues facing Industrial Engineers is the lack of knowledge industry has about the degree, and what graduates have to offer. As a whole we often seem to fit into manufacturing orientated businesses, however our graduates have expanded and branched off into many fields and industries. During the latest council meeting it was suggested that case studies by IEEM alumni be collected in order to publish and market our degree. We hope to promote our students, graduates and Alumni in industry and in the future to establish an engineering stream that is prominent within industry.

If you have a case study that you believe outlines the diversity and knowledge that IEEM brings to industry please email or contact Panos Miltiadou. We would love to know how our graduates are innovating, revolutionising and simply managing industries to our high standards.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

If you would like to send in any articles, feedback, case studies, or interesting facts please feel free to drop either of our newsletter writers an email. This newsletter is not only about the alumni council representing alumni but about current students, lecturers, Monash University and industry. The opportunity to convey information and share it with IEEM is a goal of the alumni and your help in doing this is required.

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