

# IEEM Alumni Newsletter

**MONASH UNIVERSITY IEEM ALUMNI**

Edition 2  
August 2003

## President Update

Welcome again to the Monash Industrial Engineering Alumni Newsletter. We on the committee hope to continue to provide many items of interest through this newsletter and are always interested in hearing your views on what you would like to hear more about.

Thanks to those who attended our inaugural event. As you will read in this edition, the night was a great success with lots of lively debate and conjecture! We are now in the process of planning our next function "The secrets of my success" which will be held on September 16th, so please make a diary note now to come and listen to two great speakers on how they made it to the top.

On the topic of being on the top, the IE course is shortly to undergo the regular accreditation process conducted by the Australian Institute of Engineers. At times like these, it gives the alumni the opportunity to assist the faculty in promoting the virtues of our still little understood degree. I don't know any past graduate of the IE course varieties that does not think it is the best decision they ever made.

The IE degree is unique in that it provides not only a solid base in engineering for the modern world and information age, but enhances that with great generalist management skills which together result in extremely versatile and well rounded graduates.

A strong alumni with members who are working in a vast array of industries and roles, further attests to the value of the degree. The alumni committee sees its role as assisting with the marketing and promotion of the course and the accreditation review is one opportunity that we will take to do just that!

We look forward to seeing many more of you at our function on 16 September!

Cheers  
Jackie



Above: Jackie Cook opens the inaugural IEEM function and introduces Barbara Wilby

## **Next Function:**

To follow up on the successful launch of the Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management Alumni, the Alumni Council would like to invite all members to function number two:

### **"The Secrets of My Success" and Awards Presentation**

Come and hear how our two speakers, Patrick Healy and Rob Ades have forged their highly successful careers to date.

Patrick (grad. 1995) is a supervisor at the new Holden HSV6 plant and Rob (grad. 1984) is the Chief Executive Officer of Cambrea and Company – a private investment bank. Two very diverse careers but both began with Industrial Engineering - come and hear how they did it!

We will also be awarding the inaugural IEEM Alumni Leadership Award to the final year student who demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities.

Date: 16 September

Time: 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Venue: Clayfield Room, Monash University Caulfield Campus

RSVP: Anna Maltezos, tel: 9903 2335/ email: [anna.maltezos@eng.monash.edu.au](mailto:anna.maltezos@eng.monash.edu.au)

## **Barbara Wilby helps launch the IEEM Alumni**

Executive coaching specialist and Monash graduate Barbara Wilby travelled down from Sydney to be present at the inaugural Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management function.

Beginning by outlining some of her experiences in executive coaching with companies such as the ANZ bank, Barbara went on to lead an open discussion about executive coaching, answering four main questions in the process:

What is coaching?

Why does it make good business sense?

How do you coach at work?

How do you select a great coach?



Above: With the floor open, many took the opportunity to participate in the interesting discussion.

Barbara had the group fascinated with views on company values and directions, utilizing informal skills as leaders, self awareness and “empathetic radar” all covered.

To round out the night a door prize was awarded in the form of a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon. The winner—known to all who have studied IE at Monash—walked out with a smile on his face: Brian Sullivan.



Above: Peter Gregory and Dr. Bernard Chen take the opportunity to discuss executive coaching further with guest presenter Barbara Wilby

## IE Students—part of an award winning team

Since 1996, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Industrial Engineering students have taken a third year subject in which they form teams with marketing, accounting and design students, acting as consultants to small and medium sized companies, usually completing a feasibility study on a new product that the company is interested in developing.

This program won the 2000 Monash Vice-Chancellors Award for Excellence in Team-Based Educational Development, and the 2001 Business-Higher Education Round Table Award for Outstanding Achievement for Collaboration in Education and Training.

This year we are running projects with long term partners, Nylex Materials Handling, Viscount Plastics, Greenspeed and new partners, Linpac and McDonald Johnston, either on new product feasibility studies or development of business plans. Two of these projects will be run by semi-virtual committees, with the engineers coming from Monash and the business students from the University of Western Sydney who will communicate by email, WEB CT and video conferencing.

Any alumni who may be interested in becoming involved next year should contact me at [paul.wellington@eng.monash.edu.au](mailto:paul.wellington@eng.monash.edu.au).

## Coles Supermarket: "Shrinkage Project"

An IEEM study of shrinkage within the Australian retail industry is discovering new ways to tackle this **\$2 billion a year** problem.

Two final year students, under the direction of Dr. Damian Kennedy from the IEEM program, are investigating major sources of loss including vendor, customer and employee theft (5%, 45% & 35% respectively) and inventory control errors (15%) with major categories of 'missing items' include cigarettes, shaving items, toiletries, health products and batteries.

Recommendations are made with respect to point of sale (POS) transactions, 'abnormal behaviours', store layouts' location of 'at risk' items, electronic counter-measures including data mining and surveillance, and staff awareness / training programs.

The project is scheduled to be complete by year's end.

## A Brief Chat with.....Alan Emerson

In each edition of the IEEM Newsletter, we will feature a member of the Alumni. The questions are:

**What year did you graduate?**

1985

**What was your first job?**

Industrial Engineer at Yakka Pty Ltd in Broadmeadows

**Where did that lead?**

I was only at Yakka for 8 months, after that I worked for 18 months as an Industrial Engineer at Holeproof, 2 years as Production Manager at a printing company, and then into Production Management at Dunlop Bedding (part of Pacific Dunlop).

I've now been working for 14 years in various Manufacturing / Operations Management roles with this group, including 4 years working in Malaysia.

**What are you doing now?**

My current role is National Operations Manager for Tontine Fibres overseeing manufacturing and logistics activities at our 3 manufacturing locations.

**Why do you think IE is a great career choice?**

I think IE is a great career choice as it provides a huge variety of career opportunities in a wide range of industries. Specifically, I also felt it provided me with a perspective of being able to methodically identify and develop solutions for a range of business problems, and to always look for a better way of doing things.

**Do you keep in touch with your fellow Alumni?**

I maintain a strong friendship with a few of my past class mates, and hope through the alumni to keep in contact other past graduates.

**You have taken on the role of IEEM Vice-President - what does that involve?**

My role of Vice President of the alumni is not much different from other members of the alumni council in that I contribute to the planning and development of the alumni objectives and activities. Additionally I provide assistance to the alumni President, and fill in for her if she is unable to attend meetings or functions.