

# Celebrating success



## Time for celebrations

*Back row (left to right): Richard Taylor, Rob Hilliard, Richard Churchill, Andrew Fawley, Keith Hartshorn, David Blanchflower.*

*Front row: Steve Heathcote, Rafal Burkot, Daniel Eales, Ben Jenkinson, Ruth Wilkinson.*

## The Institute has declared Daniel Eales from Next Distribution Limited as their Student of the Year 2016.

**A**t a presentation in early February in Scott-Grant's Manchester training centre, IMS Treasurer David Blanchflower congratulated Daniel on his significant achievement in the in-depth four week Certificate course during 2016.

Productivity support analyst Daniel, based at Pontefract, was presented with a trophy, a certificate and a cheque from the Institute, to the delight of his manager Richard Churchill, who was there to join the celebration.

Daniel returned to the learning environment several years after graduating in criminology and psychology and found he really enjoyed the studying, the pressure and taking the

exams – yes, really! “The course content was great – and challenging, but I learnt so much that really inspired me. I particularly enjoyed the module about developing a Lean environment and am now a devotee of continuous improvement,” he explained. “There is such a variety in my role and I’m so pleased to have this whole new skill set now.”

Daniel is one of a team of 11 analysts at Next Distribution who all have the IMS Certificate qualification; as the only one who has achieved Student of the Year status his colleagues have generously dubbed him ‘a great man in productivity support history’. “We work to a high degree of accuracy – quite rightly, because there are lots depending on it for the people and the business. As totally new processes are coming into the business, we are able to communicate them very effectively to all levels of staff using process mapping and other techniques.”

## Showing great potential

Very close behind the winner were three other students as runners-up: Rafal Burkot, a continuous improvement coach from luxury goods manufacturer Burberry Limited, Ruth Wilkinson, process audit analyst from online retailer Shop Direct Group and Benjamin Jenkinson, industrial engineer from automotive components manufacturer ZF TRW Systems Ltd.

Rafal graduated in Poland ten years ago with a Masters in forestry – a combination of biology and engineering – before joining Burberry over two years ago at their plant in Castleford. He feels that the work he now does following his IMS Certificate qualification, is like finding his professional home. “The mix of theory and practice that the course offered was so well balanced and I thoroughly enjoy using and applying all I learned”, Rafal beamed. His manager, Rob Hilliard said: “Rafal has a special talent and has always shown such great potential. 60% of our current workforce is from Eastern Europe, so he can communicate very effectively when it comes to method or time studies.”

Ruth Wilkinson also graduated some years earlier in maths, and followed that with a green belt in Six Sigma. Combining that knowledge with what she learnt on the IMS Certificate course during 2016, has also made her feel she has found her professional home. She is part of an experienced team of productivity analysts, all of whom are very supportive of her achievement. Process improvement manager Andrew Fawley said he was lucky to have her on his team, adding that “this qualification makes her a multi-skilled person; she’s very thorough and on the ball with everything she does.”

Engineering graduate Benjamin Jenkinson, was delighted to secure a technical job with the ZF group in Peterlee, County Durham a couple of years ago. He too enjoyed getting back into the learning environment for the Certificate course. “Industrial engineering has opened up a whole new dimension for me and I’m really enjoying implementing all I learnt on the course,” he said. Keith Hartshorn, his manager, who is a senior process engineer responsible for new business quotations and capacity, was very impressed with Ben’s results. “He applies himself very well and is now my resident IE expert. I use the data he generates for forward planning for new lines and new equipment.”

## Practical experience and expertise

All the students were very complimentary about the course content and delivery. They all attended open courses and appreciated the opportunity to hear from people in a wide range of industry sectors about their practical issues. They hailed principal course tutor, Steve Heathcote, as a master in his art, for not only delivering the course content in a clear, concise and enlightened way, but being able to draw on many diverse examples of how he has personally been able to apply the theory in different business situations. Like all the tutors at Scott-Grant, Steve is often involved in productivity projects for Scott-Grant customers around the country in between his training commitments.

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## A challenge and a great opportunity

So, this year the winner and the three runners-up are all graduates who have found their way into the industrial engineering profession from different directions. Presenting certificates and gifts to them all, Scott-Grant’s Managing Director, Richard Taylor, reflected that “employers have confidence in the techniques and approaches we offer and have selected you to be involved in applying them. We’re delighted we’ve been asked to help you with your training. You’ve each done very well, absorbed the information and demonstrated in the exams, the course content and the project work, that you have the fundamental skills and aptitude to apply them. This is to benefit the business but it has also created a challenge and a great opportunity for you.”

“At Scott-Grant we work with a very wide range of business sectors and have helped with the training of their people. They all recognise and rely on productivity initiatives. You’re early in your productivity career and in a quite privileged position with a sound platform in place. For everyone’s benefit it’s now down to you to get out there, apply your knowledge and start to make a difference. It’s needed because there is pressure on productivity from several directions. We’re seeing companies of all sizes and types who have never had any formal measures. They are now realising they need people like you to give them substantive data on which to manage their businesses more effectively.”

David Blanchflower agreed, adding that he since qualified some decades ago, he has been able to apply the trained objective vision of an IE to situations throughout his life. “What you have learnt on this course will stand you in good stead from now on.”

The presentation was followed by a celebratory lunch in a nearby restaurant to mark this international standard of achievement. Who will be Student of the Year 2017?