



Bags of fun at the Student of the Year Awards.

On top of the world

Rachel Jinks from Tesco Stores Limited scooped the prestigious award of IMS Student of the Year 2014, beating a significant field of very capable people from businesses around the world.

Rachel came to study with Scott-Grant Training in Manchester as a productivity support manager with Tesco Stores and completed her four week Institute of Management Services Certificate course in 2014. Her results were the best of everyone who had completed the course run by authorised training providers for the Institute.

When she first heard that she had won this prestigious international award Rachel said: "I was totally surprised – there were some extremely good students just on the course modules I was on, so naturally I was delighted to know I'd come out top. I also got particular delight in beating my brother for a change. At Tesco I've now joined a team of six, where I'm both the youngest and the only female so I'm delighted that I've won the Student of the Year for a number of reasons!" Her boss, Productivity Manager Huw Davis beamed, "I'd like to think I spotted Rachel's potential when I interviewed and recruited her to join my productivity team.

The whole company is delighted at her achievement."

There were three runners up to the Student of the Year Award in 2014, all trained by Scott-Grant Training: two executive officers from the Performance department in the Valuation Office Agency, Johanna Cooper and Kimberley Ellinsworth and manufacturing engineer Paul Jenkins from defence manufacturer L-3 TRU Technology.

It was therefore a very full and lively award ceremony, when all the winners and their managers came to Scott-Grant's head office and training centre in Manchester to receive their certificates and gifts from both the Institute and Scott-Grant. On behalf of the IMS, Treasurer David Blanchflower presented Rachel with her certificate, a cheque and a new engraved crystal trophy.

Scott-Grant's managing director Richard Taylor, gave certificates and gifts to all the students, explaining that "it was a close run 'contest' among these exceptional students. Their performance

was extremely high and it gives us significant pleasure to see how they are now enjoying the added professional credibility they have earned in their respective businesses.”

Rachel came back to Scott-Grant after completing her Certificate course for a further week to become a MOST@ practitioner. So how were her five weeks of learning? She was very enthusiastic: “I really enjoyed the learning experience, particularly because it involved meeting people from other industries. I built a new network outside of retail – we learnt from each other, sharing issues and applications from our various industries. The classroom environment at Scott-Grant was an excellent way to learn.”

Kimberley Ellinsworth from the VOA agreed: “Obviously ours is very much a clerical environment so it was good to meet with others from sectors like manufacturing and retail.”

Scott-Grant’s principal course tutor Colin Moran explained: “We offer a structured but very flexible learning environment with lots of lively discussions among the students. The range of industry types represented by students on every course means that issues from all their environments are discussed and resolved around the table. Our range of practical exercises covers the same variety of industries so everyone benefits.”

A qualification with stature

It was particularly interesting to hear the students’ reaction to this qualification. Firstly Rachel: “I’m now a retail industrial engineer looking after maintaining current productivity models and working in the business to support and advise on any potential improvements. Industrial engineering appeals to me because I’m using numeracy and analytical skills, logic, technical knowledge and a good dose of common sense. After my maths degree, I was looking for the right kind of work that would suit my approach and mindset, and to become an IE for me, means I’ve now found it. I feel I’ve found my professional ‘home’ as an IE. It’s definitely a forward move for me.”

The reaction from Johanna Cooper from the Valuation Office Agency added a further dimension. “When I see the vast number of companies who are using the productivity tools and techniques we have learnt, I can appreciate the stature of the qualification I now have. I couldn’t see an industry type that wasn’t represented in the list of organisations who have been trained by Scott-Grant in the last year alone – so many recognisable blue chip and high street names. It makes our results all the more impressive.”

Jo’s manager, head of performance Ian Chilton-Merryweather commented: “Since I put together this new team of now six professional industrial engineers in a carefully planned growth, we have identified a 15% productivity gain in staff savings; we’ve had a significant impact on the way work is being done in the Agency.”

Paul Jenkins has been a manufacturing engineer, for the last 14 years at L3-TRL Technology, and for more years before that. Four other manufacturing engineers on his team have all completed the IMS Certificate now. “We’ve added more strings to our bow with the industrial engineering capability now. It suits our skill set. I for one found that the IMS course was a real eye opener that gives so many ways to see what is really going on in a business.” Paul’s manager, Daniel Beard added: “Now industrial engineering work is part of our daily routine to identify and remove waste.”

“This line-up of the students at the very top of their game is indeed indicative of the spread of business sectors who want their employees to have this professional qualification,” Richard Taylor from Scott-Grant added. “As the UK’s leading training

provider for productivity specialists, we see businesses of all sizes and from all sectors looking to improve their productivity. They are all experiencing pressures on costs, capacities and response. We’re delighted to help them do this via our open and in-company training.”

A healthy and lively interest

Scott-Grant’s course bookings increased again in 2014 on previous years so there is still a healthy and lively interest in the qualification. The Certificate is the foundation for people moving up an organisation, often becoming managers in charge of departments. Taylor said: “I note with interest that in the last seven years, retail companies have been in the winners’ line up and in the last four years the IMS Student of the Year has been female.

“We see much more interest and desire to provide better understanding of productivity, industrial engineering and the good use of time standards and targets at supervisor and middle management level. The success of performance and productivity improvements is so heavily dependent on these people doing it day-to-day because across all business sectors they’re involved in and can influence the best use of people and equipment. Productivity is all about good organisation in the work place.

“There have been a number of progressive changes in membership and grading issues to encourage people to move to life membership of the Institute when they’ve got the Certificate. I am glad to see and be part of the reason for IMS membership growth.”

If you need help to identify, cost and implement ways to improve the productivity, processes and performance of your organisation, contact Scott-Grant via their website www.scott-grant.co.uk or see their advertisement in the centre of this Journal.

We offer a structured but very flexible learning environment with lots of lively discussions among the students.

Celebrating success: (left to right) front row: Richard Taylor, Jo Cooper, Paul Jenkins, Rachel Jinks, Kim Ellinsworth, David Blanchflower. Back row left to right: Ian Chilton-Merryweather, Huw Davis, Daniel Beard, Colin Moran.

