

Student of the Year Success

2018 will be a very memorable year for some newer members of the Institute, especially when they consider their successful start to their career as an industrial engineer.



Celebrating success are (left to right): in the foreground Steve Heathcote, Leigh McCormick, Richard Clamp, Peter Jackson, Richard Easton and Lynette Gill, Richard French, David Blanchflower, Richard Taylor.

The IMS is delighted to announce their Student of the Year for 2018 is Richard Clamp of Asda Stores plc. And close behind as joint runners-up are Peter Jackson of Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK, Rivaldo Pratama of shoe manufacturer ECCO Sko A/S, and Leigh McCormick of Scott-Grant Limited.

At a celebratory event at the end of January in Manchester, IMS Treasurer David Blanchflower and Administrator Lynette Gill presented a specially engraved trophy and a certificate to Richard Clamp at the Scott-Grant Training centre in Manchester. Richard Taylor, Managing Director of training provider Scott-Grant also presented him with a certificate and gift.

David Blanchflower expressed his delight at the increase in membership the Institute has been experiencing in recent years, currently around 2300 strong. Only a few years ago it was about 1600. He assured the new members that their qualification would stand them in good stead throughout their working life.

A good career move

Winner Richard Clamp described the Certificate course

content as 'great' – exactly the same word used by all the students, incidentally. His work as Wage Planning Manager for fresh foods at Asda now has a whole new dimension, as he explained: "It was felt that in our department we should broaden our understanding of the end to end process by a large number of us attending the IMS Certificate course, so now we have joined up all the dots, so to speak. This qualification now makes us so much more efficient; the detail behind the information we generate enables us to get savings through the processes and operating procedures." Richard first worked for Asda as a part-time 'trolley pusher' when he was an undergraduate well over 20 years ago, then joined them in 1990 and worked for 20 years in the retail side of the business before coming into the office. "And look at me now – Student of the Year!" he added, gleefully.

"Asda is the only business to have won this award twice in the last 10 years, with Steven Moody in 2010", observed Richard Taylor. "We look at those last 10 years and the range of companies whose people we have trained and we see how, despite the varied profiles of those businesses, they are all using the productivity tools and techniques that we train them in. It is evidence that every operation needs to be on top of productivity if they want a competitive advantage. The uncertainty of Brexit, the fluctuating exchange rate affecting import and export, the impact of a changing population and the high levels of employment in this country are all additional external factors that affect businesses. So it's no wonder that so many diverse businesses are asking us to help their people attain this professional productivity qualification."

Nissan is no stranger to the Student of the Year awards, with a winner, Rachel Pallan last year and two runners up before that in the last 10 years. And in contrast, Danish-owned ECCO have in that time bolstered their shoe production in Indonesia and now employ around 8000 people in one of their six state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities near Surabaya on the eastern side of Java island. Rivaldo Pratama joined ECCO in 2016 after graduating and was delighted to have been selected to attend the in-company Certificate course last summer run by Scott-Grant in Indonesia (see MSJ Autumn 2018). Now, with this level of performance

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in the course, he has surprised and delighted his managers and colleagues. “They (and I) hope this is the start of a very good career for me at ECCO,” Rivaldo said. “In turn, I now hope I can make them even more proud by my performance in my IE role as I apply the knowledge and skills I learnt on the course. I have always been a ‘numbers’ man, so the content suited me well. I’m using time study and performance rating all the time in the various elements of shoe production. I also feel I can look to inspire others in their work.”

Peter Jackson started with Nissan in August 2018 after 20 years in engineering and manufacturing roles with Proctor and Gamble in Newcastle. “I’d been very aware of Lean in my previous work, so it was a good transition to join the IE department. For me, attending a training course was a novelty to start with, after so many years away from a classroom environment but I soon seemed to settle in and really enjoyed the work and the content. On the open course there was a good mix of other industry sectors there: distribution, retail and automotive suppliers, so I appreciated the discussions we had. Now I’m really enjoying applying the course content every day – I concentrate currently on casting, machining and assembly of engines, as well as estimating work for new products. I love that, as a result of our work, improvements are constantly identified.”

Leigh McCormick’s work since leaving education had been very numbers oriented in finance and data analysis. He had begun to find the environment boring, so was looking for a change. “My brother is involved in labour planning in a large retail organisation and he came up with the suggestion that I should consider industrial engineering as a possible option. I’d heard of Kanban, but not much else so I took a leap of faith, came to talk with Scott-Grant who agreed I could sign up for the Certificate course and, to be honest, I’ve never looked back. I’d like to think I’ve found my professional home; I certainly feel I’m now living a second life! I seemed to adapt quickly to studying, albeit it was over ten years since I’d been in a classroom environment. Now I’m working as a contractor for Scott-Grant, using and applying all that I’ve learnt on the course.” Since qualifying, Leigh has been assigned by Scott-Grant to Tesco Distribution as part of a team of IEs and has impressed them greatly – so much so that the Work Study



Manager to whom the team reports, wanted to come and support Leigh. Richard French travelled from Nottingham to see him receive his certificate and gifts. “Leigh’s attitude to work is fantastic, his work rate is very good and he has bags of capability. Although he’s only been with us on contract a comparatively short time, I’m delighted to come and celebrate his achievement with him,” he said.

Senior Instructors Steve Heathcote and Richard Easton were congratulated on their contribution to the success of so many students who attend the IMS Certificate course throughout the year, and of these students in particular. Ian Winstanley was delivering an in-company Module 1 course on the day of the event and so could not be there to celebrate. He and Richard Easton will be returning to ECCO in Indonesia for a further Certificate course this coming summer and so Richard Easton accepted the certificate on Rivaldo’s behalf and will personally present it to him then. After all the presentations, the group enjoyed a special celebratory lunch at a Manchester restaurant.

“It’s great to acknowledge and celebrate the success of talented newcomers to the IE profession”, said Richard Taylor. “And it’s a qualification that is a basis for many people at different levels in a business, in different departments and across different sectors and indeed different countries.”