

Panasonic Trust News

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ROYAL
ACADEMY
of
ENGINEERING

Trust underlines its commitment to Sustainable Development

It is usually at this time of year that we report on the five or so young engineers who have been awarded Panasonic Trust Fellowships to study full-time Masters' courses concerned with the environment and sustainable development. Last year the Trust delivered a surprise package by announcing that four of its five awardees were female engineers. This year, and equally as dramatic, comes the announcement of the award of not five but seven Panasonic Trust Fellowships. The Sir Angus Paton Bursary, which is awarded in parallel by the Trust, brings the total commitment to education and training in this field of increasingly important technology to just under £60,000.

In announcing the results Panasonic Trust Chairman Robin Bond FREng said, "The quality of this year's submissions was quite outstanding. Our final pool of eight candidates could not be differentiated between and so we took the decision to fund them all". When asked about any knock-on effects to the Trust's other activities the increased financial commitment would make Bond said "Our funding of the additional candidates was only made possible by the direct intervention of the Managing Director of Panasonic UK Ltd. The Trust is very fortunate to have as its benefactor a company whose ethos of corporate citizenship is practical and not rhetoric".

The eight awardees were divided evenly between the sexes. However the intended courses of study showed some clear favourites, both old and new. The Renewable Energy and the Environment course at Reading University will be the challenge over the coming year for three of the awardees. Mechanical engineers Jamie Wray from Oxford and Clare Hamner of Guildford, are joined by fellow Surrey native Andrew Baldock, a chemical engineer. Not to be outdone, chemist and VSO veteran Adam Berthoud from London will join the Engineering for Development course at Southampton in its ranks. Three other courses make a welcome appearance in receiving their first Panasonic Trust sponsored students. Urban Design at the University of West of England, Environmental Sustainability at Edinburgh and Loughborough University's Renewable Energy Systems Technology will be welcoming town planner Claire Mitcham, and mechanical engineers Andrew Oldroyd and Dawn Ward-Craner respectively.

Finally this year's Sir Angus Paton Bursary, The Trust and The Academy's premier award for education in water engineering, has been awarded to Joanne Barlow from Huddersfield. Joanne will be studying the MSc course in Water Pollution Control Technology at Cranfield University.



Andrew Berthoud



Andrew Baldock



Clare Hamner



Jamie Wray



Dawn Ward-Craner



Claire Mitchum



Andrew Oldroyd



Joanne Barlow

Automotive Engineers sweep Royce Bursaries again

Engineers enrolled on the University of Hertfordshire's Automotive Integrated Graduate Development Scheme Masters course have made a clean sweep of the Sir Henry Royce Bursaries for the second year running. Brett Harris and Kevin Welch from Land Rover in Warwick and Nicola Wilkinson employed by Jaguar Cars in Coventry were selected to each receive £1,000 to assist with their studies. In addition, Brett, Kevin and Nicola will become eligible for the award of a Sir Henry Royce Medal when they graduate.



Brett Harris



Kevin Welch



Nicola Wilkinson

Congratulations!

To the following Trust awardees who have recently completed part-time courses and successfully graduated:

- Phillip Barnes** MSc in Information Technology from Coventry University
- David Chapman** European Welding Engineer Diploma from The Welding Institute
- Jane Gidden** MSc in Geotechnical Engineering Design & Management from Nottingham Trent University
- Paul Gowling** European Welding Engineer Diploma from The Welding Institute
- Catherine Gray** *MSc with distinction* in Geotechnical Engineering Design & Management from Nottingham Trent University
- Paul Hayes** MSc in Project Management from Lancaster University
- Kerry Mashford** MSt in Interdisciplinary Design of the Built Environment from the University of Cambridge
- Eoin McCusker** MSc in Engineering Product Design from South Bank University
- Christopher Milne** Diploma in Geotechnical Engineering Design & Management from Nottingham Trent University
- Christopher Shelley** MSc in Geotechnical Engineering Design & Management from Nottingham Trent University
- Richard Vinnicombe** MSc in Satellite Communications Engineering from the University of Surrey

Becoming a Chartered Arbitrator

The Panasonic Trust was established in the early 1980's to help engineers re-train in areas of new technology. Twenty or so years later the role of the engineer has evolved from being a technocrat to a professional who must have a wide-ranging skill set. Far from standing still, The Trust was quick to recognise this development in the engineer's role and has supported a number of awardees on what would once have been considered as 'soft-skill courses'. One such awardee that falls into this category is Robert Bateman, who was supported by the Trust to study the legal course necessary for him to become a Chartered Arbitrator. Here Robert recounts his experiences and the circumstances that led him to pursue this career path.



Robert Bateman

I am a Chartered Civil Engineer working for Leicester City Council. During 1998 I was working as the project leader for a new bridge in the City. The project was beset with problems and fell behind schedule going over its budget. Legal action loomed and I began to meet with lawyers to discuss redress for the City Council's losses.

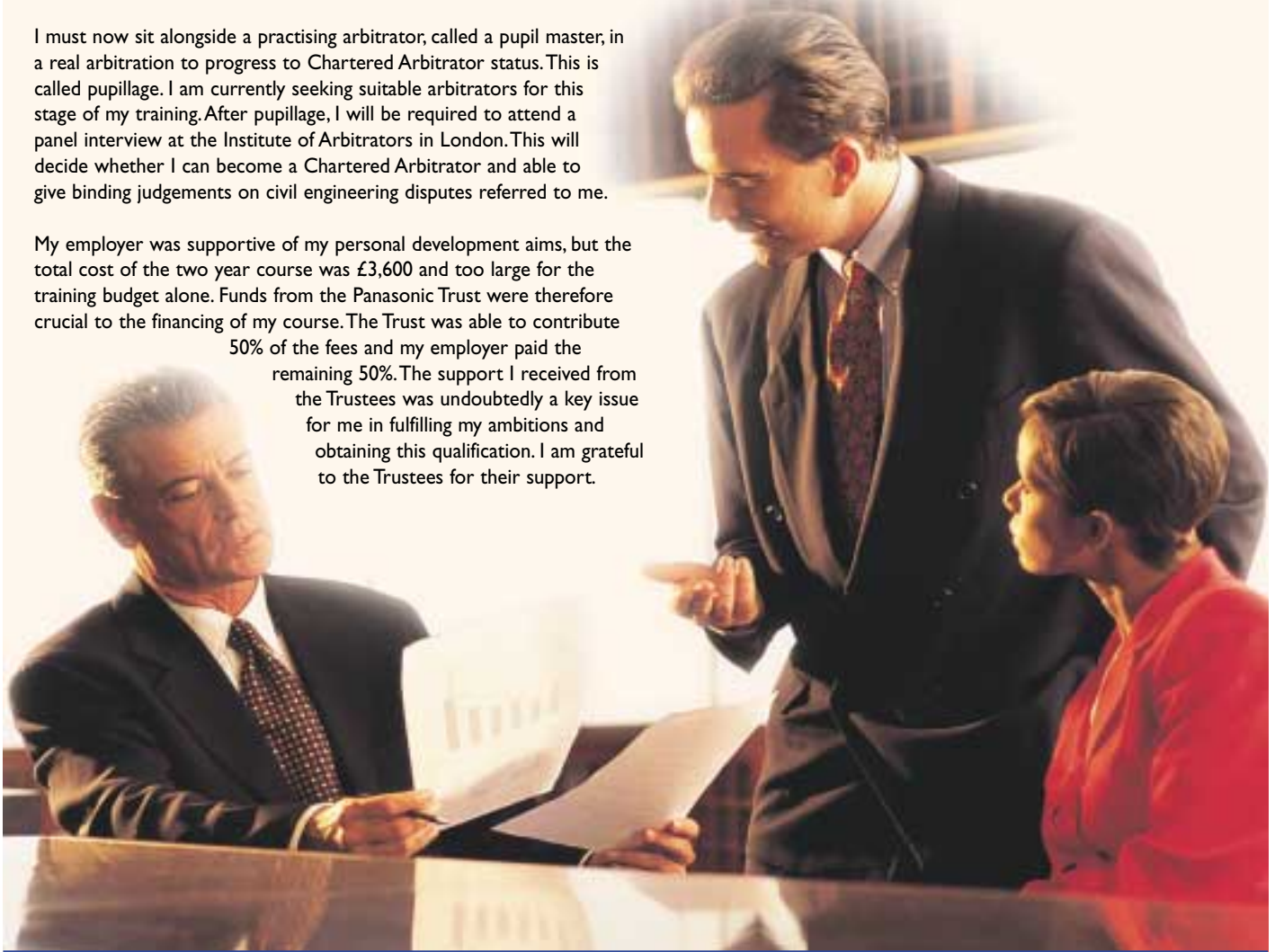
Arbitration was the agreed method of hearing the dispute. As the action progressed, I became more familiar with the legal process and interested in training as an arbitrator myself. This led me in April 1999 to take the entrance exams for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, which I am happy to say I passed successfully. However to progress any further towards Chartered Arbitrator status, I needed a postgraduate qualification in law from a course accredited by the Institute. From the many courses available, I chose the Postgraduate Diploma in Arbitration from the College of Estate Management at the University of Reading. This is a two-year distance-learning course. Students are required to attend residential courses in March to November each year, in addition to submitting coursework totalling 20,000 words. At the end of each year there are written examinations that must be passed.

I commenced my studies in February 2000 when the pack of reading material arrived from the College. As an engineer the subjects were all new to me. Contract law, tort law, the law of evidence and arbitration law were all covered in the first year. The face-to-face teaching sessions with practising arbitrators were all excellent and I saw many links with the legal process that was developing over the bridge project. The coursework and associated deadlines were demanding but I derived great satisfaction when the marked scripts came back with good tutor comments and pass marks.

The second year covered the law and practice of arbitration in more detail and ended with nine hours of written exams! The results of the course arrived in January 2002 and I was extremely pleased to have passed and be able to use the designatory letters 'DipArb'.

I must now sit alongside a practising arbitrator, called a pupil master, in a real arbitration to progress to Chartered Arbitrator status. This is called pupillage. I am currently seeking suitable arbitrators for this stage of my training. After pupillage, I will be required to attend a panel interview at the Institute of Arbitrators in London. This will decide whether I can become a Chartered Arbitrator and able to give binding judgements on civil engineering disputes referred to me.

My employer was supportive of my personal development aims, but the total cost of the two year course was £3,600 and too large for the training budget alone. Funds from the Panasonic Trust were therefore crucial to the financing of my course. The Trust was able to contribute 50% of the fees and my employer paid the remaining 50%. The support I received from the Trustees was undoubtedly a key issue for me in fulfilling my ambitions and obtaining this qualification. I am grateful to the Trustees for their support.



The Panasonic Trust Fellowships

These prestigious awards are tenable on the following full-time Masters' courses:

Multimedia Technology at the University of Bath
Manufacturing Systems Engineering at the University of Bradford
Cranfield Manufacturing Masters' Courses at Cranfield University
Environmental Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh
Geotechnical Engineering at Heriot-Watt University
Environmental Diagnosis at Imperial College
Renewable Energy Systems Technology at Loughborough University
Water & Environmental Management at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Renewable Energy & the Environment at the University of Reading
Engineering for Development at the University of Southampton
Energy Systems & the Environment at the University of Strathclyde
Water & Environmental Engineering at the University of Surrey
Corrosion Science & Engineering at UMIST
Facilities Management at UWE Bristol
Urban Design/Town & Country Planning at UWE Bristol
Virtual Manufacturing in Construction & Engineering at the University of Wolverhampton

Do you run a Technology Updating Course?

The Panasonic Trust is always keen to expand the number of courses it supports with its awards.

Suitable courses, either full or part-time, should cover any aspect of new technology. Applicants need not be graduates but should have a qualification in engineering or closely allied subject.

Contact us now for further information on funding opportunities

Further Information

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