

Panasonic Trust News

Issue 9 April 2001



ROYAL
ACADEMY
of
ENGINEERING

Trust launches interactive webpage

The Trust has just published its first official webpage. The page, which can be found on The Royal Academy of Engineering site at www.raeng.org.uk, is a must see for all prospective applicants and others wanting to know more about the Trust and its activities. Full details on all the schemes are included together with an on-line application facility.

In addition a complete list of awardees for the Panasonic Trust Fellowships and the Sir Henry Royce and Sir Angus Paton Bursary schemes are published for the first time. E-mail links have been created to each awardee to promote networking between them and to enable us to stay in touch and monitor their career progression.

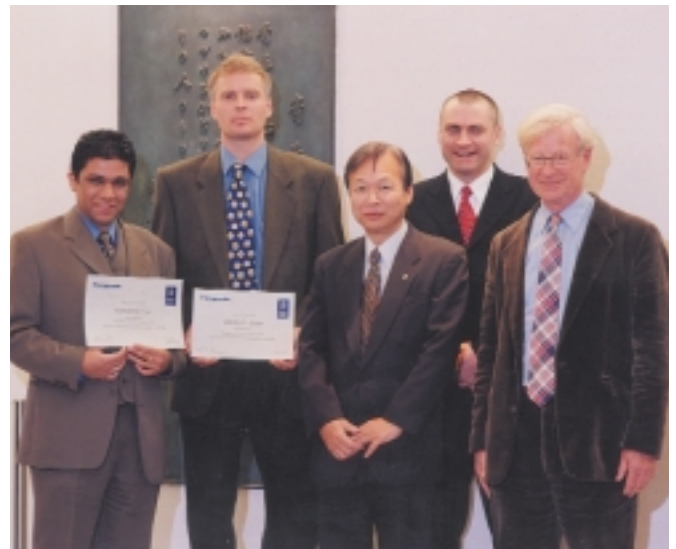
Apart from our core activities, other sections on the page are devoted to press releases and *Panasonic Trust News*, where back issues are available in pdf format. However centre stage of the page is taken by a quotation and photograph of the Founder of Matsushita Electrical Company Ltd, Mr Konosuke Matsushita, whose commitment to local philanthropic activities was instrumental in the Panasonic Trust being established.



"I believe that the mission or principal role of business is to respond to and fulfil the desire of human beings to improve the quality of their lives."

Mr Konosuke Matsushita
1894-1989
Founder
Matsushita Electric Industrial
Company Limited.

Graduating Fellows Honoured by Panasonic UK Ltd



Pictured left to right are: Kamaldeep Rayet, Christopher Baker, Mr Phil Otsuki, Ian Bowbrick and Robin Bond FEng.

The annual lunch for newly graduated Panasonic Fellows was held at the end of last year. Guest of honour, Mr Phil Otsuki, Managing Director of Panasonic UK Ltd, made the presentation with each Fellow receiving a commemorative certificate to mark their academic achievement. He was joined by Robin Bond FEng, Chairman of Trustees, in congratulating the Fellows all of whom had successfully secured employment within industry since completing their courses. In fact such was the demand for engineers with their unique combination of skills, that most had turned down lucrative offers in favour of their current positions.

Several of the Fellows distinguished themselves in the final outcome of their courses. MSc's with distinction were awarded to both Martyn Berry and Mark Stephenson who studied Renewable Energy and the Environment at the University of Reading, and Corrosion Science and Engineering at UMIST respectively. Mark was additionally awarded the T K Ross prize for achieving the highest overall mark on his course.

Crest joins Fellowship Scheme

The Trustees of the Panasonic Trust are pleased to announce that Loughborough University's MSc course in Renewable Energy Systems Technology (CREST) has formally been admitted to its Fellowship programme. This decision takes immediate effect and allows Loughborough to propose candidates for this year's Fellowships.

The Trust was particularly drawn to this course since it is highly interdisciplinary and stresses the interdependence of renewable energy technologies and their influence on traditional methods of electricity generation. It also highlights the process of integrating such technologies into electricity utility grids. Given this foundation it is clear to see that CREST complements the existing courses in the scheme and also increases our geographical spread.

Commenting on this latest inclusion to the Scheme, Robin Bond FREng, Chairman of Trustees said "We are very pleased to welcome Loughborough University into our premier award scheme. I and the other Trustees look forward to supporting our first Fellow on this environmentally sustainable related course".

Royce Bursars Receive Awards

At a dinner held recently at the University of Hertfordshire the 2000 Fellows undertaking the Automotive IGDS MSc course were presented with their grants and certificates. Pictured below in the front row from left to right are Craig Jones, Roland Armitage and George Christofi.



Congratulations!

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Paul Agius | MSc in Software Engineering from Bournemouth University |
| Malcolm Angus | MSc(Eng) in Process Safety and Loss Prevention from the University of Sheffield |
| Ken Dawson | MSc in Project Management from Lancaster University |
| Mark Fraser | MSc in Electricity Management and Technology from the University of Strathclyde |
| Simon Green | <i>MSc with commendation</i> in Aerospace Design, Manufacture and Management from the University of Bristol |
| Thomas Lane | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Engineering Product Design from South Bank University |
| Denis Marchant | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Advanced Manufacturing Systems from Kingston University |
| Benjamin May | MSc in Engineering Business Management from the University of Warwick |
| Andrew McWatt | MSc in Building Services Engineering from Heriot-Watt University |
| Claire Smith | MSt in Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment from the University of Cambridge |
| Alex Thomson | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Maintenance Engineering from the University of Manchester |
| Clifford Young | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Aerospace Design, Manufacture and Management from the University of Bristol |

Competitiveness through Training

An individual's professional development having a direct impact on the profitability of their employer is not always apparent, particularly if you do not have view of the 'big picture'. The situation can be made simpler where someone works for a small company or a small business unit of a large one. One such case, illustrated here, is that of Alex Thomson who whilst working for BAE Systems in the Middle East completed the Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS) Masters course in Maintenance Engineering.

Industry is continually pressurised to increase profit. Advances in manufacturing and process techniques assist in achieving this goal, however there is a limit to what can be achieved. Businesses must therefore look to reducing operational costs as a method of increasing profit. Improving the way companies perform maintenance provides an ideal opportunity to reduce both direct and indirect costs.

In July 1997 having completed Parts 2a and b of the Engineering Council Examinations and being half way through Part 2c, I found myself looking for a postgraduate course to develop my career further. I was at the time employed by BAE SYSTEMS in Saudi Arabia as a Superintendent in charge of the Facilities Maintenance Department in Dhahran. My move into the maintenance field was more by accident than design. I began my working life as an Apprentice Electrician with an electrical contracting company. Soon after completing my apprenticeship, I joined the MOD as a Professional and Technology Officer in an electronics maintenance section. I left the MOD to join BAE SYSTEMS as an Electrical and Electronics Technician, a maintenance-orientated role.



Photo: Courtesy of BT plc

I became aware of the IGDS and obtained a list of courses available from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. A brief examination of the courses on offer resulted in me contacting the University of Manchester to obtain information on the MSc in Maintenance Engineering. After meeting the faculty staff and studying the course content, I decided that undertaking this MSc was right for my overall career plan.

The course consisted of ten taught modules delivered over a two year period, and a final year project. Each module had a post module assignment that focussed on a maintenance problem within the student's company. The final year project was based on research into an important maintenance related

issue also within the student's own work environment.

My research focussed on how the future maintenance of new facilities was considered during the design and construction phases, since my employer offered a Project Management service on new facilities for its Saudi



Alex Thomson

Arabian customers. This work resulted in a thesis entitled 'A Management Methodology for the Maintenance of New Facilities'. Each of the post module assignments proved useful, giving an insight into the root causes of the problem and an understanding of how to put it right and prevent similar situations reoccurring. Whilst the MSc was enjoyable it was also extremely demanding, particularly the travel involved to and from Manchester for each of the modules. Luckily I had the full support of my wife Yvonne who became a bit of a 'study widow'.

Unfortunately my employer was unable to fund the course during the first two years. As you would expect the financial burden was becoming something of a concern. Fortunately I found out about the Panasonic Trust and subsequently applied for assistance. The Trustees were generous in offering to fund a portion of the course fees for which I am eternally in their debt.

On 4 July 2000 I received my MSc degree with Distinction at a graduation ceremony held at the Whitworth Hall in Manchester. It was one of the proudest days of my life and was shared with my wife and parents.

As a direct result of my initial research, I was promoted within BAE SYSTEMS in Saudi Arabia. The move was equally beneficial to the company and myself; I gained more experience whilst the company saved on external recruitment costs. The success I achieved in this role led to me being transferred back to the UK to develop a Facilities Management strategy for use on Private Finance Initiative/Public Private Partnership projects.

In November 2000 I left BAE SYSTEMS and took the position of Maintenance Services Manager with Airflow Streamlines, a manufacturing company in Northampton. I am very sure that my latter career experience, which stemmed from attaining the MSc, was crucial to my appointment.

The IGDS Maintenance Engineering course covered a broad range of topics within the maintenance field. These provide the basis for transforming the maintenance function from its current perception as a necessary overhead, to being a strategic management tool for improving business performance. I firmly believe that industry focussed courses such as this are a fundamental part of the career development of any engineer. They offer the ability to relate ones own experience in industry to current technological and managerial theories and facilitate the application of these theories within an operational business. Furthermore the qualification sends a signal that an individual is prepared to continuously improve their knowledge and experience.

The Panasonic Trust Fellowships

These prestigious awards are tenable on the following Masters courses during 2001:

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 and Environmental Management at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Renewable Energy and the Environment at the University of Reading
Engineering for Development at the University of Southampton
Energy Systems and the Environment at the University of Strathclyde
Water and Environmental Engineering at the University of Surrey
Corrosion Science and Engineering at UMIST
Facilities Management at UWE Bristol
Urban Design/Town and Country Planning at UWE Bristol
Virtual Manufacturing in Construction and 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, can cover any aspect of new technology.

Suitable applicants need not be graduates, but should have an engineering qualification.

Please contact us for further information on funding opportunities.

Application Information

All enquiries about the Panasonic Trust and its activities should be made to:

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