Summer Graduation Celebrations

On Wednesday 19 July, SoBE celebrated the successes of its 2017 graduating cohort by hosting an event at the Imperial War Museum of the North, Salford Quays. Following the graduation ceremony, graduates, staff, and guests were invited to attend a drinks reception. This was followed by a celebration dinner for those students awarded a prize for their exceptional achievements.

Stephen Hodder MBE was the guest speaker at this illustrious event, with over 40 prizes awarded, courtesy of our generous sponsors within industry and professional institution bodies.

Members of staff will travel to CSCT, Sri Lanka, to attend the ceremony for our Sri Lankan cohort, which takes place on Monday 31 July.
Royal Institute of British Architects

We are delighted to announce that the validation panel from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has recommended that The University of Salford’s BSc Architecture qualifications be unconditionally validated for five years. This is a fantastic outcome of all the hard work and commitment by staff and students. All staff have worked beyond their duties to achieve such outstanding results. The Dean of School, Professor Hisham Elkadi, would like to acknowledge all academic and professional staff who have made contributions to the development of Architecture @ Salford, and the senior management for their support during the last three years.

Modernise or Die!

On Friday 23 June, prior to the 11th North West Regional Construction Awards, Mark Farmer, author of the 2016 UK Government Review of the Construction Labour Market Model and Founding Director and CEO of Cast, presented a seminar entitled ‘Modernise or Die – in the North West!’ Hosted by Professor Peter McDermott, the event attracted over 50 representatives from across the University and industry sector, and focused on the implications of the ‘Modernise or Die’ review through the lens of devolution and a developing industrial strategy for the regions. To view a recording of the seminar, please visit: https://media.salford.ac.uk/Play/10393
MSc Ecologies of Cities

A new MSc Ecologies of Cities was recently given academic approval for September 2018 start. This is a unique course in the UK and will prepare future graduates for work and research in future urban environments, using multi-disciplinary teaching and learning. It will draw applicants from environmental science, architecture, planning, and numerous other urban professions; and includes new modules from SoBE and ELS on urban energy, big data and smart cities, health and architecture, ecology and planning. Please contact Nick Davies, N.J.Davies@salford.ac.uk, for more details.

From Building Specs to Smart Cities

Professor Hisham Elkadi was invited to give a keynote speech in the Sri Lanka Building Specifiers Conference in Colombo. Sri Lanka Sunday Times wrote: “Prof. Elkadi, in his keynote address dwelling upon the future of the construction industry, said that imagination is more important than knowledge, a message he wanted to share because he said that the future is like what is happening now. Prof. Elkadi urged Sri Lanka to develop its own Building Specification system and pass all the trials others have been going through”. “Prof. Elkadi said that he would talk about the future of construction industry and then find out how the specifications would fit into the future. He indicated that the construction industry is moving from the static idea of technology to the dynamic idea of smart future. Smart cities have a bigger vision for the world, he said”. Currently, a proposal to ESTABLISHING A Construction Specification Development Procedures for Sri Lankan Construction Industry is under review with CIDA and CSCT.
Construct IT Event

On 20 April 2017, a Construct IT For Business event was held at London South Bank University. The event was chaired by Professor Jason Underwood, and brought together representatives from a range of industry and academic institutions.

This one day event, sponsored by Autodesk, focused on ‘Leaning Towards a Transforming Industry’, and provided a platform to demonstrate and discuss the future of the digital building industry, and how industry and academia can work together to achieve this.

KTP NWCA Award

A 30 month Knowledge Transfer Partnership project between the University of Salford and Links FF&E, led by Jason Underwood, Andrew Fleming and Dr Mark Shelbourn has been Highly Commended at the North West Construction Awards at the Principal Hotel, Manchester, 23rd June, under the Digital Construction category.

The KTP project aims to develop the capabilities and expertise of the organisation required to operate in a BIM environment from design through to assembly, while filling the gaps between design through to manufacture, streamlining processes, reducing duplication of information, ensuring control, and increasing project efficiencies.
Energy House Green Gown Award

The Energy House has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Institutional Research category of the 2017 Green Gown Awards. Established in 2004, the Green Gown Awards are the most prestigious recognition of best practice within the further and higher education sector.

Since its inception five years ago, the Energy House has been a game-changer for industry and the research community. From this, 3,000 homes have been retrofitted, methods to slash bills by 15% proven, technologies prototyped, £3.5m of grants attracted and more than 500 companies awoken to the possibilities of energy-saving.

BIM Summer School

This year's annual MSc BIM & Integrated Design Summer School was held 15-17 May at MediaCityUK. This optional curricular activity provided 40+ students with the opportunity to enhance the development of advanced knowledge of BIM, Lean, and integrated design and project delivery approaches along with networking with other students, tutors, and industry guest lecturers. A range of events were held across the three days, including a range of industry guest lectures, student presentations, interactive workshops and an employability panel session with former students. The event closed with a site visit of the Network Rail’s Northern Hub and Electrification programme.
Salford Active Travel Project

Increasing walking and other forms of active travel are important policy goals for reducing harmful emissions and improving public health. In Salford, levels of obesity and other harmful illnesses are higher than national averages.

Research Fellow Nick Davies is managing a kick-start project with a range of regional collaborators to develop transport research. This project explores enablers and barriers towards walking and cycling in the Ordsall area.

Stakeholder organisations will be provided with information and events to aid sustainable transport and health operating in Salford and Manchester. The findings form part of wider research to understand the relationship between travel experiences, behaviour and the local context.

Walking Project Update

Dr Nick Davies has been working on two walking research projects in the local area in order to develop stronger links between SOBE and numerous transport-related organisations who are crucial in Salford’s urban development.

The first of these ‘Talking the Walk’ involved a series of interviews with local residents on enablers and barriers to active travel.

The second is a survey of transport and tourism organisations on Greater Manchester’s walkability as a tourism destination. They are feeding into a longer term study which will draw new insights into the role walking experiences in future built environments.
Energy Resilience Workshop, Vietnam

In May, colleagues from SoBE visited Can Tho University, Vietnam. The three day workshop was organised by Dr Zeeshan Aziz, as part of a Newton Fund research grant, and focused on the challenges of ensuring a sustainable energy supply for the country.

Researchers across a range of disciplines from the UK and Vietnam worked together to explore projects focused at enhancing energy resilience and economic development, as a means of developing multi-disciplinary approaches for effective management of energy challenges of the 21st century.

The workshop was part of a new five year programme supported by the British Council to encourage international research partnerships.

Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

The three minute thesis (3MT) is a ‘research pitch’ which compresses students’ research interests and motivation into 180 seconds, and communicates this to an audience outside their immediate specialism. The competition cultivates students’ academic, presentation, and research communication skills, whilst increasing their ability to explain their research to a non-specialist audience. Presentations are prepared in either a single PowerPoint slide, or a set of slides to meet the designated three minutes presentation. The aim is to sell their research, engage people’s interest and encourage discussion.

This year's 3MT competition was judged by Dr David Baldry and Dr Anthony Higham. Six candidates participated with two winners selected: Sajedeh Mollasalehi and Mohammad Ravanchi.
SoBE Events

- On 20 July, Dr Claudia Trillo hosted ‘IT Living Platform’ event at Media City UK. This platform offers real-time, secure data sharing, visualisation and analysis, enabling more effective strategy and scenario planning, and supporting more collaborative ways of working. A pilot programme funded by HEIF, and led by the University of Salford’s SoBE and ThinkLab teams in collaboration with Mirrorworld Technologies, has been co-created with Salford City Council, focusing on Media City UK, and specifically on skills, employment and enterprise opportunities.

- Professor Peter McDermott recently attended AECOM’s North West Young Professionals Forum, held at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Peter provided a stakeholder engagement presentation which focused on a mission-driven industrial strategy for construction and infrastructure.

BSc Building Surveying Project

Level six, BSc Building Surveying students undertook a project to find additional uses to secure the future of the local, grade 2* listed Brookfield Unitarian Church, which is on Historic England’s “at risk” register, due to currently having no income generating activities to cover future maintenance costs. Students performed condition surveys and wrote industry accepted conservation statements and management reports, proposing a realistic way forwards for using the building. University external examiners commented upon the outputs, “the standard of work presented by the students was exceptional”. Two of the best reports were given to the trustees to inform future decisions.
Neo Ekistics: Regional Cities Smart Futures

The Chinese Ministry of Housing and Transport invited Prof. Elkadi, Dean of School, to deliver a keynote speech to Smart Cities Symposium in Shanghai.

Hisham said that Smart Cities initiatives provide opportunities for new approaches to urban development in regional cities. He added that there is a need for innovative re-think beyond terms, like sustainable, resilient, carbon free, post carbon cities. Intelligence is the ability of a system to vary its state or action in response to varying situations and past experience, in other term has a self-organising characteristics; one of the principles of ecological systems. The presentation highlights the need for new ways to theorize, contextualize, and practice the design of future smart cities.

Geelong Green Spine becomes a reality

In July, the Australian Government approved the funding to realise Vision2 Project, initiated and directed by Prof. Elkadi since 2012.

A total funding of $39 Million is provided for a number of Vision2 projects, including the green spine, the arrival precinct, and the expansion of Johnston Park to provide flood resilience to the city. Vision2 is likely to be considered as one of the University of Salford Impact Study in the next REF.
Seddon / SoBE Collaboration

It is now six months since a partnership was agreed between Seddon and SoBE. A lot has happened in this time. Seddon have joined the advisory board for construction degrees enabling them to have a real input to the curriculum and its delivery. They helped create the assignment brief for Lean Organisational Management with a live project being used to help students understand how lean principles can be used to successfully implement BIM. Both SoBE and Seddon look forward to developing the partnership over the coming year which includes a summer school to encourage local schoolgirls to pursue construction careers.

New Starters

Academics
- Dr Kwasi Awuah, Lecturer in PRE
- Mr Damilila Ekundayo, Lecturer in QS
- Mr Eamonn Farrell, Lecturer in Construction Law
- Mr Derek Hales, Lecturer in Architecture
- Dr Inji Kenawy, Research Fellow in Urban Ecologies
- Miss Kate Rowan, Lecturer in PRE
- Mr Julian Snape, Lecturer in Construction

Professional Support Services
- Mr Thomas Hillsdon, Student Progression Administrator

PhD Students
- Mahmoud Aburas, Supervisor: Carl Abbott
- Musaed Al Qattan, Supervisor: Chaminda Pathirage
- Mohammed Almutairi, Supervisor: Ged Wood
- Ebrahim Al-Zaabi, Supervisor: Zeeshan Aziz
- Yasir Azmat, Supervisor: Chaminda Pathirage
- Rhona Brown, Supervisor: Carl Abbott
- James Costanza, Supervisor: Richard Fitton
- Rukshan De Mel, Supervisor: Udaya Kulatunga
- Clement Isibor, Supervisor: Min An
- Sanjay Jayaswal, Supervisor: Chaminda Pathirage
- Bello Usman, Supervisor: Chika Udeaja
### PGR Successes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rania Aburamadan</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Claudia Trillo</td>
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<td>Fatima Al Mohannadi</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Mohammed Arif</td>
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<td>Saad Alshahrani</td>
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<td>Zeeshan Aziz</td>
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<td>Khaldoon Al-Tameemi</td>
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<td>Alolote Amadi</td>
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<td>Anthony Higham</td>
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<td>Christopher Ejeh</td>
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<td>Khaled Elgamodi</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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### Congratulations!

Professors David Baldry and Les Ruddock were recently acknowledged by the Vice-Chancellor for twenty five years of service to the University!

### Got a story to share?

Please email details (100 words max) and a photo / image to Charlotte Houghton, c.a.m.houghton1@salford.ac.uk