MAY 2018, ISSUE 5

SMART METERS

The University of Salford and BEAMA have published a White Paper (available here BEAMA CAD guide) that investigates the issues of how consumers can gain access to their smart meter data. The Applied Buildings and Energy Research Group (ABERG) see this as a major issue to drive the smart homes agenda and make the most of issues such as Demand Side Response (DSR), demand aggregation and the full integration of smart homes technology. Dr Richard Fitton, who gave evidence at the recent reading of the Smart Meters Bill, and Professor Will Swan will be hosting a round table event in London on May 8th with energy suppliers, smart meter and CAD manufacturers, as well as consumer groups to discuss the next steps for the sector.

Have a story to share?

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

Dean of School, Professor Hisham Elkadi, recently attended the 2nd Memaryat International Conference on Architecture and Urban Resilience, 18-19 April 2018, to present a keynote presentation on ‘Neo Ekistics: Towards Resilient & Smart Urban Future’. The conference, hosted by Effat University, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, focused on the exploration of the multifaceted paradigms of the built-up resiliency, based around two themes: Resilient Building and Structures (Challenges and Solutions), and Resilient Cities (Challenges and Solutions). The two day event was attended by academics, practitioners and policy makers, providing the chance to share experiences and thoughts in this area.

Associated Schools of Construction Annual Teaching Excellence Award

Dr Mark Shelbourn recently attended the 54th Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) International Conference at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA. As well as presenting a paper on the use of digital technologies in helping students to participate in ASC competitions, he also won a prestigious award. The ASC has 8 different regions. 7 of these are made up of different states across the USA, Region 8 is the International region. Mark has won the annual Teaching Excellence Award in recognition of his work for the ASC in teaching and learning at a number of institutions both in the UK and Internationally and enhancing the student experience through encouraging and supporting students in participating in student competitions in the UK and USA. In recognition of his international work Mark was elected as the co-chair of the International Development Committee of the ASC at the conference in Minneapolis.
HAVEN Research Facility

The Applied Buildings and Energy Research Group (ABERG) are celebrating their success in the recent Innovate UK Vehicle to Grid call. The project involves adding electric vehicle capability to the Salford Energy House, meaning that the car can be linked with the energy systems of the house meaning that heating systems, renewables and battery storage are all linked and controlled. The goal of the project is to run a number of different scenarios and understand how the energy within at the car battery can be used to manage the domestic energy system at the house level and how this might link to the grid. The partners in the project are Upside Energy, Good Energy and Honda, who are providing the 2 way charging point.

Academic Writing Club

Academic writing is a rewarding but often lonely process. Research has shown that collaboration and communication with other academics can boost productivity and enhance the joy of writing. With this in mind, the SOBE writing club held its third session on 25 April. Professor Jason Underwood and Dr Nick Davies introduced a discussion on producing good abstracts and planning journal papers. This was the first of a five-session process which will take staff and PGR students through the process of drafting a journal article with a view to submitting in the summer. Please contact Nick Davies, n.j.davies@salford.ac.uk, for further information.
On 23 February a team of four MSc Project Management in Construction students travelled to Liverpool to participate in the CIOB Student Challenge. The team – comprised of Hanan Alsheikh, Henry Awak, Kolawole Dawodu and Archith Singh Pathy Amarsingh – didn’t win the overall prize, but they did win the technical challenge for the tallest structure. Programme rep Hanan reported that the experience “was fantastic...We got to know people from different universities, industries and from the CIOB.”

Photo courtesy of Hazel Yorke, CIOB

Subscriptions

The Library is undertaking its annual review of current subscriptions. The aim of the review is to ensure that our subscriptions meet the current teaching learning and research requirements of the University, providing value for money. The Library has collated usage data from recent years, and has used this information to recommend whether individual subscriptions should be kept or cancelled. Individuals are being asked to review these recommendations and either to make the case for keeping or cancelling specific resources. Further information and lists to review can be found here. Comments on a potential change to a large, aggregated package of eBooks and eJournals are also welcomed. Further details can be found here. Please send your feedback on all of the above to Tracy Breheny, t.m.breheny@salford.ac.uk, by 18 May 2018. The Library will consider the information provided and will finalise the list of subscriptions to be cancelled by October 2018.

PGR Successes

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<tr>
<th>Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ala’a Alshdiefat</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Zeeshan Aziz</td>
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<td>Mark Alston</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Hisham Elkadi</td>
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<td>Elijah Ayodele</td>
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<td>Chaminda Pathirage</td>
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<td>Wasiu Bello</td>
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<td>Jeanette Dodd</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Marcus Ormerod</td>
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The School was significantly represented at the RICS World Built Environment Forum, 23-24 April 2018, London. The theme of this year’s event was “Our Changing World: Urbanisation, Innovation, and Civilisation”, a developing research area in our School. Professors Hisham Elkadi and Peter Walker, Dr Sara Biscaya, and David Baldry attended, alongside ten students as part of the RICS Rising Stars initiative. This provided a unique opportunity to take part in a high-level conference on subjects which will be increasingly important in their careers. Guest speakers were drawn from a diverse range of disciplines including urban planning, financial investment, city futures, municipal management, and the built environment. For further information, please visit: https://ww2.rics.org/uk/wbef/the-summit/innovators-and-global-influencers/

MOBILISE project update

The £1.2m GCRF and EPSRC funded project’s first major summit was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 27-28 February, hosted by the THINKlab and universities of Colombo and Moratuwa. The Sri Lankan Minister for Disaster Management, Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa addressed delegates, which included senior political leaders, researchers, policy makers, humanitarian responders, big data management experts, earth observation specialists, and businesses from a range of countries. Professor Terrence Fernando demonstrated how earth observation technologies and big data can play a role to strengthen local disaster risk and resilience. Further details on the project can be found at: http://www.mobilise-project.org.uk/
Republic of Korea visit

A high-level government delegation from the National Civil Defence and Disaster Management Training Institute, Ministry of Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea visited the THINKlab on 26 April 2018. Professor Terrence Fernando welcomed the fourteen-member delegation. The objective of the visit was to exchange knowledge on digital disaster risk and resilience governance and multi-agency collaboration, and explore future joint research and enterprise opportunities for making safe and resilient cities and communities around the world. Senior Fire and Rescue Officials from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service delivered presentations in the seminar.

Drone Operation Training

On the 27 March, in partnership with the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, the THINKlab and ELS organised a Basic Drone Operating training session for Effective Disaster Risk Analysis & Response Planning for current and retired employees of the UK Fire and Rescue Services. The training was coordinated by Dr Neil Entwistle (ELS) and Dr Komal Raj Aryan (THINKlab). Professor Terrence Fernando, Director of the THINKlab, welcomed participants and informed them of the THINKlab’s strategy and plan to promote disaster risk and response governance knowledge co-creation activities in coming days. The event was attended by 16 participants from four fire and rescue services, INGOs, and researchers and students from the University of Salford.
North West Construction Hub

Professor Jason Underwood chaired the panel discussion at the recent NorthWest Construction Hub (NWCH) Digital Construction Special Interest Group (SIG) Client event, which was held 1st May at MediaCity. The focus for the event was on the strategic use of BIM, Digital Technology & Innovation in construction. The panel, comprising representatives from Manchester City Council, Laing O’Rourke, Kier, and Halliday Meecham, explored topics that reflected feedback from clients of the NWCH and frequently asked questions to contractors, including how technology can drive efficiencies and how this is captured; how the adoption of digital processes can be accelerated inside organisations; and, how organisations can identify information requirements to suit both construction delivery and facilities management needs. As part of this event, Ahmed Moemen was invited to showcase his PhD alongside the other NWCH Framework partners and clients to maximise the impact of the SIG with assisting clients to overcome barriers to getting the best out of Digital Construction. His PhD, under the supervision of Professor Jason Underwood, is collaborating with the NWCH to develop a Level 2 BIM Maturity-KPI assessment framework that facilitates UK public sector local authority clients with assessing their Level 2 BIM adoption in line with the UK construction strategy.

New Starters

Academics
- Dr Tanja Poppelreuter, History & Theory of Architecture
- Dr Kaushal Keraminiyage, Reader in Quantity Surveying
- Dr Nirodha Fernando, Lecturer in Quantity Surveying

Professional Support Services
- Hayley Gray-Shepherd, PA to the Dean of School
- Stuart Holmes, Programme Administrator, Property & Building Surveying

PhD Students
- Ioannis Karamitsos, Supervisor: Angela Lee