MPM Fall Quarter 2013 News

As most of you probably know, the Chicago area has been experiencing quite a severe winter, so we especially welcome “hot” news to share. Keep us up to date on all of your newsworthy events and we will, in turn, keep our MPM family informed.

New Graduates

Congratulations to our graduates who completed their MPM degree in the Fall Quarter. We wish them the best of luck during these challenging economic times.

Siyu Bai (China)    Yao Wang (China)
Xiaotong Ding (China)  Jian Zeng (China)
Rachana Santosh Raikar (India)  Li Zhang (China)
Heng Zhao (China)

New Students

We are happy to extend a warm welcome (despite the outside temperature) to the following students who joined the MPM program in the Winter Quarter.

Shubhangi Jalan (India)
Mengyang Zhang (China)
Yan Zhuang (China)

Spring Brunch

Please note that we have rescheduled out Spring Brunch to Sunday, June 15, 2014 at the same location – the Park Ridge Country Club. Although two weeks later than originally planned, it will still be a wonderful annual event where everyone associated with the MPM and EMDC programs can gather together and renew old friendships and make new ones. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Last year we had an attendance of more than 135.

Alumnae and Alumni Updates

After five years in manufacturing, Ahmet Eryaman (MPM 1996) returned to banking. His position at Denizbank involves working closely with their shareholder Sberbank on a couple of large projects. Last November he taught a class for executives in the Center for Risk Management at Loyola University in Chicago. His course included his experience with emerging markets and a case study analysis of Cash Flow at Risk in which he examines the emerging markets point-of-view, reviews financial tools and their impacts on enterprises, and explains the impact of catastrophic events on cash flow.

Congratulations to Rashad Morton (MPM 2001) and his wife, Kelcy, who were married on October 19, 2013 in Redondo Beach, California, and honeymooned in San Francisco, California.
**Adhamina Rodriguez** (MPM 1999) has been named Director of Sustainability at Swinerton Builders in San Francisco. During her 14 years at Swinerton, she has been a staunch proponent of sustainable construction practices and is very happy to have found a perfect niche to develop her passion and apply her knowledge to advance the field. After chairing the company’s Green Committee for the last several years, her primary focus in this new position will be to build a profitable Green Retrofit business that will be structured similar to Corporate Services. She will be the lead in finding the work, providing expertise, and then distributing the projects to the appropriate Swinerton office for execution. In addition, she will provide fee based LEED consulting services for both internal and external clients.

Another of her major accomplishments this past year resulted from her community volunteer work to build a public playground at her neighborhood. She conceived the idea three years ago and mobilized the local community to help in this endeavor. She created the design, worked to get community and city approvals, changed legislation to allow construction on the only available public land, raised the funds, and did the construction herself through Swinerton Builders (probono). Shown to the right is a picture of the plaque that the city placed on the playground to give credit for the effort.

And all of this was accomplished while raising her three children: Dominic (5 years old) and twins Victoria and Oliver (10 months old). While a student in the MPM program, Adhamina met her husband, Stuart, who received his PhD in economics from Northwestern. Obviously she has many fond memories of her time in the program and credits it with fundamentally changing her career and her life.

**Basak Berker** (MPM 2002) and her husband, Serdar Bekiroglu, welcomed a daughter, Lara, to their family on January 30, 2013. Basak is currently the director of real estate management services in a very new department of Colliers International in Turkey.

**Anna Zysman** (MPM 2012) and her husband, Richmond Ualat, were married on October 11, 2013. Their reception was held at The Stonegate in Hoffman Estates, Illinois and they spent their honeymoon in Riviera Maya, Mexico. Among the guests who attended were MPM alums **Mehraz Khaleghi Kerahroodi** (MPM 2012) and **Sharon Lowhim** (MPM 2012).
Taha Taha (MPM 2008), his wife, Sukar, and their daughter, Emily, born on May 20, 2011, are awaiting the arrival of another girl who is scheduled to arrive in February. Taha moved to Puerto Rico in the Fall of 2009 and has been working at Schneider Electric for the past four years.

As Senior Project Manager for Schneider Electric’s Federal Division, his responsibilities are to initiate, manage, and deliver multimillion dollar design-build projects in accordance with the contract requirements while ensuring that performance and profitability targets are met. This includes performing program/project management oversight and leveraging team personnel for strategic planning and the execution of project activities and deliverables. A year ago, he completed a $50M Energy Saving Performance Contract (ESPC) for the US Coast Guard in Puerto Rico; the project consisted of a Cool Roof Technology, 2.8 Megawatt Photovoltaic System, and major MEP Upgrades for 960,000 square feet of USCG facilities. This project guarantees an estimated 40 percent of annual savings in energy costs for the USCG. Since then, he has been working on a $15M Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) design-build program for five US Navy bases around Europe. These projects include an architecture and technology for an automated two-way wireless communication network between smart meters with an IP address and the government. The purpose is to provide highly accurate data about their power consumption which allows the government to make informed choices about their energy usage to reduce energy costs.

New Specialization Areas

This academic year the MPM program launched two new specialization areas – one in Real Estate Development and the other in Transportation Management; a third new area in Sustainability will be offered in the coming academic year. These areas, together with Construction Management and A/E/C Business Management, constitute five rather diverse specialization areas in which a student can study.

EMDC Program

Plans are being developed to offer our six-course certificate program in Executive Management for Design and Construction on-line next year. The students who took the program last year and those who are taking it this year have been very complimentary and enthusiastic about the courses comprising the program and the faculty who teach them. The manifested quality of the program suggests that the magnitude of its success will be governed largely by the degree of which it becomes known in the profession, and you can help in this regard by bringing this program to the attention of your colleagues who are in a position to benefit from it. Upon completion of the six-course certificate program, an MS degree can be earned, if desired, by completing six additional courses that are individually selected to complement a student’s background, experience, and career objectives. The web site for the program can be accessed at: http://www.emdc.northwestern.edu
Marketing

We have contracted with Lorett Marketing Communications to develop and implement a marketing plan aimed primarily at bringing greater national attention to the MPM and EMDC programs and our biennial Symposia on Information Technology for Design and Construction. Toward this end they might contact you with a survey request or to obtain your opinion on your experience in the MPM program.

Symposium on Technology for Design and Construction

The third biennial Symposium on Technology for Design and Construction will be held on August 13, 14, and 15, 2014 at the Law School, Thorne Auditorium, 375 East Chicago Avenue on the Northwestern University Campus in Chicago. This Symposium will assemble design and construction researchers, academics, and practitioners to discuss the present state-of-the-art and prospects for future advancements in this field. The primary focus is to improve project efficiency by reducing costs, accelerating delivery, improving quality, minimizing risks, and leveraging resources.

Please share this information with your friends and colleagues and consider attending this Symposium yourself to network with leaders in the field and enhance your understanding the current and future role of technology in design, construction, and facilities management. The web site can be found at: http://www.techforconstruction.com