



Construction Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

# NEWSLETTER

News from Acton & West London College

November 2008



## SkillBuild National Medal Winner – again!

Congratulations go to Neil Macartney who was awarded the Bronze Medal in the Bench Joinery competition at the National SkillBuild Final held in Leeds in October.

This is the second time Neil has won Bronze at this event having done so previously in 2006 – a significant accomplishment.

Neil recently completed his Apprenticeship with Haymills and has been an outstanding student in his three years at the College.

### Neil Macartney, SkillBuild Bench Joinery Bronze Medallist



Neil is currently a contender for representing the UK in the World Skills event to be held in Calgary in 2009 and we wish him every continued success.

## SkillBuild National Final – Five students participated from EHWLC

We are extremely proud of having had 5 students from the Construction Division participate in this year's National SkillBuild Final – this is a considerable representation from one department in one college at such a high profile skills event and our best ever representation on this national stage to date.

The following students competed:

- Neil Macartney – Bench Joinery
- Chris Burrows – Bench Joinery
- Anthony Daly – Carpentry
- Jason Villeneuve-Hayes – Carpentry
- Jonathan Daffurn – Plastering

We are extremely proud of all our students who were excellent ambassadors for the College and gave an extremely good account of themselves. The students were supported by a number of teaching and support staff leading up to the competition but in particular Noel Hall and Mike Brown who were also at the three day event supporting the students all the way.

## UK's WorldSkills Squad Selection Event November 2008

This November will see the first outing of the potential UK Team for WorldSkills Calgary 2009. From 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Acton & West London College, short-listed competitors in up to 6 building trades will compete for coveted places in the UK Squad for Bricklaying, Cabinet Making, Carpentry, Joinery, Painting & Decorating and Stonemasonry.

Neil Macartney who has spent three years of his training at Acton & West London College will be competing in this event.

## Plastering Staff Gain Dual Recognition of Success

The Plastering department were delighted to hear they have been awarded the runners up prize for the Clanrye Trophy - £500 and a Certificate. This is a national award in recognition of plastering student achievement throughout England, Scotland & Wales for 2008.

The Plastering team also received The London & Home Counties Regional Award.

Plastering staff received their Award at Plaisters' Hall, London on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The Lord Mayor of London presented the Awards and Skills Minister, David Lammy MP, was also in attendance.



## Word from the Director

It has been another good year for the Construction Department with continual improvements in quality, achievements and success. One particular achievement that stands out for me was the success of our students in the SkillBuild competition hosted by the College in which carpentry and joinery took a clean sweep of all awards. Plastering also took first place. The excellent management of the event was recognized by the sponsors and the College was given the opportunity to host the event again and also run the WorldSkills Squad Selection Event. I firmly believe this has given the College the opportunity to profile its excellent work in developing craft skills.

Last year also saw the restructure of the management staff within the division in response to the ever increasing demands for work based learning (WBL) and on site training and assessment (OSAT).

We have continued to attract numbers of apprenticeship portfolios through our work based learning (WBL) unit, which is always actively looking for companies in terms of taking on apprentices and helping the partners to access appropriate funding.

The department intends to be at the fore-front of all new teaching and learning initiatives, for example we are leading on the Pilot 14-19 Diploma in Construction and Built Environment. We are also working in partnership with local schools and employers, designing appropriate programmes of study such as the young apprenticeships (YA) that help contribute towards the government's skills development agenda.

The Construction Department is committed to further development of its resources so that it reflects a first class teaching and learning environment that is 'fit for purpose' meeting the challenges to transform practical learning in workshops. Remodelling of some workspaces, introduction of e-learning material within the classroom and investment in machinery has meant we are able to respond to new demands.

I am looking forward to another year of successful outcomes and further developments in curriculum, teaching and learning working in partnerships with schools and employers.

**Amrik Marwaha**  
College Director



## Outstanding Apprenticeship Results

Construction Apprenticeships at Acton & West London College represent the largest group of apprentices in the college and have been successfully delivered for many years. As well as having our own apprenticeships we also deliver apprenticeship training for others – in particular ConstructionSkills and JTL. Since January 2008 apprenticeships, in common with all our work with and for employers, comes under our RESPONSE Industry Skills and Training – the employer responsive division of the College.

By August 2008 we achieved outstanding results with an overall success rate of 80% in construction apprenticeships at least 13% above the national average.

"This is a remarkable achievement – we are very proud of the dedication and hard work of all our staff and apprentices and I would like to thank employers for their support. Of course we hope that these young people continue to move up the career ladder. For example, though our OSAT programmes we can further support those that are able to become the site supervisors and managers of the future"

Pam Rathbone, Head of Procurement Operations

Acton & West London College is the first choice for construction apprenticeship training in London. Despite the economic situation, existing and new employers see the value of training the workers of the future and send them to us in increasing numbers. This year we have record numbers, with over 200 construction apprentices in the College. Plumbing, always popular has doubled in size and we have expanded into 2 exciting new areas:

Set Crafts advanced apprenticeships for carpenters and plasterers working in the in the film industry. Apprentices or others qualified to level 2 can now enter the exciting world of film and produce sets and effects for such films as Harry Potter, Mamma Mia, Prince of Persia and Nine.

Working in partnership with Swift Horsman. We are accrediting their training workshops so that they will be recognised as part of the College. This allows Swift Horsman to truly customise the course and train their apprentices in the installation of their Pod Wall system while gaining an accredited framework.

For more information about these or any other aspect of apprenticeship training please contact one of the following:

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Torben Prestwich – Construction Employer Engagement Manager Tel: 020 8231 6519 or email [torben.prestwich@wlc.ac.uk](mailto:torben.prestwich@wlc.ac.uk)



## Construction Staff Receive Certificate in Education Awards

Congratulations are extended to lecturing staff members from the Building Crafts & Services Division; Rob Lynch (Tiling) and Andy Burningham (Carpentry & Joinery) who both received awards at the Celebration of Achievement Awards Ceremony at Porchester Hall in September. This was in acknowledgment of their success, dedication and achievement on the Certificate in Education course. Andy won the "Award for Determination and Progress" and Rob received the "Exceptional Student Award".

Members of their respective families were at the ceremony to share with them this recognition of their success.

Both came straight from industry into education just two years ago and their colleagues are delighted to have two members of Construction staff win these awards.

We wish them every continued success at Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College and in their careers in education and training.



**Andrew Burningham**  
**With Martin Rosner (acting principal) and Derek Redmond (Olympic Gold Medallist)**

**Robert Lynch**  
**With Martin Rosner (acting principal) and Derek Redmond (Olympic Gold Medallist)**

Jim Gallagher – Division Manager for Building Crafts & Services.

## Employer Engagement News

Adding to our existing employer engagement partnerships the OSAT team have further forged industrial ties with a major trade contractor in the 'interiors' fit-out sector and a major construction client.

Swift Horsman are an established carpentry and interiors fit out contractor working on major projects across the UK with Heathrow's T3 their latest success story. They are developing a training school in Stonyhills, near Ware, Herts with the help of the OSAT team and have recruited a number of apprentices actively engaged on live construction sites. The training of these apprentices is to be linked into the Construction Division at Acton. Swift Horsman's current trainer is being trained to assess to the NVQ standards (A1) by a member of the OSAT team, through the EHWLC staff development team. This new training school will be the first satellite centre linked from the EHWLC OSAT area to be developed. The quality

of assessment and centre policy will be duplicated at Stonyhills ensuring best practice is shared between the two locations. This innovative approach is to be monitored and expanded following the successful completion of students. Swift Horsman have also embarked on the qualification of their current workforce including supervisors and managers, being assessed at level three and four by our OSAT team assessors.

Adding to this news is the successful development of a satellite office within the Canary Wharf complex in East London. Working 'Pan London' it was decided that an office in East London would assist the development of companies working on the Canary Wharf complex. The office space has been designated for EHWLC by the client 'Canary Wharf Contractors', giving full access to the supply chain of trade contractors working on three large projects. Canary Wharf Contractors have agreed to assist EHWLC in the assessment and training of craft, supervisors and managers and have agreed a training location to enable us to deliver supervision and management training on site. Having a working base on site adds to efficiency and gives the College a higher active profile within the industry.

Other innovative existing employer partnerships continue to develop and many partners are now benefiting from the cultural development and progression routes now on offer from EHWLC OSAT. Level two candidates can now step to level three and level three's to level four, allowing a real learning culture within the industry of construction to develop pan London. It is hoped that the OSAT centre will offer NVQ level five in the near future giving employer partners the full range from craft through to professional membership status for their employees.

## SWIFT TRAINING SCHOOL



**MD Gary Saunders with the first group of apprentices**

Torben Prestwich  
Construction Employer Engagement Manager

Paul Cano-Lopez  
Construction Management Manager



## Employer Forum

The Employer Forum will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, from 5.00pm to 6.30pm at Acton & West London College.

The purpose of the Construction Employer Forum is to;

- Improve formal links between EWLC and construction employers
- Receive and act upon employer feedback
- Contribute to the strategic long term planning of construction curriculum
- Provide an information exchange for workforce development
- Explore opportunities for future partnerships
- Provide businesses with an opportunity to contribute to the local community
- Networking opportunities for employers

The Forum is an excellent networking opportunity to meet with other employers, and also learn about Acton & West London College and the services on offer. A buffet dinner will be served on the evening's conclusion.

We hope you can join us on this valuable and informative evening.

Please see the agenda enclosed with this Newsletter.



## Contact Details

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## Dates for your Diary

Employer Forum: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008

UK WorldSkills Squad Selection Event:  
20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008

Next Employer Forum:

19<sup>th</sup> March 2009