

**School of Civil Engineering goes from success to success:
Congratulating our students, alumni and staff on awards, prizes and scholarships.**

The School of Civil Engineering can, quite rightly, be proud of its current students, alumni and staff, with awards and prizes from the Royal Engineering Academy, industrial sponsors, the Institution of Structural Engineers, Ground Engineering and academic accolades.

Simon Lee and Phillipa Jefferis, both Year 2 Civil Engineering undergraduates, were awarded one each of 40 annual sponsorships within the Royal Academy of Engineering's Engineering Leadership Programme. Each year the RAE looks for engineering students who want to become an inspirational role model to the next generation of engineers and who want to succeed in leadership positions in the engineering industry. Both competed with more than 70 shortlisted candidates for the prize, worth £5000 each, over 2 days in April 2011. They will now be provided with mentors and the resources for carefully planned training and experience, to fast-track their engineering careers.



The School's close ties with many of the major civil engineering companies mean that students benefit from a wide range of support opportunities. As well as providing sponsorship opportunities, Geoffrey Osborne Ltd (c/o Andrew and Priscilla Osborne) endows an annual Scholarship in the name of their late father and Birmingham alumnus, Geoffrey Osborne, to support the very best students within the School. The scholarship is awarded annually to the M.Eng Civil Engineering student who has the highest combined grades for specified construction design modules in years 1 and 2. The generous scholarship is worth £2k and is awarded to a third year student in two equal installments of £1k at the start of years three and four. Recent winners are: Adam Naylor (2007), Martyn Griffiths (2008), Scott Mason (2009) and Catriona Lewis (2010).

Similarly, alumnus and active Canadian philanthropist, William E Larnder, visited the School in 2010 in order to set up the William E Lardner Award, worth £4,600 for a student undertaking the [Master of Research in Engineering, Sustainability and Resilience](#). The first such award will be made in 2011 and news will be posted on the School's website.



Closer to home, two M.Eng final year projects won the IStructE Midland Counties Branch Regional Structural Engineering Awards (2010).

Prathan Rungthonkit, supervised by Dr Jian Yang and Professor Les Clark, impressed the institution with his project, "Behaviours of Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) beams under both Short-term and Long-term Loadings".

Qiang Liu, also supervised by Dr Yang and Dr Long-yuan Li, won with "Improved Structural Design of Cold-formed Steel Sections".

Both were presented in the Branch Annual Dinner on 24th June 2010.

Back in October 2010 first year student, Mohammed Al-Sharif was delighted to be awarded one of 10 prestigious Excellence Scholarships to support his PhD studies. These scholarships are worth £5000 and are sponsored by BP, alumnus Michael Rawlinson and the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences. They are awarded to top-performing students and are renewed each subsequent year of the recipient's undergraduate programme subject to academic progression at 1st class standard.

And hot off the press, the most recent [Ground Engineering magazine's Young Geotechnical Engineer](#) of the year is alumnus Benoit Latapie. Benoit, 27, joined Atkins fresh from university in 2007 and has been involved in a number of high profile projects, particularly overseas in the Middle East and Europe. He said: *"Winning the award is personally fantastic but also indicative of the supportive team in which I work and the great projects I am involved with in the UK and overseas."*

Judges were particularly impressed by his "clear passion for the ground. Benoit's ability to explain his ideas and to quietly enthuse his audience is impressive as is his depth of technical knowledge and understanding. He is certainly an outstanding young geotechnical engineer."



Dr David French, managing director of our UK ground engineering group and Atkins' geotechnical network chair, said: *"I'm delighted that Benoit has won this prestigious award. It is recognition for his commitment to technical excellence which lies at the heart of our geotechnics group. Benoit has always been enthusiastic about our projects and has also taken full advantage of the great opportunities we have internationally, keeping an open mind in approaching project challenges and appreciating that understanding and accepting international cultures and other ways of working is a crucial project success factor."*

The School's academic staff are not to be outdone either: commenting on her recent ICE Robert Alfred Carr Prize for her paper, *Inorganic Profiles of Chemical Phosphorus Removal Sludge*, [Dr Cynthia Carliell-Marquet](#) was especially pleased that the judges of a key industrially-focussed publication found it of interest and future benefit. Earlier in the year, [Dr Xiaonan Tang](#) and [Emeritus Professor Donald Knight](#), were awarded the Telford Premium by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) for their paper, *'Zonal discharges and boundary shear in prismatic channels'*, published in the Journal of Computational Mechanics. And as recently as March this year, [Professor Andrew Chan's](#) expertise in earthquake-resistant structures was in demand following the devastating disaster in northern Japan. He was invited to comment by BBC Radio Five Live, BBC News TV channel and a New York radio station.