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**1. INTRODUCTION**

This is the first newsletter of the Eindhoven CIB student chapter (CIBSC), established in our Faculty; after the approval of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB); at November, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005. Newsletter 01 includes a global overview of the activities, planned and taken forward voluntarily by a very motivated group of PhD researchers, during the year of 2006.

In order to optimize our time dedicated to the CIBSC, five workgroups were defined, so that different fundamental issues could be addressed individually by smaller groups of PhD researchers, joined according to their own group preferences. Our newsletter was structured similarly, so that all workgroups could present their own particular successes.

More effective and active than the initial structure proposed to CIB in our initial proposal, this structure will also be maintained in 2007.

As the PhD researchers of our Faculty are located in four floors (6 till 9), and during 2006 Ana Pereira Roders has been the president of CIBSC, while also representative of floor 7 (ADE Unit); it is expected that, another floor representative will become the president of CIBSC, in 2007.

We hope that the new year of 2007 will bring more active members and more challenging activities, as well as, important goals to achieve.

**2. EDUCATION****MEMBERS:**

Jakob Beetz  
Christian Struck  
Marco Martens

Tineke van den Bosch<sup>1</sup>  
Harry van de Wouw<sup>2</sup>

The educational workgroup of the CIB-student chapter Eindhoven aims at the improvement of the educational program PhD students participate in during their four years stay at the Department. Apart from the PhD students that are involved in these efforts, a great deal of work is done by various staff members of the Department and other university bodies.

The most important activity of this group in its first year of existence was the conduction of a survey. The survey's aim was to get an overview of courses and classes that are being taken by PhD students, how they valued these courses and whether or not they would recommend them to their peers. In the current situation all PhD students are free to pick courses that suit their personal skill assets and research projects best. While on the one hand this provides everyone with the freedom to compile highly customized curriculums, it also constitutes a danger: The amount and spectrum of offerings at internal and external facilities is vast to be evaluated efficiently by a single individual. Furthermore, the appropriateness of subjects depends on the state of progress of a PhD project: While in earlier stages general skills, such a presentation, scientific writing and general communication skills are important to have "handy" when beginning a research project,

<sup>1</sup> Staff member Human Resources

<sup>2</sup> Staff member Educational Service Center

others, such as the use of software packages for the generation and analysis of statistical data might be more useful once results have to be analyzed in a later stage of the project.

Another purpose of the study was to get a rough estimate evaluation of the particular classes students already took. Such an evaluation had not been conducted previously. The survey was carried out with a web-based tool specifically developed and implemented for this purpose. With the help of this tool PhD students from our faculty were asked to assemble their past, present and future curriculums in a "shopping cart" and to attribute each of the items with a rate, a comment and a suggestion regarding the temporal placement of this course in a generalized curriculum for everyone.

In a second step, the outcomes of this survey, the comments and ratings the ca. 25 participants provided were taken as a basis for the development of a (binding) curriculum for every future PhD student at the Department. Although this development process has not been finished yet, and although a similar effort undertaken on a university-wide level might replace it in the future, we think that this effort will improve the quality and efficiency of the work for future generations of PhD researchers.

Future work of this group will include the monitoring and assistance of the implementation of the new curriculum. The group suggests that a re-evaluation of the implemented curriculum should be undertaken after some time of its existence.

Additionally, the group will participate in the extension of the "welcoming information" package for newly arriving PhD students with additional information concerning education.

### 3. RESEARCH

#### MEMBERS:

#### Ana Pereira Roders

Christina Hopfe  
Oswald Devisch  
Monica Melhado  
Usama El'Fiky  
Zakari Mustapha  
William Gyadu-Asiedu

The research group is responsible for organizing events; e.g. meetings, posters exhibitions, conferences, workshops, etc. It has as main objectives to promote; first the cooperation and exchange of knowledge between the PhD researchers from our Faculty; and second, towards other PhD researchers from other Faculties, around the world.

#### PHD POSTER EXHIBITION

Location: Vertigo building, all floors  
Event: *Alumnidag* (Old student's Day)  
Period: April 21<sup>st</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>



THE PHD POSTER EXHIBITION (APRIL 2006)

Our first public activity was the PhD Poster Exhibition, held during the *Alumnidag*. For this purpose, a template for a poster was developed, and all interested PhD researchers were asked to submit to us the necessary information. This activity was very well received among the Faculty members: students, PhDs, and professors; as it easily enabled all of a global awareness, about the current PhD researches, from every department. Since this exhibition, the posters were placed as PDF in our website.

#### PHD POSTER EXHIBITION + POSTGRADUATE STUDENT MEETING (M.SC + PHD)

Location: Vertigo building, Plaza  
Event: Adaptables 2006, DDSS 2006  
and DCC' 06  
Period: July 3rd – 14<sup>th</sup>



THE PHD POSTER EXHIBITION (JULY 2006)

During the first two weeks of July, something very special happened in our Faculty. We have hosted three international conferences. Therefore, we have decided to repeat the successful *Alumnidag* experience. Fliers were produced to publicize it and placed in each conference. We organized a Postgraduate Student Meeting where students from our Faculty and both conferences, could meet and discuss their research informally. This meeting counted with the moderation of Prof. Dr. Martin de Wit, our Faculty Research Coordinator, and Mr. Wim Bakens, the CIB Secretary General.

#### YOUNG RESEARCHERS NETWORK

Since our proposal for hosting a CIBSC in our Faculty has been approved by CIB, we have been in contact with other European CIBSC; so that together we could develop a joint proposal for a Young Researchers Network (YRN), that would promote CIB and its objectives, enable the cooperation and exchange of knowledge between CIBSCs, as well as attract other Faculties to create their own CIBSCs.



THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CIBSC MEETING (APRIL, 2006)

Ana Pereira Roders attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> CIBSC meeting in Delft, at April 7<sup>th</sup> and presented the assumptions of our Faculty PhD researchers. Such proposal was submitted by the CIBSCs in Delft, Eindhoven, Glasgow, Salford, Brighton, Lisbon, Milan and Ankara; and few months later, awarded with the year's **CIB Gulya Sebestyén Award 2006**. Since then, many CIBSC made contact to join YRN and we are now determining, together, the best procedure to use the award.

#### RESEARCH DAY 2007

We were also asked by MTOZ (management team research) to contribute for the organization of the internal Research Day of our Faculty. The aim of this day will be to inform students, PhDs, professors as well as some industry parties of the ongoing research at TU/e. The research day will be held on Thursday, the March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The general program will probably look like the following:

**Morning:** General workshop(s).

**Afternoon:** Short content related presentations of a number PhDs.

**Evening:** Drinks and Poster Tour

A draft of this day will be provided by the event group; several ideas and suggestions are being already collected. The topics of the general workshop in the morning may comprise e.g. "the general day to day work as a researcher" or "EU-criteria for research proposals". Furthermore a poster presentation will take place comparable to the PhD Poster Exhibition, in last July.

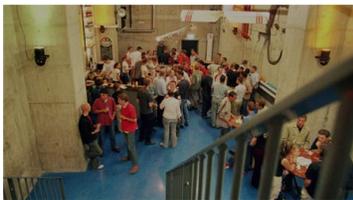
#### 4. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

##### MEMBERS:

Erik Blokhuis  
Vincent Tabak  
Johan Maljaars

When you ask 'normal' people to make a list of jobs that claim the highest mental efforts, you get outcomes like 'the big boss of Microsoft' on number 1, 'the president of the United States' on number 2, and 'coach of Ajax Amsterdam' on number 3. However, ask the same question to a PhD-student, and you'll get entirely different answers. 'Being a PhD-student' would be on number 1.

All PhD-students deliver huge efforts to reach their goals: to write a thesis. Always short of time, always busy, always working with your brains! The most important goal of the 'social activities' workgroup is to find an optimal balance between efforts and relaxation. The following example can make this clear: lift a chair. After a while, you're not able to hold it any more. Your muscles are tired... However, if you put down the chair regularly, you can keep up for a long time! This will be the same regarding your brains. From time to time you must grant them some rest, and then they will keep up for a very long time!



SKYBAR MEETING, TU/E (OKT, 2006)

In the last year, this workgroup organized different activities for all PhD-students from the faculty. Almost every Thursday, there is a drink in the famous 'Skybar Underground' or in the Irish Pub.

Furthermore, we recently went to the cinema to watch movies like 'Babel', 'The Departed' and 'Casino Royale'.

Besides these 'small' events, we regularly organize activities on a larger scale. For instance, last summer we organized two sailing trips to Friesland, which were both a huge success! That's why we have decided to make this a yearly event.



SAILING TRIP, FRIESLAND (AUG, 2006)

Last but not least, we organized a Multicultural Christmas Dinner where all our colleagues from Asia, North- and South-America, Africa, Australia and Europe got the opportunity to jointly create a multi-course dinner, to demonstrate their culinary specialties, taste the specialties of others and from other countries and sing Christmas songs together.



CHRISTMAS DINNER, EINDHOVEN (DEC, 2006)

Some plans for the near future are the Eindhoven PhD Bowling Championships 2006/2007, Poker Tournaments and a five-day Cricket game with support of a professional Indian player.

#### 5. PUBLIC RELATIONS

##### MEMBERS:

Linda Ma  
Vincent Tabak  
Nishchal Deshpande  
Marija Trcka  
Klara Jacobs

The objective of the public relations workgroup is establishing and maintaining contact with others. In other words we are responsible for managing the communication between our research network and committees, associations etc within our faculty and university. The communication is two-fold, namely informing our research network about interesting developments within our faculty or university and informing others about the activities of our network.

In the last year we have started to establish contact with several committees and associations. We have attended meetings of PromoVE, the association that protects the interests of PhD candidates connected to the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven. With them we have discussed the above mentioned PROOF questionnaire and matters related to printing the thesis.

Within our faculty we have approached the "Faculteits Raad" (faculty council) to be informed about the university and faculty policy regarding the developments in the research programs. Furthermore, we are in close contact with Cheops, the general student association of our faculty, who is among other things responsible for the 'Skybar Underground'.

In the coming period we will be in close contact with MTOZ to contribute in the organization of the research day 2007.

## 6. ICT

**MEMBERS:****Paul Teeuwen**

Marloes Verhoeven  
Ernst Klamer

The ICT- workgroup takes care of this website, which provides information about the PhD network of the faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning of the TU/e and the CIB Student Chapter. Also useful information for PhD's is provided on this website. Besides the website, the ICT-workgroup controls 'Sharepoint', which provides PhD students a place where they can communicate. All PhD-students obtain access to Sharepoint where, for example, they can find information, share documents or make announcements about social meetings. Our website is accessible via the TU/e website. The direct link is:

[http://w3.bwk.tue.nl/nl/onderzoek/phd\\_network\\_cibsc/](http://w3.bwk.tue.nl/nl/onderzoek/phd_network_cibsc/)



The ICT group is also in charge of the mailing list of all the PhD's. The e-mail addresses of new PhD students will be added to this list. Everybody can contact all PhD students through this list, of course only for relevant information and not for SPAM.

## 7. CONTACTS

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

Christina Hopfe – f. 6 (BPS)

**Ana Pereira Roders – f. 7 (ADE)**

Marloes Verhoeven – f. 8 (UMDS)

Paul Teeuwen – f. 9 (SDCT)

All PhD researchers, from our Faculty, interested in becoming active members of the Eindhoven CIBSC and start playing an important and active role in our activities and goal achievements of 2007, are very welcome to join our young and motivated research community.

The only mandatory requirement is to be as motivated as the current members and be willing to spend part of his free time working for common goods and benefits for the PhD researchers of our Faculty. So, feel free to contact personally your floor representative, the workgroup representatives or just send us an e-mail, expressing your interest.

All PhD researchers, from other Faculties interested in cooperating with our CIBSC or with our Faculty; in any activity and/or wish to have more information about a specific activity during the year of 2006 are also very welcome to send us an e-mail. We promise to answer as soon as possible.

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