

In this edition

2015 EFCA YP competition is launched	p1
A little about FRI	p1
Being a YP in Ireland	p2
URIF sets out Oslo YP Forum programme	p3

The 2015 EFCA YP competition is launched

The sixth edition of the EFCA Young Professionals competition has been announced.

This event, which is open to all professionals aged 35 and under and working for firms in the membership of your national association, aims at highlighting the talent of Europe's next generation of leaders in our sector and at demonstrating the diversity and attractiveness of a career in our sector.

Interested YPs should ask their national association when the deadline is for entry submission.

The winner will be invited to Oslo on 28 - 30 May 2015 to participate in the annual EFCA conference and YP Forum at EFCA's cost, including travel and accommodation expenses.

The YP programme in Oslo will offer young professionals a place to network and to share views and ideas with peers, to gather relevant facts about the industry and to discuss. It will be announced in January 2015.

More information can be found on the EFCA website: <http://www.efcanet.org/YPs.aspx>

A little about Foreningen af Rådgivende Ingeniører (FRI)

The Danish engineering consultancy association FRI is a more than 100 years old dynamic organisation.



Committed to develop the industry's young professionals, FRI set up an active YP forum more than ten years ago.

Throughout the past years, the Forum provided added value for young professionals in the Danish member firms all around, especially the smaller ones.

FRI provides administrative and financial backing to support the activities of the young professionals, which offers them the opportunity to build up a strong reputation, and link with each other across the country.

LinkedIn: "FRI Young Professionals"

Being a YP in ... Ireland



Brian Lahiff is an Irish chartered engineer working for Garland Consultancy.

He finished second in EFCA's 2014 competition for engineering excellence among Young Professionals.

What is your academic background?

I completed a degree in civil engineering with first-class honours from the National

University of Ireland, Galway in 2004. During this time I have been working with GARLAND, during summer holidays and after I graduated joined them on a full time basis.

While working full time I completed a postgraduate diploma in Health and Safety in Construction with distinction from Trinity College Dublin. I completed this in 2008 on a part time basis. I attended lectures Friday evenings and Saturdays for an academic year. This course gave me a great immersion in health and safety legislation and the ability to act as a project supervisor, a legislative appointment for construction projects.

As if completing the first post graduate diploma wasn't painful enough I decided to do a second one again in Trinity College Dublin and this time in Project Management which I completed with distinction in 2010.

What does a typical day comprise of for you? Are there any things you wish were better or improved upon?

One of the factors for me in choosing a career in civil and structural engineering was how different each day could become and it is definitely that.

We have a number of projects at design and construction stage nationwide in Ireland and also internationally so sometimes a large part of my day can be made up of travel to and attending various meeting and construction sites for inspections.

When in the office my day is spent making sure team members are on track, checking their work and feeding back information that may have come to me that affects their work. Being in a relatively small practice, I also spend time producing deliverables which can be reports, undertaking calculations, preparing preliminary safety and health plans (legislative safety document containing pre-construction information), safety files (again a legislative safety and health document containing completed construction information), drawings, sketches etc.

I also play a part in business development for the practice. This can mean I am responding to request for proposals, preparing fee quotations and generally new business generation.

Communication plays a large part of my day, both internally within our office and also to other stakeholders involved in our projects. Unfortunately my days can be spent dealing with emails and issues that arise out of them!

I think there is a better way to deliver construction projects than has traditionally been methodology. I am a firm believer in Building Information Modelling (BIM) and its growing potential and ability to change how we, as engineers, and design and construction teams as a whole deliver construction projects. I feel BIM will replace traditional project delivery processes over the coming years. (BIM is a digital representation of the physical and functional characteristics of a facility. It is a shared knowledge resource for information about a facility, forming a reliable basis for decisions during its life cycle, from earliest conception to demolition). I believe BIM process and software tools facilitate a new way of working which is poised to fundamentally change the way projects are built and the way project team members communicate with each other. On a selfish note, I am hoping BIM might do something about the quantity of emails floating around every day!!

You are well acquainted with health and safety legislations, what commonly overlooked insights are you able to offer to the engineering community?

As a designer, engineers have a responsibility to think of those that not only construct our designs, but also those who maintain them.

From my experiences, the maintenance aspects of designs can sometimes be overlooked. I think engineers are very adept at considering how a design will be brought to life during construction.

We need to apply the same processes of thought to how it will be maintained. We could also benefit from seeking feedback on previous designs from a constructability and maintenance perspective prior to considering a similar solution for a new project.

A typical example that we see quite regularly, although possibly not within an engineering brief, would be the provision of safe roof access. We have worked with a number of clients recently to resolve difficulties they have been struggling with on their existing roofs.

As we are all well aware, being an engineer means upskilling and learning on a daily basis. I think we could be better at applying learning and technical progress to designs. A typical example would be the breaking down of piles to correct levels. There are a number of propriety systems and products available how to eliminate the operative with a jack hammer and therefore possible hand arm vibration (HAVS), dust and noise. If we specify such solutions in our designs we can impact greatly on construction safety.

Finally, I come across a lot of mistruths and misconceptions within the construction industry about what is and isn't within legislation. The best advice I can give is to read the actual piece of relevant legislation at least once to avoid falling into these mistruth traps!

You are working for Garland as a chartered engineer, and are part of the EFCA YPSC. Are there any other responsibilities that you are juggling in between?

I spend time on the development of BIM in Ireland. I am a member of the CITA BIM group and represent the ACEI (Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland) at inter

professional body discussions. In the past I organized keynote speakers for CITA BIM Workshops held during 2011 and 2012, which were events partnered by ACEI, Engineers Ireland and Institute of Structural Engineers.

I was a member of the Organization Committee and Scientific Committee of the very successful CITA BIM Gathering 2013. I have also presented on BIM within Ireland at a few events.

I also spend time on health and safety promotion and education. I have authored some publications by the Irish Construction Safety Partnership, the next one about to go to print is a case study of how the role of Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) was applied for a project. I was a founding member of the Irish Safety at Height Association (www.safetyatheight.ie).

I have also just become a dad so trying to figure that out at the moment!

URIF sets out Oslo YP Forum Programme

Enthusiast Norwegian YPs, representing the hosting association's YP grouping of the 2015 Conference and EFCA's annual meetings met in Brussels.

Conclusions from the open discussion will contribute to make up an attractive programme, including thought-evoking lectures and interactive sessions.

YPs from all over Europe can expect an inspiring conference package in Oslo on 28-30 May 2015.

More information will be made available soon on our YP webpage:
efca.be/YPs.aspx.



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The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) has member associations in 24 countries, and is the sole European federation representing the engineering and related services industry

Sign up to our group "Young Professionals within EFCA" on Linked In!