
THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN CIVIL ENGINEERING FACULTIES
with the participation of Civil Engineering faculties from non-European countries

AECEF

7th AECEF Symposium

**Global Issues in Enhancing Civil Engineering
*Learning, Teaching, Research and Practice***

13th and 14th September 2012

London, UK



**CITY UNIVERSITY
LONDON**

Secretariat: Faculty of Civil Engineering
Thákurova 7, 166 29 Prague 6
Czech Republic

Phone: (+420) 224 353 407
Fax: (+420) 224 310 774
E-mail: vaska@vc.cvut.cz

AECEF NEWSLETTER 1/2011

AECEF Symposium

The Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties with the participation of civil engineering faculties from non-European countries (AECEF) was founded under the initiative of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague in September 1992. The establishment of the AECEF was supported by 21 universities from different European countries, Canada and the USA.

To date, 45 Universities and individuals from Europe and North America have become members of the Association (Belarus, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom).

The main goals of the Association are:

- to establish conditions for close co-operation among Civil Engineering faculties, their research workers and teachers, among civil engineering specialists and institutions from different countries;
- to contribute to the dissemination and application of the latest civil engineering research and teaching, especially in the finding of improvements to the environment;
- to support the Europe-wide development and spread of new construction technologies;
- to work toward compatibility among the curricula of Civil Engineering faculties as a starting point for the exchange of students and the mutual acceptance of graduates in civil engineering practice in Europe;
- to work toward the implementation of study and lecture visits to foreign universities by teachers, research workers and students.

Six international symposiums focused on problems of civil engineering education, its quality, assessment, learning technologies, accreditation process, etc. have been organized since the AECEF establishment:

- 1995: Education for Civil and Environmental Engineering and Surveying (Prague, Czech Republic);
- 1997: Quality in Civil Engineering Education, Assessment of Civil Engineering Education and The Impact of Trainee Service on Qualifications of Civil Engineering Graduates (Odense, Denmark);
- 1999: Civil Engineering Learning Technology (Cardiff, UK);
- 2002: Environmental Aspects in Civil Engineering Education: Education (new European Trends), Technology, Research (Porto, Portugal);
- 2005: Civil Engineering in the Next Decade – Strategies for Education, Research, Innovation and Practice (Espoo, Finland);
- 2008: Civil Engineering Education in a Changing Europe (Vilnius, Lithuania).

Welcome

The Organising Committee invites you to join them in September 2012 for the Seventh AECEF Symposium, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of AECEF.

The Seventh Symposium on Global Issues in Enhancing Civil Engineering will take place in London

and follows the symposiums held earlier in Prague (1995), Odense (1997), Cardiff (1999), Porto (2002), Helsinki (2005) and Vilnius (2008).

The Symposium will be held in London and hosted by the School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences at City University London. The Symposium offers a platform to discuss a wide range of issues related to Learning, Teaching, Research and Practice.

The Symposium is supported by the Association of Civil Engineering Departments (ACED) from the UK.

Symposium themes

Under the general title 'Global Issues in Enhancing Civil Engineering', the symposium will address the following themes and sub themes related to Learning, Teaching, Research and Practice:

- ❖ Civil Engineering in the 21st century, future trends in a changing world.
 - Impact of Globalisation on Civil Engineering Education and Practice
 - Future trends in Civil Engineering Technology & Education
 - Innovation and creativity In Civil Engineering education
- ❖ Preparing graduates for careers in a global Civil Engineering market.
 - Programme Development to meet the needs of the profession
 - Competency of Civil Engineering Graduates in a Global market
 - Employability Skills requirements for Civil Engineers
- ❖ The role of Civil Engineering education in the global issues of sustainable development, environmental conservation and zero carbon targets
 - Role of Engineering Education in Sustainable Development
 - Social issues and Ethics in Civil Engineering
 - Embedding sustainability in the curricula
- ❖ International links in civil engineering education.
 - Cooperation between European and other World Universities
 - Dual award schemes
 - Effective partnerships
- ❖ Linking Learning and Teaching/Education to the Civil Engineering profession.
 - The effectiveness of the Bologna two cycle educational system in producing good Civil Engineers
 - Keeping graduates in the Civil Engineering profession
 - Promoting Student Entrepreneurship
- ❖ Effective integration of Research in Civil Engineering education.
 - Integrating Research output into Academic Education Activities
 - Providing Global Research Experiences for Students
 - Incorporating Emerging Technologies in Civil Engineering Education and Practice

Contributions covering other aspects of relevance to civil engineering education will be also taken into consideration

Symposium Aims

The purpose of the symposium follows one of the main goals of AECEF which is to bring together all those who are interested in the development and implementation of learning and teaching, together with

the integration of research and practice in civil engineering education.

The symposium aims to facilitate the sharing of experience, knowledge and expertise in these areas and in particular its application to professional civil engineering. The event provides a forum for the presentation, demonstration and discussion of issues related to its themes.

Sessions will be reserved for each of the themes of the symposium. Each session will open with a key-note lecture presented by a distinguished international expert. A number of papers will be selected for the presentation at the symposium.

Instruction for authors

Abstracts

The Scientific Committee invites all participants wishing to contribute to the symposium to submit an abstract. Abstracts must be submitted by the deadline shown below. Abstracts received after this date will not be considered.

All abstracts must be submitted in English and should not exceed 600 words. Abstracts should be submitted electronically via the Symposium website www.city.ac.uk/aecef-symposium

Papers

Authors with accepted abstracts will be requested to prepare an extended paper which will be published in the symposium proceedings. Further details on how to prepare papers will be sent out with the abstract acceptance message.

Important Dates

Last date for abstract submission	31 st January 2012
Notification of abstract acceptance	1 st March 2012
Last date for paper submission	1 st May 2012
Notification of paper acceptance	1 st July 2012
Finalised manuscript submission	1 st August 2012

Committees

Scientific Committee

Professor Jiří Witzany (Prague)
Dr. Cedric D’Mello (London)
Professor Manfred Federau (Odense)
Professor Ralph M. Francis (NewBrunswick)
Professor Aarne Jutila (Helsinki)
Dr. Alan S. K. Kwan (Cardiff)
Professor Periclés Latinopoulos (Thessaloniki)
Professor Jose Ferreira Lemos (Porto)
Professor Antal Lovas (Budapest)
Professor Josef Machacek (Prague)
Professor Stanislaw Majewski (Gliwice)
Professor Volodymyr Mushchanov (Makeyevka)
Professor Alfredo Soeiro (Porto)
Professor Povilas Vainiunas (Vilnius)

Organising Committee

Dr. Cedric D’Mello (London)
Dr. Jiri Vaska (Prague)
Professor Kuldeep Viridi (Aarhus)
Dr Brett McKinley (London)
Dr Harry Johnston (Belfast)
Dr Alan Kwan (Cardiff)
Professor Sarah Stallebrass (London)
Professor Bob Lark (Cardiff)
Professor Philip Speare (London)

Details & Information

Symposium Venue

The symposium will be held in the Oliver Thompson Lecture Theatre, Tait Building, City University London, Northampton Square, London. The University is conveniently located in central London, close to rail and underground links to London’s major international airports, Heathrow and Gatwick.

Symposium Fee

The fee for the symposium, in British Pounds, is inclusive of a copy of the proceedings (volume of abstracts and CD), excursion, lunches, coffee, tea, welcome reception and the symposium dinner.

AEFEC member University:

£230 (GP pounds) for early registration
(before 1st August 2012)
£260 (GP pounds) thereafter

Other delegates:

£330 (GP pounds) for early registration
(before 1st August 2012)
£370 (GP pounds) thereafter

Accompanying persons:

£150 (GP pounds)
For accompanying persons fees will include lunches, coffee breaks, welcome reception, the symposium gala dinner and excursions.

Symposium Gala Dinner

A symposium gala dinner will be held during the evening of 13th September 2012.

Social Programme

A social programme will be organised for participants and accompanying persons and will include the welcome reception, symposium gala dinner and excursions.

Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the symposium fees and you will need to book this yourself

Below is an example list of hotels within the immediate vicinity of City University London. (City University London has no association with any of these hotels). Further details are available on the website www.city.ac.uk/aecef-symposium

Thistle City Barbican, Central Street, Clerkenwell, London, EC1V 8DS, 0.3 miles; 5 minute walk

Rosebery Hall, 90 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4TY, 0.3 miles; 5 minute walk

Jurys Inn Islington Hotel, 60 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9LA, 0.6 miles; 13 minute walk

Travelodge London Farringdon, 10 - 42 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X 9LN, 0.6 mile; 11 minutes walk

Further information can be obtained from:

City Events Team
City University London
Northampton Square
London
EC1V 0HB
United Kingdom
T: +44 (0)20 7040 8721
T: +44 (0)20 7040 0216
E: events@city.ac.uk

Web site: www.city.ac.uk/aecef-symposium

New AECEF Statues

The Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties (AECEF) was established in 1992 and its activity is regulated by the Statutes which was approved at the time of the AECEF foundation. The experience obtained during the 20 years of the Association's activity and its management led the AECEF executives to the proposal of an amendment to the existing Statutes thus creating a framework for the Association's further activity and development in the future.

The draft of the New Statutes is the result of extensive discussions among the AECEF Board members. In accordance with the AECEF Statutes (§ 10 "The General Assembly has the following rights: a) Approval of Association Statutes and possible amendments to them") the New Statutes will be submitted for approval by the 7th AECEF General Assembly, which will be held as part of the 7th AECEF Symposium in London in September 2012.

We believe that the possibility of becoming familiar with the draft version of the New Statutes will allow its qualified approval by the AECEF members in the framework of the prepared General Assembly. Should you have any relevant comments to the draft of the New Statutes, please address them to the AECEF Secretariat by no later than 31.3. 2012.

Jiri Witzany, AECEF President
Jiri Vaska, Secretary-General

1. INTRODUCTION

At the end of the 20th century, in the wake of major political changes taking place across Eastern and Central Europe, the atmosphere was imbued with ideas of integration and pan-Europeanism. Bearing in mind that civil and architectural engineering has always been an integrating force in European culture, provident academics in the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czechoslovakia, with the aim to contribute to a solid cultural and spiritual foundation of a future Europe, took steps to facilitate the forming an association within the world of Civil Engineering Education.

As a result of this initiative 13 European and 1 Canadian organisation (see Annex 1) congregated and on September 14-15, 1992 founded the ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN CIVIL ENGINEERING FACULTIES with the participation of civil engineering faculties from non-European countries (AECEF).

2. NAME AND RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

§ 1.

The name of the association is "ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN CIVIL ENGINEERING FACULTIES with the participation of civil engineering faculties from non-European Countries" with the acronym AECEF.

AECEF is a free association of Civil Engineering educational organisations and their staffs, research institutes, engineering companies, and other - public as well as private - organisations or individuals involved in civil engineering. It may also include leading specialists and institutions involved in related areas, and professional bodies representing the interests of Civil

Engineering. AECEF has been established as a non-governmental, apolitical and non-profit making organisation.

§ 2.

AECEF is first and foremost based on co-operation among European countries. However, the participation of non-European countries is equally welcomed.

3. AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

§ 3.

The aims of AECEF are:

- A: To enhance conditions for close co-operation among Civil Engineering faculties, their research workers and teachers, among civil engineering specialists and institutions from different countries. Special importance is attached to involving all European countries in this cooperation, and to the establishment and maintenance of an inter-European network of colleagues within civil engineering.
- B: To contribute to dissemination and application of the latest civil engineering research and teaching methodology.
- C: To support the Europe-wide development and spread of new technologies relevant to the field of activity of AECEF.
- D: To work toward compatibility among Civil Engineering educational organisations in order to facilitate and ease the exchange of students and the mutual acceptance of graduates in civil engineering practice in Europe.
- E: To work toward the implementation of study and lecture visits to foreign universities by students, educators and researchers.
- F: To cooperate and support links with other regional/national Civil Engineering associations having similar objectives.

A major tool for pursuing the above mentioned goals shall be the arrangement of International AECEF Symposia. These should take place every second and at least every third year.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

§ 4.

The structure of the Association consists of:

- A: The General Assembly
- B: The Board
- C: The President
- D: Secretariat directed by the Secretary-General
- E: Standing as well as ad hoc committees set up at the discretion of the General Assembly, the Board or the President.

5. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

§ 5.

The General Assembly is the highest body of the Association. Through its mediation, members of the Association exercise their right to participate in the Association's activities, make decisions concerning its activities and make comments.

§ 6.

The General Assembly is convened by the President at the time and venue of every International AECEF Symposium and at least at every 3 years.

A general Assembly must be held whenever one third of or more members require it in writing to the Secretary-General.

§ 7.

The announcement of the General Assembly must be made in writing to all members of the Association at least three months prior to the meeting.

§ 8.

The session of the General Assembly is presided over by the President or by a member of the Board appointed by the President.

§ 9.

The General Assembly has a quorum if representatives of at least one half of the members of the Association are present. Decisions are passed on a simple majority vote. In the case that a quorum has not been reached, the session of the General Assembly will proceed with the members present and votes and motions will be carried by a three quarters majority of members present.

Member organisations have one vote each. Individual members have one vote each.

Voting is usually done by "show of hands". However, if any voting member requires it, secret voting shall be arranged.

In situations where the Board must take action to make decisions between General Assemblies the Board is empowered to have possible proposals ratified by a mail (or e-mail) vote of member organisations.

§ 10.

The General Assembly has the following rights:

- A: Approval of Association Statutes and possible amendments to them
- B: Decisions on the Association's activities.
- C: Discussion of, and if decided on, overturning decisions - resting on these statutes - made by the Board or by the President in the period between General Assemblies.
- D: Election, or possible dismissal, of the President and Board members in accordance with the established rules.
- E: Establishment of Standing or ad hoc committees.

Serious matters which require the approval by all AECEF members arising in the time between the General Assembly proceedings must be passed on to the Association members through the Secretary-General for their opinion or potentially for a correspondence vote.

6. THE BOARD AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

§ 11.

The Board is the executive organ of the Association. Board members are elected for a period of nominally four years. Since elections only will be arranged in conjunction with General Assemblies, the period can vary from minimum four years to maximum six years.

§ 12.

Board membership is personal (i.e. Board members need not represent any organisation and can choose to act as individual members).

§13.

Applicants for board membership must be ratified by the Board before being presented for the General Assembly as candidates. Existing members can only be denied ratification in case of considerable absence or if the Board decides that the member has showed counterproductive activity. New applicants must have the support of minimum three quarters of board members. The Secretary-General is responsible for arranging the ratification process in due time before General Assemblies.

§ 14.

The Secretary-General is a voting member of the Board. Rules for his or her period of office are the same as for Board members in general, i.e. § 11. Rules for his or her ratification are the same as for Board members in general, i.e. § 13. In order to establish or ensure a close cooperation between Presidency and Secretariat the President has a priority to nominate a candidate for Secretary-General.

The Secretary - General is responsible for directing the activities of the AECEF Secretariat.

The Secretary-General presents the annual financial report of the AECEF business management to the Board. If no specific treasurer is appointed the Secretary-General will function as such.

§15.

Board activities and duties:

1. The Board carries out the decisions of General Assembly sessions and co-ordinates the activities of working committees.
2. The Board discusses and approves the annual financial report on the AECEF business management submitted by the Secretary-General.
3. The Board is responsible for the thematic and organisational management of international AECEF symposia, conferences and similar gatherings held under the AECEF umbrella.
4. The Board will analyse applications for membership of the Association and decide on acceptance.
5. The Board ratifies new Board members.

7. THE PRESIDENT

§ 16.

The President is the authorised signatory for the Association and directs all activities of the Association in periods between General Assembly sessions. The President represents the Association in all negotiations, or appoints Board members to perform these activities.

§ 17.

The President of the Association is elected for a period of nominally four years. Since elections only will be arranged in conjunction with General Assemblies, the period can vary from minimum four years to maximum six years.

§ 18.

Applicants for Presidency must be nominated by at least 3 Board members before being presented for the General Assembly as candidates.

The Secretary-General is responsible for arranging the nomination process in due time before General Assemblies.

The President is elected by the General assembly by simple majority, and in the case of there being only one candidate, by a majority of affirmative votes. Should an agreement not be found, the General Assembly can decide to arrange a short adjournment in discussions to be followed by a re-election. Should an agreement still not be found, the President in office will continue as administrative president for a period of no more than one year. In this period the Board will arrange a renewed election conducted by post/e-mail.

§ 19.

In justified cases (e.g. exceptional workload, preparation of a demanding event within AECEF, illness, etc.), the President may appoint a Vice-President from among the Boards members for a definite time. During the time of authorisation, the Vice-President acts on behalf of the President to the full extent of duties being endowed with competencies specified in section 16.

§ 20.

In justified cases, the President may grant a Board member an extra financial contribution from AECEF funds to cover up to 60% of travel costs for the participation in an AECEF Board Meeting.

8. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

§ 21.

Based on the nomination by at least three Board members and subsequent approval by the majority of the Board members, following the expiry of his/her term of office, the President may be appointed an "Honorary President of AECEF" for life for his/her contribution to the AECEF development. The Honorary President may participate in the Board proceedings as a permanent member.

§ 22.

Based on the nomination by at least two Board members and subsequent approval by the majority of the Board, any member, corporate or individual, and Secretary-General may be appointed "Honorary Board Member" or "Honorary Member" respectively, for life for his/her contribution to the AECEF development. Honorary Members can - regardless of affiliation - choose to continue as individual members.

§ 23.

Honorary Members need not pay membership fee. Honorary Members can participate in AECEF events without paying registration fee.

9. ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

§ 24.

The Association has its headquarters (Office and Secretariat) at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague.

§ 25.

For practical reasons, the Association headquarters shall be based at the home institution of the General-Secretary, who preferably shall be from the same institution as the President. Where a re-location of headquarters is necessary, the General Assembly, in

accordance with § 10 A of these statutes, shall amend § 24 above.

10. MEMBERSHIP

§ 26.

Membership of the Association may be either corporate or individual. Admission of new members is on the basis of a written application.

§ 27.

Founder-members of the Association are the organisations which applied for membership prior to the meeting of Association's Preparatory Committee held in Prague, September 14-15, 1992.

§ 28.

Membership of the Association is terminated either on the basis of a written announcement of termination of membership from the member, on closure of the member organisation, or through continual lapses of membership fee payment.

11. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

§ 29.

Members of the Association have the right to

1. take part in General Assembly sessions,
2. elect the officers of the Association,
3. be elected for positions of the officers of the Association,
4. be elected or appointed members of working committees, and
5. be informed about Association activities.

Member organisations are obliged to appoint at least one or a number of persons of their own choice to be contact person(s) in the Association's directory of members. However, the organisation's choice of representatives is not limited to appointed contact persons.

12. FUNDING OF THE ASSOCIATION

§ 30.

The finances of the Association shall be managed by the Treasurer (or Secretary-General § 14) subject to the control of the Board and under the general direction of the General Assembly. The accounts of the Association shall be audited annually by two members of the Association, not being Board members. The auditors shall be elected for a term at the meeting of the General Assembly.

§ 31.

The Association is a non-profit making organisation. The members of the Association shall have no personal claim of the property of the Association. No part of Association property shall be paid or transferred to any member or past-member of the Association, except for payment / remuneration in return for services rendered to the Association under contract, or reimbursement for expenses properly incurred.

§ 32.

Expenses other than consumables (e.g. stationery, postage) and fees (e.g. taxes) connected with the activities of the Association Secretariat is covered by the organisation/ institution to which the Secretariat is affiliated until such time as alternative sources of funding are established.

§ 33.

The Secretary-General's expenses in connection with meetings and events could be covered from the Association funds in special cases.

§ 34.

Participation in special Association events (conferences, symposia, etc.) is covered by the organising/host institution, from fees paid by participants and/or from the organising institution's own means.

§ 35.

The Association may obtain funds from voluntary contributions from various organisations or members, firms or personal donations, from its own activities or from other sources.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

§ 36.

The Association may be dissolved on a decision of the General Assembly supported by 2/3 of the votes cast. In such an event, the General Assembly will make decisions about property and financial settlements.

§ 37.

The Association may enter into agreement for the purpose of amalgamating with other kindred bodies or may enter into voluntary dissolution of the Association. Upon dissolution of the Association or the winding up of its affairs, assets of the Association shall be distributed exclusively to scientific, educational or charitable purposes.

ANNEX I.

Founder-members of the Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties with the participation of civil engineering faculties from non-European countries:

Faculty of The Built Environment, South Bank University, London, United Kingdom

Technical University of Wroclaw, Poland

Technical University of Budapest, Hungary

School of Engineering, University of Wales Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, Canada

Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia

The Engineering College of Odense, Denmark

Chalmers University of Technology, School of Civil Engineering, Göteborg, Sweden

University of Zagreb, Croatia

Czech Technical University, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Prague, Czechoslovakia

Technical University Košice, Czechoslovakia

Kiev Civil Engineering Institute, Ukraine

Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees, Paris, France

Civil Engineering Faculty, Lviv Polytechnical Institute, Ukraine

University of Southampton, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, United Kingdom

University of Transport and Communications, Žilina, Czechoslovakia

Vilniaus Technikos Universitetas, Lithuania

City University, London, United Kingdom

Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

Does the Civil Engineering Student Learning Style Influence Academic Performance?

Professor Alfredo Soeiro

University of Porto, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering (Portugal)

AECEF Board member



A study was made between 2005 and 2010 in the Civil Engineering Department of the Universidade do Porto. The reason to perform this study was the intention of following the student's academic performance during the five year program and the investigation of the possible correlation between the individual learning style and the academic results. Students at the entrance of a five year degree in Civil Engineering were tested to determine the predominant Kolb learning style. The study program is a five year plan with ten semesters. The program degree obtained is a master of engineering with specialization in structures, construction, planning, hydraulics, transport, materials or geotechnical. The master degree is under the framework of the Bologna process.

The survey done by the first year students aimed at defining the predominant learning style according to Kolb theory. To obtain good results the students were briefed about the research behind survey so it could generate motivation to realize the test with a collaborative attitude. The number of students undertaking the survey was one hundred and eighty eight with ages between eighteen and twenty. Students have an average of twenty hours per week of classes. The classes are divided in about a tier of theoretical presentations and the rest is dedicated to practical lessons and laboratories. The last semester is dedicated to a dissertation that can be research, practical placement or a design project. The survey used to determine the Kolb learning style was administered in printing. The results of the questionnaires were treated manually. The questionnaire was composed of two groups of nine questions with two options for each answer.

The learning styles that the survey tried to identify were designated as Doer, Watcher, Thinker and Feeler. The Doer learning style is characterized by the terms concrete, experience and active experimentation. The Watcher learning style may be characterized by the concepts reflective, observation and concrete experience. The Thinker learning style may be closely linked to abstract, conceptualization and reflective observation. The Feeler learning style may be defined by terms as abstract, conceptualization and active experimentation.

The number of predominant learning styles obtained from the survey was 70 Doers, 42 Watchers, 48 Thinkers and 28 Feelers. The performance of the students throughout the five year program (2004 to 2009) was analyzed at the end of the first semester and at the end of the tenth semester. The variables of academic performance at the end of the first semester (February of 2005) were number of students with approval at all disciplines of the semester and grade average. The variables analyzed at the end of the tenth semester (July of 2010) were the number of dropouts, number of students that did not finish in five years but are still studying and the number of students that finished in five years. At the end of the program a quantitative analysis was made considering the grade average, the number of years to finish and the number of registrations in the 47 courses of the program. The data presented comprises average and respective standard deviation for each of the dimensions.

At the end of the first semester it seems that Doers perform worse in terms of effectiveness and efficiency. The possible reasons for the apparent unsuccessful students may be due to the difficulty in adapting to the new environment. They may lack the opportunities for active experimentation and concrete actions since everything is new. The best performer is the group of Watchers that develop the reflective observation and try to implement actively the actions. The other two groups follow closely. The recommendation is to have a special program to introduce the Doer group to the university environment giving these students incentives and freedom to get involved.

Considering the totality of the program the Doers and Feelers have the highest degree of achievement in terms of finishing in five years. That may occur due to the characteristic of active experimentation that makes part of engineering scenarios. Their grade average and number of registrations are higher probably due to the intention of risking attending more courses to finish quicker. The other two groups, Thinkers and Watchers, have shown higher grade averages and higher dropout rates that may be due to the capacity to absorb better the concepts and rules due to the characteristics of reflective observation. Suggestions may be made to adapt the possibilities of teaching to address conceptualization and observation.

Remembrance

Dr Alan Kwan
Cardiff School of Engineering, Cardiff University (UK)

AECEF Board member

Last autumn we remembered the first anniversary of passing of Professor Ben Barr who died on 28 September 2010 due to cancer. Professor Barr had been a long standing member of AECEF, was a Board Member of AECEF, and was the key in ensuring the success of the 1999 3rd AECEF Symposium at Cardiff, UK.

Professor Barr was a First Class Civil Engineering graduate from University College, Cardiff in 1964. He then worked for both Taylor Woodrow Construction and Freeman Fox and Partners before starting a PhD in Cardiff, which he gained in 1968. After a further spell of

working with Glamorgan County Council, Professor took up an academic career in the then Polytechnic of Wales. In 1980, Professor Barr moved to University College, Cardiff where he had a distinguished career until his official retirement from Cardiff University in 2005.

Professor Barr was Head of the Civil Engineering Division at a time Civil Engineering rose from relative obscurity to become the top Civil Engineering school in the UK for a few years in the acclaimed "Times League Table". While he was certainly admired by colleagues as a caring and tireless leader, he was perhaps most admired by his students who remember and speak well of him and his dedication to teaching 15 or 20 years after their graduation. Professor Barr is well regarded in his research areas on Fracture Mechanics, especially fracture in concrete, fibre reinforced concrete, and high performance concretes. Professor Barr was still publishing and writing academic papers right up to his illness, and ensuring handover of his work.

Apart from his longstanding contribution to AECEF, Professor Barr was also highly active with the UK Institution of Civil Engineers through his career. Indeed, he found academic retirement the perfect excuse to work even harder for the professional Institution than when he was still in the University. Professor Barr served on secretary and chair of ICE Wales, and was also a council member. He was also a member of the accrediting body (Joint Board of Moderators) from 1999 to 2008, and he served on many accrediting panels both in the UK and overseas, including some visits under the auspices of the UK Engineering Council. With his thorough knowledge of, and wise insight in, the state of UK Civil Engineering education, Professor Barr wrote the paper "UK Civil Engineering Education in the Twenty First Century", which most fittingly won him the prestigious ICE Parkman Medal in 2009.

Until his stepping down from AECEF activities, Professor Barr was a constant and active member at AECEF Symposia and Board meetings. There was even one meeting that he drove to London and flew overnight in order not to miss a late Cardiff commitment and yet make a 10am meeting in Italy the next morning. Professor Barr was well liked by all his European colleagues, and they will remember him as diplomat, a gifted orator, a learned scholar, always a facilitator in difficult meetings, a true poet, a humble and modest man, and a much missed friend. No one who knew Professor Barr would also fail to realise his devotion to the game of rugby!

Professor Barr is survived by his wife Sarah, two children, and five grandchildren.



Professor Benjamin Isaac George Barr (1942 – 2010)
Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering
Formerly Carillion Professor of the Built Environment
Former Head of the Division of Civil Engineering
Cardiff School of Engineering, UK