



Opportunity Awaits

By Lynn Clark, CFM, FMP, LEED AP BD+C

Does your workplace offer internships? Are you ready to teach and/or mentor? Or are you ready to expand your FM experience with a 4 year degree in sustainable building?

Opportunity awaits. The latest is a new program at South Seattle Community College. The **Sustainable Building Science Technology (SBST) Bachelor of Applied Science** program starts in the fall of 2014. Classes are offered evenings, weekends and online – all accessible for the working FM professional.

IFMA Seattle membership has a history of contributing to the on-going development of the Facility Management profession through educational opportunities. One of the earliest programs is the University of Washington certificate program in Facility Management. It was designed and taught for many years by Robin Bleeker as a Facility Manager (IFMA), along with Lee Doughty as an Engineer (IFMA) and Judy Gibson as a Property Manager (BOMA).

Speaking of her experience, Robin Bleeker, CFM adds, “Participating in this education process clearly improved my abilities in my chosen field, exposed me to a lot more relevant information and allowed me to interact and be inspired by many wonderful and talented people.”

The fall of 2013 marked Bob Stoneman’s 5th year of teaching at the University of Washington’s online Facilities program (FLC1 Facilities Lifecycle) now offered through the Construction Management School.

“I love it; it is a great way to share FM experience, best practices and to promote the profession with others that are interested in developing their career,” said Bob. As an instructor, Bob brings up some of the challenges that the FM typically deals with in the work environment.

“It is enriching and stimulating – and reinforcing that there is more than one right way to approach a challenge, says Bob Stoneman, CFM. Creativity is encouraged. Presented with these situations, the student will often embrace it and may respond with a less than intuitive response. Bob emphasizes that it is critical to be convincing in your argument!

Mentoring is big part of the current FM program at the University of Washington. His course is offered in the fall quarter and the student gains a strong connection, a special confidant through interactions with their mentor. Bob can see the on-going growth as the mentor’s influence surfaces in the student’s assignments.

In his 27th year as a member of IFMA, Bob Stoneman has and continues to have mentors in the industry. He values the on-going exchange of ideas and experiences. Bob is with Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) currently working in Operations with the Amazon account. JLL usually offers summer time, paid internships. The JLL internship is less formal than Bob's experience while employed in the financial industry that had actual classes for the intern. At JLL, the internship is structured around a project – offering a beginning & end that rewards the intern with a sense of accomplishment. Several interns have later joined as JLL employees.

Continuing the IFMA Seattle tradition of contributing to the advancement of the FM profession, Cody Crawford, CFM is one of several members who are currently participating in the development of the Sustainable Building Science Technology (SBST) program as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee. This program is the only FM Bachelors program offered in the state of Washington.

With a Bachelor of Science in Facilities Management and Technology Studies from Colorado State University-Pueblo, he sees the strong contribution a FM degree has in his career and how integral his internship with the Target Corporation was in preparing him for the profession. As a Senior Manager, Facilities & Operations at Vulcan, he has recent experience with the value-added by interns in the FM workplace. During the summer of 2010 a group of Graduate Interns contributed development of a Sustainability program which has influenced positive change and progress towards reducing energy and GHG emissions. He also was fortunate enough to have another intern assist his group in 2013 in onboarding Scope5, which is an Enterprise Sustainability tracking system. The benefits have been mutual for both Vulcan and our interns and have produced great results.

Which opportunity is your next step?

Article contributors:

- Bob Stoneman, CFM VP Jones Lang LaSalle Operations with the Amazon accounts
- Robin Bleeker, CFM Facility Manager at Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union
- Cody Crawford, CFM Senior Manager, Facilities & Operations at Vulcan

Program information:

Sustainable Building Science in Technology (SBST) Bachelor of Science at South Seattle Community College

<http://georgetown.southseattle.edu/documents/SBST%20BAS%20Summary.pdf>

Certificate in Facility Management through the University of Washington

<http://www.pce.uw.edu/certificates/facility-management.html>