

Lancashire Group Committee award 2 Sponsorships to Lancashire MSc Logistics Students

The Lancashire group of CILT have strengthened their links with two prominent Universities within Lancashire in 2010 with the introduction of the CILT Lancashire Group Logistics and Supply Chain Student Sponsorships.

The sponsorships are the brainchild of Joanna Davies CMILT, the vice chair of Lancashire group and the North West region's young professionals Chair. Joanna is herself an MSc graduate from Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh and she approached the committee of Lancashire group with her idea to award sponsorships to two students who were studying full time at a Lancashire university a Logistics related Masters degree. The committee fully endorsed Joanna's idea and were delighted to support her vision of introducing the benefits of CILT membership to students, and not only increasing the number of young professionals in the Lancashire region of CILT, but also to hopefully harness the students' talent, and encourage them to stay within the region, or U.K. after completion of their degree.

During October, the committee of the Lancashire group gave presentations to students of both Lancaster University Management of Science School and the University of Central Lancashire, on what can be achieved once they finish their Masters degrees, and the plethora of benefits CILT membership can offer to students both during their degrees, and in their career after graduation. A case study of Joanna's career to date from graduation with her MSc in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and her first graduate placement to her current senior management role was well received by the students, who said they found the talk motivational and inspiring! The students who attended the presentations are currently studying Masters degrees in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Operations Management, Business Studies and Oil & Gas Supply Chain Management.

Once we had finished our presentations and the question & answer session, we offered the students the opportunity of applying for sponsorships from the Lancashire group, by writing a brief (no more than 1500 words) paper on what it is about the Logistics and Supply Chain industry which interests them, and why they would like sponsorship from the Lancashire group of CILT. We were delighted to receive over twenty entries from which we created a shortlist of finalists. The five finalists were invited as VIP guests of the committee to our Networking and Social Event which was held in Preston in late November.

The two sponsorships awarded included a years' free student membership of CILT for 2010/11, and both winners were invited on stage in front of fifty CILT members and their peers, and presented with their awards by Lee Rossall MILT, Chairman Lancashire Group at the Networking event.

The Winner and first sponsorship was awarded to **Farooq Habib, from Lancaster University**. Farooq came to Lancaster from a job as General Manager at Standard Foods (Pvt.) Limited in Pakistan, where he was responsible for strategic planning, financial budgeting, and resource allocation, with an annual budget of approximately five million US dollars. Farooq said, "One of the key reasons that inspired me to join the field of logistics fifteen years ago was that here one can create business excellence by taking strategic as well as tactical decisions that have a direct and profound impact on the bottom line of the company. Another advantage of working in the field of logistics is that one has to think on one's feet. The experience of making one's own decisions and then seeing the results of one's decision is not only a continuous learning experience but is a very rewarding one as well. For example, keeping in view the growing demand of the firm (as well as the

uncertainty in the supply of local crops), I envisioned and successfully organized a logistics network to annually handle 24,000 tons of fresh potato from India – a level of import achieved for the first time in the history of Pakistan. This strategic decision based on proactive forecasting resulted in an annual saving of £2 million. As a student, I will benefit from CILT Knowledge Centre, a major logistics library, for dissertations as well as course work. I will also have the chance to get discounts on publications, and LinkedIn.com is a very effective source to gain access to latest news and events related to the Lancashire group. I will also have the chance to improve my qualifications through long distance learning courses offered by CILT.”

He says that “a specialized Lancaster MSc will provide me with a solid foundation for my future as a truly global business leader with cross cultural insights and creative problem-solving skills. The additional qualification from this prestigious institute will complement my generic MBA by acting as a springboard to a new career.”

Farooq Habib has an MBA (Gold Medal) and a B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering degree, first class; with 15 years work experience as a decision maker in FMCG, beverage and textile sector with an annual turnover of £10M. He was responsible for more than 300 personnel and also for an annual budget of £5 million. A specialist in Logistics and Supply Chain Management with extensive experience of designing supply chain networks, forecasting demand and supply, planning and managing inventories, warehousing and distribution hubs, designing and planning of transportation net works and managing cross functional drivers in supply chain, his expertise are in operational research techniques, software support for logistics and supply chain management (SAP,SPSS,SAS,C++, VBA), manufacturing management, problem structuring, computer simulation, forecasting, stochastic modelling, optimization and heuristics.

The photograph shows Farooq with Lee Rossall and Joanna Davies (respectively chair and vice chair of the Lancashire committee.)



The second sponsorship was awarded to **Joe Katta**, from the **University of Central Lancashire**.

Joe said "Purchasing/buying and its related aspects have always been the most interesting part of Logistics and Supply Chain Management to me. For a period of five and half years, I worked in the Procurement Sections of the United Nations (UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone and the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Sierra Leone) with the responsibility to assist in buying and contracting for goods and services on behalf of these organizations in line with the Procurement/Financial rules and regulations. What did appeal a lot to me is the level of professionalism in terms of basic leverage assigned to you as staff by these organizations to think outside the box and as well take maximum responsibility for your actions and inactions during the course of your duty without any undue influence. I have contributed in raising awareness in professionalism not only among my peers back home but have touched the lives of a lot of young stars who have seen in me a through example of professionalisms. From the above brief perspective about me and in conclusion, support for me from CILT will not only enhance my professional skill, but will contribute to formally help me establish a chapter of the profession in key learning institutions in my country as it is in the UK."

Joe has a Post Graduate Diploma in Procurement, and is also a member of CIPS, UK. He has experience in working for the United Nations country office and the Special War Crimes Tribunal for his native Sierra Leone as a Procurement/Logistics specialist, buying (goods & services), contracting and negotiating, thinking outside the box and contributing to cost saving activities across the supply chain.

The photograph shows Joe Katta with Lee Rossall (Chair of the Lancashire Committee.)



The Lancashire committee wanted to connect with the student population, studying Logistics based degree courses to make them aware of the huge number of benefits there are for becoming a student member of CILT, with the hope that they continue to renew their subscriptions in future years. We achieved over a 70% membership take up from the students who attended our presentations, which we are delighted with as this is the first time we have undertaken this type of project. The sponsorships will continue hopefully for many future years for MSc logistics students in

Lancashire. Both universities are working towards CILT accreditation of the MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree courses which will forge even stronger links and offer student membership and the associated benefits.

The MSc in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, is specifically designed for those with little or no work experience since graduation and who plan a professional or managerial career in the field of logistics or supply chain management. It will enable you to develop the ability to use the world-leading SAP software to enhance business operational performance, to apply the latest thinking to the analysis of key problems being experienced by the world's major businesses, to possess a thorough understanding of logistics and supply chain management and to use project management software effectively.

Lancaster University offer an MSc in Logistics and Supply Chain Management which emphasises analytical skills in logistics and supply chain management. The course is a flexible degree scheme which includes optional modules in addition to core subjects, such as strategic supply chain management, manufacturing management, and logistics modelling. Students also take a module in problem solving and consultancy skills, developing their abilities in report writing, group work and presentations. The degree programme concludes with a four-month consultancy project from May to September, when students are either based in an organisation or remain at Lancaster, visiting the organisation when necessary. If you may be interested in a student undertaking a project in your organisation, please contact Mark Stevenson (m.stevenson@lancaster.ac.uk) who would be delighted to hear from you.

Further information about the Lancashire group, the committee, information on both sponsorship winners, and our events can be found by joining our LinkedIn group, Lancashire Group CILT.

Lee Rossall MILT
Chairman Lancashire Group