

# FIG Young Surveyors Network

August 2011 Newsletter

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## YSN Regional Ideas

- 1. Ignite Spatial**  
see for example:  
<http://www.ignitespatial.com/>
- 2. Mentoring**  
See resources at:  
<http://mentoring-association.org/resources/>
- 3. Volunteer or raise money**  
For inspiration, visit:  
<http://www.mapaction.org/>
- 4. Just have a simple catch up with colleagues!**

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- 1. Australian spatial jobs online:**  
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- 2. V1 magazine:**  
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- 3. GIM International**  
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## Editors' Report

Colleagues,

It's been a busy year so far. With the 2010 FIG Congress last year in Sydney, and the 2011 FIG WW in Marrakech, we have a new committee that has grown over the year and is working to serve Young Surveyors around the globe.

Please read on to find out who the new board members are and what we're doing around the globe. Hope to see you all at future FIG events.

Best of Luck,

Daniel Helmricks &  
Eva-Maria Unger  
Editors



Thomas Hohaeuser, Benita Ugwulebo, Eva-Maria Unger, Kate Fairlie and Daniel Helmricks at FIG2011

## Upcoming Events

**South Africa, African Task Force Young Surveyors Meeting  
(November 2011)**

**Rome, Italy, Working Week including the first ever FIG Young  
Surveyor Conference (4-11 May, 2012)**

**Abuja, Nigeria, Working Week (2013)**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, FIG Congress (2014)**

## In this Newsletter:

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*Next Edition?* We hope to issue our next edition in early 2012. Email us your article ideas and submissions!

### Committee

Kate Fairlie (Australia)  
Chris McAlister (Australia)  
Cemal Özgür Kivilcim (Turkey)  
Jens-Andre Paffenholz (Germany)  
Eva-Maria Unger (Austria)  
Daniel Helmricks (U.S.A.)

### Regional Representatives

Africa – Benedicta Ugwulebo  
Asia – Kenny Chan  
Europe – TBA  
North America – Daniel Helmricks  
Oceania – TBA  
South America - TBA

### \*NEW\* National Representatives

Morocco  
Italy  
Poland  
UK  
Canada

Want to know more, get in touch or think you're up for the job? Email us at [fig.youngsurveyors@gmail.com](mailto:fig.youngsurveyors@gmail.com)



# Chair's Report



Hi all – and *Marhaba* from the most recent FIG Working Week in Marrakech!

Some 1500 surveyors recently descended upon the Marrakech *Palais des Congres* to network and perhaps catch one of the 90 technical sessions. If you missed it, read the young surveyor experiences in the articles below! And don't forget to browse the FIG homepage – [www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net), it's full of all sorts of useful links, like the participant list (good for networking!) and the Surveyors Reference Library – [www.fig.net/srl](http://www.fig.net/srl) - for digital copies of all the papers.

Particularly exciting for the Young Surveyors Network was the fact that all FIG commissions mentioned a strong commitment to support and engage with young surveyors – so we definitely need to follow this up!

Now is as good a time as any – so I encourage all of you to create a new email message NOW and send to [fig.youngsurveyors@gmail.com](mailto:fig.youngsurveyors@gmail.com) your name,

nationality and the Commission you'd most like to join and hear more about. We'll do the rest! And if you're not sure what each of the FIG Commissions are about, just head to <http://www.fig.net/comm/comindex.htm>.

On the home front, there are many ways to become more involved in the wider Young Surveyors Network. At our meeting in Marrakech we discussed three key actions for the coming year:

1. Join the African Task Force in creating an African event in November 2011
2. Promote and develop the FIG Young Surveyors Conference, which will form a part of the 2012 Working Week in Rome (May 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>)
3. Develop a more interactive and informative webpage

Happy to hear your comments on all of these – and any and all volunteer offers will be taken up!

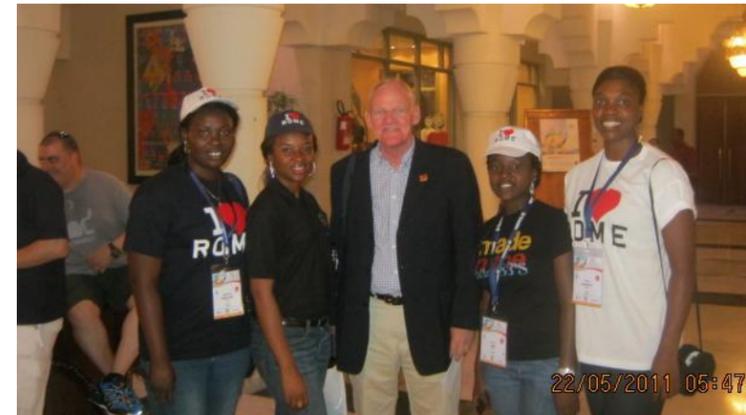
The Rome Young Surveyors Conference is particularly exciting – more details to follow, but make sure you're on our mailing list to hear more about it! This Conference will be an integral part of the broader FIG Working Week, so keep May 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> free in 2012! We'll be aiming for lots of discussion and real, tangible outcomes that demonstrate the contribution of youth to the profession – not just a series of papers and powerpoints.

Finally, we acknowledge that we're slowly building the network aspect – with facebook, linked in and conference events, the young surveyors network are yet to help with the key elements of what young surveyors really need – advice on where to study, career opportunities and help with professional development. Over the coming year we hope to rectify this with a new and improved interactive website, where we hope to engage with international companies and personalities to offer a range of opportunities. Keep watching this space – or email us if you happen to be an amazing web designer.

**Until the next issue or conference – whichever comes first! – take care. And most of all, as a young surveyor, be visible. Make sure you have your own career in sight, ask questions and make opportunities for yourself.**

**See you in Rome!**

*Kate Fairlie*



**Young surveyors are the essential driving force for our profession. The YSN is continuously growing and showing the ability, creativity and energy of our generation on such the big stage of FIG. In YSN, we can not only work hard in joining professional seminars and discussion forums, but also play hard in socializing and make friends with people from different continents. – Kenny Chan, HKIS**

# Meet our new National and Regional Representatives



## Kenny Chan

It's a great honor for me to join the YSN as the South East Asia Representative. I'm 30 and I am currently the Vice-chairman of the Young Surveyors Group of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS YSG). I have attended the 2007 FIG Working Week hosted in Hong Kong, and also the 2010 Sydney Congress.

The HKIS YSG is no stranger to the role of supporting young surveyors – already providing a number of opportunities for professional development, sound representation for young surveyors and generally promoting the profession to the wider community.

I look forward to using my experience with the HKIS YSG to assist the YSN in developing further, and connecting local, regional and global networks of young surveyors.

If you are a young surveyor in South East Asia, and if you would like to know more about the YSN, please contact me at:

[kennychan@hkis.org.hk](mailto:kennychan@hkis.org.hk)

## Marie-Renée Lavoie

It's a pleasure to meet you and join as the Canadian representative to the FIG YSN! I'm a land surveyor working in the province of Québec and I graduated from Université Laval, in Québec city, in 2007.

I'm the mother of a fantastic one year and half girl, name Éloïse, (who is in the "NO NO I don't want" phase). I work in the Transport ministry of the Government of Québec, at the "Direction du soutien aux opérations", in the beautiful historic part of Québec city.

In my region, I participate in many activities to ensure Geomatics is known better by the population, and especially by young high school students who may choose this topic for University. We have in Canada a problem of a lack of people interested sciences and technologies – see my short article below for an overview of one of our activities to address this!

Thanks for welcoming me into the YSN fold and I look forward to hearing news of young surveyors from around the world!

**Marie-Renée Lavoie**  
[mr.clavoie@hotmail.com](mailto:mr.clavoie@hotmail.com)

## Benedicta Amarachi Ugwuelbo



I am twenty-six years old, I live in a city called Port-Har-court, Nigeria. I am a graduate student from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka Anambra State Nigeria, where I studied Surveying and Geoinformatics.

I attended the FIG Congress in Sydney Australia where I got to meet with the FIG YSN group.

I was asked to join the Committee as the African representative. This year, the FIG Working Week 2011 in Marrakech, Morocco was a wonderful experience. I presented a paper titled 'Femal Gender in Professional Education, Surveying' within Commission 2.



## Alex Maddison

I am 25 and have just finished a surveying and Mapping Sciences BSc in London where I am looking forward to continue my studies by completing an MSc in Hydrographic Surveying.

I found out about the FIG YSN through The Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (ICES) Network, of which I am vice chair. I attended the recent very successful Working Week in Marrakech and left enthused by the motivated and outgoing people that are the YSN.

I am very proud to be a member and look forward to making a valuable contribution.

I will be cycling, camping and travelling over the summer and organizing a Geocache Event where students and industry professionals will work together to navigate their way around Greenwich's landmarks, I look forward to letting you know how I get on in September.



## Paola Ronzino

I am 30 years old and I am currently a PhD student in Digital Cultural Heritage at the Cyprus Institute (Cyprus). I am an Italian young surveyor and archaeologist and my research area focuses on digital integrated technologies applied to Cultural Heritage, GIS, topographic survey, digital data acquisition, 3D modeling.

I am delegate of the National Council of Surveyors and Graduated Surveyors Italy).

So far I have attended the FIG Working Week in Eilat (Israel) in 2009, the FIG Congress in Sydney (Australia) in 2010 and the FIG Commissions 3&7 Workshop in Sofia (Bulgaria) 2010. I had the opportunity to hear about the Young Surveyors Network during my first experience in the Congress in 2009 and I am looking forward to being an active member of the YSN in the coming years.

**Paola is one of the young surveyor organizers of the FIG2012 Working Week in Rome, Italy.**



## Andrea Massaro

I'm 35 years old and I live in Rome, Italy. I've been working in Rome as a freelance surveyor since 2000 in my own business.

In 2009, I was elected Italian delegate from the CNG and GL (Italian Council of Surveyors) and have been involved in the FIG activities since 2009. I attended the FIG congress in Eilat (Israel) 2009, Sydney (Australia) 2010 and joint Commission 3 and 7 workshops in Sofia (Bulgaria) 2010. I have also just attended the recent FIG Working Week in Marrakech this May 2011.

This is a great opportunity for me to be a delegate from Italy and meet all the people from around the world, sharing our life and work experiences. I look forward to being an active member of the FIG Young Surveyors Network because we have a great future ahead.

**Andrea is one of the young surveyor organizers of the FIG2012 Working Week in Rome, Italy.**



# Young Surveyors experiences at the FIG Marrakech Working Week

## Alex Maddison – UK Student Experience

As Vice-Chair of the Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (ICES) Network, I had been in touch with the FIG Young Surveyors for over a year now. Whilst only a small percentage of surveying students attend FIG events – due either to busy work schedules or small budgets! – I was lucky enough to attend the recent FIG Working Week in Marrakech, Morocco. With huge discounts offered to students and my own keen desire to experience an international meet, the opportunity to meet the Young Surveyors Network and get involved in the FIG was too good to pass up! So I booked my place and arrived 3 days early in order to explore Marrakech's Medina and the conference venue.



*Alex and other young surveyors chatting with Tony Burns of Land Equity International, during a 'speed networking' morning tea.*

The week began with a welcome reception – all invited. Canopies and drinks were provided in the vast conference hotel bar and for the first time it was possible to gauge the scale of the Working Week, a reported 1500 people from 90 countries were present. I took this opportunity to seek and meet the Young Surveyors with whom I hoped I would be involved throughout the week. Introductions complete, I sought advice about the best technical sessions to attend, the social events I had to be at, and learnt of the 10 themed Commissions within the FIG.

With a Hydrography MSc application sent just weeks before my arrival, Commission 4 (Hydrography) were my first port of call. Though one of the smaller commissions, I had reliably been informed, "they pack a punch"! At their general meeting, just 25 or so of us sat and discussed achievements and targets. As a student I was made incredibly welcome and invited to contribute.

Though not an established public speaker, the informal vibe put me at ease. I spoke with several members after the meeting and was invited to join their evening dinner later in the week.

The Working Week generally consisted of 4 days of morning plenary sessions followed by technical presentations, broken up by coffee breaks and lunch – the latter two fine networking opportunities! Papers covered a broad range of topics from arable land consolidation to modeling cultural heritage monuments with laser scanning and photogrammetry.

*Young Surveyors 'surveying' the exhibition*



A pre conference dinner shared with Singapore Land Authority's Senior Surveyor reinforced what young surveyors had told me. No amount of reading can compete with quizzing professionals on their recent projects, especially when they are so enthusiastic. An evening spent with Commission 4, 5 and 6 illustrated the less formal side of the conference. Sat at the Chair and Vice Chair's table, I enjoyed live music, fantastic cuisine, belly dancers and humorous conversation. The short walk to the restaurant took us across Djamaa El Fna, the market square. This cultural melting pot presented memorable experiences to share with new friends. Here snake charmers, storytellers, food vendors and musicians gather to entertain locals and tourists.

Throughout the week I spent time with members of the FIG Young Surveyors Network at social and formal meets. Though reliant upon email and Skype, the Young Surveyors meet officially every year. Sitting in this meeting I was struck by the global reach of the Network and the wide-ranging engagement from such a diversity of delegates. Regardless of language barriers, attendees contributed and demonstrated their support for the common goal, to facilitate international networking and opportunities.

After an incredibly eye opening and rewarding week in Marrakech any reserves or stereotypes I had about international conferences were abolished, in fact, I now believe it is students and young professionals who have the most to gain. I returned home as a proud UK representative with a suitcase full of tagines, Djellabas, Berber leather bags and Moroccan spices, but more importantly as individual who had been enthused by the energy, passion and willing of those I'd met from all over the world, gathered for the same cause within the survey profession, "Bridging the Gap Between Cultures".



*During a coffee break between the afternoon's technical sessions, conference goers gathered in the exhibition area where big and small names exhibited their latest survey equipment and software.*

## Sunday Kufre E. – An African Young Surveyor Experience

My stay in Morocco though brief, was full of splendid experiences. We arrived in Casablanca on 18th May, 2011 and settled that day into Le Mogador Hotel in Marrakech. Lectures and seminars were well presented and rich in content. My most memorable event in Marrakech was the shopping in the Big Square – Djamaa el Fna - which lasted from about 6pm till 12.15am in the Night.... yes we shopped into the midnight and amazingly children and their mothers were still selling. Marrakech is a beautiful tourist town, well planned from the new town which is the tourist centre down to the old town which is for the locals. Just as I stated before, the technical session was rewarding and took up the opportunity to join the 'FIG Climate Change Task Force' headed by John Hannah, a Professor in the School of Surveying, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. We departed from Morocco on May 22nd 2011 and I felt we could have stayed much longer. Excellent!

# Other Reports – FIG Comm 5 and YS of America

## FIG Commission 5 and Young Surveyors

I would like to start with thanking the YSN for giving me the opportunity to present Commission 5 in this Newsletter. Personally, I have been involved in the Commission since 1998 and the role of "secretary" (today that role is called Vice Chair of Administration) for the Commission. I started as a "young surveyor" at that time and got involved in the Commission and this was an excellent way of being introduced to FIG, participating in the workings, taking on some responsibility and earning respect from my peers! I have since then been an active Working Group Chair before being elected as Chair of Commission 5. My daily work requires me to manage the Geodesy Division at Lantmäteriet (the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority) so Commission 5 is very much relevant to my work. I am convinced that every FIG Commission would welcome young surveyors on board so please take the opportunity!



*Rob Sarib, Mikael Lilje, Nic Donnelly (NZ) and Graeme Blick (NZ) heading out for the Commission 5 Dinner*

FIG Commission 5 is considered to be one of the most active commissions, not by the number of papers, sessions and delegates following our sessions but also in our goals and achievements. We also have established links with other professional or scientific associations such as the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and also like minded committees within organisations such as the UN. In general FIG Commission 5 is about the development, use and integration of technologies for positioning and measurement and the associated standardization, best practice and fundamental reference frame issues. To manage this we have established five working groups. More details about the Commission and our work plan can be found on the website - <http://www.fig.net/commission5/>

One of Commission 5's drivers is to maintain links with the 'grass root' - the everyday surveyor. So this important initiative to establish the YSN has been welcomed and supported by Commission 5. In Marrakesh we had some meetings with Kate. The discussions primarily focused on the YSN being involved or contributing to Commission 5 activities such as – positioning and measurement workshops on reference frames, geoids, instrumentation, and GNSS, and development of website to include "social networking or media" services.

In concluding, I encourage Young surveyors to be involved in our Commission and coming FIG events. For the Rome Working Week I urge you to provide contemporary ideas or hot topics for the technical program, present papers, and to take the responsibility of chairing and rapporteuring technical sessions in coming events.

Please feel free to contact me or Rob Sarib (Vice Chair of Admin for Commission 5) and we can start the discussion from there:

Mikael Lilje (Sweden), email: [mikael.lilje@lm.se](mailto:mikael.lilje@lm.se)

Robert Sarib (Australia) – email: [robert.sarib@nt.gov.au](mailto:robert.sarib@nt.gov.au)

## Young Surveyors of America – Fall 2011 Report

### *National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Student Competition 2011*

In early part of March 2011 the NSPS held its 10th Annual Student Competition. This year's competition topic was Hydrographic Surveying. Seven schools from across the United States including US Territories with baccalaureate degree programs in surveying or surveying related programs participated. Each team had approximately four months to develop a project related to the topic of Hydrographic Surveying. Each project was required to include a technical paper, large poster, and a 20 minute presentation. At the end of the competition judging team received a crystal bowl and team members received a medallion in recognition of their efforts.

#### **Results:**

*First Place: Troy University, Troy Alabama*

*Second Place: University of Maine, Orono, Maine*

*Third Place: Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Fall, Oregon*

#### **Honorable Mentions (In alphabetical order)**

*California State University, Fresno; Fresno, CA*

*Michigan Technological Institute; Houghton, Michigan*

*New Jersey Institute of Technology; Newark, New Jersey*

*University of Puerto Rico- Mayaguez; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico*



**Note: photos courtesy of Steve Shambeck, PLS Photography**

### *The Hydrographic Society Of America (THSOA) Student Outreach Program 2011*

In the late part of April 2011 the THSOA Student Outreach Program was the largest it's been with 25 students from 16 universities across the US and Canada since starting with three students in 2003. Student Participants were able to interact with professional Hydrographers and vendors from around the world, and experience hand-on demonstrations on the water in the Tampa Bay area. Students arrived the day before the conference started to participate in an "Intro to Hydro" day, lead by several Hydrographers from the US.