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Tim Watson Memorial Prize

In order to commemorate the sad premature passing of Tim Watson in April, the CPA has announced the Tim Watson Memorial Prize.

The aim is to support an engineering undergraduate in their final year thesis at an engineering university, the association has approached Brunel University London.

To be successful the candidate's choice of thesis would need to relate to construction equipment, preferably relating to lifting equipment. The thesis would need to have the potential to add to the shared industry knowledge on the subject, and the candidate would be asked to present their findings to the relevant Special Interest Groups.

The support might take the form of funding for costs outside their normal study, such as travel. It could also be professional support, such as mentoring, and access to contacts and expertise.

Watson was made aware of the plan for a memorial prize and was fully supportive of the concept. His family will be invited to participate. The panel aims to provide the same sort of experienced and helpful support to the candidate that Tim Watson was able to provide to many of his colleagues - and hopefully the prize winner would be encouraged to build their career in the sector.

Tributes and comments

Colin Wood, CPA chief executive 2001 - 2018 and CPA Trustee

I had the great pleasure of working with Tim Watson for over 27 years. I met him in the early nineties, on the Crane Interest Group of the CPA when I was working in the crane rental industry and Tim was with EPL part of John Laing Construction.

By the time Tim had formed his own consultancy I was chief executive of the CPA. From then on, we formed a close working relationship, particularly within the CPA's Special Interest Groups with Tim the driving force in creating many Good Practice Guides and British Standards for Tower Cranes, Mobile and Crawler Cranes, Construction Hoists and Access Platforms, amongst others.

I don't know how Tim found the time, but he also worked as an expert witness for the HSE and PAC (Powered Access Certification) and worked on various committees. Tim, a qualified engineer, was the most diligent, professional and patient man and even in the middle of preparing invaluable operational safety guidance he would stop what he was working on and promptly deal with the numerous queries coming from our members. He had a wealth of knowledge in our industry, unsurpassed by anyone I know.

He was a gentleman with a great sense of humour and will be sadly missed, he is irreplaceable, and this Memorial Prize will be a fitting tribute and everlasting memory to Tim's massive contribution to both the CPA and the industry as a whole.

CPA president Brian Jones,

Tim was without doubt one of the most knowledgeable men I had the great pleasure of knowing and working alongside. Tim's contribution to our association, its members and the industry was immense, and he will be sadly missed by us all.



Spring Conference 2021

The 2021 CPA Spring Conference will be held at the Heart of England Conference Centre near Coventry on Wednesday 28th April. The theme will cover progress, recovery and rebuilding for the future. The host will once again be former television newsreader, presenter and journalist Merryn Myatt. The Conference will bring together a number of speakers talking about key issues affecting the equipment rental sector and will include panel discussions.

Crane Safety 2020

The CPA is supporting the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) Crane Safety 2020 seminar which will take place this year as a live online event on 15th September.

Speakers will be drawn from the HSE, Babcock, NOCN, Sir Robert McAlpine, EnerMech, LEEA, Laing O'Rourke and Select Plant Hire.



Stars of the Future 2020

Judging is underway for the CPA Stars of the Future 2020 apprenticeship and trainee awards programme for which 70 nominations were received. The awards recognise and reward outstanding apprentices and trainees who not only bring ability and commitment to their learning and their work, but also possess extra capabilities which mark them out as being not only the foundations of the future of the industry, but also potentially leaders - the Stars of the Future.

Last year the Operator of the Year and CPA Lifting Technician of the Year were introduced, this year a further category is CPA Hire Controller of the Year. The winners will be announced on Thursday 17th September.

Construction Plant-hire Association