

Obituary

Dr Paul Fox (1966-2015): well-liked acoustician and signal processor who won admiration across Europe

Dr Paul Fox, who passed away shortly before his 49th birthday, was an extremely well liked acoustician and signal processor who worked at several key institutions across Europe, writes *Tim Leighton*.

He was born on 11 May 1966. After schooling at Oakmeeds School, Burgess Hill, then Haywards Heath Sixth Form College, he was awarded a BA Hons and an MA (both in engineering science) at the University of Oxford in 1987 and 1995 respectively. He then moved to the University of Reading and in 1995 was awarded a PhD in cybernetics with the thesis title *A state space approach to multivariable deconvolution*. Sponsored by a Marie Curie award from the EU, he carried out research into limited diffraction beams for medical ultrasound at the Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, Norway (1998-2000). An accomplished linguist, he used his French,

Spanish, Italian, German and English to work at the Technical University of Denmark, the University of Toledo, the University of Warwick and the University of Sydney.

Paul is extremely fondly remembered at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (University of Southampton) where he worked as a lecturer from 2005 to 2010. He showed great empathy in supporting students and colleagues, and was the first to volunteer when, for example, unexpected issues (such as staff illness) meant that a colleague, student or contract could be helped by his taking on extra load, often working evenings and weekends to help someone out. There was huge admiration and respect for the quality of his work, his dedication, and his loyalty and empathy.

After leaving Southampton Paul worked in Italy, at what is now the Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation in La Spezia



Dr Paul Fox (1966-2015)

and after that he set up a consultancy in the private sector, first in Italy and then in Brighton. However, failing health made it increasingly difficult for him to work, and on 25 April he suffered a fatal brain haemorrhage.

Paul's tragic death has shocked the many colleagues, former students, and friends from around Europe, Australia and the USA, many of whom have expressed the enormous respect they have for the man, his work, his dedication to others and to completing the job, and above all his humanity. □

Matt Simpson comes aboard at Baker Consultants

Matt Simpson has joined Baker Consultants as Senior Underwater Noise Consultant, where he will be applying his underwater acoustic experience to a range of marine projects, starting with Gode Wind offshore wind farm in the North Sea (see page 55).

Matt brings with him considerable experience and knowledge from his past roles: most recently as owner and principal consultant of Saith Acoustic Solutions, where he provided

noise and vibration consultancy to the building, industrial and environmental sectors; and before that as a post graduate researcher in underwater acoustics and ultrasonics at the University of Southampton, where he previously studied acoustics with oceanography.

Federica Pace, Marine Technical Director at Baker Consultants, said: "We are delighted to welcome Matt to our team, as we continue to strengthen our expertise in bioacoustics." □



Matt Simpson

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David Buchan (1969-2015): much-respected member of the Scottish building acoustics community

With a background in construction David started his career in acoustics when he joined the A Proctor Group in April, 1996, writes *Chris Steel*. Initially he was the company's technical sales representative for the East of Scotland but he quickly developed an interest in acoustics into a specialism and excelled in the specification, detailing and sale of acoustic products.

In 2001 David took over as the Acoustic Associate for Proctors where he ran their acoustic test laboratory as well as being the acoustic technical advisor for the company. It was during this time that he undertook his Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control at the IOA's Edinburgh centre as his work began to

concentrate more on product development and testing. David's warm-hearted and reassuring personality made him a well-liked and well-respected member of the building acoustics community in Scotland and in the wider UK construction industry where he was always a welcome visitor on site or at design meetings. He also became a well-known face at many IOA events where he regularly manned the Proctor's stand giving advice on products and performance and regularly attending IOA Scottish Branch events.

He was elected an Associate Member of the Institute in 2004 and a Corporate Member in 2007. Despite his fame for often being a bit late - David once turned up late for a



David Buchan (1969-2015)

time management course - he was always very generous with his time and remained committed to his role in acoustics despite on-going health issues.

David will be greatly missed by all those who knew him and our sympathies are with his wife, Elayne, and their family. □