

GAI Education Awards 2009

The Winners

Pinnacle Award + Silver Medal Winner

Claire Furness

Jackson Building Centres T/A Classic Hardware

Claire has worked in the ironmongery industry for four years, starting out in the accounts/sales department working for her parents who then owned Classic Hardware. Claire is now working in the estimating and scheduling department, where she is putting her GAI qualification to good use.

Claire is married to Neil Furness and they have an 18 month old daughter Eve. In her spare time she enjoys family days out and socialising with friends.

the pinnacle award
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ASSA ABLOY



Gold Medal

David Ratcliffe

Leaderflush Shapland

Having worked for 24 years in the doorset industry at Leaderflush Shapland, when the opportunity came up in 2006 to expand the business into architectural hardware David embraced the challenge and embarked on the 3 year Diploma course.

Since then Leaderflush Shapland Architectural Hardware has developed a successful team which is growing in size, expertise and experience year on year.



Bronze Medal

Graeme Sylvester

Häfele UK Ltd

Graeme has worked at Häfele for seven years, initially covering Furniture Fittings.

For the last three years Graeme has been in the architectural ironmongery department.



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Level 3 4th Prize

Rolando Guselli Samuel Heath & Sons plc

Rolando began his career in the architectural ironmongery industry at the age of 18 as a locksmith. He has since worked in various roles, ranging from retail sales and procurement to dealing with manufacturers, contractors and end users at all levels. The skills acquired have given him extensive industry knowledge and experience to tackle the demanding role of specification sales at Samuel Heath & Sons. Rolando says "I am very proud to be working for a company whose products and reputation are held in such high regard".



Level 3 5th Prize

Garry Manning Leaderflush Shapland

Garry has 35 years in the door industry with various companies in various rolls including Production, Sales and Specifications. He recently moved to Architectural Ironmongery Dept at Leaderflush Shapland.



Level 3 Top Scheduling (+ Gold Medal Winner)

David Ratcliffe Leaderflush Shapland

Having worked for 24 years in the doorset industry at Leaderflush Shapland, when the opportunity came up in 2006 to expand the business into architectural hardware, David embraced the challenge and embarked on the 3 year Diploma course. Since then Leaderflush Shapland Architectural Hardware has developed a successful team which is growing in size, expertise and experience year on year.



Level 3 Top Business Studies (+ Bronze Medal Winner)

Graeme Sylvester Häfele UK Ltd

Graeme has been at Häfele for 7 years initially covering the Furniture Fittings and has been in the architectural ironmongery department for the last 3 years.



Level 2 1st Prize

Cheryl Flinders GEZE UK Ltd

Cheryl has been in the architectural ironmongery business for 10 years, 8 of which have been with GEZE UK. Starting her career as a sales coordinator based in the Chelmsford office, and then promoted to area sales manager.

Cheryl soon became a committee member for the South East Institute branch.

She has found the course interesting and informative, giving a fuller picture of the vast product range available to the customer.



Level 1 1st Prize

Angela Morris Door Decor & More Ltd

Angela became involved in the architectural ironmongery trade just over four and a half years ago, working in the family business, Universal Hardware Supplies Ltd, initially as an income supplement.

She quickly became enthusiastic and realised there was a huge gap in the market for good quality architectural fittings in Swansea. When the timing was right the result was "Door Decor & More..." Angela has been running the business for nearly three and a half years and she is very pleased with the way it has gone and expanded.



Level 2 2nd Prize

Steven Nicolson Eagledale

Steven's father, Bob Nicolson, set up Eagledale in 1989 as a specialist architectural ironmonger to serve the Coventry and Warwickshire area. Steven worked for the company during school and university holidays and then joined full time after graduating in 1992. The ironmongery business has grown greatly since, expanding into manufacturing, producing bespoke joinery and architectural metalwork. A few years ago he decided to join the GAI and to take the Diploma to get more credibility and access to local architects and planners.



Level 1 2nd Prize

Farana Farooq Baig DORMA Gulf, UAE

Farana joined in the architectural ironmongery field with little idea of what career opportunities and doors it would open for her.

Farana's interest helped her a lot, "My work keeps me busy; and each time I encounter a special case it gives me a craving for knowledge in every quarter of the field, day to day."

She is a person with a passion for work and play, with lots of hobbies and ideas to make quality living. Farana loves to excel in whatever she does.



Level 2 3rd Prize

Hauwei Zhang Ian Firth Hardware Ltd

Hauwei Zhang has previously worked in the architectural industry and really enjoys working in the architectural ironmongery business.



Level 1 3rd Prize

Werner Rautenbach Assa Abloy, South Africa

Werner is a specifier in the Free State, Northern Cape and Lesotho area and has been working at Assa Abloy since 2006.

He is married to Cristi who is a teacher, and they enjoy going on holiday to South Africa's beautiful coast line.

