

Young Professionals Group Report – South Yorkshire branch - 2016

At present, there are over 20,000 members in the Young Professionals Group of the BCS both in the UK and worldwide.

There was a successful networking event for Young Professionals in South Yorkshire organised by Eva Barabas and Andrew Shaw in October 2015, where Olivia Tan (the Student Engagement Co-ordinator of the BCS), delivered a talk about the BCS student chapters and invited a few professionals who developed their careers through the BCS. Eva and Andrew have also continued to develop links with the recently established BCS Student Chapters in the universities of Sheffield, Bradford, Open University and Leeds-Beckett university, and are regularly in contact with them.

We have also been involved with the student community at Sheffield Hallam, where we supported an event titled “Tech for Troops” which encouraged ex-forced personnel to develop careers in IT and Cyber Security. We donated Raspberry Pis as prizes, had a stall at the event and promoted the BCS to ex-forces professionals and Andrew Shaw delivered a talk about some of the possibilities that ex-forces personnel could explore to develop their careers in IT and Cyber Security.

We also attended the annual BCS Womens’ Lovelace Colloquium event in March 2016, and have developed links with the newly formed “Women in IT at Sheffield Hallam University” society. We were impressed with the professionalism of the students and kept in touch to see how we could help them develop their society and possibly develop a BCS student chapter at Sheffield Hallam university.

We helped them organise a few speakers for a recent event that they organised to celebrate Ada Lovelace day, and have developed some networking contacts that will prove useful to them. We shall be meeting with them soon to discuss our ideas to help them develop the society even further, and possibly set up another BCS Student Chapter at Sheffield Hallam. One of our ideas that we have to develop the society, is to host a BCS Voices event with them and we shall discuss this idea with them.

The YPG events that have taken place, has also increased, with a YPG and student event taking place in Leeds in June, and a forthcoming YPG event that we at the South Yorkshire branch are planning for February 2017 (encouraging students and professionals to develop careers in coding) will be another opportunity to develop the Young Professionals Group and student communities even further.

There are YPG representatives in Manchester, Birmingham, Teeside and District, Merseyside and North Staffordshire BCS branches so maybe we could organise Young Professionals activities and develop the Young Professionals Group and student communities with them. This also provides opportunities to develop both the YPG and student communities in these areas.

Some more great news with the Young Professionals Group community is that a new committee has been elected and the community has been revived, with more YPG events taking place recently, with more to follow. Haiyan Wu, the new Chair of the Young Professionals Group, has worked with ourselves and the other Young Professionals Group community to develop opportunities for Young Professionals to

network and build relations between universities. We regularly attend the YPG meetings via conference call and raise any issues that young professionals and students may be encountering.

For funding for YPG events, for this academic year, I will investigate how much funding is available for this academic year for YPG related activities. Funding for events can be obtained from the finance committee and we can suggest events, where feasible, to be run in South Yorkshire and the surrounding areas.

The contact list for the Young Professionals Group section of the BCS has been updated, and we will communicate the development of the Young Professionals Group and student community with the other YPG Officers and the YPG Committee. Anyone who has any suggestions on how to develop the YPG and student communities is welcome to get involved. Please contact us if you have any issues/concerns, and if you have any ideas for events, and to have a chat.

We hope that the YPG and student Networking event that we deliver at the South Yorkshire BCS branch, will help inspire more Young Professionals and students to become more involved with the BCS and develop the BCS community even further.

Although we are really pleased with the progress we have made so far, we would also like to develop the student and YPG communities within Yorkshire and beyond even further this academic year and hopefully establish a BCS Student Chapter at Sheffield Hallam University. We would like to thank Olivia Tan (the former Student Engagement Co-ordinator of the BCS) for her tremendous help, guidance and support in establishing the links with the BCS Student Chapters, and wish her well on her new role with BCS Voices). Laura Bartle (the new Student Engagement Co-ordinator of the BCS) has been a tremendous help so far by encouraging students to help set up the BCS student chapters for their universities, and for getting us in contact with speakers for a forthcoming YPG event in February 2017. We are enjoying working with her, as well as Olivia, now and in the future.

Eva Barabas and Andy Shaw