



Last week in this space I was waxing poetic (or something like that) about our continued relationship with the AGC in assisting them in curriculum development. I referenced our assembled resources but forgot an important member of the team. Tariq Abdelhamid was instrumental in the creation of the AGC curriculum and has been LCI's leader and watchman in that process. That significant contribution merely scratches the surface of Dr. Abdelhamid's contributions to our community.

With Alan Mossman, he has co-edited the *Lean Construction Journal*. We rely on that vessel for the transmission of much of our message. It is a refereed, peer reviewed journal that has communicated lean construction and design thinking since 2004. The most recent issue contains a review of the reliability of schedules produced in federal design-build facility procurement, written by two professors and a student at the United States Air Force Institute of Technology.¹ The conclusion of the article is a recommendation "to change specifications in federal facility procurement contracts in pursuit of more reliable forecasting." The natural place to turn for improvement is the Last Planner system because it uses "the most recent information and provide[s] reliable workflow with pull techniques and active conflict resolution." (pg. 11)

I've also recommended to folks the article by John Strickland found in the 2010 Journal: "Competition and Collaboration Are Not Mutually Exclusive."² It is a great aid in the battle against "lowest bid equals best value." Alan and Tariq have spent the last 8 years finding, reviewing, distributing to other reviewers, "refereeing" and publishing this great body of work. Alan remembers "I couldn't have contributed what I have without the enormous support and guidance I have had from Tariq particularly w.r.t. the academic etiquette. It has been a great learning for me." The LEAN CONSTRUCTION JOURNAL continues to stand as a lighthouse for our community. Sadly, Alan has requested to move on from his role as co-editor. More about that next week but we will miss his wise co-stewardship of this particular incarnation of our lean knowledge.

Tariq will journey forth alone on the JOURNAL. But that's not all he does for LCI. In addition to teaching Lean Construction classes at Michigan State, Tariq was instrumental in convincing MSU to use lean techniques in renovating a dormitory and its associated facilities including a large dining hall. He consults on the use of lean processes, using both his academic acumen and knowledge as well as his experiences with Ford Motor Company as a Lean Subject Matter Expert.

Tariq also heads up the Academic Forum, the central rallying point of our academic community. He will again lead the annual meeting, the 8th Annual, this Spring (May 14-16) at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He plans to include a day of simulations and how they are taught as well as an academic symposium on current lean research (mark your calendars).

Many of you know that Tariq is from Egypt, having received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering for Alexandria University, Egypt. He has been personally touched by the unrest that has

¹ Timothy Gannon, Peter Feng, William Sitzabee, "Reliable Schedule Forecasting in Federal Design-Build Facility Procurement," LEAN CONSTRUCTION JOURNAL 2012, pp. 1-14.

² LEAN CONSTRUCTION JOURNAL 2010, pp. 76-85.



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

followed the removal of Hosni Mubarak. Yet, his continued dedication to lean construction and to the lean community have continued unceasingly. Thanks Tariq for your great (and continuing) contribution.

A reminder that the Lean Design Forum in Berkeley is this week, commencing Thursday morning. At this writing we have almost 60 confirmed attendees and room for about 15 more. Thanks especially to the leadership of Iris Tommelein in putting this together and the continued, invaluable contributions of David Mar, Laura Lesniewski and Markku Allison for developing a rich and vibrant program. This is a seminal event and I really urge your attendance.

See you all in Berkeley next week! All the best to the best people in the industry . . .