

BIFM Award for Student of the Year 2006

2006 Winner: Judi Hall achieved three credits and one distinction in one sitting

The BIFM's student of the year award, sponsored by Land Securities Trillium, is given to the student who demonstrated the best performance in the BIFM Part I and Part II examinations in one sitting. This year Judi Hall, facilities manager at Higham Dunnett Shaw, took the honours for her Part 2 exams, sat in December 2005, for which she received a distinction and three credits.

The four three-hour exams were: understanding organisations and managing people; managing premises and the working environment; managing services; and managing resources. Hall enrolled with BPP in March 2003. Her Part 1 results, sat in December 2004, were also good with two credits and a pass.

"I thought I was just good at exams but this has been a real boost," Hall says adding that traditionally young people have not chosen FM as a career path but rather fallen into it. "However, that is changing and it's a great career".

Hall encourages all young FMs to stick with their career choice in their early years despite it being very hard at times. "You have to be quite a strong person to deal with the complaints, strong to face the end user and make sure you meet expectations. A lot of young people don't have that strength but will gain it with age. But it's a great career for young people."

Hall, who recently married and is expecting her first child, has worked for pension's consultancy Higham Dunnett Shaw since 2002. She manages a £2.8 million facilities budget for six main sites and two satellite sites totalling 50,000 sq ft and saved around £40,000 in the first six months of her role.

Before that she worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, working her way up from a secretarial role to be office administrator, providing services to more than 400 staff which included a major relocation. Studying is a way of life for Hall, who also has the Nebosh General Certificate and has attended the DSE Workstation Assessor course, management training, counselling training and an impressive list of secretarial courses.

Extract from article written by Cathy Hayward published in FM World, 3rd November 2006