

# FROM THE FOUNDATION

December 2014

## THIS MONTH:

A Better WorldSkills Visitor Experience

From Visitor to Future Champion – meet Jack Wilkes

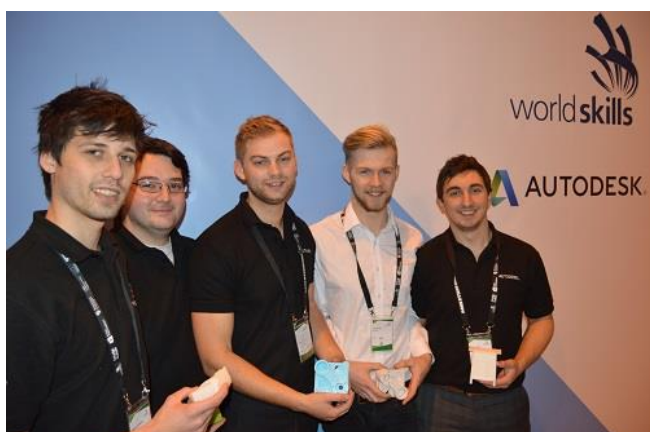
WorldSkills Champions Workshop

Thank You to Our Project Pioneers

## A BETTER WORLDSKILLS VISITOR EXPERIENCE

**Making what's complicated easy to understand! An exclusive series of 3D animations and interactive 3D models boosted visitor interest and understanding at The Skills Show 2014.**

- Bricklaying, Cabinetmaking, Carpentry, CNC Machining, Mechanical Engineering Design/CAD and Stonemasonry – were identified by The Skills Show organizers as among the skills difficult to explain because it's not easy for the visitor to visualize or understand the end project.
- *A New Look at Skills* – a collaboration between the Foundation and Autodesk via the UK CAD Skills team created a new way for the visitors to understand what the Competitors were actually doing.
- At each skill area, short 3D videos showed how the test projects were created and what all the technical aspects consisted of. In addition there was a separate 3D printing area where 3D models of the 6 skill areas were printed, and this drew huge interest from young students and adults alike.
- Autodesk and the Foundation are now actively exploring ways to develop even more 3D visualizations to enhance the visitor experience at skill competitions across the WorldSkills network around the world.
- All the 3D content produced at The Skills Show in 2014 will be made available on the WorldSkills website; visit [www.worldskills.org/aneewlook](http://www.worldskills.org/aneewlook). To learn more about Autodesk or to request free educational access to Autodesk software, visit [www.schools.autodesk.com](http://www.schools.autodesk.com).
- The UK CAD Skills team is made up of past and present WorldSkills Champions and one of them will compete at WorldSkills São Paulo 2015.



(left to right) Dylan van Belkum, Andrew Craig, Andrew Pye, and Andrew Beel. Autodesk UK Manager: Mike Westlake

## FROM VISITOR TO FUTURE CHAMPION – MEET JACK WILKES

### Spotlight Story

Going beyond being just a 15-year old school boy who likes playing with the computer, Jack Wilkes made that extra effort to search for his passion that – he didn't know at first - would set him on his path to becoming a future WorldSkills Champion for the UK.

"When I saw the stand of Autodesk at The Skills Show last year, I was immediately hooked up by the cool display and the moving designs, I was eager to know how I could do the same thing", said Jack, who visited The Skills Show for the first time in 2013 with his father.

Jack's interest in CAD has been further helped by Mike Westlake, Autodesk UK Education Manager, who has been mentoring Jack in his spare time since last year. "In the UK, the press tends to generalize about young people, suggesting they don't care or consider their future or their education; especially those who don't engage with the traditional academic path. However this is not the case, which is what I saw when I met Jack. And it's exactly what I see with all the WorldSkills Champions from around the world who are inspiring the next generation," commented Mike, who is himself a WorldSkills Champion, representing the UK in Mechanical Engineering CAD in Japan in 2007.

The support of Jack's parents has been the key for him to stay focussed in pursuit of his dream to become a Champion in this field. Jack's father, Chris Wilkes, said: "It's his life and his career, what we can only do is to be supportive. He wasn't sure what he wanted to do at school, and now he is excelling at subjects which are relevant to his goal of becoming a CAD designer."

This year, Jack worked on the stand of *A New Look at Skills* during The Skills Show 2014. (See previous story). Not only did he get to have more hands-on experience, he also had a chance to speak with more people who are involved in the WorldSkills movement, including sharing his motivational story at the Thank-You Gathering in Madrid (See later story) hosted by the Foundation on 5 December. With all these doors opening for him, Jack is determined that he will continue to develop his CAD skills and pursue his dream to represent the UK at the 2019 or 2021 WorldSkills Competition.

Jack's experience has also inspired his younger sister, who visited The Skills Show this year with the same goal of finding her dream. As he is sharing his story and being so focused on what he wants to achieve, his school is planning to bring all their Year 10 and Year 11 students to The Skills Show in 2015.

Jack's story is just one example of the many thousands of young people who are being inspired by WorldSkills Competitions in all parts of the world. It also reveals the important role that our WorldSkills Champions play as role models, and their willingness to mentor those that are following in their footsteps.



Jack Wilkes (left) and his father Chris Wilkes.



Left to right: Mike Westlake, Jack Wilkes and Andrew Beel  
Mike and Andrew are both training Mike.

**Video** – Meet Jack Wilkes: <http://youtu.be/CzZLlc5AQc0>

## WORLDSKILLS CHAMPIONS WORKSHOP

Six Champions put their heads together to turn an idea into a reality!

- WorldSkills Champions - Sufyan Zainalabidin (SG), Abdulla Shehhi (UAE), Ricardo Vivian (BR), Katie Wright (UK), Lucq Post (NL), and Victor Simon (FR) joined a Foundation-sponsored workshop in Birmingham from 16-18 November.
- Together with support and facilitation from WSI President – Simon Bartley – and Coordinator - Alex Musial, the Champions firmed up a project idea proposed by the Champions Forum held in conjunction with the WorldSkills General Assembly in Lucerne, Switzerland in September this year.
- Their proposal is for the formation of a WorldSkills Champions Trust that will focus on developing engagement opportunities for Champions beyond the Competition. Their final proposal will be presented to the WSI Board of Directors in February 2015.
- Stay tuned on WorldSkills website for more updates from the Champions themselves as they will be sharing stories of activities happening in their own countries, as well as their own exciting WorldSkills journeys beyond the Competition!



Left to right: Sufyan Zainalabidin (SG), Katie Wright (UK), Lucq Post (NL), Ricardo Vivian (BR), Victor Simon (FR), Abdulla Shehhi (UAE)



The WorldSkills Champions group are joined by (left to right) Seán Kearney (WSF Project Developer), Alex Musial (Coordinator), and Grace Lung (WSF Project Developer)



**Video** – Behind-the-scenes at the WorldSkills Champions Workshop: <http://youtu.be/1aYDz-FUYHs>



## THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT PIONEERS

Here's to the Champions, Experts, and partners who make the Foundation's projects valuable and meaningful – looking back as pioneers and helping to shape the Foundation's future.

- A Thank-You Gathering was hosted in Madrid on 5 December, involving Champions and Experts who have participated in the Foundation projects to share their experiences, project stories, new ideas for the future of the Foundation.
- The workshop was further enriched by the input from Luc Lagneaux (BE) - Côte d'Ivoire skills competition, Judy Torres (USA) - Water Innovation Challenge, Natã Barbosa (BR) - Innovation Labs, and Simon Noerdjan (SR) – Innovation Labs who shared their stories via Skype.
- This was a unique opportunity for the participants to share Foundation projects experiences and understand the impact they are having, and get to know what has made it possible. A fun team event of Spanish cooking drew a perfect ending to the Gathering.
- We will be sharing the outcomes of the workshop with the many other project participants who were not able to come to Madrid due to the constraints of time, distance and cost.



Upper left to right: Lucq Post (NL) – Champions Forum and Champions Trust, Michel van Erkelens (NL) Côte d'Ivoire skills competition, Seán Kearney (WSF), Victor Simon (FR) - Champions Forum and Champions Trust, Jack Wilkes (UK) – student trained by Autodesk, Tjerk Dusseldorp (WSF).

Lower left to right: Nuria Portland (WSF), Wouter Niekus (NL) – Innovation Labs, Grace Lung (WSF).



**Video** – Thank You from WorldSkills Foundation: [http://youtu.be/N9uzgd\\_fAyM](http://youtu.be/N9uzgd_fAyM)