

Oct 28th 2009 – TEAM News

What's happening with TEAM?

Our number of students is up! That's no surprise. The chemical engineering class just keeps getting bigger, but there's much more than that going on. This year there are 125 students running 31 different projects for 29 clients. The 125 students this year (up from 114 last year) are from the following disciplines:

Discipline	Number of Students
BIOLOGY	1
CHEM ENG	86
CHEMISTRY	2
CIVIL ENG	2
COMMERCE	10
ECONOMICS	1
ELEC ENG	1
GEOLOGY ENG	2
LAW	10
MECH ENG	6
MINING ENG	4

This summer the TEAM organization put a tremendous effort into increasing our client base. We correctly anticipated that the economy would hamper some of our regular clients from running projects. To offset this, we hired Jason Munn (Chem Eng), Michael Koichopolos (Commerce), and Lauren Sansford (Chem Eng) - all TEAM 2009 grads - to help recruit new clients. Their efforts improved our marketing processes and developed a list of over 300 potential clients. In addition, many of our incoming students have helped to expand our client list through their summer jobs and contacts. Our approach to marketing TEAM this year was a resounding success. New clients for this year include many from the oil and gas sector in Calgary and Edmonton (5 new ones from Calgary alone), as well as companies such as AECL and interesting NGOs like the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, and IAMGOLD. The result was a tremendous number of very interesting projects for our students!

The diversification of our student base continues, with the recent decision of the Mining Engineering department to allow its students to replace their 4th year thesis course with TEAM. That means we're likely to start drawing more Mining students into TEAM. The Mechanical Engineering department is allowing substitution of their capstone design course for TEAM. Geology and TEAM have formed a partnership to



the benefit of both our students and our programs. The Chemistry department recently started encouraging and helping their students to expand their skillset by participating in TEAM. After hiring a former TEAM Commerce student to help us identify new marketing approaches for Commerce students, our cohort from Commerce has grown from 6 to 11 students this year. We're definitely on track for making TEAM better. All in all, we have a wonderfully diverse set of students who are keen to make things happen, and who are the key to maintaining and enhancing the diversity of participants.

To top it all off, we have recently hired an experienced bio person to help manage the projects in that field. Dr. Don Gerson is joining the department with an incredibly diverse industrial experience in the business and technical aspects of running and building these bio technology businesses. I think we'll see a big increase in the quality of these projects.

We are elated to have the tremendous support of twenty one industrial advisors, and many Queen's professors.

The rest of the TEAM team, Barrie Jackson (CHEE), Dale Dilamarter (CHEE), Steven Moore (School of Business), and Allison Turner (CHEE), and the incredible office staff of Maureen Plunkett (travel and event planning), Laurie Philips (finance), and Lynn O'Malley (Department Administrator), are continuing to work to improve the program.

One of our many great success stories from last year was the project completed for the Canadian Chemical Producers Association in conjunction with the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineers Process Safety Management Division. The students did an excellent job of reviewing world safety practices, and making recommendations for ways to improve how Canada manages major industrial hazards. To mark the anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, the CSChE will be publishing the 80 page TEAM report (with its ISBN number) very soon. The students presented their findings at the 8th World Congress of Chemical Engineering in Montreal in August 2009, and it was very well received. I do believe that while the audience was asking questions, the answers were so well thought out, that the audience forgot they were dealing with students. It was just TEAM at its best!

All in all, it looks like we have a lot of enthusiastic students this year. They are keen to make a difference in society, and I hope they will use the opportunity that TEAM provides to advance their careers into the next stage of their lives.

- Sincerely, Dave Mody