

University of Toronto

Student Chapter Merit Award - 2013

Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering



Larissa Rodo
5/31/2013



Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering

University of Toronto Student Chapter

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May 31, 2013

CSCHE Awards Manager,

On behalf of the University of Toronto CSCHE Student Chapter, I would like to express interest in nominating our Chapter for the Student Chapter Merit Award for 2012-2013.

This year was a busy and exciting year for our Student Chapter. We focused on engaging the student body through collaborations with other student organizations and improved overall student participation in many events, especially including our Summer Student Symposium competition and the Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference.

Every year, the Chapter hosts a Student Summer Symposium during the month of August, in which students compete to present at the Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference in October. This year, 17 students participated (over the 8 that participated last year), and 4 students were sponsored by the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry to represent the University of Toronto. The organization and execution of the competition is undertaken by the executives. Each October, the University of Toronto is well represented; this year, all 4 of our representatives placed in their respective competitions.

As well, the 2012 Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference had the most attendees from the University of Toronto in recent years, with 45 student delegates (an increase over the 2011 Conference with 24 delegates, and the 2010 Conference, with 6 delegates). The 4 students who competed in the Reg Friesen Oral Paper Competition and in the Robert G Auld Competition placed in the top 3.

The expansion of our recent *Chemical Engineering Week* at the University of Toronto has proven to be beneficial for the students, as students are afforded opportunities to network with alumni, professors and graduates students, and to tour industrial manufacturing plants in the Greater Toronto Area.

One major undertaking was the acquisition of a mentorship program (previously taken on by another student club) in an effort to unify the Chemical Engineering community at the University of Toronto. The growth and expansion of this mentorship program will benefit new students by aiding in their professional development and social cohesion within the Department and in the engineering community.

For a complete list of events, please see Appendix A. For our continuous improvement and growth accomplishments over last year, please see Appendix B.



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University of Toronto Student Chapter

I am personally very proud of the work and the growth of the 2012-2013 University of Toronto CSChE Student Chapter Executive, and hope you consider us for the Merit Award this year.

Sincerely,

Larissa Rodo
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Treasurer 2012-2013
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Appendix A: Events

Symposium

The Summer Student Symposium reached new heights this year. Symposium encourages students to present their own research and findings in an academic and professional setting. This year's competition enticed **17** participants - more than double the previous year's entries of 8. A collaboration with the Undergraduate Engineering Research Days committee this year resulted in this increase in participation. Professors and members of industry chosen by the CSCHE provided valuable feedback to participants, strengthening both their research and presentation skills.

The winners of the competition (**4** students) were sponsored by the Department to represent the University of Toronto at the annual Canadian Chemical Engineering Competition.

Student-Professor Mixer

This speed-dating style event encourages students to meet their peers and their professors outside of the classroom, in a relaxed and inviting environment. Professors and staff of the Department of Chemical Engineering offered advice, shared stories and provided a forum for questions usually not asked by the student body. **30** students attended this event.

Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference

The annual Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference is always a highlight for our student chapter. This year saw **45** student delegates from the University of Toronto attend the Conference in Vancouver, the largest delegation from U of T in recent years. Like past years, our participants in the student competitions excelled - in the Reg Friesen Oral Paper Competition, Lobna El Gammal placed 1st and Amit Unadkat placed 2nd; in the Robert G Auld Competition, Alex Koven placed 2nd and Kathak Vachhani placed 3rd.





Chemical Engineering Week

CHEMazing Race

In its second year, the CHEMazing Race, held during our third annual Chemical Engineering Week provided students an opportunity to engage and utilize their engineering minds in a series of entertaining activities. A focus was put on team building and time management, as well as design and problem-solving. Activities included an innovative structuring of common materials, races, and a sorting challenge. **12** students, in 6 teams, participated.



Graduate-Undergraduate Student Pub Night

A perennial favourite of the student body, the CSCHE and Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEGSA) Graduate-Undergraduate Student Pub Night provided an opportunity for undergraduate students to meet their teaching assistants and other grad students in an informal setting. Students gained valuable insight into graduate school admissions, the pressures of research, and the rewards of continuing their education. Approximately **80** students attended.

Plant Tours

Another student favourite is the Industrial Plant Tour. The CSCHE organizes and facilitates tours of various manufacturing and processing plants in the GTA. This year, the chemical engineering students visited both Steamwhistle Brewery and Celestica. Steamwhistle provided an experience for students interested in food engineering and processing, while Celestica gave great insight into the current state of manufacturing in a high-cost geography, as well as the potential growth for green energy (wind turbines, solar panels) in Ontario. A combined **30** students attended these tours.

Industry Luncheon

The Industry Luncheon is an event in which the CSCHE brings in engineers from the industry to discuss their roles in society, in their company, and transition between student and



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professional. This year's event included three recent Chem Eng alumni, all working in various sectors of industry. A total of **25** student attended.

How to Survive First Year Info Session

This event, designed to aid in the development of the first year students, provides students with access to helpful tips and useful resources that the university and department have available. With **35** attendees, this event taught the value of learning personalized study habits, utilizing library and online resources for studying and tips on how to approach professors and teaching assistants.

Chemical Engineering Dinner Dance

The Chemical Engineering Dinner Dance is an annual event held during October that brings together students, staff and alumni of the Department of Chemical Engineering for a night of fun, entertainment, good food and dancing. The Dinner Dance is a collaboration between the Chemical Engineering Undergraduate Council (Chem Club) and the CSChE. This event takes months of planning, and **over 300** people attended this year.

Halloween Costume Luncheon

The Halloween Costume Luncheon, held annually on Halloween, invites students to dress in their favourite costumes for candy and prizes. This collaboration with Chem Club, saw **80** students attend.





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Kris Kringle/Coffee House

The third year of the annual CSChE Kris Kringle and Coffee House saw its greatest turnout to date. **70** undergraduate and graduate students participated in the Kris Kringle, and **over 120** people turned out to exchange gifts, cheer on fellow students and the Chair of the Department in a holiday Chem Eng rap. This event saw collaboration with the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association, had 20 graduate students, faculty and staff attend and help facilitate, and is one of our most attended and best received events throughout the year.



Candy Grams

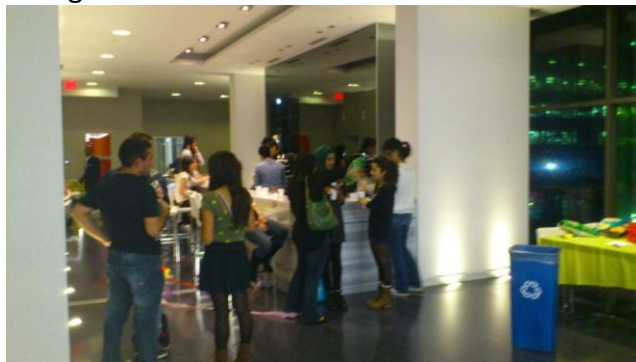
On Valentine's Day, the CSChE distributed candy grams to students and staff of the Department in a sign of the season. Over **\$450** worth of candy grams were sold.





Class Events

Each class in the Department of Chemical Engineering was allocated funds and held their own social event as a celebration of the hard work they had done during the year, to recognize their peers as leaders and to enjoy and build the Chemical Engineering community. The second year and fourth year students, separately, held socials in condos downtown, while the third years held a pub night. A combined total of **260** students attended these events.



Appendix B: Growth From Previous Year

Merger with Chem Ambassadors

- Undertook the merger the CSChE and the Chem Ambassadors, another student club in the Department, which resulted in the acquisition of a mentorship program. This merger results in a more unified Chemical Engineering community, allows for the CSChE to undertake more responsibility and hold more significance in the University.

Attendance at Departmental Meetings

- Met with Chair of Chemical Engineering, chair of the Student Curriculum Committee (SCC), chair of Chem Club, chair of Chem Ambassadors, and the chair of Leaders Of Tomorrow Chem Eng to discuss the future of the Department, its students and its student clubs.

Executive Personal Development Meetings

- The chair of the CSChE and each executive met twice - once at the beginning of the year, and once in the middle, to set goals, be introduced to the club and organize planning schedules.
- These meetings were beneficial to jumpstart the student club at the beginning of the year, and to reorganize and reorient itself in the middle.

Creation of Professional Development Director

- In an effort to focus more on the professional development of the student body, our executive created a new executive position, whose responsibilities are to engage the student body through professionally driven events, like Symposium, Conference,



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industry luncheons and plant tours. Having one dedicated professional development director allowed us to host our professional and social events easier.

Development of Relationships with Other Professional Clubs

- This year, we created new relationships with student clubs from the University with professional mindsets - for example, Undergraduate Engineering Research Days, American Society for Mechanical Engineering, CUBE, Sustainable Engineers Association, OWWA. The ties strengthened the bond between the groups and provide a forum for discussion of professional student clubs in the University.

Increased Budget

- \$7815 from external sponsorship
- Overall revenue increase of 379% over last year.
- This increased budget, from various sources of income, led us to increase our spending on events, providing students with better quality activities and merchandise, as well as accommodating more students.
- This proves that our Chapter has the financial capabilities to take on the new mentorship program.

Attendance of Events

- This year proved to have record event attendance numbers, especially for the Symposium and for Conference. The hard work of the executives in engaging the student body was the cause of this upswing.

Increased Participation of the Faculty Advisor

- This year, the chair met several times with our faculty advisor to discuss the future and direction of the Chapter. The advice received from our advisor helped shape our direction and common goal for this year.