



For Immediate Release

MCMaster UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER PRESIDENT LEAVES A LEGACY

Mechanical
Contractors
Association
Hamilton

(October 2010 SOUTHERN ONTARIO) – As MCAH McMaster University Student Chapter (MCAHSC) President, Bryce Jones completes his leadership term, his perspective on the new Community Outreach Program reveals a new legacy for other students to build from.

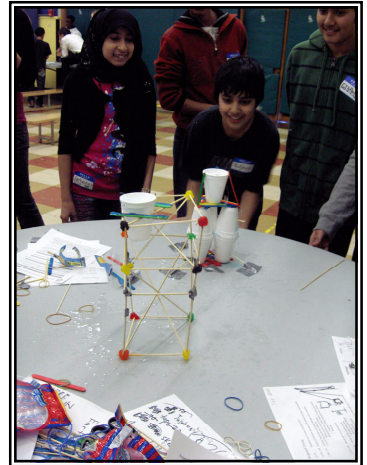


(Photo): As one of our brightest, future industry leaders, MCAHSC President Bryce Jones (centre), built valuable relationships with MCAC President Richard McKeagan (left) and MCAH President Paul Shewfelt.

In partnership with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Lake Avenue School Principal Sue Dunlop, a new community outreach program inspired and caught the imagination of their students. "Grade eight students were excited and energized by the engineering students. Many talked about their plans for university after the session," shares Principal Sue Dunlop.



From a student's viewpoint, "The community outreach program was a huge success that could easily be measured by the level of excitement in the room and the size of the smiles on the kids' faces," explains Bryce Jones. "The afternoon started off by giving the students some background information on the various different jobs that are required to complete a structure. We proceeded in training the kids to be experts in a specific field and then brought them all together and introduced the projects. I found it extremely interesting to watch the way that each group approached their designs. We gave them some guidance but mostly watched their creativity explode in ways I could never have imagined. After the projects were completed, it was time to put them to the test. If there's one thing that the kids loved more than designing and constructing their projects, it was destroying them! After watching the kids pile everything they could possibly find in the gym into a small milk crate, supported by a Popsicle bridge they finally gave up and decided to stand on it. To the amazement of us all it still managed to hold together!"



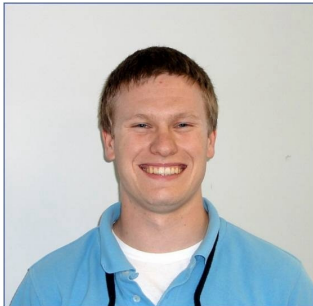
"As we were cleaning up I had several kids come up to me to thank me and ask, 'When are you guys coming back!?' The day was educational, a great chance to reach out into our community but most of all it was a lot of fun for everyone. It's not every day that you get a chance to go back and be a kid again."

A Chance to Be a First:

As the first MCA Student Chapter in Canada to cross borders to link with MCA America and their well-developed student chapter network consisting of 46 chapters, MCAHSC is also the first to receive a \$3,000 Emerging Student Chapter Grant from MCA America. If successful, MCAHSC promised to mirror other U.S. chapters by developing a new community outreach program. With the guidance of, Gail Shewfelt RN.BN.PHN and Dr. Stephen Veldhuis Student Chapter Faculty Member / Associate Professor and Director McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute, Department of Mechanical Engineering / McMaster University the project planning really took shape.

MCAHSC efforts have also been recognized by MCA Canada and CMCEF (Canadian Mechanical Contractors Education Foundation) as a role model for other universities/colleges interested in putting together a student chapter. "We have already had a member from another university sit in on one of our monthly meetings to get a feel for our operations. The chapter is helping students to be better prepared to enter into industry. We are opening the doors to various different opportunities for both students and contractors. It's all very new and exciting and I am glad that I was involved," explains Bryce Jones.

Under the Jones leadership term, an annual Student Chapter Scholarship was established. "Developing leaders is a key part to the success of any organization. This scholarship is an important way of recognizing leadership potential in an individual and encouraging them to develop this precious skill further," Dr. Stephen Veldhuis Student Chapter Faculty Member / Associate Professor and Director McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute, Department of Mechanical Engineering / McMaster University.



Brad Gregus was this year's Student Chapter Scholarship Recipient. As an overachiever, he has stepped up as incoming MCAHSC President. "I'm currently entering my 5th and final year at McMaster University studying Mechanical Engineering & Management and I'm specializing in Thermofluids and Energy Systems. I'm very active around the school having been a part of the engineering student society for 3 years and also chairing the maLAB (McMaster Laboratory Advancement Beneficiary) endowment fund for the Engineering Faculty."

The Mechanical Contractors Association, Hamilton Region (MCAH) is a not-for-profit organization representing employers in the unionized Mechanical Contracting industry serving Hamilton, Wentworth, Halton, Lincoln, Wellington, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. MCAH provides funding for the MCAH McMaster University Student Chapter and assists in governing activities on behalf of their employer members.

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