

Bringing Home GOLD - Prestigious United States Award For Canadian Team!

"Mechanical Contractors Association Hamilton's McMaster University Student Chapter Competition Team Win, Marks Canadian First"

(March 30th 2015 ONTARIO CANADA) – Determination, perseverance, academic prowess and the ability to embrace a completely new challenge and thrive! The Mechanical Contractors Association Hamilton's (MCAH) stewardship of their McMaster University Student Chapter Competition Team, with the aid of their dedicated Faculty Liaison introduces an exceptional group of mechanical and civil engineering students ready for any award-winning challenge.

Meet our next generation of outstanding Canadian construction industry leaders! Photo (left to right): Chuck Fell, President Mechanical Contractors Association America (MCAA) presents the winning Student Chapter Team Members - Alexandra Pittiglio (Civil Engineering), Jeff McKay (Mechanical Engineering), Aaron Pettifer (Civil Engineering), Tanya Tipnis (Mechanical Engineering / Student Chapter President), Paula MacDonald (Mechanical Engineering), Mitchell Rohrer (Mechanical Engineering), and their MCA Hamilton McMaster Student Chapter Faculty Liaison, Dr. Stephen Veldhuis, Ph.D., P.Eng., Associate Professor and Director at McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute (MMRI), joined by Troy Aichele, Chairman, Mechanical Contractors Association America Career Development Committee (Construction Executive Hermanson Company, Seattle, WA) shares, *"Congratulations to the MCA Hamilton / McMaster University Student Chapter Team!! Out of 50 MCAA Student Chapters in North America, and in their first ever appearance in the Final Four, the McMaster team stepped up on the biggest of stages for their presentation at the MCAA National Convention in taking home 1st Place in our ultra-competitive Annual Student Chapter Competition. In what surely will be the first of many project wins for these students in their future mechanical careers, well done from all of us at MCAA and the MCAA Career Development Committee."*



"This was an amazing experience for the students. It reinforced the things we are teaching here at McMaster University and gave the students a chance to test their knowledge on a real world problem," Dr. Stephen Veldhuis, MCA Hamilton McMaster Student Chapter Faculty Liaison, Ph.D., P.Eng., Associate Professor and Director at McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute (MMRI). Civil engineering students are also guided to excellence under the supervision of Professor Saiedeh N. Razavi, PhD, Chair in Heavy Construction Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering Associate Member, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering/Associate Member, School of Geography and Earth Sciences McMaster University.

Student teams were asked to design the Segundo Student Services Center at the University of California at Davis. The facility was to be designed and built to meet LEED, NC Gold standards with the winning team earning a \$10,000 prize. The project was announced at the MCAA Student Chapter Summit in New Jersey last October, with twenty-four teams initially competed for the top spot as the field was narrowed to four. With 2,200 MCAA conference attendees, and presenting to over 500 industry professionals, the adjudication panel consisted of well-respected, established industry peers, acknowledging their quality of work and presentation savvy. Kudos to Hamilton as the only "Canadian" Student Chapter participating in the Mechanical Contractors Association America Student Chapter Competition as the Mechanical Contractors Association of America continues to welcome their neighbours from the north providing mentoring through their well-established program. Hamilton's first place achievement respectfully acknowledges the outstanding merits of their competitors, teams from the University of Washington, Colorado State University and Wentworth Chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America.

"Congratulations, the win is a huge achievement. The students put countless hours of work into their bid and subsequent preparation for the event. During the competition itself, students hit the stage in front of an audience full of contractors and MCAA delegates to defend their bid. Each was given the chance to talk about his or her piece of the project and was then subjected to rigorous scrutiny from the project judges. It's a real pressure cooker type of situation. Our Canadian students were well prepared, knew their stuff, and impressed the judges enough to be crowned winners. This is the first time that a Canadian chapter has placed in the top four—never mind actually winning the event," Richard McKeagan, President Mechanical Contractors Association Canada.

The Mechanical Contractors Association Hamilton first established their Student Chapter Competition Team in partnership with McMaster University in 2006. *"The formation of Student Chapters represents our proactive approach to address industry skills shortage by preserving student interest through programming while encouraging employer internships and graduate employment. Through site tours, competitions, mentoring, conferences, and industry networking our employers continue to have the first opportunity to hire our industry's best & brightest,"* Jason Campbell, President Mechanical Contractors Association Hamilton. *"First to final year students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and related construction management trades can become Student Chapter members as new chapters are now forming across Canada within the Mechanical Contractors Association network. By succession planning, we can instill and preserve our industry's highest safety standards, practices and code of ethics that govern our unionized employer members, which build trust with owner clients, while adapting to our changing market through engaging talented young professionals."*

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association Hamilton team, the Student Chapter's success could not have been achieved without the healthy collaboration and generous support of time, interest, mentorship, and sponsorship of all MCAH Contractor and Supplier Members <http://www.mcahamilton.org/directory.php> MCA Ontario, MCA Canada and the MCAH Board of Directors, President - Jason Campbell Aecon Industrial, a division of Aecon Construction Group Inc., Vice President - Anthony DeChellis E.S. Fox Ltd., Treasurer - Henry Hildebrandt The State Group Inc., Immediate Past President - Lorraine Waller Matrix North American Construction Ltd., Past President - Paul Shewfelt Modern Niagara Toronto Inc., Doug Cormier BML Multitrades Group, George Furness Geonis Mech. Contracting Ltd., and Aron Shea Gowing Contractors Ltd.

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