



Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering

University of Toronto Student Chapter

Student Chapter Merit Award Nomination

**Presented to:
The Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering**



Prepared by:

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University of Toronto CSCHE Student Chapter 2011-2012

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awards@cheminst.ca

Subject: CSCChE Student Chapter Merit Award 2011-2012

Dear Awards Manager,

I am excited to share with you the activities and enhancement of the University of Toronto CSCChE Student Chapter over this past year. The University of Toronto Student Chapter acts as a link between students in their academic environment and the professional world of chemical engineering. Our executive committee consists of **sixteen** undergraduate students and one faculty advisor (see Table 1 below). The chapter consisted of **five hundred and thirty-one** chemical engineering students in all years of undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, with no subjected membership fees. All members are able to participate in our events whether it is through helping to organize or attending the event.

For the past academic year, we have managed to acquire total funding of \$8,728 and have initiated and enhanced a number of events that have made a positive mark on students in our department. Please refer to Appendix A for Activities List.

Every summer, we host the Summer Student Symposium where students present either the research they have worked on over the summer or their perspective on chemical engineering education to professors and other students. The best presenters are sponsored to represent the University of Toronto at the annual Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference in October. The Chapter assists the selected presenters by gathering and providing them with professional feedback to further prepare them for the competition. Each year, the delegates prepared and sent from University of Toronto have all received outstanding achievements.

The Chapter also organizes other events, which prepare students for professional life in fun and engaging ways. Some events include industry luncheons, professor-student mixers, and plant tours. We also have social and competitive events, such as the Faculty Basketball League, grad school pub night, coffee house & Kris Kringle, etc. Specific funds were delegated to each year's class representative to host and organize a class get-together event to establish and strengthen students' connections.

We have further enhanced the connections between our students and the chemical engineering professionals at the second annual *Chemical Engineering Week* which took place in March (National Engineering Month). We brought students numerous opportunities to engage with the industry professionals through networking luncheons. We also networked with graduate students and professors through common social activities, and learned to appreciate chemical engineering knowledge through plant tours and industry presentations. The intent of this week was to inform students of the world of chemical engineering and the opportunities available to them.

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Over the past 12-month term, our student chapter has brought a diverse set of events through the collaboration of the Chemical Engineering Club (Chem Club) and the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association (CEGSA). The Chapter co-hosted the Annual Chemical Engineering dinner dance with Chem Club. With more than 300 attendees, the dinner dance greatly enhanced the students' experience and provided a platform for students and department staff to connect.

We look forward to another excellent year in the upcoming term. We plan to promote the annual conference and increase the number of student delegates. We will continue to provide a balanced program of events based on students' interests and needs. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at csche@skule.ca if you require any further information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bo Han Zhang

Vice Chair 2011-2012

Chair 2012-2013

University of Toronto CSChE Student Chapter

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Table 1: List of executive committee 2011-2012

Executive position	Name	Contact email
Chair	Sean Salonga	s.salonga@utoronto.ca
Vice-Chair	Bo Han Zhang	bohan.zhang@mail.utoronto.ca
Secretary	Larissa Rodo	larissa.rodo@utoronto.ca
Treasurer	Jessica Ng	jessica.ngkesiong@utoronto.ca
Webmaster	Saba Khan	sabat.khan@utoronto.ca
Events Director	Stephane De Vuyst	stephane.vuyst@utoronto.ca
Fundraising Director	Jiaji Tao	jiaji.tao@mail.utoronto.ca
Advertising Director	Katie Henderson	k.henderson@mail.utoronto.ca
First Year Class Representative	Carol Choi	carolsilok.choi@utoronto.ca
Second Year Class Representative	Praneet Bagga	praneet.bagga@mail.utoronto.ca
Third Year Class Representative	Sana Zafar	sana.zafar@utoronto.ca
Fourth Year Class Representative	Kevin Mahabir	kevin.mahabir@utoronto.ca
Honorary Member	Raphael Soldi	raphael.soldi@utoronto.ca
Honorary Member	Jacek Mlynarski	jacek.mlynarski@utoronto.ca
Honorary Member	Jason Lee	jason.lee@utoronto.ca
Honorary Member	Shirley Wu	shirleyxiali.wu@mail.utoronto.ca
Faculty Advisor	Prof. Edgar Acosta	edgar.acosta@utoronto.ca



Appendix A

List of Activities 2011-2012

Summer Student Symposium

Thursday, August 11, 2011

The objective of the Summer Student Symposium was two-fold: i) to provide students the opportunity to present their research related to Chemical Engineering or their perspectives on Chemical Engineering education to industry and academia professionals in a competitive environment and ii) to select the top few speakers to represent the University of Toronto at the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering Conference to compete for the Reg Friesen Student Oral Paper Award and Robert G. Auld Student Paper Competition.



Eight research students competed in the event and their presentations were judged by four chemical engineering professors and a leadership education specialist. The topics presented were innovative and enlightening, ranging from the integration of leadership education to the student's own solar cell chip research based company. The selected four presenters received further instruction and feedbacks to better prepare them for the upcoming conference.

Frosh Week Orientation Booth

Friday, September 2, 2011

The Chapter set up a booth at the first year student orientation Clubs fair. Its aim was to showcase the Society's student chapter to the engineering faculty students, staff and professionals. The chapter presented a poster board, Powerpoint slide and information bulletins to demonstrate the club's influence and contribution to the student body.

Professor-Student Mixer

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

A speed-dating style networking event geared for the first and second year students to get to know their professors outside of the lecture hall was held by the Chapter. Approximately **fifty** students attended and had the opportunity to speak with seven professors from the Department of Chemical Engineering in small groups. Catering was provided at this event and included a selection of sandwich and vegetable platters, as well as beverages.



How to Survive First Year Info Session

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The purpose of this event was to provide valuable guidance to first year chemical engineering students. The **twenty-five** first years who attended received advice on courses, extracurricular activities, social life, and living tips in a casual workshop-style environment. Upper year students were on hand to share their experiences and help the Frosh enjoy their first semester of engineering. A pizza lunch was provided.

61th CSChE 2010 Conference in London

October 23-26, 2011

Annually, our student Chapter sends student delegates to the CSChE Conference to represent the University of Toronto Chemical Engineering Department. For 2011 Conference, our chapter sent **twenty-four** student delegates to the conference, including five presenters participating in the two undergraduate oral paper competitions. University of Toronto students are well known for placing top standings in these competitions each year. This year, Bo Zhang and Albert Huynh won 2nd place at the Robert G Auld and Reg Friesen Oral Paper Competition, respectively.





University of Toronto Student Chapter

From the post-conference feedback, the students acknowledged and appreciated being exposed to a wide range of academic and professional development events that complement and are beneficial to their undergraduate studies.

Halloween Costume Party

Friday, October 28, 2011

Around **eighty** students showed up to trick or treat at our Halloween Costume Party, where the undergraduate common room was transformed into a spooky haunt with themed decorations and music. Some professors and faculty staffs joined the students to dress up and join the undergraduate students for the lunch party. The students were also given prizes for best costumes. The prizes included chapter t-shirts and sweaters.



PEY Student Panel

Friday, November 18, 2011

The Professional Experience Year (PEY) program is University of Toronto's unique engineering co-op program. Our chapter invited various current internship students to provide their insights on job searching, professional developments, and interview tips in a panel format.

Chemical Engineering Dinner dance

Saturday, November 12, 2011

The Chemical Engineering Dinner Dance is an annual event, which serves to bring the chemical engineering community together in a social setting. This year's dinner dance was co-hosted by our student chapter and the Chemical Engineering Discipline Club. **Three hundred** attendees, including staffs, students and alumni came together for a night of entertainment. Participants enjoyed their dinner while watching various skits and performances put on by their fellow peers, and afterwards engage in a night of dancing.





University of Toronto Student Chapter

Coffee House/Kris Kringle

Friday, December 2, 2011

Already in its second year, the Coffee House/Kris Kringle saw over **one hundred** undergraduate and graduate students participate in this festive evening of fun and fellowship. The night commenced with a professor-acted skit loosely based on the student's time in Chemical Engineering, followed by performances from students of every class, some of which were so compelling that some spontaneous performances were witnessed. Gifts were exchanged, coffee and sweets were had, and the Christmas decorations coloured our common room for over a month afterwards.



Candy Grams

February 7 -14, 2011

This annual fundraising event was initiated to celebrate Valetine's Day, and this year close to **\$450** worth of candy grams were sold. These candy grams were packed, sold and distributed by the Chapter to chemical engineering students, faculty and staff.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING WEEK

March 12-17, 2012

One week in mid-March was dedicated to engage chemical engineering students in events to develop their understanding of chemical engineering fields. Events coincided with National Engineering Month. The week consisted of various events including, but not limited to:

Industry Networking Events

March 12 & 17, 2012

There is no better way to learn about the opportunities available to chemical engineers than from past alumni and current engineers in the fields of:

- Ion Exchange Technology
- Food Engineering
- Biotechnological Engineering
- Engineering Consulting (Petroleum & Design)





Industry representatives visited the University to briefly describe how they have used their chemical engineering knowledge to contribute to their respective fields. Two industry luncheon events took place, with **seven** industry speakers and around **forty** students, providing information and guidance for students' professional development and growth.

Grad Student Pub Night

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Graduate and undergraduate students mixed and mingled after classes, giving the latter the chance to learn more about their future prospects in graduate studies. More than **sixty** undergraduate students came out and joined **twenty-three** graduate students to acquire information regarding application, selection, trending fields and focus.



Plant Tours

March 14 & 15, 2012

Students were invited to plant tours around the downtown Toronto area to see how the concepts and knowledge they learn in school are utilized in industry. Two industry tours were arranged this year, Steam



Whistle Brewery and Etobicoke Waste Water Treatment Plant. The tour times were chosen based on the students' availability and plant operations, two tours combined for an attendance of **twenty-seven** students.





CHEMazing Race

Monday, March 12, 2012

This newly introduced event was based on the TV series *The Amazing Race*. The series of challenges were themed around Global Engineering. Students learnt the meaning of Global Engineering. There were four teams of undergraduate students who competed.

Transition and Leadership Development

Friday, May 20, 2012

After the election of the 2012 -2013 Chapter executives, a leadership development event was held to assist the incoming executives with the transition into the new position, with the advice of the previous directors. The other focus of the event was teambuilding. The new committee had a chance to interact with each other in a less formal setting, which helped with the identification of a different side of the committee members. Four different stages were included, design, teambuilding, position transition and the club scavenger hunt.

Faculty Basketball League

December 2011 – April 2012

The Chapter continuously held the hosting responsibility of the second year of the Faculty Basketball League. This year, the league expanded to six different engineering departmental teams, held **forty-eight** officiated games that involved more than **one hundred** active players and coaches. The League gave the students a chance to show their athletic talents and compete and was a platform for the students to interact and to join force across years and disciplines. The players and coaches were able to practice leadership skills while striving for the title of the faculty champion.

Class Events

Sept 2011 – May 2012



To encourage camaraderie within each year, the Class Event was introduced. These year-specific events were decided upon by the class, and funded by the CSCHE. Lunches, dinners and pub nights were held to strengthen the relationships between the students. These events helped introduce the first years to the social side of being a Chemical Engineering student and to congratulate them on completing a tough first year, as well as providing our upper year students with another opportunity to spend time together before proceeding towards the next year, internships or graduation.



Sweaters

As another new initiative this year, the CSChE had made new sweater designs for our students. These were a great success as we sold over 120 sweaters to undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty members.

