

## Student Summer Events and Activities

SELECT prides itself on creating opportunities for students to connect with individuals and organizations within the community to further develop their knowledge and skills as leaders. With the assistance of Ms. Minha Ha, students are able to visit various McMaster alumni, SELECT facilitators, and active community members. The goals of these events are to support the growth and development of youth to become contributing members of the community as leaders who wish to make a positive change. Over the course of the summer, students have been given a variety of opportunities to meet with people of industry, as well as, gather with fellow students to form relationships and grow as leaders.

### May at Mac

A group of enthusiastic student volunteers from the SELECT program were eager to greet potential engineering students at the May at Mac Open House event on Saturday May 11, 2013. SELECT students arrived early to help set up a booth in ETB containing a display board showcasing the SELECT activities and program events from the last two years. The SELECT students conversed with approximately 40+ families and potential students describing not only the unique SELECT Student Engineering Leadership program but relaying information about the Engineering Faculty and multiple engineering disciplines as well. The SELECT volunteers demonstrated their leadership capabilities as they went beyond their original duties to make the students and their families feel welcomed and comfortable by giving personalized tours and answering a variety of questions. At the end of the event more than half of the potential students signed-up for the SELECT program information list ready to be trained as future leaders hoping to make a difference in the McMaster community and faculty.

### Peer Mentor Gathering – Downtown Toronto

Saturday May 18, 2013 marked the first gathering of the Peer Mentors for the summer season. McMaster Engineering students of the Peer Mentor Team gathered together in a comforting atmosphere for an afternoon in downtown Toronto for their third Peer Mentor meeting. The day began with lunch at a small Korean restaurant and students later travelled to Christie Pits Park to discuss the upcoming academic year and the initiatives of the Peer Mentor Team. The conversations concluded with:

- Greg Kruzel and Michele D’Mello obtaining responsibility for determining and recording information at all Peer Mentor meetings. The general Peer Mentor meetings are to be held one of the last Saturdays of every month potentially at McMaster University Campus.
- The training session for the recruited students will take place prior to the fall term potentially late August/early September.
- The outline of the Peer Mentor initiatives for the year were determined as the following:
  1. **ENG 1P03 Tutorial Organization.**
    - **Details include:** Scheduling Peer Mentor recruited students to each ENG 1P03 tutorial, training newly recruited Peer Mentors and assisting in the development of the first ENG 1P03 tutorial time slots.
    - **Duration of Project:** This project was established to be a short term project covering only the first month of the fall term.
  2. **SELECT Tier I Mentorship**

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- **Details include:** Providing assistance in the creation of the structure and activities of the mentorship aspect of the SELECT program (includes activity planning based on module content, Mentor and Mentee matching, orientation development, and feedback processes for both the program and Mentees).
  - **Duration of Project:** This project is long term as it will co-exist with the SELECT Tier I program; approximately 5 month commitment is necessary.
3. **Integration of Peer Mentorship program into the engineering faculty**
- **Details include:** ENG 1 SUCCESS initiative (Initiated 2012-2013 year), helping faculty with volunteer recognition program, flexibility in student contribution, meeting with faculty or staff mentor, community meetings, decision making committee, etc.

Further details were determined by the group members in relation to the three initiatives and can be found in Negin Balaghn's report on Peer Mentors activities.

### **Innovation Factory – June Lunch and Learn Event**

As often as possible the SELECT Team attends the Lunch and Learn events held by Innovation Factory. These Lunch and Learn events provide an opportunity for the SELECT program to develop relationships with organizations and companies within the Hamilton and Burlington area to encourage SELECT's vision of leadership through the foundation of relationships.

The June Lunch and Learn at Innovation Park on June 18, 2013 was held by Innovation Factory in collaboration with KPMG discussing "*Financing your Business: How to Turn 'the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly' into the 'Good, Better, Best'.*" The presentation was brief but effective as it discussed simple key processes and techniques that can be used to obtain the most from fundraising and how to successfully obtain profit and growth for your company through business partnerships and fundraising. The SELECT Team was joined by Andrew Ojo, a McMaster Bioengineering student. Together Andrew and Rachelle had met multiple welcoming individuals of various organizations and locations.

Over lunch, the two students met a particular organization who provides a variety of services to individuals who are unable to afford the full cost. This company established a membership system which allowed individuals access a variety of services (such as legal services) for one low membership fee. When asked their reasoning for developing their organization the couple's response was simple; to do what they could to help others in their community. This is one of the main messages of the SELECT program. SELECT promotes the development of leaders to aid in positive change and contribution to others within the community. Rachelle had noted, "I was inspired by their passion for helping others. It was great to know there are people within today's society who are willing to help others and make the community a better place in any way they can contribute."

The experience at Innovation Park for the June Lunch and Learn was inspiring to the students to see so many diverse companies come together and support complete strangers. This type of event proved that networking and sharing information amongst individuals and organizations can help create a better community.

**Hamilton Industry Event – Michael Kubes and Kubes Steel**

The SELECT Team along with two McMaster Engineering students, of the Peer Mentor Team, journeyed to Stoney Creek for SELECT's first industry event on June 25, 2013. Although the travel from Dundas to Stoney Creek was longer than expected the day's outcomes were ones to remember. Meeting Michael and the team at Kubes Steel enabled the students to connect with a past McMaster alumnus within the local community who models leadership. Michael inspired the students as he discussed his leadership journey and community involvement with Hamilton HIVE. Mike described reaching his goals of a dream career emphasizing the challenges he had faced and how those challenges motivated him to find true happiness. The conversation was inspiring to the students in attendance as they were able to relate many of his experiences with their own struggles and accomplishments. Each student was able to take a different lesson from his stories and life journey, as his main message was to never settle for less than your happiness and to always find purpose and be passionate in everything you do.

Afterwards, the students were given the opportunity to visit Kubes Steel to see first-hand how a manufacturing company functions on a day to day basis, as well as, discuss with the founder and president – Joe Kubes and the manager of business development - John Rogers about the expectations of industry for prospective students. Attitude was a key quality addressed by both Joe Kubes and John Rogers throughout the discussion on their expectations of incoming employees. Joe Kubes had mentioned that it is important to note that we – the business already know the student is qualified technically as they have/are completing their education in the field; thus the one aspect we tend to focus on is the attitude of the prospective student. Further technical skills can be taught however attitude is something we cannot teach the student. As students looking for jobs and future careers helpful information similar to Joe Kubes' tip of attitude is important for students to be aware of when being interviewed and when working for their employer. A tour of the plant was given to group allowing the students to see the manufacturing floor including the machinery and witness the completion of a project.

The visit to Kubes Steel and Michael Kubes was a great opportunity for the SELECT Team and the students to gain insight on the impact of community involvement and experience first-hand an organization's daily tasks, the skills required to be a good employee, and witness a successful business.

**Lunch Event with Ute Linder**

On the rainy afternoon of June 28 the SELECT Team and two Peer Mentor students joined Ute Linder at William's Coffee Pub in Hamilton for lunch. Ms. Minha Ha, the SELECT Program Coordinator, invited Ute to help the students become more aware of themselves and their relationships with others; while the students contributed to Ute's research on teens and a holistic family.

Ute Linder is a life coach who provides a non-bias perspective on situations allowing the individual to gain further understanding of their environment, behaviour and actions. Each student was impacted by Ute in a different way as she was able to bring clarity and awareness to the students about themselves all the while encouraging each student to be mindful of their reasoning behind their choices and to ensure all actions are authentic. Ute's approach to each situation varied allowing her to connect with each student independently in a unique way.

Ute Linder is able to connect and inspire younger people to become empowered and to be authentic in all that they do. This year the SELECT program is privileged to have Ute as the facilitator for the first module of the SELECT Tier I program titled *Understanding Self and Team* where her talents and skills will be able to help many students become more aware of themselves and their actions and behaviours.

### **Toronto Industry Event – Tristan Retelsdorf and Jooseok Lee**

Minha Ha, Xiao Chen, Negin Balaghni and Michele D’Mello set forth to downtown Toronto on July 11, 2013 for a day of relationship building. The group of students tackled the Toronto traffic to first visit Tristan, a senior project manager, Smartphones at TELUS, for a friendly conversation over lunch. Tristan began the conversation with expressing his ability to adapt to various changes within his personal career journey by outlining both his geographical change and positional change within his company. He continued to explain to the students the vast number of opportunities a company has to offer thus as an engineering students they should not limit themselves to what they know rather they should gain experience and explore different fields and disciplines.

Later in the evening, Jooseok Lee and the students conversed over snacks prepared by Mr. Lee about his particular responsibilities along with some photos at Roehampton Communications Ltd. As a Project Coordinator, Jooseok discussed with the students the importance of positive communication relating to the attitude to which the individual works. By having a positive attitude, an individual can be determined to complete their assigned tasks and duties and over time they can become self-motivated. Thus Jooseok explained a positive attitude can reflect the performance and quality of a project in the workforce. Jooseok also expressed his personal views pertaining specifically to the working environment. Jooseok suggested the students find a job where the colleagues are kind and reasonable and the supervisor/boss understands. He continued to explain the technical and analytical aspects of an individual will increase the productivity of the project however it is essential workers have the ability to work well within a group/team as many projects especially in the engineering field are team orientated. Without team work skills multiple problems can arise which are unnecessary. After a long day of traveling and learning the students returned home to Hamilton.

The trip to Toronto provided the students with a great opportunity to meet two individuals of diverse disciplines of work and learn from both their professional and personal experiences. Both Tristan and Jooseok challenged the students to ponder upon their personal development, as well as, how they function in situations of change and within a team setting.

In the upcoming months, the SELECT Team along with student leaders will continue to visit a variety of locations such as Mississauga, Waterloo, and other aspects of Hamilton. These opportunities provide students with a different learning experience where they are not just learning through others experiences and lessons but they are becoming more aware of the contributions they can make to their communities by being involved and by building relationships with others.