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# WINFLUENTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

## 2010 CONFERENCE RECAP

ONE World ..... ONE Water Environment



**FOCUS ON**

# Health & Safety



**PLUS**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:  
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OPCEA PROFILE:  
**ROSS HUMPHRY**

OPERATOR PROFILE:  
**EMILY JARVIS**

## WEAO'S STUDENT CHAPTER PROGRAM REACHES NEW MILESTONE

*Erin Longworth, B.Sc.E., EIT, AECOM, 2010-2011 Chair of the New Professionals Committee*



In April 18, the WEAO Board of Directors approved our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> student chapters.

These two new chapters, at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Guelph, are significant in that, together with our 10 existing student chapters, they give WEAO the distinction of having the most student chapters of any WEF member association (MA). This is a monumental accomplishment for an organization that, five years ago in 2005, had only one active student chapter. The distance we have come in that time is nothing short of astonishing, and has made WEAO a significant point of contact for other MAs looking to grow their student chapter program. The WEAO New Professionals (NP) Committee has worked hard to provide a link between the association and the students at universities and colleges across Ontario. In the past couple of years,

we have also shifted our focus from forming new chapters to maintaining those chapters we have. The Student Chapter Leadership Forum, an information sharing venue for student chapter leaders, has been extremely successful the past two years and the third annual event is in the planning stage for this August.

The two new student chapters are unique within WEAO in that they are joint student chapters with the Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA). This partnership recognizes the need to provide students at universities and colleges with an opportunity to explore careers in the related water and wastewater fields, without competing for their time and interests. This partnership between WEAO and OWWA is timely, as the parent organizations, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA), have joined forces on a public outreach campaign that will enhance the image of water careers and encourage students and job seekers to 'Work for Water.'

The outreach will address one of the water community's top concerns in the coming decade, i.e., the expected

retirement of 30% of the water workforce and the need to recruit new talent to the field. One of the primary resources of the Work for Water effort is a web-based clearinghouse that provides a gateway to the many recruiting and retention resources already available throughout North America. The campaign's website ([www.WorkforWater.org](http://www.WorkforWater.org)) launched in May 2010. This aligns well with one of the many goals and initiatives of the NP Committee for the upcoming year, i.e., to provide improved access to job opportunities for the active student members of our association.

### New Professionals Program

Do you have 10 or fewer years working experience in the industry? Are you age 35 or less? If yes, then you are a WEAO NP, and the NP Committee is here for you. Sign up for our email distribution list to stay up-to-date on professional development, networking events, and leadership opportunities specific to NPs.

Email us at [NP@weao.org](mailto:NP@weao.org). Also, check out our website for NP information and upcoming events: [http://www.weao.org/committees/New\\_professionals/New\\_professionals.html](http://www.weao.org/committees/New_professionals/New_professionals.html) ♦

## UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON THE 2010 WEAO TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM AND SDC

*Nancy Afonso, Ruston Bedasie, Kirill Cheiko, and Andrew Iammatteo*



The WEAO Student Design Competition was a great experience, which far exceeded our expectations. Putting together the report and preparing for the

presentation has taken a great deal of effort and dedication on the part of each team member, but the payoff was well worth it.

The objective of this year's SDC project was to develop a proposal for



*Ryerson University design team: (L-R) Kirill Cheiko, Ruston Bedasie, Nancy Afonso, Dr. Manuel Alvarez-Cuenca (Faculty Advisor), and Andrew Iammatteo.*

the Port Darlington WPCP expansion to double its treatment capacity for phase I and include provisions for phase II. At the start, we had frequent meetings with our faculty advisor Dr. Manuel Alvarez-Cuenca, where the team established a design philosophy of selecting innovative, yet field-proven processes and technologies, with environmental sustainability in mind. Once our process was selected and an extensive literature review performed, we were introduced to our industry advisors – Giselly Anania and Jeremy Kraemer from CH2M-HILL. Working with them has allowed us to experience and learn how professional reports and projects are handled, managed and implemented. We knew the theory behind many technical concepts and have prepared quite a number of reports for courses throughout our studies, but our industry advisors helped us bridge the gap between academic and real-life consulting reports. We were also introduced to several design engineers and vendors, who have helped us immensely with the design and cost estimation for our proposal.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual WEO Technical Symposium and OPCEA Exhibition at the London Convention Centre was an exciting experience for all of us. The Student Design Competition presentations were one of the first events of the conference. The ice breaker held later that day was a great opportunity for us to not only meet many seasoned professionals in the field, but to put faces to the names of the many suppliers, vendors, and other industry representatives that helped us throughout the competition.

The technical sessions during the conference were very informative, highlighting many interesting projects in the industry. There were also many events geared specifically towards the student attendees of the conference, such as the NP Meet-and-Greet, where we were able to connect with many students from other universities and colleges in Ontario. There was also a student panel discussion about careers. The panellists were from a variety of backgrounds, showcasing the wide range of career paths available to new professionals in the field. Events such as the awards ceremony and banquet were great to recognize many of the individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the industry.

Overall, the conference was an excit-

ing experience for all of us. It was a great place to be for graduating students who are looking to enter the industry. We were eager to meet seasoned professionals, attend captivating seminars, participate in social events, and, of course, give out our résumés. We strongly recommend that students participate in next year's SDC. It will not only teach them a great deal about wastewater, but will also expose them to the industry, and may even help them get a job.

In the next few months, our team will be preparing for the upcoming SDC at WEFTEC in October. The competition will showcase competing teams from all across North America, and we are excited to represent Ontario. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us with our project; we could not have completed it without the assistance of all those involved. We look forward to representing everyone we worked with and WEO at WEFTEC this October. ♦



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