



WEF Student Chapter Annual Report

University of Toronto Student Chapter

of the

Water Environment Association of Ontario

Operating Year: 2006 – 2007



WEF[®] STUDENT CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

(Please complete and return by May 1)

Student Chapter Name: University of Toronto Student Chapter of the Water Environment Association of Ontario

College/University: University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Completed by: Jeremy Kraemer, Chapter President weao.group@utoronto.ca

Faculty Advisor: Prof. David Bagley bagley@uwyo.edu

WEF Member Association: WEA of Ontario

Number of students enrolled at this location: 51,000

Chapter Mailing Address: June Garcia Becerra
(as of May 1, 2007) 5 Hoskin Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1H7
Canada

Chapter email address: weao.group@utoronto.ca

Chapter website: http://weao.sa.utoronto.ca

Officer Information:

Position	Current Officer	Incoming Officer
President	Jeremy Kraemer jeremy.kraemer@utoronto.ca	June (Flor) Garcia Becerra floryunuen.garcia.becerra@utoronto.ca
Vice-President	Pulin Mondal pulin.mondal@utoronto.ca	Pulin Mondal pulin.mondal@utoronto.ca
Treasurer	Vanessa Carew vanessa.carew@utoronto.ca	Yunan Zhou zhouyunan06@gmail.com Elena Brei elena.brei@utoronto.ca
Secretary	Julia Carew julia.carew@utoronto.ca	Max Wong max.wong@utoronto.ca

1. Chapter Membership

Current Members: 157 (this is the # of people on our email list)
 (note: we don't track the number of WEF student members)
 Number of members last year: 53

2. Academic Schedule: Semester Quarter Other

First day of fall term: September 7, 2006
 Last day of spring term: April 13, 2007

3. Our student chapter members usually major in the following subjects:

Civil Engineering
 Chemical Engineering

4. Number of meetings/conferences/events held/attended

	<u># meetings/events</u>	<u># students attending</u>
Student chapter events	8	10-30
WEAO meetings/conferences	1	3
WEAO New Professionals events	6	2-6
WEFTEC	0	0
Misc. events	0	0

For descriptions of events held/attended, see attached information.

5. We do do not produce a newsletter

6. Finances: We do not do charge dues

Incoming: MA support \$ 600 (available budget – reimbursement basis)
 Competitions: \$ 0
 Fund raising: \$ 0
 University support: \$ 0

Outgoing: Chapter activities: \$ 580 (actually spent)

Description of Activities

1. Administration & MA Interaction

This was the second year of operation for the University of Toronto student chapter of the Water Environment Association of Ontario.

The chapter interacts with the Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO) primarily through the New Professional's (NP) committee. Jeremy participated in the monthly NP committee meetings to facilitate coordination of events between the U of T chapter and the NP committee.

Jeremy worked with the NP committee to get the WEAO board of directors to move forward on several student-focused proposals. Several initiatives that are going ahead include:

- WEAO student scholarship program, which will offer the first scholarship to an undergraduate student in Fall 2007.
- Defined funding for WEAO student chapters of \$600 per year.
- Providing the complete meal package to students attending the WEAO conference, while keeping the registration free for students who are WEF/WEAO members.
- Promotion of the resume board to WEAO conference attendees.
- Promoting student involvement in the WEAO Water for People Canada committee.

2. Chapter Accomplishments

In-coming chapter president June (Flor) Garcia Becerra was chosen for the Water for People (WFP) Water Corps. June and another Water Corp volunteer went to Mexico in April 2007 to assess potential water & sanitation projects. Their report will help determine if Mexico gets included in WFP's list of Program Countries.

Also of note for the U of T chapter was that the chapter's president, Jeremy Kraemer, won 2nd place in the 2006 WEF Canham Graduate Studies Scholarship. He won \$1500, a free year's membership, and was profiled in the WEAO *Influents* magazine (, Fall 2006, p.40) and *WEF Highlights* newsletter (November 2006, p.6):

http://www.weao.org/archive_newsletters/2006_03Fall/Influents_2006_Fall.pdf
<http://www.wef.org/NR/rdonlyres/5A30BAC8-1A38-4896-80FE-D89AE7445FCD/0/Highlightsnov065a.pdf>

3. Chapter Activities

Based on our first year's experiences, the University of Toronto (U of T) chapter decided to alter the type and style of events:

- Have regular monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month in the same room to develop a regularity to chapter events and help students remember where & when they occurred

- Have a “management meeting” after the speakers at each monthly meeting
- Have both a student talk and an industrial speaker at each monthly meeting. This was based on experiences of other student chapters that Jeremy learned about at WEFTEC.05.
- All U of T chapter events would be on campus, because off-campus events have a much lower participation rate.
- Emphasize technical seminars and career development for U of T events, since the NP committee regularly organized plant tours which students could attend.

One activity that worked well in the first year, and also worked well this past year, was a directed outreach program to classrooms that had a water/wastewater or environmental focus. A standard “pitch” was developed and students volunteered to talk for a couple minutes at the beginning of selected undergraduate and graduate classes, giving a brief introduction to the student chapter, what it does, and giving the chapter “face time”. The purpose was to get students to sign up for the chapter’s email contact list. This outreach was very productive, as the contact list increased from about 60 students to 150+.

In addition to the monthly meetings, 2 technical seminars were also organized. The following table summarizes the speakers & topics of the various events:

Date	Event Type & Speakers
Sept. 26, 2006	Monthly Meeting: -Student: Jeremy Kraemer, Anaerobic H ₂ & Methane Production from Wastewater -Industry: Vanessa Chau, York Region, Asset management
Oct. 19, 2006	Technical Seminar – <i>UV Disinfection</i> -Ted Mao, Trojan UV -Mike Newbigging, Hydromantis Inc.
Oct. 24, 2006	Monthly Meeting: -Student: Lihong Shen, Biological H ₂ production from an anaerobic membrane bioreactor -Industry: Katherine Morra & Shelly Singh, CH2M HILL, Resume writing and job searching tips
Nov. 21, 2006	Monthly Meeting: -Student: Darrell Yong, Ultrasound + UV disinfection of wastewater -Industry: Tony Petrucci & Cheryl Denomi, Water for People Canada
Jan. 30, 2007	Monthly Meeting: -Students: Vanessa & Julia Carew, Summer work experiences in the Ontario Ministry of the Environment -Industry: Doug Carruthers, Organic Resource Management Inc. (no-show)
Feb. 27, 2007	Monthly Meeting: -Student: June Garcia Becerra, Recovering useful biopolymers from wastewater sludge -Industry: Vincent Nazareth, RV Anderson, Job prospects and perspective in the water/wastewater industry

Date	Event Description
Mar. 27, 2007	Monthly Meeting: -Student: Max Wong, Identification of proteins for dehalogenating recalcitrant pollutants -Industry: Derek Webb, Biorem, (no-show)
Apr. 4, 2007	Technical Seminar – <i>Water Reuse</i> -Pulin Mondal, U of T -Bob LeCraw, RAL Engineering

Unfortunately, for 2 of our monthly meetings our scheduled industry speakers did not show up despite repeated attempts at contacting them. This might have been due to scheduling our speakers so far in advance (we had everything scheduled in early fall 2006 and the no-shows were both in 2007).

Below are some photos from the 2006 U of T chapter events:



Mike Newbigging of Hydromantis, Inc. (Cambridge, Ontario) discusses UV evaluation methodology and case studies during the UV Disinfection technical seminar.



Shelly Singh, Human Resources Recruiter with CH2M HILL (Toronto Office) provides some helpful hints and insights on resume writing for students applying for water industry jobs.



Flor (June) Garcia Becerra, Ph.D. candidate in chemical engineering and in-coming U of T WEAO student chapter president, gives a talk on her research at the February monthly meeting.



U of T student chapter members enjoying pizza & pop at their March 2007 monthly meeting.



Bob LeCraw, P.Eng., RAL Engineering Ltd. (Newmarket, Ontario), discusses examples of small-scale direct non-potable water reuse systems in Ontario and the Northwest Territories.



Out-going 2006-2007 executive committee (left-to-right): Julia Carew (Secretary), Vanessa Carew (Treasurer), Jeremy Kraemer (President), Pulin Mondal (Vice-President)



In-coming 2007-2008 executive committee (left-to-right): Pulin Mondal (Vice President), Max Wong (Secretary), Flor (June) Garcia Becerra (President), Yunan Zhou (Co-Treasurer).
Absent: Elena Brei (Co-Treasurer).

The chapter's events had a participation rate of 10-20 students for the monthly meetings and 20-30 people for the technical seminars. Overall, students felt it was valuable having the monthly meetings because this allowed students to see each other repeatedly to build up new friendships with other students. The technical seminars were better attended, though this also included some New Professionals (i.e. not students).

4. New Professionals activities attended by the student chapter

Students from the chapter also participated in the New Professionals' activities including: Ashbridge's Bay WWTP tour, Asset Management seminar, Holiday social, SCADA seminar, and St. Patrick's Day social. The number of students attending any given NP event was 2 – 10. Jeremy and Pulin also participated in presentations to other universities where WEAO student chapters were being initiated, most notably at Ryerson University.

5. Acknowledgements

The University of Toronto WEAO student chapter would like to thank WEAO for providing funding for the food for chapter events. Also, in-kind support was provided by the Department of Civil Engineering for printer paper and use of classrooms for chapter meetings.

The chapter would also like to sincerely thank all the speakers for the chapter events. Without volunteer speakers our events would not be possible. Thank you!

This report was prepared by Jeremy Kraemer, 2006-2007 President of the University of Toronto Student Chapter of the Water Environment Association of Ontario.



To reach the University of Toronto WEAO student chapter with your comments, please email us at <weao.group@utoronto.ca>.