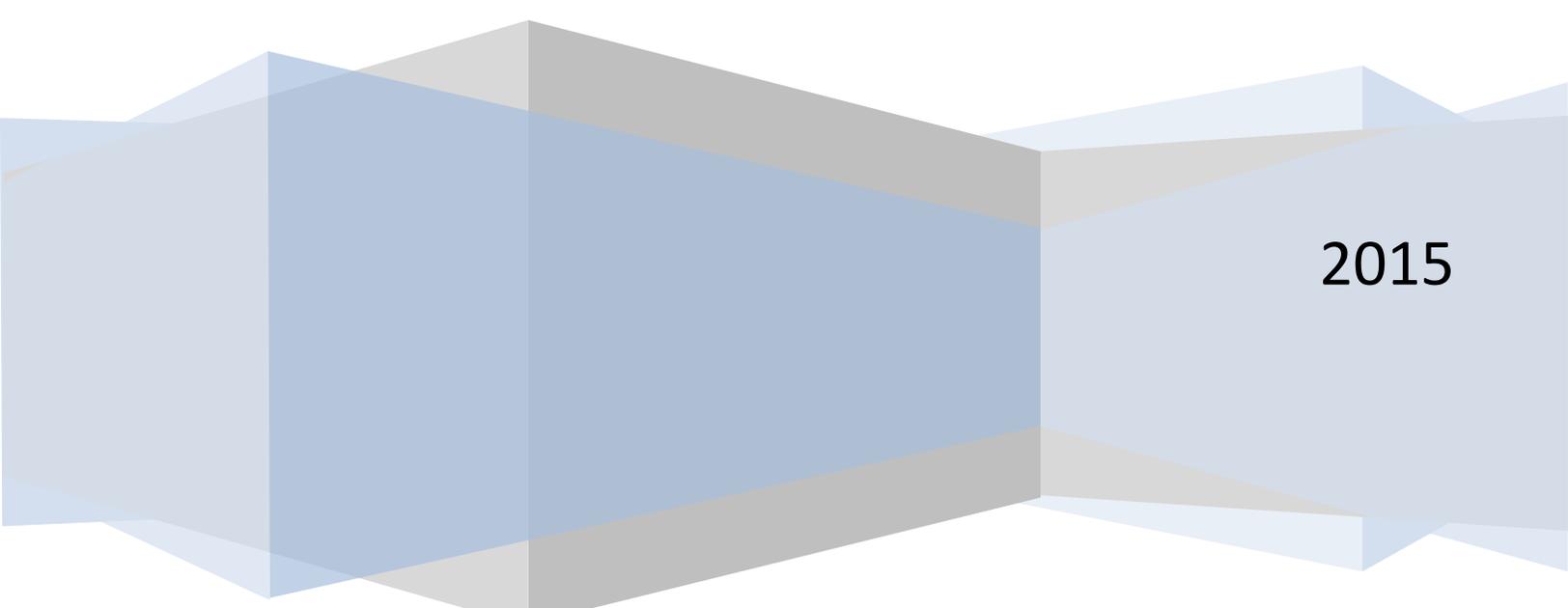


Concordia University

Quebec Engineering Competition

Reengineering

Ryan Wong & Dilani Abeywickrama



2015

The Quebec Engineering Competition has a lot of value to add to engineering students. It gives them an opportunity to be creative and apply their studies and knowledge in a competitive yet friendly environment.

Ryan Wong

Overall, QEC has been a great experience for me. It has helped me develop a greater passion for engineering and has showed me a side to engineering I did not know existed. It showed me the challenge of thinking of and developing a project from start to finish, and showed me the creative and artistic side of the process. As a member of the reengineering team, during the competition and practice competitions, I was given the opportunity to really think outside the box and try to come up with solutions to potential real world problems, which is something that is not offered in classes, and adds a refreshing component to my conception of engineering.

The competition taught me valuable lessons, such as the importance of time management, and teamwork, in addition to how to apply the knowledge I learned from school into a real design aspect. During the practice competitions, my partner and I had no timeline and things became very chaotic. At the actual competition, we had a timeline made, but I learned that things do not always go according to plan, and so we adjusted the timeline and our schedule as we experienced each set back or problem. Teamwork is also a very essential component to the competition, and also the real world. Team members must have trust and respect for each other, otherwise arguments and disagreement can develop, and this can cause a lot of setback. If each member works together to come up with a solution, and communicate their ideas efficiently and effectively to each other, things will run much more smoothly. As previously mentioned, the thought process of coming up with a solution is a scenario we do not encounter frequently, and so I learned how to brainstorm, come up with unique ideas and to work towards a solution.

QEC was a great opportunity for me to apply my studies, but also an opportunity to meet others and to network. Meeting students from other schools, and also speaking to sponsors and getting a chance to talk about various industries was a great and refreshing experience.

The ECA did a great job at organizing Concordia's admission and attendance to the event, but there are a few points that could have been improved upon. As previously mentioned, teamwork is an essential component to the competition and the working world, and so more team bonding environments and activities could have been planned, though I am aware of the difficulties of planning an event with 22 people. In addition to this, perhaps more simulated practices and maybe more time for training and teaching students in their respect competition.

Dilani Abeywickrama

This is a competition, that I personally find very interesting and that I try my level best to be chosen to attend every year. It was the second time that I took part in the Quebec Engineering Competition and just like the last time, it has been a wonderful experience. During my first year of studies, I took part in the junior design competition, and this year in reengineering competition. Reengineering has enhanced my engineering knowledge and experience in different ways. First of all I must mention, that this competition makes us engineering students think completely out of the box. We were to think out of the box, yet we must be practical. It also improves our ability to work under pressure. As the reengineering project given is on a subject we have not worked before, on a technology that we have not worked on before, we are under pressure, as we must learn about the technology and then reengineer accordingly within a very limited time. As the competition required is to face a pre competition, as well as face a couple of practice competitions, we were able to enhance our knowledge on different technologies.

Some of the lessons learnt during this competition is that, time management and team work is extremely important. I believe we worked very well as a team; however there could have been improvements, in

terms of communication between the team mates. Better communication, can help in better time management as well.

In terms of improvements, by ECA, I believe that a better pre competition can be organized. It can be a much more publicised, and a event, that is not just a pre competition for Quebec Engineering Competition but rather a “Concordia Engineering Competition”. This competition could be organized just as the QEC at the within university level. Prizes or medals could be given to the winner, in order to improve student attendance. One thing that I have realized is that, QEC is not known by many students. It is true that, the pre competitions are publicised in the weekly ECA newsletter, but I believe that there could be a better ways to further publicise.

Overall, QEC has been a wonderful experience. We gained an ample amount of experience, knowledge, and we also had the opportunity to network with many other students and employers from leading companies.