

25th march 2015

Object: ECCC report

After going to the tryout for the ECCC, I had officially done my first ever case study. Being an engineering student, we don't get to do case studies which are research methods involving an up-close, in-depth and detailed examination of a subject of study. I was very pleased to know that I have been selected to represent Concordia for the competition. Going in, I didn't really know how to prepare myself and I was expecting to have a coach and meetings prior to the competition. Regardless of the poor preparation our team had, we still managed to work as a team and finished first place.

Overall, this entire experience has allowed me to further enhance my knowledge and skills. It allowed me to apply and understand the theories we learn in class for a real life case study. Often times, us engineering students, don't really get the chance to apply what we learn in class to real life situations. We always go by the "book" and everything is very theoretical and abstract. Each one of the three cases that I have worked on has allowed me to think differently and understand where "engineering" really comes into place with real life problems. From this experience, I was able to learn how to deepen my knowledge on researching and as well as develop my soft skills. From my angle, the most important skill that I had the opportunity to work on is my public speaking soft skill. In the three years, I had about 3 oral presentations and it wasn't sufficient for me to really work my public speaking skills. This experience really helped me improve it and gain more confidence in myself.

One of the main assets my teammates and I had is team chemistry. We didn't personally know each other former to the competition, but each one of us was able to get along with each other and we formed a power team. When working with a people, it is really important to listen to each other's opinions and respect each other. We were two engineering students and two business students and I believe we were able to complement each other. Working with two other business students has allowed me to learn that when solving a case, it is important to discuss and analyze thoroughly the problem and then discuss a game plan. Engineering students often times lack the skill of analyzing throughout the problem and are known to go straight to calculations. It is something that I will work on and I believe that it is the more efficient way to work in a team. This experience will definitely come into use and be helpful for me for the

upcoming year since I will be undertaking my capstone project which is a final year team project.

Having heard about the ECCC from volunteers from last year, the competition really intrigued me and I knew right away that I wanted to be part of it. After the tryouts, I was very confident that I would be selected to represent Concordia, but unfortunately I was not selected. I told myself that there is always next year and I would have time to improve my skills. End of January I received an e-mail from the ECA VP sports and competitions asking if I was still interested since one of the participant had to withdraw due to academic deadlines. I was delighted about the good news and didn't hesitate since I had a very good feeling about this upcoming event.

In general, everything was very organized and the eca did a really good job hosting this competition. There are a few things than can be improved. I was expecting to have a coach and team gatherings as a preparation prior to the competition but none of that really happened. I met the other two participants once and we didn't have a coach to prepare nor guide us. I met the last team member on the first day of the competition so I hope Concordia can work on that for next year by having a coach and arranging for team meetings. Also for the cases itself, I was expecting a 50/50 for engineering and business topics. I felt that they were more business oriented than engineering. Only for the first case I had the chance to work on a design and prepare a drawing. Regardless of that, I do understand that it is a very difficult task to implement engineering and business aspects into a single case. Last but not least, eca should advertise more widely this competition. This is a one of a kind competition which brings together two of the biggest departments and students should be more aware of it.

This entire experience has allowed me to apply what we learn at school and use it for a real case. I also had the opportunity of meeting and working with great people. Overall it is a momentous experience that I will always cherish since it allowed me to learn about solving cases which is something that I never did. I felt really honored to be able to represent my school and be able to win first place with my three other teammates.

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