

# DALHOUSIE ENGINEERS MAKE WAVES AT CANADIAN NATIONAL CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION

The "Aigéan Carraig" (Irish Gaelic for "Ocean Rock") was an award winner well beyond the expectations of the 2005 Dalhousie University Concrete Canoe Team. Dalhousie's first-ever concrete canoe was entered in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian National Concrete Canoe Competition, held in Windsor, Ontario this past May.

As other teams in the competition had up to 30 years of experience in building concrete canoes, the team's primary goal was to capture the Rookie Team Award. It returned to Halifax with four award plaques: third place overall at the Canadian Nationals, second place for final product, third place for oral presentation and the coveted 2005 Rookie Team Award!

The overall winner was Université Laval, capturing its eighth win at Nationals in 11 years. Another Atlantic university, Université de Moncton (U de M), had a strong finish as well, placing sixth.

Canada is one of many countries in the world to hold a national concrete canoe competition. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Competition will be held in Sherbrooke, Québec in 2006 and both Dalhousie and U de M plan to be there.

The Dalhousie team is preparing for 2006 by improving their current model. The Aigéan Carraig was approximately 118 kg, 6.17 metres long and 355 mm deep. It had two layers of fiber reinforced concrete, the structural layer being nine millimetre thick, with a three millimetre thick finishing layer. Only synthetic (PVA) fibers were used for reinforcement.

The 2006 canoe, Dark Thunder, "will be narrower and shorter, for easier manoeuvrability," says Team Captain Chris Davis, and "shaped like a real racing canoe." It will also have different aggregates. Polystyrene beads and rubber were used last year.

*"Some of the team members are competitive paddlers, which is as important as having a well designed canoe."*

Davis is also excited about the team structure. "We have a concrete mix design team, hull design team, paddling team and a PR/media team," he says. "Some of the team members are competitive paddlers, which is as important as having a well designed canoe." Many of the 2005 team members are returning. This will ensure continuity.

As in 2005, the 2006 team members represent several engineering disciplines, as well

as important skill sets. Davis is in civil engineering, as are Johanna Hoyt, junior captain; paddler Sabine Strohan, mix design director; and Chris Verge, mix team member.

The mechanical engineering contingent includes Andrew Horne, hull design director, and Geoff Hibbord, paddling director. Scott Wetton, public relations and media director, is from industrial engineering. The entire team is 20 members strong now and still growing, representing students from four engineering disciplines.

The 2006 Atlantic Canada teams are looking for new sponsors. For more information, or to sponsor a team, visit Dalhousie's team site at [www.dalcanoe.com](http://www.dalcanoe.com). For the U de M team, email the Chair of the Civil Department: [turkkan@umoncton.ca](mailto:turkkan@umoncton.ca).

*Leigh Beauchamp Day is the communications and marketing manager for Dalhousie University's Faculty of Engineering in Halifax, N.S. She can be contacted at [leigh.day@dal.ca](mailto:leigh.day@dal.ca).*

## ADMIXTURES for Concrete Jennifer Walsh

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## DEAN APPOINTMENT



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Dalhousie University President Tom Traves and the senior administration, are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. L. Joshua Leon, P.Eng., as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

Dr. Leon, recently served as Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical and Computing Engineering at the University of Calgary. Before moving to Calgary, Dr. Leon was a faculty member in the Institute of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the École Polytechnique de Montréal. He earned his BSc and Master's degrees in Mathematics and a PhD in Biophysics at Dalhousie University. Dr. Leon is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia and of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geologists of Alberta.

Dr. Leon's research interests include computational science, electromagnetics, bioelectric phenomena and cardiac electrophysiology. His current research focus is on the development of the next generation of intelligent implantable cardiac defibrillators.

He brings many years of experience in fostering industry/university relationships; and will continue to strengthen the ties between the Faculty of Engineering and industry.

*The Faculty of Engineering will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2007.*

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