

Seneca College Cosmetic Science Graduate Certificate Looking Back at the Inaugural Year

4 years of meetings and conferences, countless discussions, writing, rewriting, sourcing equipment, raw materials and components... it was certainly exciting to definitively launch the Cosmetic Science Graduate Certificate at Seneca College in May 2016.

The students began their programming with an introduction to the CCTFA (Cosmetic Alliance of Canada) and were invited to partake in the online course offerings. They immediately began their foundational semester. Extensive time was devoted to learning industry specific principles, equipment and techniques and of course, the language of cosmetics.

Ricardo Diez, Mary Seifi and Ken Cohen delivered concepts and practicums in types of raw materials with emphasis on surfactants and their use in the industry wherein the caframo mixer generously donated by the Ontario Chapter of the SCC was used intensively. Sharon Gomez and Kristin Vajda coloured the program in the pigmented products course wherein the class learned colour matching and product creation using equipment donated by Estee Lauder Canada. Product safety, cosmetic regulations and claims substantiation were key concepts in the program delivered under the tutelage of Rob Ross-Fitchner, Saina Taidi and Dennis Zuccolin. Slip and tack took on meaning when Mandy Billings and Dorothy Maraprossians provided instruction on the language associated with the organoleptic properties of skin and hair care products in the form of hands-on workshops.

The students then ventured into industry where they applied their new knowledge in the Work-Integrated Learning Semester. Students worked in a variety of areas of the cosmetic industry with most of the positions in the regulatory and R&D areas. Saina Taidi was tireless in her efforts to ensure 100% of the students had placements. Feedback was extremely positive with many employers pleasantly surprised at the knowledge base and skills of their students. In house, we were able to use a lipstick formula developed and manufactured by the students to prepare and market "Seneca Red Lipstick" in a fundraising campaign to support students at Seneca in financial need.

January marked the start of the final semester of the program where students fine-tuned, extended and applied first semester concepts as well as those learned in the workplace. Students experimented with adjusting formulations with Shahin Kalantari, learning about steps in product development with Krishna Nair and of course, what would a product be without ensuring quality? The impact of quality on products and systems was emphasized by Heidi VonKannen. Tempting the senses with scents was explored with Vera Matovina, as students learned how fragrances are constructed. The highlight of the final semester was the Capstone project "Rouge" which was mentored by Sharon Robertson. Working in small groups, students responded to a marketing demand for a finished product and undertook all aspects of product development culminating in a presentation to an industry expert panel. Students were able to incorporate concepts from guest speakers in their projects; Janice Cukier (natural thickeners), Dorothy Maraprossians (preservatives), Rob Ross Fitchner (regulations), Ricardo Diez (what makes a product truly great). The SCC sponsored talk by Joe Dallal on hair care products was extremely valuable for our shampoo groups. Stay tuned for the next edition of *Northern Highlights* to learn more about the Capstone Project.

We thank the Ontario Chapter of the SCC for funding a Cosmetic Science Scholarship to recognize academic excellence and team work ability. This year, it was awarded to Krystian Palochyk.

We would also like to thank those companies who brought students into their workplace. Work-Integrated Learning is key to the success of the program. If your organization would like to host a student this fall, please contact Zahra Hirji ; Zahra.hirji@senecacollege.ca.