



John Bianchini, CEO; Hatch, Art Heidebrecht, Acting Dean; Gerry Hatch, founder of Hatch; David Wilkinson, Provost; Kurt Strobele, Chair, Hatch

# Happy Birthday, Dr. Gerald Hatch

A special tribute lecture was held on November 8, 2012 to celebrate the 90th birthday of Dr. Gerald G. Hatch, founder and former president of Hatch, a global professional and technology firm based in Mississauga, Ontario. The lecture was given by Dr. Gordon Irons, Dofasco Professor of Ferrous Metallurgy and Director of the McMaster Steel Research Centre. The lecture recognized Dr. Hatch's contributions to metallurgy, entrepreneurship and business excellence.

## Work Placement Provides Great Benefits

**Bhavin Shukla** (B.Tech - Process Automation) recently completed an eight-month work placement at Suncor Energy in Calgary. While at Suncor, Bhavin's responsibility was as an automation analyst, which fit perfectly with his overall career goal of becoming an automation engineer.

He was aligned with the Technical Services Department which provides technical support and reliability improvement services to the plant. As part of the Automation Team, Bhavin found himself working with Major Projects, Operations, and Maintenance and Reliability departments, assisting with projects that focus on continuous improvement in maintenance and inspection issues. One of the areas he became involved with was Alarm Management, which is concerned with the proper design, implementation, operation and maintenance of plant alarm systems.

Safety issues are not an option in any industry, he notes. "It's a requirement, and automation plays a huge role in help-

ing to keep a plant safe."

Bhavin, a graduate of the Electrical Control Systems program at Humber College, was attracted to the Bachelor of Technology's process automation technology stream because he believes automation is key to success in the current world of supply & demand and rapid technological change. McMaster, he adds, is the only university offering this unique program. The McMaster professors are all subject specialists, classes are small, and the technical courses are highly geared to meeting current industry demands. Students are provided with both theory and practical knowledge through lectures and labs, and must complete a mandatory 12-month co-op experience.

"[My] work term experience provided me with a grand opportunity to use all the theoretical and practical knowledge learned in the classroom." He found the business management component of the program was also a great help in adjusting to the transition from school to the work placement.

Bhavin,

who previously spent four months in a work placement on campus in the Mechatronic Lab, is confident these work experiences will assist with his career as an Automation Engineer and is very grateful for the opportunities they have provided him.

Campus life is not all about studying and work, however. Bhavin is active as president of ISA (McMaster Chapter) and involved with the Engineering Leadership Development Program as a mentor.

One of the extra benefits of working in Calgary, he says, was the opportunity to travel around the area. "I love travelling, and it was a great chance to explore the Rocky Mountain area, including Banff and Jasper National Parks and British Columbia's Yoho National Park." ■

## A Solid Education

Some engineering alumni remember most the campus, some think fondly of the pub nights, and some regard the collegial atmosphere as their best memory. For **Chris Thewalt** (CivEng 1981), McMaster engineering was all of these ... and more.

"I remember my Mac days fondly, from the faculty and staff to a whole bunch of great friends. *continued on p.16*



Bhavin Shukla