



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release: Attention News/Assignment Editors**

## **Ontario engineering students win big in Minerva Canada – James Ham Safe Design Awards**

**Toronto (April, 2007)** – Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc. has announced the winners of its first annual James Ham Safe Design Awards Contest. Ontario's university engineering students were challenged to make an original contribution toward integrating safety into engineering design.

Three students from McMaster University's Faculty of Engineering took the top award for their unique stair-climbing device that should aid in preventing back injuries. Stephen Niedojadlo, Jonathan Kwok Kin Ho and Chin Hung Jonathan Lo share a cheque for \$3,500.

An entry from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology received the second place prize of \$1,500. Students Mark Bernacki, Matt Van Wieringen, Mike MacLeod and Ben Fagan developed a regenerative automatic door opener that would allow doors to remain functional during power failures.

The awards honour James Milton Ham whose Royal Commission Report on Health and Safety led to the creation of Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act in 1979 and to the adoption of the Internal Responsibility System in Ontario workplaces. James Ham trained as an engineer with a secondary field of study in sociology; his writings emphasized 'society and human needs'. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1980 and died in 1997.

**Minerva Canada's James Ham Safe Design Awards:**

- Encourage students and engineering faculty members to integrate safety into all designs.
- Produce safer designs of devices, processes and systems.
- Raise awareness of Process Safety Management (PSM) and Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) in the Province of Ontario.

**Students and faculty members in Ontario engineering schools are being challenged to:**

- Suggest ways to improve the existing design of devices, processes or systems.
- Envision new, innovative designs that will eliminate or reduce potential hazards.
- Create tools to help manufacturers and workplaces integrate safety into new or retrofit designs.

The awards will be presented Monday April 16, 2007 at the annual Health and Safety Conference and Trade Show of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association in Toronto. There are several thousand attendees at this Conference and the winning team from McMaster University will make a presentation on their successful project on April 17th.

**Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc.**

Minerva Canada is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the teaching of Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Management in post secondary schools across Canada. It targets the educators of tomorrow's leaders by encouraging colleges and universities to embed SHE management education into the core curricula of business and engineering programs. Research has repeatedly shown that effective, productive and profitable companies have a CEO and senior management team who understand the benefits of SHE management systems and processes and are committed to them.

SHE management education is a fundamental cornerstone of an effective corporate culture. Minerva consists of volunteers from industry, government, academia and safety associations. Key sponsors include Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, Ministry of Labour, the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, Imperial Oil Limited, General Motors of Canada, Dupont Canada, Bruce Power, Trimac, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, the National Safety Council, and the Canadian Society for Safety Engineers.

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**Information is also available at our website:** [www.safetymanagementeducation.com](http://www.safetymanagementeducation.com)

**Television stations:** A seven-minute DVD contest promotional video is available for use. To order: Contact Tony Pasteris (see above)