

Jennifer Motuz, is the CAFCE Co-op Student of the Year for 1999.

Where is she now....An update on the last seven years, eh? Wow! I can't believe it's been that long!

Let's see.. since I won the 1999 award, I continued as the Engineering Society VP Education until Spring 2000. I started the combined Bachelors/Masters programme that summer and remained active in the Engineering Society throughout my 4A & 4B terms. I started my Masters full-time in Spring 2001, with my thesis focusing on the design of protective footwear for people clearing landmines. Throughout my masters, I was involved with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) as their resource person for issues regarding anti-personnel landmines, and through this became the Competition Advisor for the Mines Action Canada (MAC) Demining Technology Competition, which became a joint effort between MAC and EWB in 2002. This involved going to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia to visit NGOs and de-mining agencies so that I could promote the competition and answer technical questions from the participants. I developed promotional materials, spoke at several EWB chapters and other groups and provided technical guidance to the teams. I also presented papers at two engineering conferences (The International Symposium on Ballistics in Interlaken, Switzerland, 2001 and the Shock and Vibration Symposium in Sandestin Florida, 2001) and published an article in the International Journal of Shock and Vibration (2003). I was a TA for most of my degree and was also involved with "The Embassy" which is a student church in Waterloo. I also got married in April 2002 to Robert McArthur (ChE 2003).

In January 2002, while speaking at the EWB National Conference in Montreal, I met a man named Bunker Roy, who was a keynote speaker at the conference. He runs an NGO in Rajasthan (India) geared to train villagers in appropriate technology to improve life in the villages. I was fascinated, and Rob and I made plans to move to India to work with this NGO in the hopes of doing a similar development project. After we graduated in 2003, we lived on an organic farm in Guelph (to learn agricultural skills), did some cross-cultural training and fundraising, and left for India in November 2003. We wound up spending 6 months at Bunker's NGO (called the "Barefoot College") working with the solar cooker and rainwater harvesting projects before going to Senegal to monitor some Rainwater Harvesting projects in schools and promote the technology with the government and the WHO in preparation for the UN Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council conference held in Dakar (capital of Senegal) in 2004. Upon return to India, we spent a few months doing full-time Hindi study before getting connected with the Emmanuel Hospital Association - a Christian organization that runs 21 hospitals and 25 community health projects serving the "poorest of the poor" across North India. Both Rob and I have worked as Engineering Consultants for the different units (including Disaster Management - we were in the Andaman Islands doing a technical study for a post-tsunami redevelopment project) primarily doing infrastructure projects (water supply systems, rainwater harvesting, water treatment, electrical back-up systems and solar technologies), clinical engineering (medical equipment maintenance and medical waste disposal) and miscellaneous engineering work that no one else is able to do. Amazingly enough, I've used pretty much all of my co-op work experience doing this work in India. Finally, I've become a mom: our son Dominic Rohan was born in May 2006 (while we were back in Canada for a few months) so I've been mostly staying with him these past few months and doing the engineering part-time.

I'm writing this email from our home in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh (if you look on a semi-detailed map, you'll find Chhatarpur near the Madhya Pradesh-Uttar Pradesh border, usually between the "N" and the "D" in "I N D I A")) where we've been living since November 2004 when we started work with EHA. We travel a lot (about 1 week/month) to the other units, but this is home.

Hope this helps! I never realized how interesting the last few years have been until I wrote all this down! This is probably way too much information... sorry!

Thanks,

Jenn McArthur

p.s. we've got a few photos up at JMcarthur5.photosite.com if you 'd like a recent photo of me/my family :)