Espresso cup

The Gustavson team of Taryn Roy, Rebeca Saenz, Jesal Shah, and Andrew Spence has been shortlisted by the first-round judges of the Nespresso AAA Sustainable Quality MBA Challenge 2013! The group, with the guidance of Dr. Matt Murphy, submitted their proposal in March, and they made the cut from 32 teams from schools around the world to 10. Another group of judges will select three finalists who will attend the final case competition in Switzerland in late June.

MBA student Jesal Shah says that the team decided to enter the international case competition because they wanted to help solve a real world business problem utilizing the knowledge and skills they are learning at Gustavson. They also wanted, he adds, “to see how we stack up against the rest of the world.”

So far, they’re stacking extremely high!

classroom lessons + caring = creating a better world

In their work with the Capital Regional District’s annual Ready Set Solve challenge, a team of Gustavson students has once again shown the community what their education and passion can do.

“I really enjoyed working with the students during the Ready, Set, Solve challenge,” says Jim Walker, manager of ReStore. “Their enthusiasm for sustainable solutions to some of the unique challenges faced by the not-for-profit (thrift store) sector was refreshing.”

Leah Hanvey (BCom 15), Marina Hutton (BCom 14), Graham Blakeney (BCom 14), and Taylor Norman (BCom 14) teamed up to help the Habitat for Humanity retail outlet find low-cost alternatives for waste disposal and recycling of unsalable donations.

“The study that the students undertook was useful to us,” Walker says. “As I am new in my position, I felt that the time that I spent with them was useful in helping me to gain good insight into the thought processes involved in waste management.”

Walker and the ReStore staff have already begun to implement some of the students’ recommendations and even expanded upon them to examine other areas where, they feel, they can better manage their waste.

Gustavson student Marina Hutton was thrilled to be able to apply her studies to an organization that does great work.

“My favourite part about Ready, Set, Solve,” she says, “was that we were able to work with ReStore to create tangible solutions. In many competitions, one works with hypothetical situations, but I loved how we got to work on a project where our solutions have the potential to be turned into a reality.”

Case studies, teaching

Organizations and the Natural Environment, a community of scholars within the Academy of Management, has assembled 43 case studies about sustainability and business that are suitable for MBA classes. The list is available on the ONE blog of April 15, 2013. The cases range from Du Pont’s evaluation of its policy about Freon, a chlorofluorocarbon compound that was scientifically proven in 1988 to degrade the earth’s ozone shield, to Arcadia Biosciences, an entrepreneurial California agricultural biotech company that wants to earn carbon credits by modifying commodity crops for use in China and India, and, well, 41 others.

More: ech 2013 award-winning cases ranging from Finance to OB, OM to innovation in teaching, and including Ethics and Social Responsibility: Blue Monday by Henri-Claude de Bettignies and Charlotte Butler, CEIBS and INSEAD