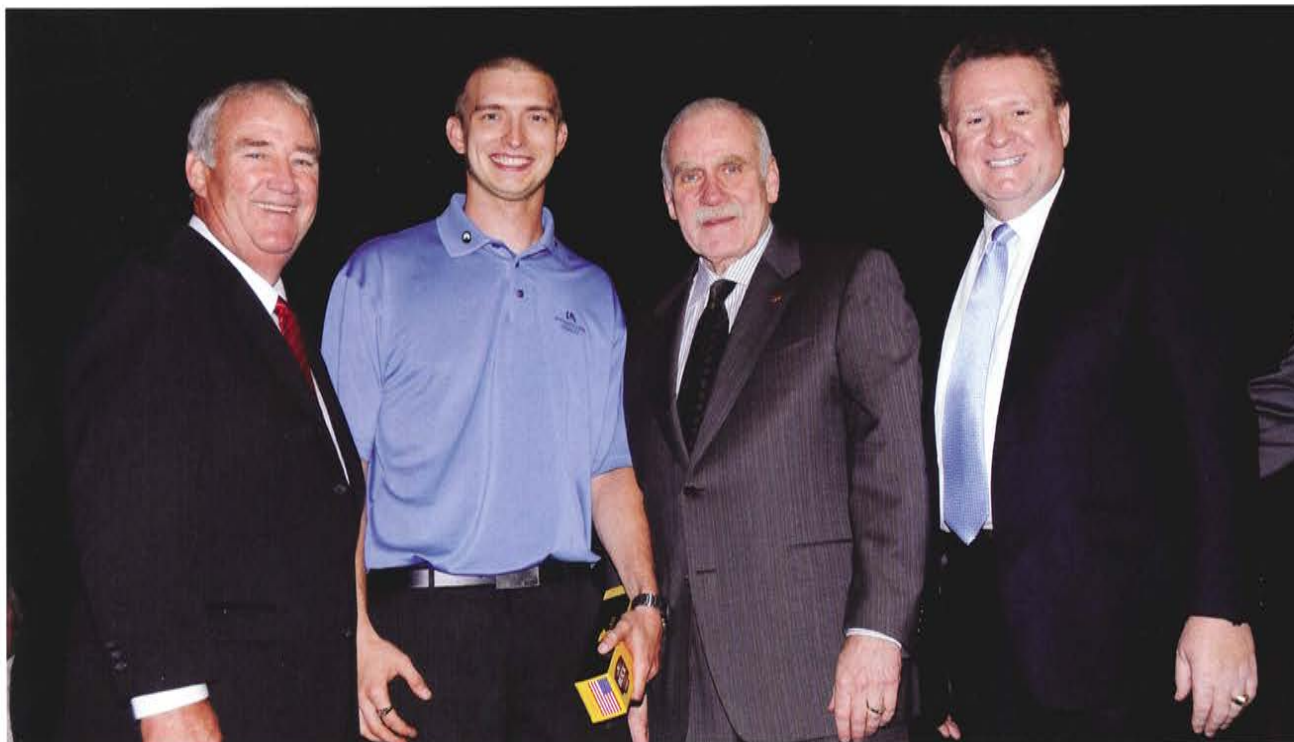


Canadian Sprinkler Apprentice Wins Prestigious UA International Apprenticeship Competition

by Ted Ryan



William P. Hite, David DeRaadt, Stephen F. Kelly, Sean O'Ryan

On August 18th, 2011, David DeRaadt, UA Local 853, Sprinkler Fitters of Ontario made Canadian UA Apprenticeship history. In the 25 years the UA International Apprenticeship Contest has been in existence, no Canadian has ever won a competition in the five piping trades hosted at the contest. Dave is the first and he did it in convincing fashion.

The five day event held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, showcased six District winners from across the United States and Canada to compete for the title of top apprentice in their respective trade. After winning the Canadian National Apprenticeship Competition on June 17th, 2011 Dave represented Canada (District 6 of the UA) in the Sprinkler Division of the competition held August 14th- 18th, 2011. Although scores/rankings were not shared for projects, it was evident to all that watched the event that David was the best of the best.

David's achievement reflects his dedication to the trade and belief in life long learning. Dave put in countless hours preparing for his

competitions. The expression of pride and joy on David and wife Stacy's faces when David was announced the winner was priceless. David's accomplishment is an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations must also be shared with Mike Heller of C&H Fire Suppression Systems for their role in Dave's development. Mike shared "I am absolutely ecstatic about Dave's accomplishments. This is only the beginning. I know there is much more to come from David in the future." Mike backed up his remarks by providing David and his wife Stacy a one week all inclusive vacation to one of 20 locations to be chosen by David and Stacy. Congratulations also to the members of the Ontario Sprinkler Industry JTAC and National Sprinkler Industry JTAC for their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of training for our Apprentices.

Ontario will adopt a new phrase in the Sprinkler Industry Lexicon - a DeRaadt - Definition: to complete a difficult task with humility and excellence.