

As the end of the 17th in New Zealand slowly draws to a close, it would have been a relief to have our report done and dusted by now. Unfortunately that did not happen. In fact we have only written half of it. However there is still hope!!! :D

At the start of our course when we found out we were going to be participating in the GEE project, I was really excited to be a part of an international team for the first time in my life. I was also really excited to be a part of something bigger than my relatively normal life here in little New Zealand (NZ). I was excited up until the day before the competition when I received the dreadful email: "We are delighted to have you as the leader for Team 73 in the Global Enterprise Experience." Those words, in that order, had me worrying! And the competition had not even started yet!! I took the day to ponder... you know what; I am going to be the best leader that I can possibly be. So I ventured out to start the journey as an international leader!! Do not get me wrong, I knew it was not going to be easy, but I did not think it was going to be as hard as it was.

I have never been confident enough to be a leader in my life. I have never put myself forward for the task – I figured that someone else will be able to do a better job than I can. This is the first time that I have been given the chance, and the first time that I have had to push myself to realise that I am going to be the one responsible for this team to succeed. Well I must admit that at the start I did have the privilege of a co-leader at my side. I thought would make the job easier and that we would be able to delegate all the tasks together as a team. A week passed by and I found that he became less and less interested in the GEE project whereas I was getting more and more into it. I then took it upon myself to go, "you know what if you are not interested, then I am going to be the sole leader"!

From there on out, I thought I was doing an alright job. I was able to get four members messaging back and regularly participating through BaseCamp. Then came the problem; we had two ideas and our team members were split between them. Even my work-mate here in NZ did not mind what we were going to do. Then came the hardest decision; I had to decide our topic and decide against some of my team members. I was worrying that choosing the wrong topic would mean that my team members wouldn't approve and drop out or that some of my team members would become disinterested. The time had finally come, and I managed to write a message letting the team know which way we were going to go. I made sure that I explained why and that I had considered the other report proposal, but the one that I chose would fit into the GEE guidelines a lot better. My worries had all been for nothing; everyone who had been against the idea up until then was keen and got on board! As of around 5 minutes ago I was starting to worry as there were only 4 of us on board: Me, Simon (NZ), Angie (Colombia) and Shonola (Nigeria). We have made a great team though! Considering that both Angie and Shonola are not in NZ, they have been the most awesome and dedicated team mates I could have ever hoped for!!! I was still worried about the absence of my other team members so I sent one last message to them. I just to make sure that they had a chance to still come on board, within a couple of minutes, two more members messaged back!!! There is still hope for us yet!!!!

This experience has taught me so much.... It has taught me to be persistent through the hard times and keep on trying. It has taught me that Facebook is not only a tool to use for social media, but a useful tool to talk in real time to a co-team-member. It has taught me, that life is not as easy for everyone in the world, as it is for us here. It has taught me that time management IS (my lecturers keep telling me, but I never listen) a valuable skill to possess. And most of all I have learned that you can develop a lifelong relationship with someone that you have never met through a project you once did when you were only 21!

I hope that people who choose to do this project in future years get as much out of this experience as I have... I will never forget it, and will never forget the people that I met along the way!