



# Guelph Engineering Society



Report on CFES Congress at University of Alberta,  
Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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## ***1. Purpose of Conference***

Congress is the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES) and is a forum for members of engineering societies from across the country to share ideas and set the course of the CFES for the next year.

## ***2. Personal Goals for Conference***

This was my third Congress, and so I felt like I had already gained most of the knowledge I would from the CFES. I felt my purpose at the conference would be more of a teaching one, and I planned on running a member session. Also, I wanted to be able to use my experience with the CFES to help the other members of our delegation get the most out of the conference. Finally, I planned on running for one of the National Councilor positions with the CFES.

## ***3. Summary of Events***

### Complementary Education (CE) Courses

Over the past year, the current CE commissioner started to streamline the course application process and create a new website. In the near future, the website will have more tools such as web space for courses, CFES e-mails for courses and a backend database. The application process for hosting courses has now been broken down into 2 steps. The first includes filling out an application form that basically demonstrates the statement of interest. The second step is a full proposal with a detailed course structure, in formal bid format.

Ensuring the future of CE courses is going to require more promotion, including advertising more for them at CFES events, and developing some key links to industry for sponsors and partners. The courses will also need to include more CFES content to keep the relationship visible.

During a brainstorming session for the future of CE courses, the following ideas were generated.

- travel costs offset by corporate sponsors
- traveling courses
- grad school marketing - show off research
- set CE presentation to get schools interested in hosting
- more information on European courses so students can go there
- students that go overseas get funding if they agree to run a course here
- set CE sponsorship package

### Alumni Relations

Alumni networks help to provide a sense of memory and support as well as to create bridges between organizations and the world.

The Board of European Students of Technology (BEST) has an alumni network which hosts both local and international alumni meetings. They are also developing a newsletter and provide industry contacts for students. The bonding alumni network hosts two official meetings per year, but the alumni plan social events for themselves also. The alumni have veto power over motions put forth by bonding, but they must be approved and voted in by the members to have that privilege.

The CFES is looking into building an alumni network and a brainstorming session was held to determine what we would want to get out of it. Ideas included regional speaker sessions, advice for executive, industry contacts for fundraising and speakers for conferences and events.

### Charity

The Congress fundraiser was a poker tournament, with all of the buy-ins going towards the Tetra Society. The winner of the tournament gets to bring the Congress Cup back to their school for the next year. The cookbook will still be accepting recipe submissions for a few more weeks.

### International Engineering Competition

The competition will represent the level above the Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC) and will be in cooperation with BEST and bonding. There are two representatives from each organization on the board, those from the CFES being Bernard Goupil and Josee Dumont. The first meeting of the board

was held in Brussels in October 2007 and consisted of revising the vision statement, establishing a timeline and planning for future meetings.

There will be a design competition and a case-study/consulting competition and will be for winners of organizational competitions. It will be taking place after CEC and the first one will be held in May 2010.

### Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum (CELf)

The organizations involved with CELf are the CFES, Engineers Canada, the National Committee of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science (NCDEAS), the Association of Canadian Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE), and the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC). They get together approximately twice a year to discuss engineering issues. In 2009, there will be the first summit to discuss issues that the Canadian population will be facing and how engineers can contribute positively. Student involvement at the summit will be important and there will be approximately 150 reserved spots for student delegates.

There will be five streams discussed at the summit, each taken on by a different organization. They are Health (NCDEAS), Environment (CAE), Quality of Life (CFES), Competitiveness (ACEC), and Safety and Security (EIC). The CFES will be taking their theme, Quality of Life, in two directions, looking at Aborigines in Canada and international development.

## **4. Evaluation**

### **i) Conference Organizers**

The CFES Congress 2008 was very well run. The accommodations were nice, although having real beds for all of the guests probably would have been appreciated by some, and they weren't too far from the building where the sessions were being held. In the past, the sessions have been held in conference rooms in the hotel, which is nice for girls who are dressing business casual, but it was really nice to get to see some of the university campus. The food was good; there were lots of vegetables and salad available, which was a nice change from past years. The breakfasts were ok, except when they were delivered to the rooms, as some rooms didn't receive food. The sessions went well, however, there was some definite confusion in certain circumstances on which session was being run where, but that was more the CFES than the Congress organizers fault.

*ii) Delegate*

I feel that I performed well as a delegate and representative of Guelph at the conference. I accomplished all of my goals. I gave a presentation on Sustainability and Engineering and I ran for the position of National Councilor. I did not actually win the position, but I decided to continue my involvement by applying for the Charity Commissioner position, which ended up being something I was very excited for anyways. At the social events, I continued to forge relationships with delegates from other schools and didn't cause any reputational or physical damage. During the days, I attended the sessions where I would be useful and gave the input I could. I had a really great time and am glad I was given the opportunity to participate in this wonderful event.