



# Guelph Engineering Society



Report on ESSCO First Year Integration Conference at University of Windsor,  
February 1-3, 2008.

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

The purpose of this conference is to inform first years about things that ESSCO does and how they can become involved in ESSCO. Also, it allows first years from school across Ontario to talk about Frosh week activities and share ideas about future frosh weeks, as well as provides good networking opportunities.

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

My personal goals for this conference were to meet a lot of people that I might be in further contact with over the coming years, when I am still hopefully involved in our schools eng soc. Another goal for this conference was for me to get more experience at conferences which will also hopefully help me be better prepared for conferences that I could be attending in the future. Also I hoped to be able to bring back ideas for events that other schools put on that maybe we could look into doing with our school. Lastly my goal for this conference, was to contribute in sessions more then I did in other sessions and be more vocal.

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

“Opening Remarks” Talk by Dr. Edwin Tam

- This talk was a lot about how to get through first year, as well as getting through the rest of your years in engineering
- one thing that Dr. Tam thought was very important to being successful in engineering is keeping up a professional image of yourself. For example, emails to professors or anyone in the industry should be written in a professional manner.
- He also had tips on dealing with faculty, one of them being to visit the professor only when they have set out their office hours, or when you have booked an appointment.
- He also talked about key skills to develop that will be beneficial to yourself in the future when looking for a job. These include networking skills, ways to “break the ice”, communication, and a general knowledge of things like the environment and social issues.

- Another part of Dr. Tam's talk was about how to keep sane and things like that while in engineering and ways to balance out school and fun. Finding a hobby was a suggestion for this, because it makes you plan around it for work, as well as provides an opportunity to relax.

#### ESSCO 101 and Getting Involved with ESSCO

- This was an information session about ESSCO's history and what it does as an organization.
- ESSCO is the link between the student engineering societies in Ontario to the PEO and OSPE.
- Services that ESSCO offers are they run conferences including a PEO student conference, they also have a travel bursaries program to help students get to these conferences, and a website
- ESSCO has directorships that people can apply for if you want to become involved, as well as a mailing list that will include other opportunities to become involved or volunteer at ESSCO events.

#### CFES ESSV

- A good session for me because I don't know too much about what the CFES does or didn't until after this conference
- There are 4 main activities that were talked about in this session, and those were Congress 2009, CEC, ProMag, and CFES PM.
- ProMag is a magazine that the CFES puts out
- Anyone can get involved in this and if for example, you are writing one article, there is not as much commitment as with other things.

#### Frosh Week Presentations:

- This was a roundtable discussion about the activities that other schools do during their frosh weeks.
- This session was good because it allowed us to see what other schools do, and ways that we could improve our schools frosh week, so that more students will come out.

#### New Executive Role Presentation

- This session was about the different ideas that the executive had come up with for the new position for the ESSCO executive.
- Right now the executive has a lot of work that they do and feel that it should be split up and another position added, so that things can run more smoothly.

#### PEO

- This session basically explained to us what the PEO is, what they do for us as engineers, and how to become a member.

OSPE

- This was a lot like the session for the PEO, only for the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.
- In this session, the presenter talked about the benefits of becoming a member of OSPE

#### **4. Evaluation**

i) *Conference Organizers*

I think that this conference was run really well. The hotel that the conference was at was really nice, and so was the food. The social events were well planned out for us, and the sessions were also very good and were definitely geared to the correct audience (first years who might not know as much as delegates at other conferences)

ii) *Delegate*

As a delegate, I feel that I represented the University of Guelph well. This was another conference that I was able to attend and experience, so that I can further to improve on the way that I represent the University of Guelph if I am a delegate in the future. I would say that I did attain my goals that I had for the conference, and did indeed meet lots of people. As for representing Guelph in the future, I still feel that I can be more vocal and contribute more to sessions that are roundtable.