



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on Essco's First Year Integration Conference at The University of Ottawa,
January 30-February 1, 2009.

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1. Purpose of Conference

The purpose of this conference is to bring a large group of first year engineers from various different universities across Ontario together to meet and discuss their first year experiences. It's also a chance for first years to talk about plans for the future at their own school and possibly make connections for future endeavors with other schools.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

One of my personal goals for this conference was to meet other first years and learn how they were getting through school. It was really encouraging to find that there were other students who had come from high school being a top student and had their marks drop significantly as well. Knowing that everyone else is going through the same thing as you is reassuring. This conference also had a lot of speakers who encouraged that being a leader is sometimes more important and can be more beneficial than being a top mark student, because being an engineer means being able to communicate easily with others. This is the take home message I got from this conference, is that grades aren't everything, and being a leader and an involved student is a much better education. Also, a reoccurring piece of advice by many of the speakers was to always try to think with a "wouldn't it be cool" kind of attitude because that is what leads to success.

3. Summary of Events

Introduction to PEO (Professional Engineers Ontario) and OSPE (Ontario Society of Professional Engineers)

- Explanation of what each organization does for engineers in Ontario
- PEO being a governing body for professional engineers
- OSPE is an advocacy group that promotes the engineering profile
- Each group had representatives who spoke
- Explained to the first years the way to become a part of these groups

Dan Dicaire

- Was a very involved in the engineering society at his former school, uOttawa
- Gave a very inspirational speech about why everyone should get involved in their engineering society because your university experience is whatever you put into it.
- Encouraged balancing school with getting involved.

ESSCO 101 & 102

- Basically explained ESSCO(Engineering Student Societies of Ontario)
- ESSCO is the organization that brings all of the EngSoc's from across Ontario together
- Gave a brief recount of ESSCO's history of starting in 1987, and its traditions today like having the official colour of pink etc.

Drew Dudley

- One of the most moving and motivational speakers I've ever heard
- Gave a slideshow that really connected with us as first years and as stressed overachievers because he, himself, was a student that always got top marks
- Recounted stories of his university peers and his experience
- Truly encouraged us to get the most out of our university experience, meet as many people as we can, and get involved in as much as we can
- This presentation really affected the way I look at school and the way I interact with others, and made me want to be as successful as I possibly could be.
- I would encourage anyone who ever gets a chance to see Drew Dudley speak to go!

CFES for Dummies

- Canadian Federation for Engineering Students
- Spoke about the different conferences held across Canada throughout the year

Frosh Talks

- Gave us a chance to present and discuss what each school did during frosh week
- Shared ideas, like our extensive "Skunt"
- heard about ridiculous frosh weeks like at RMC and Queens
- everyone had a great time at their week and are going to continue to get first year engineers involved during frosh week

One of the ESSCO Cofounder's

- Gave a great speech about how he and his friend started ESSCO while in university because they wanted to go to every bar in Ontario

- Again, encouraged the “wouldn’t it be cool if…” attitude
- Spoke of how he was very involved with his EngSoc at Western while in university and how he is very successful now

4. Evaluation

i) Conference Organizers

I think the conference was organized fairly well, except for I felt that for a large part of the time, we as conference attendees, didn’t really know what was going on. I would have preferred for things to have followed a more strict schedule, and had like a daily morning meeting to summarize what we were in for that day. Also, I felt like the speakers could have been broken up with activities between them in order to keep everyone’s attention. One of this conference’s strengths was that it was held in Ottawa, which is a great city to visit, however it was unfortunate that the transit system was on strike because we had to do a lot of walking in the cold.

ii) Delegate

As a delegate, I think I represented the University of Guelph very well. I feel like I was always involved in the presentations that were being given, and listened intently to the ideas that the speakers were trying to get across to us. It was great to hear from older engineers, and engineering students who have been successful, and to hear how they accomplished their goals. A personal goal was to get to know other first years and I feel like I accomplished that. I’ve tried to keep in contact with a few of them and might work with a few of them in the future. If I was to get another chance to attend a conference, I would try to be even more outgoing and get to know people because everyone who attends these conferences are sociable and friendly, and are the greatest people to know.