



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on ESSCO First Year Integration Conference at University of Ottawa,
January 30th - February 1st, 2009 .

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1. Purpose of Conference

ESSCO First Year Integration Conference is a chance for first year engineering students to become familiar with ESSCO, as well as other important engineering student associations across the country and the work that they do. Participation in these organizations was promoted throughout the conference. It was also a chance for first year students to network with students from other schools and professionals in the engineering field.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

My personal goals for this conference were to become more informed about ESSCO (who they are, what they are doing for me, how I can get involved, etc). I was also very eager to meet engineering students from other schools and learn about other schools' events that I think will be successful at Guelph.

3. Summary of Events

Introduction to PEO and OSPE

- PEO is the governing body for Professional Engineers in Ontario and OSPE is the group that aims to promote the engineering profession in Ontario
- Both organizations offer student memberships that are available to all engineering students; PEO membership is free, OSPE membership is 25\$
- Students are encouraged to take advantage of these student memberships because they offer many benefits and are useful for many reasons

Dan Dicaire

- Essentially a 'pep talk' from a former University of Ottawa student who was an important part of their student society during his years there.
- Encouraged us to participate in EngSoc activities and to get involved
- Talked about how to be an effective leader and how to succeed both in and out of school

ESSCO 101 & 102

- ESSCO, the Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario, is like the EngSoc of EngSocs in Ontario. They are responsible for linking all the engineering societies at different schools.

- ESSCO has an extremely interesting culture and history; the official colour is pink and the official animal is the flamingo, to name only a couple unique facts
- ESSCO has many opportunities to get involved with various events, executive positions, conferences, etc and they encourage students to contact them if they are interested in helping out

Drew Dudley

- Works at the University of Toronto in student leadership
- Used his experiences with student leadership, charity work and education to inspire us to do great things
- Did an amazing job of encouraging us to get involved outside of the classroom and to get the most out of our university education by being more than just a student
- Emphasized that getting the highest marks isn't the most important part of your education; you can still be an amazing person and not have the highest average in your class
- Drew Dudley's session was, hands down, my favourite part of the conference. He was an awesome speaker and inspired me to get more involved and make a difference.

CFES for Dummies

- CFES is the ESSCO for all of Canada
- They provide many services and events to engineering students in Canada, including several conferences across the country each year.
- There are opportunities to get involved with CFES, such as executive positions and other various opportunities

Frosh Talks

- Each school's delegates were allowed to get up and discuss their frosh week activities
- Schools have many similar activities and traditions, such as cutting hair, dying themselves and scavenger hunts
- Activity ideas were shared so that we could use ideas that we thought sounded fun or effective for when we become frosh leaders in future years
- It was evident that frosh week was an important time to get frosh involved and excited about becoming involved in EngSoc activities

Jeff Westeinde, ESSCO Co-founder

- Graduated from UWO where he and his friends had the original idea for ESSCO
- Idea for ESSCO started with wanting to visit every on-campus bar at Ontario universities and why not create an organization that links all engineering schools so that this could be a possibility
- Again, we were encouraged to look past just the grades and schoolwork that comes with a university education and to get involved

- Jeff is a positive example of how getting involved is extremely beneficial; he is a successful business man being the co-founder of a large business in Canada despite “being a C student”.

4. Evaluation

i) Conference Organizers

I felt that overall the conference was very well run. All of the sessions were interesting and ran smoothly. It was evident that the organizers had worked hard to find speakers that were engaging and knowledgeable. Everything seemed to be thoroughly planned and very well organized. While it was nice to attend sessions on campus and see the University, the hotel was pretty far away and walking was the only method of transportation. This made for a lot of issues with time and many sessions ran late.

ii) Delegate

I feel that I represented the University of Guelph engineering society very well at the conference. I attended all sessions that were run and I feel that I learned quite a bit from most of them. I think that I attained all the goals I had set out for myself by being outgoing and meeting many new people as well as learning from the sessions offered to me. If I were to improve my conference experience, I would like to contribute a little bit more in discussions and speak out when sharing sessions were held.