



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on FYIC at Lakehead University,
February 5th-7th.

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1. Purpose of Conference

The conference is primarily meant to be a networking opportunity, allowing first year engineering students of Ontario to network with both each other and industry. On top of networking, the conference is intended to provide an opportunity to practice and develop skills such as leadership, communication and group interactions.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

My personal goals for the conference were to establish connections with other engineering students across the province, networking. I hoped to gain these connections to use through my university career and later in industry. As a first year student, the conference will give me insight into the different associated engineering organizations, ranging from student organizations to professional organizations.

3. Summary of Events

1. ESSCO 101 presented by ESSCO executive
- An outline of the purpose and services provided by the Engineering Students Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO)
- ESSCO is currently in its 24th year and its main purpose is to coordinate communication between the different member universities, deans and PEO. As a result ESSCO has created a network of students, professionals and government.
ESSCO provides services for the engineering students at the University of Guelph and every other member university. The presentation served as an introduction to these services.

2. CFES 101 presented by Sarah Patterson
- A brief introduction to the Canadian Federation For Engineering Students (CFES), the national engineering student government.
The three main purposes of CFES are:
- To provide engineering students opportunities outside the classroom

- To provide professional development
- To represent Canadian engineering students

CFES looks to improve the engineering student societies at a national level, through events like congress and the Canadian engineering competition, students are encouraged to communicate with each other and industry.

3. PEO presented by Manoj Choudhary, P.Eng.

What does PEO do for students, the profession and Engineers?

The main focus of the presentation was to introduce the delegates to the benefits of PEO and becoming a P.Eng. The topics covered through the presentation, protection of the public, responsibility of an engineer and becoming a Engineer In Training (EIT) had been previously been covered in both the PEO presentation during O-Week and the Design 1 class.

4. OSPE presented by Lee E. Weisling, Ph.D.

(Ontario Society of Professional Engineers)

Discussing the differences between PEO and OSPE, the main purpose of OSPE came to light, to better serve its members.

OPSE has many services to provide both students and professionals, the most useful information from the presentation was advice about talking to potential employers.

- Do research about the company, show some interest in what they do
- Out-line your non-technical skills, everyone has a standardized education, make yourself stand out
- Don't ask "Do you have a job for me?"
- Don't ask about salary or benefits until you are drawing up a contract.

This presentation was one of the more useful in terms of personal learning.

5. Engineering as a Career presented by Larry Betuzzi, P.Eng.

A biography, a detailed biography of the life of an engineer

Too much irrelevant information was included in the presentation, confusing the audience. The premise of the presentation was interesting, to gain insight into the decisions, that I, as a future engineer, might have to make. The presenter would have benefited from practicing the presentation in front of an audience and taken feedback.

6. Engineering Landmarks in Canadian History

Presented by Bill Butuk P.Eng.

A fast paced examination of Canadian engineering feats, ranging from the Rideau Canal (completed 1832), the Avro Arrow to the Blackberry

The presentation was an eye opener into the possibilities that the engineering profession could provide. The presentation demonstrated the

influence a large, collaborative group could, like an engineering school, if a common goal is set.

7. Engineering Responsibility and Ethical Engineering Design Codes Presented by Dr. Mirza P.Eng.

The presentation examines the consequences of engineers making mistakes and the ethical philosophy that guides civil engineering. The first code was established 3800 years ago, in the Babylonian kingdom, it stated three guiding principles.

1. Finitus (strength and safety)
2. Utilitas (utility)
3. Venutas (grace and aesthetics)

The current ethical code has not moved far from this original document. The presentation also documented modern engineering disasters which included loss of life. This presentation made me step back and realize the potential for disaster associated with engineering and need for a regulatory body such as PEO to ensure public safety.

8. Olympic Torch Presented by Nicole Maillette Seller, P.Eng.

The presentation had two parts, the first being about the industrial side of Bombardier, in train design. This section concentrated on the new design for the Toronto Transit Commission subway system trains, the design concentrates on the needs of the public and public safety, incorporating several innovative features. The second part of the presentation was extremely interesting, Bombardier is responsible for the design and production of the Olympic torch carried across the country leading up to the opening ceremony. This presentation demonstrated the application of engineering in the real world, something as inspiring as the Olympic torch to a practical train design, all made possible through the use of engineering skills.

4. Evaluation

i) *Conference Organizers*

The conference, overall, was run extremely well, as with most conferences, issues with time management appeared early on and continued to be an issue through the weekend. Some events were rushed and there was not enough time for transport between the events. The events, for the most part, highlighted Lakehead University and its strengths, concentrating on the civil engineering department and what Lakehead has to offer as a university. To improve the scheduling aspects of the weekend, more buffer time

between events would give time for the delegates and the organizers to socialize and relax.

ii) Delegate

There were two main aspects to the weekend, the social side and the educational side. On the educational side, through the different presentations I took notes and tried to learn as much about the industry and the different organizations as possible. On the social side, in the evenings I met and talked with almost all the delegates at the conference. Both of the actions, I believe, represented the University of Guelph in a positive light.

I gained useful information and insight into the different organizations, both their services and functions, and how they can better serve the university, more specifically, the engineering department.

I attained both my goals outlined in the second heading, making contacts at other Ontarian Engineering Schools and learning about the industry.

If I were to have another chance at attending a conference I would try to do even more socializing, not only with the delegates, but also with the presenters and organizers. Those individuals could provide both the university and myself with possible opportunities