Ode to a Departing Dean

The last day of classes marks not only the end of another semester, but also the term of our current Dean, Dr. Michael Miller. His eleven years as Dean of Engineering will come to a close before the fall semester begins; eleven years which saw him build much of what we appreciate as engineers.

Doctor Miller took the position of Dean in July of 1997, when he was told to maintain perspective; to know that success only comes after learning to take the job more seriously than you take yourself. Already a chair in the Computer Science Department, Miller set out to gain accreditation for a Software Engineering program at UVic, among other ambitious goals. In his first few years, he oversaw the expansion of the machinery in the ELW, as well as vast increases in hardware in all the Engineering departments. In 2006, the new ECS building was opened for classes, being one of the most technologically advanced buildings on campus.

His two terms as Dean saw the hiring of an array of young and very well regarded professors. Bringing down the average age of his staff led to vast increases in research funding, with the up-and-comers’ strong focus on modern research. Now, after years of careful selection, UVic can pride itself on a staff whose focus not only generates research grants, but also connects with students on a level which only comparable age can foster.

Dr. Miller maintains, justifiably, personal pride in many of the things which make UVic the school it is today. Among other accomplishments, the success UVic students have had at design challenges, both of late and in the last decade, is something in which he takes particular pride. He believes strongly that UVic’s representation at past national Students’ Society Conferences has been strong, and that the presidential representation UVic has shown at these events has been unrivaled. These two things, he believes, display the true measure of the success of both UVic and the Engineering program over which he presides.

...continued on page 6

Looking for something more productive to do in class than Facebook? Take note of the funny quotes your profs rattle off in class and send them in to essa-com@engr.uvic.ca. Here are this week’s contributions:

“I don’t want to overwork your small brains” – Strutchup, MECH 390

“If it was up to the government, everybody would be driving Sherman tanks...with the turrets off obviously” and “Are you ready for some stimulation?” - Both from Dr. Sinton, MECH 345

“Send that special someone a 2cos(2x) on Valentine’s day to let them know you care” - Moore, MATH 101
WAR!

I’m sure that you’re all aware that the engineers are at war with the CScU, since we’ve been advertising it like nobody’s business. I must maintain that perpetuating this gruesome conflict is by no means my intention; but rather, I am obliged by my title to bring news from the front lines to those of you who have had your heads up your Ti-83+s during this conflict.

The table situation has been resolved. At 13:00 on Tuesday of last week, the table was returned to its previous, however illegitimate location (ESS head-quarters). It was a tiresome and romantic effort; removing the table from its rightful place was difficult to say the least. But worry not, keen ‘geer: a mysterious and ingenious member(s) of the engineering faculty has your best interests at heart. The prank has ended, its glory alterable, and the first steps have been made towards the Blitzkreig battle that will soon typify the ESS.

To further encourage the CScU to launch a counterattack, the engineers decided to win the LAN party. With no tools besides our 1337 gaming skillz, we destroyed the CScU in games like ‘Cuddle Your Pony’ and ‘Plan a Baby-Shower’ (it was their LAN - we let them choose the games). This, we assumed, would generate some hatred, or at least stimulate a desire to strike back. To further solidify this encouragement, the Order of Pi made an appearance at the LAN to cream on the face of their glorious leader. Surprising how even this didn’t generate any reaction.

We were then kindly informed that we could expect some retaliation; this was good news. To know that in some way, shape, or form, the CScU would try to show the ESS its place, and that the counterattack would be launched. And indeed, the CScU have shown the ESS its place; its place at the top rung of the ladder, stomping the clutching meat hooks of its computer science cohorts. There have been no challenges to our magnificence, no garnish to our potato salad; or at least nothing worthy of reporting.

Some may believe that this is because the CScU is planning an epic stunt; a stunt whose proportions are inversely rivaled only by the amount of deodorant its members use. I tend to disagree. I am of the firm belief that the reason is actually because, beyond the WoW map, the CScU has yet to hoard enough honor to launch an attack that would not embarrass it in the face of the engineers.

Whatever the reason, the fact remains that the CScU has been consistently beaten on every front the engineers have put the effort into putting up. This is of no particular concern, although it might not seem so. Why should they retaliate? It’s not as though we’re going to stop cracking StarCraft jokes and lipping off the other faculties if they do respond. Their response simply supplies the ESS with more motivation to ‘one up’ the CScU. The fact of the matter is that engineers will never be removed from the pedestal upon which they currently stand, no matter the magnitude of the offensive they are put up against. My personal advice? The “E” in ESS stands for inevitability, and one of the “S”s for spectacular, so keep your guard up.

By Liam Butters

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“...beyond the WoW map, the CScU has yet to hoard enough honor to launch an attack that wouldn’t embarrass them.”

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Once a Buffalo, always a Buffalo

Buffalo travel in herds. The herd can only travel as fast as its slowest member. Each month, the herd kills the weakest, slowest buffalo so that the herd can travel faster. It’s true.

Drinking kills brain cells. Contrary to popular belief, this is not detrimental. True to nature, drinking kills the weakest, slowest brain cells. Like the buffalo herd, this allows the brain to work faster. Therefore, drinking makes you smarter. Believe it.
**THE MONSTER NAMED UVSS**

By Ledo Vobis

There is an organization of which you are all part, which contributes very little, if anything, to your life. There are shrubs on campus which contribute more to the student body than this organization, despite the 1.2 million dollar budget pried from the thinning wallets of students. Welcome to the UVSS, the epitome of bureaucracy and the definition of uselessness.

The recent turnout of 15.6% for this year’s election, and a rousing 10% the year prior is an indication of how disenfranchised the students are with their governing body.

But why would the students vote? Neither of the disturbingly parallel platforms would give any more concern to the students after being elected, so the choice is really between the lesser of the two evils. It’s hard to justify chosing your leaders you agree with neither of them.

Team FAST handily won the recent election. They ran on a platform of immaterial sustainability, with more focus on saving the whales than for student engagement. They won by the landslide that is the radical left wing, but not without the help of pious supporters who were willing to bastardize the electoral process for a decisive victory. It’s hard to believe that a party who encourages responsibility and thoughtfulness would have such a blatant disregard for honesty; but welcome to the UVSS.

The horror stories of clubs trying to get some of this vast pile of money are not sparing. The UVSS has been known to undercut the democratic process by walking out of their own meetings when requests which don’t fit their personal agenda are laid forth. What groups do receive funding? The UVSS gives a portion of your student fees to smoke up their buddies on Wednesdays. It may just be the conservative opinions of the engineering department thinking for me, but it seems hard to justify giving money to get some aging stoner’s crack dealer out of prison and not to the plethora of groups which annually make legitimate requests.

The UVSS claims to have improved transit and yet students have failed to see any of these improvements. For years the UVSS has lobbied for a late night bus service, without much success. I find it difficult to believe that with 1.2 million dollars, a lobby group as vast as the UVSS couldn’t strong arm the Victoria Transit System into running two or three buses after midnight.

And in spite of this decade long failure streak, they are determined to continue to fight and keep blowing the students’ money on wasted causes. It’s not a matter of perpetuating the good fight, but rather of beating something long since deceased into further oblivion.

So where has all this money gone? The answer is simple; it has been consumed in the monster of bureaucracy that is no longer within, but now typifies the UVSS. The uselessness of this organization is as apparent as the truth of Newton’s laws. On the plus side, however, this group of politicians will actually be able to fulfill their promises to the students; it’s easy to be sustainable when you do nothing.

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**K TO THE EGGER**

Ye olde aluminum cylinder party is on yonder horizon, and we need your help. Despite rumors, the ESS is unable to consume the volume of BEvERages that will be present at this little get-together. So how can I help you ask? You can bring your A-game, a ping pong ball, maybe a roll of duct tape, and $10 to the ESS office or ELW lobby sometime this week. Tickets go on sale today, and are on sale until we run out, which will likely be pretty quick. The festivities are Friday the 4th of April, in a magical land known to many as ‘that guy’s house.’ Make sure you tell your friends, and tell them ASAP-ity, since time is running low. Also, I heard that Catherine Zeta-Jones was coming? Something like she heard about it from John Travolta and that she’ll roll in around 9pm. Better get there early to see the glow.
Celebrengineering

Gallivanting in the Sunshine

Some call him stunning; others say, gorgeous; but there is no doubt that Kiam Margarine is a flame in most girls’ hearts. This young heartthrob, however, seems to be unfazed by the herd of women who continually stalk him around campus. The young Mr. Margarine instead spends most of his time working, longboarding, and doing other things which cater to his artsy-like sensitivity. Never spotted without a smile and always adding to the levity of the room, the question that begs to be asked is: is Mr. Margarine even interested in women? Maybe he has something, or someone, to hide from the rest of us...

F’book Tells All

Mary-Anne Walette has everyone on edge. Facebook tells all that Mary-Anne’s relationship status has been changing more often than artsies change their majors. It is a well-known fact that the ‘book never lies, so what we really need to know is, what is the real-meal-deal beyond the virtual news-feed. Could it be that a boy has caught Ms. Walette’s eye and she is trying to grab his attention? Is she indicating to the general public that she is looking for a suitable boy to court her? Or did she become single, then quicker than you can say “dependent” she was snatched back up? While Facebook never lies, it sometimes doesn’t tell the whole truth and just causes more questions than are socially appropriate.

Love according to Alligators

One day, an alligator named Alan met another alligator named Andrea. Andrea the Alligator was engaged to Andrew the Alligator, but Andrew the Alligator hooked up with Alan the alligator on a pubcrawl. Alan promised to buy Andrea icecream to woo her. But Amy the Alligator wanted to talk to Alan the Alligator, so she waited for him beside, on the bumper, and tailgate, and in the bed of his Sonoma. She eventually fell asleep, but Alan was busy with other things, like his MECH homework. In an effort to further woo Andrea, Alan plotted to save an innocent golden retriever puppy from two other alligators (nameless) as they tried to run it down in their Plymouth. The puppy didn’t survive, and neither did Alan and Andrea’s relationship, or Andrea’s marriage, or Alan’s MECH assignment, or Amy’s plans to meet Alan. Everything died; just like in a Quentin Tarentino movie.

The Layman’s Explanation
**What Grinds my ‘Geers**

Facebook pisses me off. It doesn’t piss me off enough to boycott it because, like the rest of the world, I am vulnerable to whatever it is (not the f’n’ apps) that make it as good as crack. In principal, fbook is not so infuriating. What is a piss-off is the fact that Mark Zuckerburg, the brain behind the book, is the youngest bajillionare in the world. As I bury my head and plough through an engineering degree, I bust my balls to hopefully someday support myself and aid society while junior Zuckerburg is bathing in billions for exploiting both the omnipresent, innate tendencies of every human to socialize and to procrastinate. As another semester drags on, my ‘book usage will likely not diminish...but I won’t be happy about it. F’ook it.

- Fookerburg

Cellphone companies piss me off. Its not like any of us can imagine not having a cell, so they have our balls in their little digital vice. They all offer the same plans, only with tiny little differences. So you get what looks like a decent plan, on a cheap phone and you end up dropping a benjamin each month after system maintenance and 911 fees, and extra text messages. You know what, f**k text messaging. I hate sending them, I hate T9Word, and I hate receiving single word messages in the middle of class. And just like f’book, it’s not like I’m going to stop using them, I’m far too much a sheep to not do what the herd does, but I’m going to do it with such childish distain that I will make all your lives miserable.

- Blowlog

**Dear Potential Artsie,**

I hope that your choice to reside in a world of tree hugging, granola munching, and ultra-left wing politics will work out. I warn you now that you are about to begin a journey on the longest and most expensive path possible to that dream job at Tim Horton’s. I know that it seems interesting what the Aztecs did in 600BC, but last time I checked the Aztecs aren’t hiring, and even when they were, they needed engineers to build temples.

Enter Engineering, the gleaming beacon of prosperity in an otherwise artsie filled campus. Scrap that one-way ticket to Hippie-Ville (aka your arts application) and listen to me. It is time to beef up those math marks, ditch those arts classes and sign up for the faculty that can get you this magical thing known as a real job. What is engineering you ask, and why do I want to be in it?

You may still think that choosing a university program is a challenging life decision. It’s not. A simple pro-con chart is an easy way to guide you to a rational conclusion. Here are your reasons for and against becoming an engineer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tr>
<td>Not being artsy</td>
<td>A diet of pizza, coffee, and beer</td>
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<td>A diet of pizza, coffee, and beer</td>
<td>Making a living</td>
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<td>You’ll have class at 4:30 on Wednesdays</td>
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<td>No being artsy</td>
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Still not interested? Then just remember that an engineer designed the recycling bin that you will throw your arts degree in when you graduate.

Regards,
- Timbo-Slice

**K to the Egger**

With general fraternization, and consumption of BEvERages to the volume as is expect, you’d be stupid not to come to this Friday’s event. For $10, you can get as much liquid as your liver can cope with, and as many good times as your mind can handle. So heres the skinny: Friday, the 4th of April, at some location as listed on the ticket, for $10, and Billy Crystal will be there. You can grab your tickets up in the ESS office all week, or from your ESS Executive all week. I’m going, Edward Norton’s going. Buy tickets ASAPity
Ode to a Departing Dean

continued...

Dr. Miller’s inspiration comes from the students who persevere. It comes from the happy few who never relent in their quest for the iron ring; the same ring which he wears; the ring whose rough lines have been worn smooth from a lifetime of commitment. He maintains that while all engineers put their lives into their work, the students who took their second chance to succeed are the ones who he is most proud of, and who most deserve respect and admiration.

The challenges he faced during his terms were not only consuming, but thankless. During and beyond continuous budget cuts, Miller faced the demands of accreditation with both poise and command. His fight for the Software Engineering program, and maintaining the reputation of UVic’s diverse engineering departments was, although by definition bureaucratic, one of the reasons we are all currently at UVic.

After being such a significant part of the UVic administration and the Engineering department, Dr. Miller’s terms as Dean cannot be ignored. His contribution to our school is not only vast, but also progressive, having revolutionized much of what UVic Engineering currently is. He notes that he has learned much from his time as Dean, but most importantly that people are far more important than rules. That although regulation and constancy are important, the exceptions are perpetual, and that the single best measure of success is how you deal with these exceptions.

His plans for the immediate future include an administrative leave where he will travel to Germany to continue his research in the design of quantum circuitry. He plans to travel to Africa and work alongside the Engineers without Borders on their projects in Malawi before crossing Asia to do further research in Tohoku, Japan. He will then return to UVic and reassume his position as a professor of Computer Science, among his numerous other duties and titles.

Cheers to Dr. Michael Miller, dedicated UVic Dean of Engineering, 1997-2008

by Liam Butters

There is an end to Pi, and it was last week

by Sean Walsh

The thundering of ominous music from a small ghetto blaster generated more attention than usual at UVic during this past week. It indicated the arrival of the cloaked procession known as The Order of Pi. The Order dealt with one thing; justice by pie to the face. As a half dozen stone faced engineers marched to their trials, many followed, eager to hear the verdict and to watch as another deserving victim faced their filling of fate.

The charity drive, which is an annual tradition, is something of which UVic engineers may be proud. It’s one thing that UVic Engineering does better than any other Engineering school. This year was no exception. Under the leadership of a Mr. Mike Waters and with the heavy assistance of André Johnson, the event raised nearly $3500 for the Queen Alexandra’s Childrens Hospital.

Some of the most lucrative and enjoyable pies were thrown at, among others: Dean Miller, Dr. Nikitas Dimopoulos, Dylan and Tessa from 91.3FM The Zone, and some dude from Jahk Tech. Many others brought on personal enjoyment, and gathered donations for charity.

The spirit of the event is another matter of pride. The event brought together a team of dedicated individuals ready to sacrifice their own comfort, time and classes to contribute to the greater cause. Once again the event paid tribute to the discipline, hard work and focus of engineering students at UVic and it is our hope that the event may continue to be a success for years to come.

Cool Shtuff

A company called Desktop Factory is now selling a personal 3-D printer. The 90-pound microwave-sized printer can create any 3-D object designed on a computer that can fit inside the 5x5x5-inch chamber. Parts are created from a nylon-based powder which is deposited in 0.01-inch layers and hardened by a halogen. The uber-tech microwave rings in at only $5000. However, until it can whip out a BLT, steak, or fresh brew, I think I’ll keep my five g’s for equally entertaining shiny stuff. www.desktopfactory.com
What Got Done This Week

Contrary to popular belief, we actually sometimes do stuff here at the ESS. So in the spirit of proving this, the following is what went down this week:

- We actually bought a table, and an oaken desk
- We found the smell: it was pie, and it was foul
- The can of corned beef was relocated
- Mike Waters called people rude names
- An unusual number of people slept on the couch in the office. Some of these people did so more than once
- JP ate pork on Good Friday, like the dirty heathen he truly is.
- Andrew killed the plant, then nursed it back to life
- Sean dealt with the gopher problem, Alberta style
- We tried a hippy, the verdict was guilty, and he’s in the ocean.
- Janel broke her oath to stop swearing
- Liam introduced artsie-like tea products to the office
- JP began his Week of not Wearing Pants, as ESS law obliges him to do during his first month as an exec.
- There was an electrical fire, Eric put it out with magic
- We moved bodies in a UHaul van
- We planned the legger for this Friday
- Michelle figured out ways to get mad dollar for BugPush
- Feng Shui was introduced to the ESS, forcibly
- Eric is magic, he relates most to Gandalf
- Short and Easy carried stuff, poorly and slowly.
- We bought something that was purple and double ended

I hope nobody looks into what we actually did, because its still illegal in Mexico and Mississippi.

EWB day rocks the kasbah

Marshmallows, hot chocolate, engineers, screaming...what more could you possibly want in a competition?

Thursday March 6th marked the 4th annual national Engineers Without Borders day. This year’s theme was “fair trade” and all of the good it has to offer... including lots of chocolate.

To celebrate in Victoria, the UVic Chapter of EWB hosted a “marshmallows-and-straws-scaffold-building-competition” in the ELW lobby.

Twelve teams competed to see who could build the highest scaffolding. The winning team managed to get their tower just six inches short of the roof from the top of a table- it was a pretty impressive height considering the materials.

The afternoon wouldn’t have been complete without the fair trade hot chocolate provided to go with the left-over marshmallows.

Thank you to everyone who competed in support of Engineers without Borders and making trade fair.

Current updates from UVic Engineering Sub-Organizations.

AUVic is currently working on getting this year’s vehicle operational for its June competition. This will allow us ample time for testing. In addition we are actively testing and will be implementing our AUV based control at the start of April for our August competition. Check our website at www.auvic.uvic.ca or contact AU Vic at

UVic AERO had its first “test flight” recently and is currently fixing landing gear issues. We are very much hoping to be flying again on the weekend or next week. Contact aero@engr.uvic.ca for more information.

The Formula SAE team will be guest speakers at the monthly APEG-BC meeting in April. Student members of APEG are encouraged to attend. Meeting details will be on the FSAE website within two weeks. Contact FSAE at fsae@engr.uvic.ca

H2Drive is working on final preparations for the Eco-Marathon Competition taking place from April 10-13th at the California speedway in Fontana. Contact H2Drive at h2drive@me.uvic.ca

If you are interested in these groups, send them an e-mail and they’re sure to get you involved.
The Wrap Gang

Liam Butters  Publisher, GanstaWrapper
Sean Walsh   Gift-Wrapper
JP Markes    Role Model, Wrapist
Colin J. Tougas  Resident Cartoonist
Kathleen Barnetson  Grammar Nazi
Tom De-Haas  Advice Columnist
Marnie Woodman  General Awesomeness
Ledo Vobis       Mad Wrap-Tactics

Also, some major folding cheds to A.(Hall/Lund), Ashley, and Sam. To think you wouldn’t be recog-
nized for your efforts, even after throwing tape around when we try to fill the toner, is absurd.

Sudoku, fun to say, fun to do

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Editors Sign-Off: Sometimes I get all emo-
tional and like to cry on someone’s shoulder. That time is now. I hope this issue entertained you, I don’t really care if it didn’t because I know you don’t really love me. The FishWrap will return in September, with a whole new array of hypocritical opinions and irrelevent thoughts.

Hey, dude. Have you seen the new TI-89?
Yeah, dude, it's so rad

You weren't kidding, were you?
Uh... No

ENGR 4 Life

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER WITH APEGBC

Wondering what the future will bring, or about your career as an engineer? The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC recognizes that today's students are the future of the professions and is here for you through our Member Advantage Program for Students, or APEG- MAPS.

APEG Student Membership will help you get to know the intricacies of the engineering and geoscience professions and will be a transition from student life to professional life. As a student member, you will benefit from increased professional and financial opportunities through:
- regular updates on the professions in Innovation magazine
- student industry evenings
- online resume referral program
- access to APEGBC Branch and Division activities
- full access to all APEGBC online services
- eligibility for MAPS student scholarships
- special student pricing on APEGBC events and courses
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