

FISHWRAP

Official newspaper of the Engineering Student Society Stream A

Issue 1

All the news that's fit to wrap your fish



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Scan this with your phone, web-cam or anything to get the digital copy of the fishwrap. Enjoy!

So it's that time again, when the days are shorter, leaves are orange, and the froshies are frolicking all over campus.

First years (ie. Froshies), welcome to engineering. The world of calculators, camaraderie, and knowledge. Your involvement in frosh week, will if nothing else, provide you with something to do during your first week, when classes aren't too demanding.

So what exactly is Frosh? It is time to get to know your fellow engineering students; with whom you spend the next five years assisting, comforting, getting assisted and comforted by. You will meet the awesome second years and third years who will give you advice and help you survive first year, as we have all been through it.

REGISTRATION: Tuesday September 4 (THAT'S TODAY) at 4:00 pm at the presidents BBQ. In front of the patch fountain.

EVENTS SUMMARY: scavenger hunt, build challenge, "olympics" and many other awesome festivities...

WHAT DO I GET?

- hard hat
- t-shirt
- the best first week experience

FREE PIZZA - Semesterly General Meeting

Your Engineering Student Society is giving away free pizza!!!!
and it's the SGM.

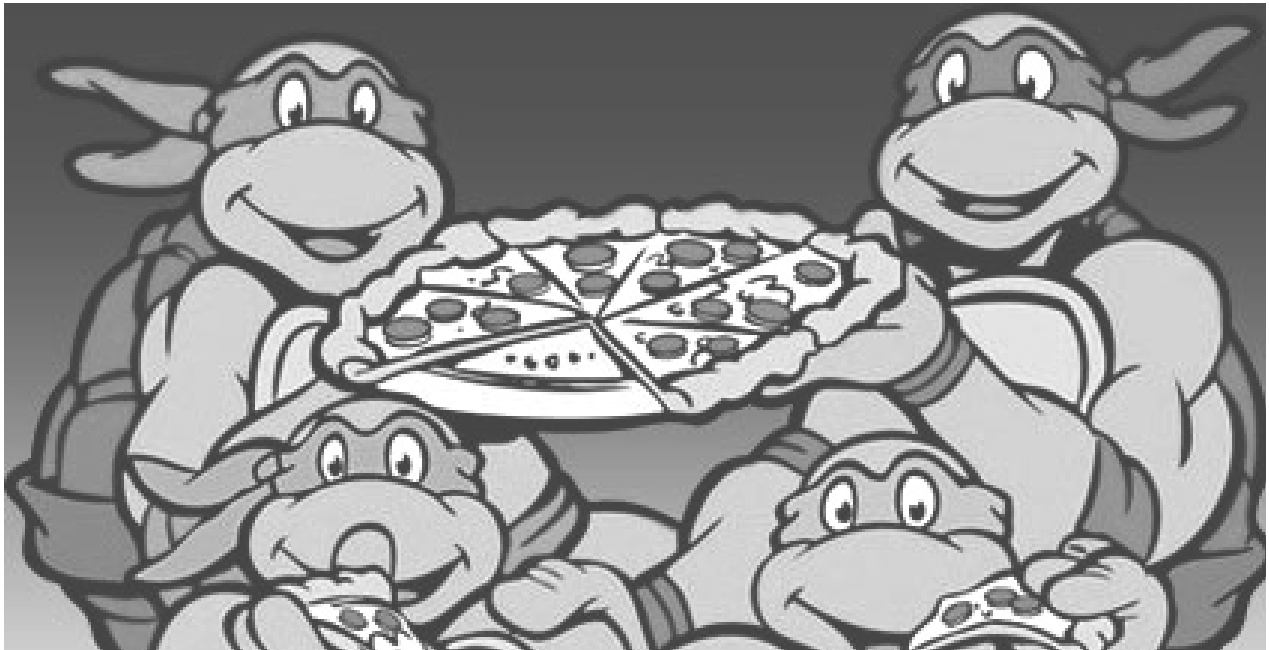
All attendees will get free pizza and a chance to have a say in how the ESS is run. There are a lot of positions up for election this term, or you can just come listen, vote and eat pizza. This is a great opportunity to get involved with the ESS.

Remember, you can always sign up as a Director at Large if you don't want to run for a position. It's a great way to start getting involved.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 11 at 2:00.

WHERE: ELW Lobby

WHAT: Elections, pizza, good times



TURTLE POWER!

Your Engineering Student Society

The boring description of what the Engineering Students' Society does is, according to our constitution:

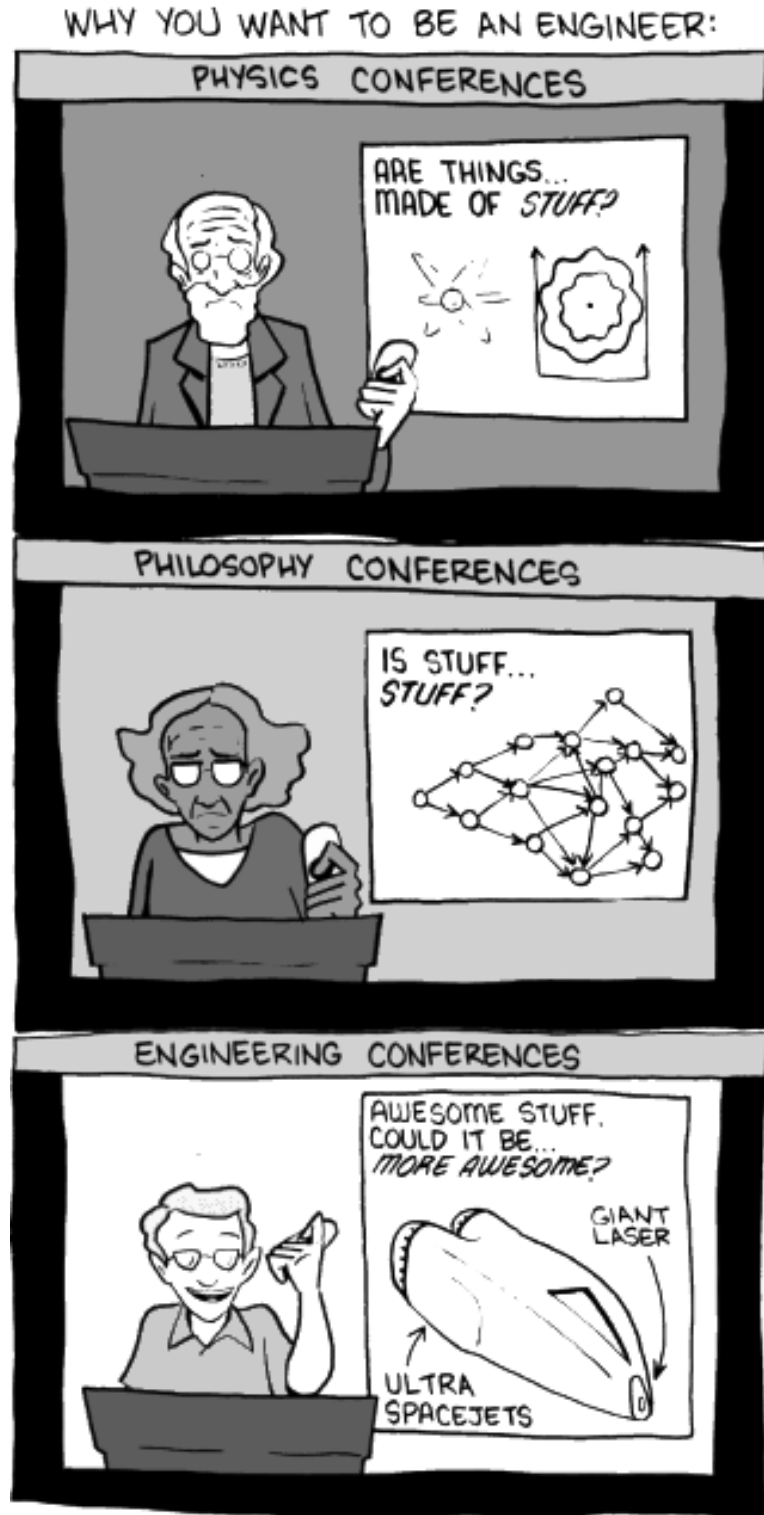
- i) To be the single voice of the University of Victoria engineering undergraduate students, and
- ii) To promote, direct, sponsor, and coordinate activities which will benefit the present and future University of Victoria engineering undergraduate students.

Which is to say that we try to make Engineering student life better and more awesome in whatever way we can. We host as many events as we think you can attend, including epic EEE's, hockey nights, video game nights, movie nights, potlucks, dodgeball, and more. Only about half our events are 19+ so if you are underage, or just prefer not to drink we still have lot's of events for you!

The Faculty of Engineering also uses the ESS for student representation on Academic decisions, including how to make the degree program better and more relevant. It is a continuous process, and we are always looking for input. So if you find a particular course really great or terrible, let us know.

The ESS also sends students to, and this is January hosting, the Western Engineering Competition (WEC). We will be having a qualification competition (UVEC) soon, and we'd love for you to compete, but more on that later. We also send delegates to several annual conferences across Canada where we look for ideas that we can steal to bring back to UVic and make decisions that affect students across the country.

You can hear about everything that we are up to by reading the Fishwrap, visiting our website ess.uvic.ca, or checking our bulletin board located in the ELW Lobby by the stairs. We'd also love it if you stop by our office to offer suggestions, help, or just to chat. We really are not that scary.



Engineering Student Society Executive

Every term the ESS holds a Semesterly General Meeting (SGM) where students elect new representatives and decide on policy changes. Within the next two weeks an SGM will be held in the ELW Lobby. Below summarizes the duties of each position. Positions are elected for 16 calendar months, unless the representative steps down. Approximate workload ratings have been given from 1-10, ten being high. Most positions are up for election and we'd love it if you ran for something.

President: The President is the Dear Leader. Glorious in every way. Ruling with an iron fist and death grip powers like Lord Vader, the President... sorry, apparently this is a fairly Democratic and lame Society where the President pretty much just gets to do the housekeeping of the ESS. Chairing the weekly meetings, talking to lots of people, making sure that nothing is forgotten, that the Constitution is followed, etc. Workload: 10.

Vice-President Academic: The No. 2 in the society, the VP Academic's job is to advise the Faculty on matters relating to the academic parts of your degree and seek out input from students. The VPA also acts as President should the President be absent. Workload: 7.

Vice-President of External (not up for election): The VPX is our contact to the rest of the world, or at least our equivalents at the Western (W.E.S.S.T) and National (CFES) levels. They are our head delegate at conferences. They host the qualification events for the Western Engineering Competition (WEC) and chair the Competition Team. They bring in guest speakers, if possible. And Finally the VPX helps to seek out sponsorship. Workload: 9.

Vice-President Finance: As the Vice-President Finance you are in charge of keeping the ESS from going Belly up. They keep create and maintain the budget, and disburse funds as required. Workload: 5.

Director of Events: The Director of events, you guessed it, runs the ESS events. Or at least helps out with them. Many events, such as Hockey Night, are co-chaired with other executives. The largest event that the Dir. Events runs is the Engineering Evening Excursion which is the most highly anticipated event of any term. Tickets always sell out fast, so make sure to get one. The Dir Events also chairs both the Events and Charity Teams. Workload: 7.

Director of Services: The Dir. Services is the unsung hero of the ESS. They keep the office well stocked with all consumables required. The most important being the Free Friday Slushies available to all who suit up. They also order our merchandise which can be anything from neon sunglasses (\$5) to credit card shaped bottle openers (\$5) or bandannas (\$5). This position requires access to a motor-vehicle. Workload: 5.

Director of Communications (not up for election): Who do you think writes this literary masterpiece every two weeks? Dir. Comm. Clever, witty, and all around awesome the Dir. Comm is on a never ending hunt for anything worthy of the students' attention. The bar is pretty low, so if you have something to contribute, send it to essacom@uvic.ca. They also chair the Publications Team. Workload off-week: 1, workload on-week: 11.

Director of Corporate Relations: If you are good at getting people to give you money then I have two questions for you. One: why are you putting yourself through the pains of Engineering? and Two: Why are you not running for Dir. Corp? This term they will be in charge of the Sponsorship Team working to put together a fantastic new Sponsorship Package. Workload: 6.

Director of Information Technology: SENG Students listen up! This is the position for you. It is all about programming. Last term we got a brand new ESS Website that looks super slick, but no one knows how to use it yet (I'm told it's pretty easy). If you think you can tackle that challenge, Dir. IT is for you. Workload for Mechs: 15, workload for SENG/ECE: 4.

Director of Sport (not up for election): As strange as it may sound, there is an Engineering Student Soccer Team. And we are pretty damn good. This team is managed by the Dir. Sport. They also run our other popular sporting related events such as Dodgeball and Hockey Night. Workload: 3.

Director of Student Relations: This position is in charge of getting as many students involved in as many things as possible. They are the ESS Engineering Clubs liaison. They are our contact for delicious multi-cultural food at potlucks. The host of epic Video Game Nights, and the source of cinema selection for the ESS Movie Nights. Workload: 4.

Secretary: The secretary is the Master of Minutes for the ESS. While their only required duty is to take minutes during the weekly meetings, they have numerous informal duties. Chief among these is keeping the office plant alive by taking it for walks, and finding a replacement when they eventually kill it. Others include tracking changes to the constitution, and making sure that the ESS's supplemental course material is always available for students. Workload: 2.

Want to look cool? Need some back to school clothes? Don't like doing laundry?

Stop by the ESS office (ELW second floor) to buy some sweet shwag. We have t-shirts, bandanas, bottle openers, sunglasses. (pictured right --->)



Engineering Students' Society Non-Elected Positions

Assisting the elected executive positions are a number of supplemental non-elected volunteer positions. These positions are divided into several Teams focused on specific tasks. Students part of these teams do not have any required duties, but are instead encouraged to help out when they can. Joining a Team is ideal for students looking to get involved without too much of a commitment. Feel free to join multiple Teams.

Events Team: This Team is all about FUN. This Team is the reason that Engineers are the envy of everyone else on campus. They put on the biggest and best events that you can handle. I don't see why you wouldn't want to join this Team.

Charity Team: Sure the Events Team puts on some sweet events, but are they saving the World? We are. This term the Charity Team will be hosting the World Famous UVic Bug Push. The premise: push an old Bug car around Ring Rd. for 12 hours straight. The result: music, food, fun, prizes, hotdog costumes, and support for a great cause. Sign up! A member of this Team will also be appointed Charity Co-ordinator to be put in charge of the event.

Competitions Team: You may have heard about the Western Engineering Competition (WEC). Where students from across Western Canada participate in an all expense paid 5 day competition in categories of Design, Debate, Innovation, Communication, and Consulting. How do you get there? By winning your category at the UVic Engineering Competition (UVEC), hosted by the Competitions Team. And don't worry, you can help out and still compete, just not in the same category.

Publications Team: Do you like writing? Researching? Taking pictures? Know how to use In-Design? Read XKCD? Watch HBO's The Newsroom? Than join the Publications Team. They stay up late and have a lot of fun.

Sponsorship Team: This Team is similar to the Publications Team this term. Except that they are focused on making a single, super seductive sponsorship package instead of a whole bunch of crappy articles. This Team should appeal to the more artistic among us who love to take pictures and make things pretty. Indeed, it is partly designed to locate them so we can carry them off into the woods. Join now!

Director-At-Large: Can't decide on a specific Team? Sign up as a DAL and be put on the general mailing list for all volunteers. You'll receive all the updates you need to stay informed, such as the weekly meeting agendas, and you can always join a Team later.

GPA Changes?

In light of the recent GPA changes at UVic...

Through my various travels and conversations with students from other universities, I have realized that grading systems are extremely convoluted everywhere. As we all know, UVic uses a wonderfully popular 9 point scale for our grades. Another popular system is the 4 point scale. Then there's the 4.5 scale, the 5 scale, the 10 scale, the 12 scale.

This is all quite ridiculous.

Every academic class in the country and probably continent starts with the same scale. 0-100%. Then using their own random conversion scale, they convert the standard percentage to some arbitrary integer. Also, this conversion usually reduces the precision of the grade. For instance, an 8 on the UVic scale could be an 85 or an 89.

To add to this confusion, UVic does not publish our grades in percentage form. Anywhere. So we, as students, has no idea what percentage we achieved in a class. All we get is a letter grade. This is very ambiguous and non-transferable. We don't have any hard numbers, such as percentages. Then the next question would be "what was the average of course X?" or "what was the distribution?" Of course, UVic does not publish these metrics.

There is a reason everyone starts with the percent scale out of 100. It is simple. It is base 10. And everyone is familiar with it.

~D Fresh

Confused by the streams?

Engineering streams is kinda like normal streams. There's fish (engineering students) and there are bears (classes, exams, labs etc.) Just study and work hard and...well this analogy doesn't work at all.



Pictured above: what not to do.

FROSH:



EXPERIENCES MAY VARY. ABOVE PICTURED ACTIVITY MAY OR MAY NOT BE RELATED TO FROSH

From the Editor

Welcome to the Fishwrap. This is the (un)official newspaper of Stream A. This glorious paper will be the source of events info, ess happenings and other awesome stuff.

This paper does not write itself. Every two weeks, after a lot of blood, sweat and tears, your fearless editors produce another fishwrap. You can make it easier and better by submitting your own articles. If you would like to write or submit an article email us at essacom@uvic.ca. We don't have any guidelines for articles. As long as it's interesting or funny we'll print it. Also, we normally do a running column on funny prof/student quotes. So if you overhear a funny one liner, sent it our way.

As always, send stuff to us at

essacom@uvic.ca

~D Fresh

Thanks to all who contributed:
Jacob Gulliver