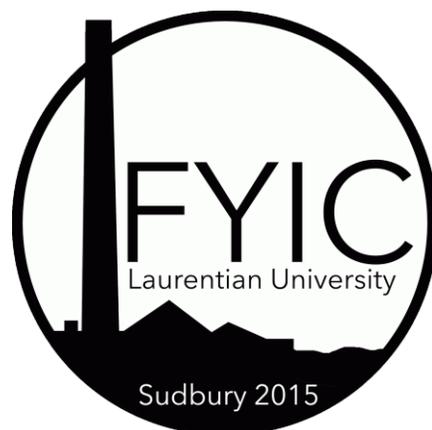




First Year Integration Conference 2015
Delegation Reports



03 April 2015

The First Year Integration Conference is one of the most important conferences, in my opinion, for our society as it provides a chance for first years a better understanding of engineering societies and inspiration to become the next future leaders of our society and school. This is reflected in my decision to send as many delegates as I could to this conference which included myself and four first years – this is the most our school has sent to this conference. I was disappointed that our Faculty did not provide any funding for this event. Instead, the resources that was allotted for CFES Congress was put towards this conference (in addition to my own personal money).

Stepping into the shoes of head delegate, I quite enjoyed speaking to the many first years across Ontario about their university experience thus far and their future endeavours. It was very reminiscent of when I attended FYIC as a first year at Lakehead University back in 2013. Although, our budget constrained us to rent a car to get to Sudbury, the four hour ride there and back was surprisingly enjoyable. Having barely spoken to the first years on a personal level, the car ride allowed us to bond over interesting discussions. These extra experiences truly define what you get from a conference aside from the knowledge gained from attending sessions.

I was very glad to see our delegates taking part, networking, and participating in conference sessions such as the mock elections and campaigning session. As VP External, I attended the plenary session with ESSCO executives and other VP Externals. The main highlight of the session was the bid to host the Professional Engineers Ontario - Student Conference (PEO-SC) between Ryerson and Ottawa (Ottawa won). This was significant as there had been no host for this conference in 2014 – no one seemed to want to top York's awesome hosting of this conference back in 2013.

Overall, this conference went seemingly well. Unfortunately, I did not see more interest in the conference until after the fact it occurred. I have mixed opinions on whether it is an issue of reaching out to students as students who would already actively engage in the application process of this conference clearly shows expressed interest than those who would hear about their positive experiences that had already took place. Since registration for the conference was due end of November, it makes it all the more difficult to garner the attention of first years off the upcoming exams to apply for this conference. However, I am satisfied with the delegates chosen and based on their experiences, I am very excited to see what new initiatives our delegates plan to begin at our school and their increased involvement with the society. To that end, enclosed are the delegation reports from Darika and Shayan of their experiences.

Shout out to Darika, who got our team first place at FYIC's design competition and did an amazing presentation of the conference at our Semi-Annual General Meeting!

Regards,



Tonny Lay
3rd Year Computer Engineering & International Development Studies
Vice-President External 2014-2015, Lassonde Engineering Society

List of Delegates:



Darika Sharma
1st Year Civil Engineering



Shayan Monabbati
1st Year Computer Engineering



Affan Behzad
1st Year Mechanical Engineering



Firoz Amin Dhanani
1st Year Space Engineering

Darika Sharma: Delegate Report

The First Year Integration Conference proved to be the most insightful resource for a rookie university student. Beginning from the comprehensive advice sessions, traversing to the group design competitions, the individual presentations and complimenting the event with a banquet, FYIC upheld its responsibilities of welcoming future engineers from around the province together.

The conference highlighted the various opportunities available to all university students. The most important presentations – counselled by experienced upper years who had proven time and again that they were very much eager to make transition to university a successful one for all - in my view, remains to be “How to write a campaign speech” and “Event Planning for Dummies”. Excited as I was at the prospect of starting a club in my university, I had minimal clues to initiate a single event, much less a package of bashes that I hoped for. The various presentations, especially the mentioned above, erased my doubts and aided me step by step towards planning ideas, starting a campaign and competing in elections etc. The most crucial and wonderful part of it all was that no idea, however dubious, was discarded. The encouragements and suggestions were plentiful, and were much needed for any amateur university student attempting to be involved in extracurriculars.

Furthermore, a presentation on dinner and conference etiquettes was included, and proved to be a crucial piece in the puzzle of becoming an engineer. My first year is swarmed with physics, chemistry and calculus, and has eluded my reality towards math. But FYIC bought its reputation – and eventually all of us as engineers - up a notch, by teaching us the place holders of dinner plates, glasses and utensils, conversing amidst interviewers, and etiquettes during speech recitals. We also continued onto dressing etiquettes for various functions/events, and the different dress codes and attires for each event were thoroughly covered. The art of Networking was intertwined into all discussions, and was practised during the banquet and the Design Competition (which I, including my team mates, am a proud winner of!). The confidence of all the delegates had surely raised a bar with the help of the vital knowledge passed.

Attaining ones Professional Engineers Ontario licence was also thoroughly discussed. Not only did this clear out my questions about the steps after graduation – impressively they covered our steps for even after university -, it helped me idealize prospective jobs/entrepreneurship for business etc. Volunteer opportunities, including working with ESSCO, were offered. These volunteer positions were in regards to engineering, which greatly enhanced my resume. Furthermore, co-op opportunities, including how to get them and turn them into a permanent job, were covered.

FYIC paved a direction towards success for all the engineering delegates that were fortunate enough to attend. It is surely proven to be a must for first year undergraduates, as the mastery taught at this conference can be levelled to no other!

Shayan Monabbati: Delegate Report

This year, four honoured first year engineering students from York University were delegated to attend the annual First Year Integration Conference, which was held by Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. The conference is an opportunity for students in their Universities' respective Engineering Society to engage, share, learn, and befriend with other members of other Universities in Ontario. There is no better way to describe what happened throughout the whole course of the conference than a timeline.

First comes the road trip to Sudbury. Some societies took the aerial route, but others, including ourselves, decided to take the long and exciting way to Sudbury: a road trip. A road trip offers the chance to really get to know your road mates, especially since we were five people stuck in traffic in a compact size car with nothing to do but talk.

The first place we arrived was a sports bar named Wacky Wings. The food wasn't too bad, consisting of all things brown and yellow: fries and chicken wings. It was a chance to spontaneously meet all the delegates in Ontario at once and just socialize without a worry about impressions.

All of the delegates stayed in the same hotel that night and the next night to come. Between staying in your room, chilling with some friends and playing cards and drinking games or just partying in some random guy's room, night-time at the hotel can be the most social and pleasurable moments during the entire trip. This is also the biggest opportunity to learn about different culture and languages. I have learned a few words in Hindi, including let's go, your turn, and come on. There was no time bound by uncanny restrictions, which means we were able to go to the McDonald's down the street at 3 a.m. when it was -30 degrees Celsius outside.

The actual conference came the next day. This is where each society sat next to each other in a lecture hall and listened to presentations given by head authorities, including VP externals and representatives of engineering companies in Canada such as Professional Engineers Ontario. This was a chance to learn and share ideas about leadership skills, improving the engineering society, and a personal work ethic. If you were not mentally wrecked from the night before, there was some information here that everyone could have taken home and applied. At the end of the talks there were opportunities for delegates to go up and show off what they learned by giving a public speech about anything. Of course, since we're engineers, it was easy to think of a spontaneous topic, however the delivery was the challenge for most people. There was a panel of higher year students willing to answer questions about future events and past experiences that delegates will experience in their career. That night was more of the same the night before. No more information is needed.

The last day was a goodbye to the friends and acquaintances we met and an opportunity to add each other on Facebook. I have added at least 5 people, which is a high number for me since I keep a close social circle. The experience was definitely worth it and if I was a first year again next year, I would go again.