

A conversation between Liam Mitchell and Robert Smith about contacting the ElecEng Alumni with the Elsoc-Alumni Night gathering invitation for 2025

LIAM: I know you have your own pathways to contact alumni however I was wondering if you have any suggestions on how to contact/encourage past alumni to attend the event as well.

ROB: Quickly for now, the Alumni that still follow Elsoc and ElecEng they keep an eye on the School's FB page. Maybe, you could start there? The interested ones, like the old Elsoc exec, will contact you or turn up.

a) Elsoc (FB)

<https://www.facebook.com/eeunsw/>

b) EEnT (FB)

<https://www.facebook.com/eetunsw>

c) EEnT School

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/engineering/our-schools/electrical-engineering-telecommunications>

LIAM: Is there another person or department on campus that may have a list of alumni names or emails so we could contact them?

ROB: Elsoc in 2016 asked a similar question to the Chancellory with the intention alerting the alumni of the first 'past-n-present night' where undergraduates could informally chat at a gathering.

LIAM: Did they get anywhere?

ROB: Not really. Even the head of school, Prof. Ambi weighed into the argument to support Matthew Rowe, the president, and Matthew Davis, vice-p, as champions of Elsoc. The Chancellory cited the main reason of not supplying any names was to maintain privacy of graduates.

LIAM: How did you find out?

ROB: Out of curiosity in the end of 2015, I looked for ElecEng's website on google and saw there was a Facebook site. Every couple of weeks I looked at the site and one day they put up the Past-n-Present Night inviting graduates to come and mix with the current undergraduates.

LIAM: Did you go?

ROB: Without knowing anybody, I arrived in ElecEng about 3 pm to see what I could recognise. As I was walking up and down the stairs I kept bumping into two guys that were passing me. I mentioned, "I've seen you guys before on these stairs! I'm here for the past-n-present night". They said they were "part of Elsoc and were getting things finally organised".

LIAM: Did you see anybody you knew?

ROB: Not a soul. I brought along my shoulder camera to capture some still and moving video footage so I could share with my other ElecEng buddies for them to see what happens. Maybe they'd be interested in coming next year. Also on the night, I did make some new friends where we swapped email address and mobile phone numbers.

LIAM: Do you have a link to the footage so I can have a look later?

ROB: Yes, you can find it on my webpage. It's a quick 7 minute video on YT. Some selected frames from the still footage haven't been extracted as yet.

https://eeexplorer.info/1_ElsVis16PnpBrief

LIAM: How did you find out about the Alumni Connect Night in September of 2016?

ROB: Nellie Taubman emailed me from the ElecEng School Office mentioning my email was passed on by Elsoc. On that night, as other Alumni were there for the annual talk/presentation. There was also a list of printed email address and space for new one to be entered. From that, I saw there was a list of Alumni graduates where an invitation was emailed for the next Connect Night.

LIAM: Did you find out about the 2017 past-n-present night?

ROB: I kept in touch with Elsoc over email asking to be informed when the next one will be so I could email my ElecEng friends to come along. Naturally, I kept an eye on their FB page just in case they advertised it and forgot to email me.

If you're interested, the YT footage of the clip was inspired and went for about 12 minutes.

https://eeexplorer.info/1_ElsVis17PnpBrief

LIAM: Did the Alumni contact list grow?

ROB: I saw different people at the Connect Nights over the years. It must have grown. Somewhere, along the years, Nellie Taubman's husband who was a senior lecturer took up a post overseas. Nellie went over with him.

LIAM: Do you know what happened to the list?

ROB: I guess it must have passed onto Annabelle Sutherland, her successor and Executive Assistant to the Head of School. The Alumni Connect Night invitations kept appearing every year. I guess it was passed on. She came from the School of Architecture and served a few years in ElecEng before she retired.

LIAM: Did you keep in touch with Elsoc and the School Office?

ROB: Yes, sometimes I mentioned what we did in the Elsoc Common Room, the friendly interaction we had with the staff. I guess you could do that when you're part of the Elsoc executive walking in the corridors and bumping into different members of the teaching staff more than the average student.

LIAM: Did you find out who replaced Annabelle Sutherland?

ROB: Yes. Kaveh Fanian introduced me to her. Hopefully, Jolanta has Annabelle's list. Maybe you could approach her as the Events Coordinator to see if she could share your next crafted Elsoc-Alumni event?

LIAM: That's a good tip to reach out to some graduates.

ROB: While you're there, maybe you could ask if there is another path to contact ElecEng graduates from previous years.

LIAM: Are you still in touch with any of the undergraduates from your time or from 2016?

ROB: Yes. I have created an Acknowledgement page of the ElecEng people that had a mutual and easy interaction on campus. There is a current list and a long ago list of people via, LI, email, or mobile. I'm still looking for others to appear.

https://eeexplorer.info/1_YestyrAck

LIAM: Do you have a list of current people that you share posts on the LI Alumni group?

ROB: Yes. Most of the people on the list have had a face-to-face conversation about being on it. They comment from time to time over email of LI. In LI jargon, they're first connections who still resonate well with ElecEng

https://eeexplorer.info/1_AlumPosted

LIAM: Thank you for sharing your time.

ROB: Feel free to ask anything and anytime. I understand my replies may be 'out-of-date' but sometimes the conversation with another is the value you get from it.

Rob Smith
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5 Jul 2025