

Engineering Student Council Winter Newsletter

University of Virginia

19 December 2016

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

Letter from the President

Fourth Year Naveed Tavakol

UVa Engineering Community,

From our Engineering Student Council (ESC) Board and Committees, we want to wish each of you a happy holiday break and an enjoyable end to an eventful fall 2016 semester. This semester allowed us to develop new programs to bring engineers to other parts of the University, including our Engineer's Rotunda



Dinner and our bi-weekly "bagels on the lawn" social events. We also recently discovered that our council was present in one shape or form since the early 1900s (via documents from the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library), and therefore, we held our first-ever alumni event for recent graduates during Young Alumni Reunions Weekend this past October and have been developing our organizational records for future generations of ESC. Next semester, we have plans to introduce a variety of major mixers for faculty, staff, and students, as well as hold the second annual state Science Olympiad tournament at UVa— two goals that have stemmed from student interest in the past year. In addition, we are developing a UVa Engineering Yearbook, put together by our Communications Committee, which we hope to debut to all engineers by April 2017. Read below for more specific information on what we have been up to over the past semester, and please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions about projects for the future!

Best,
Naveed Tavakol
dnt5ed@virginia.edu

Meet Exec

• • •

President: Naveed Tavakol
Biomedical Engineering 2017

VP: Frances Morales
Biomedical Engineering 2018

Treasurer: Alex Lord
Biomedical Engineering 2017

Secretary: Casey Russell
Systems Engineering 2017

4th Year Board: Jessie Rivera
Civil Engineering 2017

Executive Board

The executive board consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 4th Year Board Director. This past semester the executive board worked to implement three main initiatives including: facilitating board cohesiveness, promoting organized events to facilitate student, faculty, and administration interaction, and representing the needs and opinions of engineering students at UVa. More specifically, the executive board organized a summer retreat for the incoming board members, the bi-annual “President’s Dinner” for all engineering organizations to collaborate and share ideas, and the infamous 4th year Oktoberfest in Darden Courtyard. The goals for next semester include organizing Engineer’s Week in March as a celebration for all E-School students, continuing to plan the annual Science Olympiad tournament as way to interact with younger students interested in STEM, and continuing to find ways to better serve engineering students at UVa.



Exec members Frances Morales, Jessie Rivera, Naveed Tavakol, Casey Russell, Alex Lord shown above

Academic and Professional Development (APD)



First year advising before fall semester begins

The APD committee of Engineering Student Council provides opportunities for students of the Engineering school to engage in career building events such as resume workshops, company tech talks, and technical workshops. APD dedicated itself to providing unique events for the Engineering student body, including the Public Speaking workshop co-sponsored by the Jefferson Society and a Research Funding Seminar co-hosted with the Center for Undergraduate Excellence. In addition to this, APD also ran the annual peer advising workshop for incoming first years, an event that welcomes first years to the E-School right after the Dean’s Address during Fall Orientation

(shown above). Next semester, APD plans to host a 3D printing workshop as well as another round of resume and funding workshops with the Center for Engineering Career Development.

Social and Community Development

The social and community development committee plans events to foster interaction between engineering students and their peers. The committee focused on planning several large-scale events that were open to all engineering students, most notably the Engineer’s Rotunda Dinner, which celebrated the reopening of the Rotunda. Other events included the first-ever “Darden Darty” (shown to the right), where students were invited to socialize and enjoy food



Students enjoying “Darden Darty” in September

during the last bit of warm weather at the end of September. For the last day of classes, we also co-hosted an event with the service and community outreach committee, titled “Donut Stress,” where we handed out free donuts and coffee to celebrate the end of the semester. Next semester, we plan to carry the momentum from a strong fall semester and host a trivia night, as well as a number of school-wide mixers with the McIntire School of Commerce and the School of Nursing.

Service and Community Outreach



Flipping pancakes for Pancakes for Parkinson's

The service and community outreach committee strives to connect the engineering community to the University and greater Charlottesville area through volunteer efforts, educational outreach programs, donation drives, and more. In doing so, we hope to give back to the wonderful community that has given so much to us over the years. To achieve those goals, the committee ran a griddle at Pancakes for Parkinson's, hosted the “Faculty Foodfest,” an appreciation dinner for engineering faculty, and organized a positive-note sharing table at the “Donut Stress” social event.

This upcoming semester we look forward to hosting the 9th

annual Pi-Miler, the second-annual Virginia Science Olympiad State competition at UVa, and a banner-signing event to emphasize the engineering school's stance for equality and denouncement of hatred.

Health and Wellness (HAWC)

Established in 2015, HAWC is dedicated to ensuring opportunities for engineers of all years to maintain physical and mental health throughout the school year. As busy engineering students, it is easy to focus solely on schoolwork and neglect to maintain a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle. This past semester, the committee hosted a Sustained Dialogue event, which focused on diversity within the engineering school and provided an opportunity to discuss student life at the university. Additionally, the committee worked in conjunction with the Green Dot initiative, educating students about this endeavor and allowing them to place a green thumbprint on a map of Charlottesville (shown above). During finals week, our committee also hosted a stress reduction workshop with a guest lecture from Sam Green, a faculty member who teaches mindfulness on grounds. Our goals for next semester include planning an engineering wide scavenger hunt to encourage living an active lifestyle and further collaboration with Sustained Dialogue.



Green Dot Initiative in September

General Body



Students enjoying bi-weekly "Bagels on the Lawn"

The general body committee is responsible for organizing and executing initiatives that promote a sense of community and self-governance within the engineering school. In the Fall 2016 semester, the committee organized the "Bagels on the Lawn" initiative, giving students the opportunity to give feedback to ESC while enjoying Bodo's outside of a room on the Lawn. We also facilitated the applications for the Student Taught Classes initiative and are excited to announce next semester there will be six total courses. The Take Your Professor Out to Lunch program this past semester was also another popular project, which

gave students the opportunity to bond with their professors in a non-academic setting. Next semester, we will continue to facilitate these programs and are always brainstorming other initiatives to fulfill the general body goals.

Study Abroad

The study abroad and experiential learning committee aims to expose students to study abroad and external internship opportunities. The goals for this past semester were to coordinate the Engineering Study Abroad Panel during Global Week with Maya Drake and Professor Dana Elzey, the faculty heads of the engineering study abroad programs, and to carry out our main event of the semester, SEAS The Day (shown to the right). We also began creating research and study abroad course catalogs, which will be completed next semester. During the spring semester we will also create a new study abroad video, with the help of the ESC marketing committee, and host a "Study Abroad Week" in the engineering school. Finally, we will hold the annual study abroad picture competition, where students can submit their favorite pictures from their previous study abroad experiences. Judges will choose their favorite pictures, which will then be awarded prizes and displayed in Thornton A-Wing!



"SEAS the Day" co-sponsored with Dana Elzey and Maya Drake

Communications

The communications committee is dedicated to creating an engineer's yearbook for the 2016-2017 school year with hopes of establishing an annual tradition for graduates of our program. The first (and last) known yearbook for the E-School occurred in 2007, so we are very excited to reignite this tradition and capture the achievements of the students, faculty, and administration of the 2016-2017 academic year. The theme for the yearbook will be "Across the SEAS," which will provide a great way to highlight the many

diverse opportunities that the engineering school provides. We hope to include pictures of all 4th year engineers, pictures of each class within each major, as well as sections on each individual engineering organization. In order to pay tribute to the 180th anniversary of the Engineering school, we are also planning on having a section about the history of the Engineering school as a whole. For next semester, we plan on finishing the yearbook layout and promoting its sales.

First Year Representatives



"Breakfast Bash" in Darden Courtyard

The first year committee is dedicated to providing the first year class with a comprehensive learning experience both inside and outside of the classroom, while fostering a sense of community and camaraderie within the UVa Engineering Class of 2020. Composed of roughly 45 students, the committee hosts class-wide events focused on creating friendships and bonds within the first year class that will last throughout their four years of college and beyond. This past semester, the committee hosted two main events. The "First Year Breakfast Bash" occurred at the beginning of the school year in Darden Courtyard and allowed first years to bond and play activities outside while enjoying various breakfast foods, including bacon, pancakes, and bagels. During "Cocoa and Canines", a de-stressing holiday event before final exams, students had the opportunity to play with therapy dogs while enjoying cookies and hot cocoa. Next semester, the committee looks forward to hosting a major open house to help acclimate first years to the major options available to them. Additionally, the committee hopes to host another community bonding event within the first year class.

Second Year Representatives

The second year committee represents the School of Engineering and Applied Science's Class of 2019 and works to foster unity between Engineering Student Council, the student body, and the faculty. The second year representatives also serve as mentors in selecting and guiding the first year committee and its representatives. This past semester, we co-sponsored the first annual Renewable Energy Research Fair with UVa Sustainability in October as a component of EnergizeUVa. The event, which was aimed at increasing sustainability awareness and initiatives in the E-School, had the most attendance of any EnergizeUVa event this year. Next semester, we aim to organize seven separate major and student-faculty mixers, a potential Engineers' Ball, and a STEM trivia night.



Discussing sustainability at the Renewable Energy Research Fair in October

Third Year Representatives

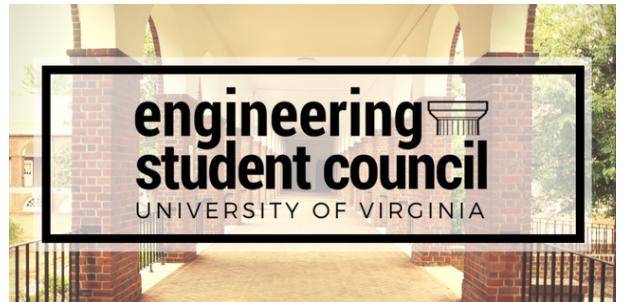


Third year mixer for CS, mechanical, and aerospace engineers

As ESC's third year committee (TYC), we aim to foster a sense of community by organizing academic, social, and professional events for third years. Specific goals for the past semester included creating stronger inter-major relationships. As third year progresses, we are no longer in introductory level classes with all types of engineers. In the fall, TYC hosted three inter-major mixers with different activities. Computer science, mechanical, and aerospace engineers enjoyed pumpkin painting and apple cider in Darden Court (shown to left). Systems, computer, and chemical engineers had some friendly competition during a pizza and trivia night. Lastly, electrical, biomedical, civil, and engineering science majors had a movie and pizza night. Some plans for next semester include continuing to improve interactions between majors, hosting capstone information sessions, and co-hosting professional events to help students find internships.

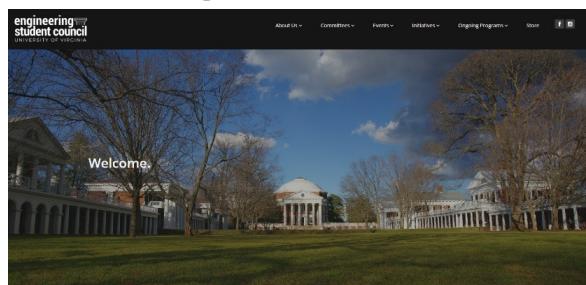
Marketing and Advertising

The marketing committee is responsible for broadcasting ESC events to the SEAS community and branding ESC events. In an age where an even higher percentage of students use social media daily, we've found our efforts to be largely successful as attendance for many of our events have steadily increased, noticeably with our regularly occurring event Bagels on the Lawn. Additionally, this year we've reintroduced the Engineer School Rotunda Dinner event and within minutes of the sign-up launch, we reached our reservation capacity. This year we have also began the process of rebranding the image of Engineering Student Council by redesigning our logo and the displays of our social media accounts (shown above). We decided that ESC needed more of a robust, professional look, separating ourselves from the dated look of the typical Rotunda-logo that didn't properly reflect our status as engineers. We look to build a stronger presence on Grounds through this re-brand by using this logo more frequently throughout our event marketing to establish a stronger sense of organization and trust among students.



New ESC logo shown above

Technology



New ESC website shown above

The technology committee aims to develop engineering student's interests in technology here at the University of Virginia. We strive to introduce trending topics in technology to keep UVa engineering students well informed and prepared for the professional world. Our main goal this semester was setting up a standalone

website for Engineering Student Council. You can access it at www.uvaesc.com! We maintain the website and update it (at least) weekly, while always adding new features. We also hold more learning-oriented events for the engineering school like seminars and lectures. This semester we held the "GitSmart" event, where we taught the basics of Git and Github. Next semester we will help host HackUVA, a hackathon for both UVa students and those from outside the university.

Fundraising and Visitation Committees

In total, there are 14 committees on Engineering Student Council, with the last two (but not least) being fundraising and visitation. The fundraising committee is in charge of raising revenue for ESC initiatives primarily through designing and selling engineering apparel. The visitation committee is responsible for training E-Guides and giving informative tours to prospective students throughout the year.

Happy Holidays from Engineering Student Council!

We hope this newsletter shed light on the accomplishments and goals of ESC as we begin planning for the spring 2017 semester. Engineering Student Council would also like to thank its board and committee members, the UJC/Honor/StudCo engineering representatives, alumni, faculty, staff, and administration for all their hard work this semester. Happy Holidays!



Contact Us

Website: www.uvaesc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/uvaesc

Instagram: www.instagram.com/uvaesc

E-Mail: uvaesc@virginia.edu