What’s in this issue?

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

FAQ: GEER STORE
Frequently asked (best and worst) questions, so you know what’s up

AN ARTS SEMESTER
Three arts classes, one engineering student.

CAMPUS CUP
Three years of an all-engineering team

Finals are coming...
By Michelle Mabuyo, AVP Publications

Here it is, everyone: the home stretch. We all have to survive just six more days of classes and then our focus completely switches over to finals. If surviving to you means pulling all-nighters to finish up a project you definitely shouldn’t have left so late, then stock up on coffee or energy drinks and get a buddy to keep each other productive! If it means handing in half-done assignments just to get partial marks, then by all means write as many formulas and draw as many free body diagrams as you can! Even if it means just dragging yourself out of bed and making it to campus for the day, then I hope you get to your favourite engineering building and settle in for a productive day! Don’t forget to give yourself a few breaks to breathe, and remember that we’re all in this together, and everyone is cheering you on (disregarding all those jokes about bringing the curve down). Enjoy this last issue of the semester and we’ll see you in January!

Want to volunteer for The Bridge next semester? Send us an email at avp.publications@ess.ualberta.ca
Frequently Asked Questions at the GEER Store
By Aksana Engel, Civil IV

The ESS volunteers who work at the Geer Store get a variety of questions. We’ve compiled some of the best questions we’ve received this semester.

Can I use the microwave?

Of course you can! Just remember your microwave etiquette. Taking out someone’s food while the microwave is running so that you can warm yours up instead is not cool. Remember, your ESS volunteers are watching. :)

Can I use the stapler?

No, it’s just for decoration.

I’m kidding, please feel free to use the stapler! We have two different staplers, one for assignments less than 80 pages and a tank stapler for those huge lab reports (80 plus pages).

Do you have engineering paper here?

We sure do and it only costs 5 bucks, which is two dollars cheaper than what the bookstore sells it for!

Does the color of my engineering paper matter?

Yes, if you do not hand in your assignments using engineering paper that isn’t your professor’s favorite color, you will lose 5 marks every time.

You may as well just said “I’m a first year!” The color of your engineering paper does not matter! We always have blue engineering paper available because it is our standard color, however every semester we order in a special color that people can purchase instead. We do this generally just to make your homework slightly more enjoyable. Who doesn’t enjoy completing their massive assignment on purple engineering paper? Plus, the bookstore sells colored staples, which means you can make your assignments match even more, if that’s important to you.

Are the handbooks free?

They sure are! Feel free to pick one up throughout the year, we always have some available!

Can I get a sticker on my calculator here?

Unfortunately not, you’ll have to walk a little bit farther to get those. Stickers for calculators are available on the 2nd floor of ICE in Room 2-300!

Do you have geer cards?

This year we tried a different type of discount card. Remember how the geer cards had discounts at maybe 8 different places? Scout cards cost ten dollars but you can get discounts at over 100 different places, including bars and eateries. Check out their website to see all the amazing discounts (www.scoutcard.ca)!
Win or Break: 2015 Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition
by Solbee Seo, Mechanical II

100 popsicle sticks and white glue. The ultimate ingredients for crafts. Even crafting, we engineering students take it as seriously as we do about guessing time for the shortest line-up for coffee. Over 40 teams of engineering students gathered in Solarium on November 19th, 2015 for the 27th Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition, held by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Club.

Each team designed a bridge that fit into the set dimension, using only two materials: maximum 100 whole Popsicle sticks and white glue; at the competition, the bridge was applied to continuously increasing loading until it broke.

This year’s strongest bridge was Bridge 2 which endured 373 lb., the weight of almost 5 Golden Retrievers (Load-to-weight ratio: 1.23 kg/g). The ranking followed by Senior Prosperity Bridge (301 lbs) and Dianne (260 lbs). The Highest First Year’s Team was Fresh Bridge of Bel Air which withstood up to 239 lbs; Hotline Bridge won in both sections: Best Failure Prediction and Most Spectacular Failure; Judges’ Choice went to Trussworthy Bridge Design.

Join the squad next year if you didn’t participate this year, and congratulations to all winners and participants at 2015 Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition!

7 things Lady Gaga has in common with Engineering:
1. She is technologically advanced (at least her voice is).
2. That’s it.

SNAPCHAT: bucklingESS
Send us snaps of engineering life. Maybe you’ll end up being featured on EnggLink as the Snap of the Week!

Please be aware that all snapchats will be saved. So be careful what you send.
How Does Your Discipline Deal With Stress?

CIVIL
We multiply it by area to get force.

FIRST YEAR
perform satanic rituals, drinking the blood of my enemies.

CHEMICAL
drink

FIRST YEAR
I treat myself to a premium jerk off session

ELECTRICAL
By curling up in a ball and crying. Actually by drinking, watching Netflix, and limiting how many hours in a day I work.

MECHANICAL
foosball in the MecE club room

ENGINEERING PHYSICS
I don't deal with it, I just go as long as possible doing my homework and studying without acknowledging it. Once it gets to that breaking point though my soul gets crushed and I become a shell of my former self until I have the opportunity to revitalize myself with a couple bottles of vodka.

Don’t see your discipline up there? Have better strategies? Fill out the form at http://goo.gl/forms/55aoM8APm2 and we’ll run it in the next issue!
My Semester as an Arts Student
by Sarah Elder, Electrical V

We compare schedules, course loads, and credits. We poke fun at classes with funny names and the stereotypical “dead-end” degrees. We’re known for looking down on them. They are the Arts Students, and I spent a semester as one of them. This has been very confusing to students who don’t know me. “How can you be President if you’re an Arts Student?”. Let’s be clear, I was taking all electives this semester (ITS, Complementary Studies and an extra class to stay full time) for a grand total of 3 courses. #VictoryLap

BLAW 422, HGP 250, and SOC 100: these were the classes that would challenge me for my non-engg semester. As I progressed through the semester, it became clear to me what the huge arts advantage was: all my classes relate to each other. I’m not talking about how we take math so that we can integrate in future classes, I mean that the topics in all three of these classes crossed over and built upon each other at some point. Not only did that make them easier at times (less studying), but it made the classes more interesting since I could draw those ties. The extent to which these classes linked up was something I haven’t experienced in engineering. Also, I found that I was able to build connections with my profs. Informal conversation, laughter, and even sharing webcomics felt totally natural with them. This is a bit more personal but I’ve never connected that way with one of my engg profs. It certainly has had a positive effect on my attendance. Another big plus: NO ASSIGNMENTS. None. Zero. Zip. In total, I wrote 4 midterms, 3 finals, and one class had some in-class quizzes on the readings. The downside? The readings. Many, many readings.

So far, being an arts student sounds pretty good hey? Being an Arts student with Engg benefits is pretty sweet. I did, however, discover a dark and ugly side to campus: isolation. Believe it or not, I’ve made a few friends over in engineering. I used to spend nearly every waking moment in ETLC. This semester, thanks to a part-time job with U of A International, and all the Arts classes, I don’t even hit the NW side of campus every day. For a while, this translated into a deep feeling of isolation. A sense that I was missing out on everything happening in the faculty. I rarely saw my friends, had trouble connecting with the faculty, and in general had a sense of longing for what can only be described as my second home.

I’ve since made more of an effort to stick around the engg buildings more. Chilling out in club rooms, cracking jokes, and just being present in a space where I feel included has evaporated the sense of isolation I felt in Arts. The large classes make it tough to connect with other students. I imagine many students feel the same way, especially in first year. Finding your place on campus is tough and I’m thankful I found mine. Conclusion? I’ll take the tough classes, endless assignments, and a host of friendly faces over Arts any time.

Once a lad of brilliance i was,
Day in and day out nothing could stop me,
Now everyday as i watch Kim Chow i realize i am nothing compared to him.

Keep it under e lines: http://goo.gl/forms/wNlRppFx2B
Humans of ETLC
By Solbee Seo, Mechanical II

“The perk of being a Geer Store volunteer is that you get to see what’s happening in ESS and you know that GEER STORE ONLY ACCEPTS CASH. Also, when people ask me if they can use the stapler, I can be like ‘Are you allowed to use stapler? Um, well…’ and give them a disapproving face.”

Dear First Year
Subhashis Chakraborty, Electrical IV

Don’t worry about doing so bad. Here. I’ll share a little story of mine.

Back in high school, I thought nothing could stop me. I was eager to start my engineering degree and I thought I could easily get a 3.5+ in my first year.

Classes started and midterms came along. I didn’t get higher than a 58% on any of my midterms. I was devastated., I thought I made a lot of progress coming into the second semester, with my overall GPA rounding up to a 2.0! But then, a few weeks later, I was told that there was a marking error on one of my finals and my GPA dropped down to a 1.9. I was put into Year 2 Qual 2 on the verge of being kicked out. In Y2Q2, I worked really hard and received an email confirming I got into electrical engineering which was my first choice! I was at the peak of my happiness at this point.

3rd year started and things got dark; that fall semester was probably the worst part of my life. My friend from high school committed suicide, and I was having relationship issues. I barely studied, I did badly on my midterms, and on top of all that, I was under depression for over 6 months and at one point had suicidal thoughts nearly every hour of the day. This lasted till finals and I got an overall GPA of 1.6. My lowest ever yet.

I reflected upon myself over the winter holidays and I realized I had made the biggest mistake of my life. I should never allow some numbers or letters to affect my mental and physical health so much that I reached the point of suicide. That should never happen TO ANYONE.

In the following winter semester, I used my dreams and goals as a guide and the fact that I would never see my friends again if I was kicked out to motivate me to work harder. I got my first ever A in a course and I finished the semester with a 2.6. I’ve never been more proud of myself for pushing myself.

You all have the capabilities in you to do well. Keep going, you wonderful people.
You all have the capabilities in you to do well. DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE EVER GIVE UP!!! You WILL do well and you WILL graduate if you truly love engineering. Keep going, you wonderful people. If I can get through failure, Qual 2 and a 1.6, you can too. I’m no one special or exceptional.

**Campus Cup: Engineering Style**

By Michelle Mabuyo, Computer IV

FBD, PDE, ETLC... These words should be familiar to you, but they hold another layer of meaning to me. To the typical engineering student, these three words mean Free Body Diagram (always draw them!), Partial Differential Equation (follow those steps to solve them!) and Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (aka your second home!). But to me, these three words have also been the names of the dodgeball teams I’ve competed in for Campus Cup.

I competed in Campus Cup in my first year with a Lister Henday alumni team in the Competitive league. Having had minimal experience in dodgeball and being very bad at physical activity in general, it was pretty scary. But the atmosphere was really fun, and you get custom team t-shirts (!!!). So my mind was set to do it again next year, but in the rec stream.

In second year, I got together with my first year engg crew and we formed FBD: Frequent Beer Drinkers. The experience was amazing. We finished last in our group and I walked like a grandma the day after but it was amazing. Sure, we’ve all hung out outside of school together but there was just something about bringing a team together and doing something fun that really made the event special.

In my third year, it was the same crew with some people missing and a couple new people and one person who switched out of engg but we kept him on anyway. We formed PDE: Periodically Drunk Engineers, with the best intimidating line cheers of “We’re gonna partially differentiate you!”, “We’re gonna separate your variables!” and “You’re the constant, we’re the differential, and we’re gonna eliminate you!” We only had three girls (the minimum requirement), so I got to play all the games and I hurt in all sorts of ways the day after. We finished second last this time though (one game we won because the other team didn’t
show up...).

This year, our team name is ETLC: Engineers Throw Like Crap. Now, this name might cause some controversy but I personally like it because I fit in that particular category. Alternatives were Engineers Think Like Calculators or Engineers Throw Like Champs but hey, democracy rules. Continuing with the pattern, I’ll probably feel the burn tomorrow morning but fingers crossed, we do better this year!

I know there’s been other engineering-themed teams, and hopefully they’ve done a better job of representing the throwing and dodging skills of engineering. If you haven’t competed in Campus Cup, I definitely encourage you to do so! Get together a team of engineering students and release some stress from the school workload (or you can even do assignments in between games...). But you deserve a break!

Distraction Corner

Riddle Me This

1. I am the beginning of the end, as well as the end of time and space. I am essential to creation and I surround every place. What am I?

2. Where would you rather be: trapped in a burning room, in a room closing in on itself, in a room with ten skilled assassins or in a room with six lions that haven’t eaten in four years?

3. What seven letter word becomes longer when the third letter is removed?

4. What is so fragile that when you say its name, you break it?”

5. A horse is tied to a fifteen-foot rope and there is a bale of hay 25 feet away from him. The horse however is still able to eat from the hay. How is this possible?

Riddle Questions and Answers at http://www.mademan.com/mm/hard-riddles-answers.html

by Stefano Jun, Environmental IV