

*Troost Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering and
the University of Toronto Engineering Academy Presents*

Snack Chat with Students: What I Wish I Knew in First-Year

Friday June 12, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 pm EST

Online

PANELISTS

- Archit Bhargava | ECE
- Awale Omar | CivE
- Emily Goridkov | TrackOne to IndE
- Julianne Atti | EngSci
- Vishakha Pujari | TrackOne

Moderator: Emzhei Chen, Assistant Director, First-year Student Success & Transition

Emzhei Chen, Assistant Director, First-year Student Success & Transition



Emzhei works in the [First Year Office](#) as the Assistant Director, First Year Student Success & Transition. In this role, she also serves as the academic advisor to TrackOne students. Her favourite part about Skule is Flrosh Week as she finds supporting student leaders and welcoming new students very exciting. This summer, Emzhei has been reading and is currently working her way through “The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight in the Age of Information Overload.” New book recommendations are always welcome.

Archit Bhargava | ECE



I am going into my second year of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Last year, I was involved with the Engineering Society as a class representative and member of the Board of Directors. I also served on the board of a Faculty Council Standing Committee. My favourite part about Skule is the inclusivity and warmth the community provides to new students. No matter what club or organization you join, you will always be able to find a senior student more than willing to help you out. My favourite first-year courses were APS111 and APS112 (Engineering Strategies and Practices). They are different from our conventional courses, and provide insight into how things work in the engineering world. This summer, I am developing some new technical skills through online courses to learn something new.

Awale Omar | Civ



Hi, I am Awale. I just finished my first year of Civil Engineering. I spent my time involved in student government as the first-year representative for Civil Engineering. It was a great opportunity to meet my classmates and build relationships with upper-year students. My fondest memory from first year was time spent with my friends in the Civ Common Room. Whether it was working on an assignment between classes or taking a break with a heated game of foosball, I really cherish these moments. In my free time, I love to immerse myself in stories through novels, comics, and video games. I have been spending my summer doing this and also focusing on my role as an Academic Mentor for the U of T Engineering Academy.

Emily Goridkov | IndE (TrackOne to IndE)



I am a TrackOne student going into Industrial Engineering in the fall! I am involved with the Engineering Society as the TrackOne class representative and member of the Board of Directors, Engineers Without Borders, and I am a writer for Skule Nite, the annual engineering musical/sketch comedy. My favourite part of Skule is the community of people. There are so many friendly, kind, and supportive students who helped me have an incredible first year. My favourite course was APS112 (Engineering Strategies and Practices). It is not strictly technical so I got to develop my communication and teamwork skills. I also enjoyed APS106 (Python) because it is fun to program. This summer I am taking two courses, and using this time to get back into cooking and film photography.

Julianne Atti | EngSci



I just completed my first year of Engineering Science and will likely go into the Robotics and Machine Intelligence major. In first year I volunteered for outreach events and participated in hackathons with friends. This year, I will be a leedur/Skule patrol during Flrosh Week and the Debate Director for the U of T Engineering Kompetition (UTEK). My favourite part of Skule is the community. It is awesome you can walk up to anyone in a Common Room or the Pit, start a conversation, and they will treat you like family. I am currently doing a cool research project with Professor Patricia Sheridan to move the first-year design courses online. I am also helping to build a website for a non-profit, relearning the guitar, and cooking.

Vishakha Pujari | TrackOne



I am studying TrackOne. In my first year, I got involved in the Swing Dance Club, the global community of scholars, and attended many events at the Centre for International Experience. My favorite part of Skule was joining the Swing Dance Club because I made new friends and connected with peers in different years. My favourite memory from this year was canoeing with Pearson Scholars because it was my first time playing a water sport. This summer I am working in the First Year Office with Emzhei Chen, Professor Chirag Variawa, and Professor Micah Stickle on data analysis and content development for APS100 (Orientation to Engineering). I have also started doing a HIIT exercise challenge with my friends.