

[Troost Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering](#) and
[the University of Toronto Engineering Academy](#) Presents

**Conversations with Club Leaders:
Getting Involved in Skule Student Groups**

Monday July 20, 2020
1:00 – 2:30 pm EST
Online

PANELISTS

- Alireza Razavi | EngSci (Aerospace), Year 4 | Director, U of T Aerospace Team - Rocketry
- Hanna Zhang | EngSci (Robotics), Year 4 | VC Operations, F!week
- Mirjana Mijalkovic | EngSci (Biomedical Systems), Year 3 | Vice-President Academic, Engineering Society
- Natalie Enriquez-Birch | IndE, Year 2 | Co-president, Engineers Without Borders
- Peter Di Palma | MechE, Year 3 | Team Captain, Supermileage Team

Moderator: Jordan Daniow, Leadership Education Specialist, Troost ILead

Alireza Razavi | EngSci (Aerospace), Year 4



I study Engineering Science (Aerospace) and I am the Director of the U of T Aerospace Team (UTAT) - Rocketry. For me, the most interesting aspect of this team is the collaborative team culture and challenging objectives. Although our team is quite large and has many moving parts, they collaborate well together on ambitious goals. My favorite memory from the team is travelling across the US to launch our rocket. All the events, pitfalls, and challenges of that trip make it the most memorable experience of my time with UTAT. I first joined UTAT because I was looking for an opportunity where I could learn all sides of engineering: hands on manufacturing, project management, team management, etc. A design team unified all of this into a single challenging objective and was a perfect way to broaden my capabilities and experiences as an engineer. Over the summer I have been doing more carpentry and expanding my workshop.

Hanna Zhang | EngSci (Robotics), Year 4



Hiya I'm Hanna, VC Operations for F!week. I oversee a team of 14 amazing subcommittee Chairs responsible for different events/groups at F!week, and work closely with the other executives to make it all happen. I am finishing up my PEY at Inkbox (making semi-permanent tattoos) and in the fall will start my fourth year of Engineering Science - Robotics. The caring and passionate atmosphere is what draws me back to F!Week every year. After my F!week, I felt a lot of my worries subsided and I felt like I belonged. Getting involved is my way of passing that amazing feeling to incoming students. A bonus is getting to work with a very dedicated and fun group of people. This summer I am also conducting research on continuum robotics (aka Snake Robots), learning how to cook, and going on bike adventures with friends.

Mirjana Mijalkovic | EngSci (Biomedical Systems), Year 3



My name is Mirjana and I am currently the Vice-President Academic of the Engineering Society (EngSoc) where I oversee all Academic Advocacy-related portfolios that serve the student body. I first got involved in EngSoc when I was elected First Year Chair because I wanted to be a part of the community building component of Skule. Overtime that transitioned into a passion for representing students in Faculty policy discussions, and I now have the pleasure of serving the entire student body every day. My favourite part about EngSoc is working with our amazing Officer team and Business Manager Rhonda. As we head into an unprecedented school year of much uncertainty, the team continues to support one another and stay accountable to the promises we made students. Alongside EngSoc, I have also been embracing the quarantine lifestyle by keeping up my mini but mighty backyard veggie garden.

Natalie Enriquez-Birch | IndE, Year 2



Hi! I'm Natalie. I am studying Industrial Engineering (second year, part-time) and minoring in Indigenous Studies and Latin American Studies. I am a co-president of the U of T chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). EWB is a social impact organization with a mission to catalyze changes that address the root causes of poverty and inequity by investing in people and ideas that contribute to building a better world. I joined EWB to understand my role in systemic social impact and I stay for the community which believes in investing in our membership at its core. This is achieved through learning, advocating, and taking action in settings such as our Student Leaders' Summit (SLS), a student-led weekend retreat hosted at Camp Pinecrest. This summer I have been practicing gratitude for the little enjoyments in life (that I now know I have taken for granted in busier times) such as reading outdoors and exploring my neighbourhood.

Peter Di Palma | MechE, Year 3



I'm in my third year of Mechanical Engineering specializing in mechatronics and energy systems. I currently serve as Team Captain of the U of T Supermileage Team (UTSM), a student design team that creates ultralight, hyper-efficient vehicles. We use custom engines, hydrogen fuel cells, and materials like carbon fiber to stand out at competitions like the Shell Eco-marathon. This is my third year with the team and my favorite part of it remains the same: the fulfillment of seeing a year-long effort on the track. I vividly remember the 3:00 am nights putting the finishing touches on our vehicles just days before flying out to the competition. U of T Engineering is an exciting place to meet new people and learn more about yourself, and for me, joining a club accomplishes both. When I am not working with my team, I am usually playing online chess tournaments or practicing my Mandarin. 一会儿见!