Engineers get on the right side with new symposium

Event aims to dispel the myths of engineers and show the analytical side of the technical field

SRA STYLES
News Writer

The faculty of Engineering is looking to expand awareness of a lesser-known and more artistic facet of the engineering discipline with an event called Exploring the "Right" Side of Engineering on 28 February.

Kelsey Chegus, a student in the faculty, explained that the event, which will be held from 11am-1pm in the IETC relaxation, will feature a speech by Larry Staples, former president of the Association of Professional Geographers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta (APGGGA), as well as smaller group discussions led by professors and professionals in the field.

"The theme of the event is going to be a puzzle presentation for about 20 minutes by Mr. Staples. He is going to talk about the importance of right-brained thinking in engineering practice."

The idea for the event started as a discussion between Chegus and Roger Toegood, an engineering professor, on ethics and morals in the field.

"I wanted to talk to him about an article that was in the APGGGA about ethics and the discussion kind of snowballed from there about the different sides of engineering," Chegus explained. "We decided to come up with a way to celebrate and honour the people that are in the engineering field."

"I've really struggled throughout my degree with the culture of engineering and hearing stories about industry and Alberta, in particular, being very oil-and-gas-focused."

KELSEY CHERGUS
ENGINEERING STUDENT

Integral to celebrating the people who make up the field, Chegus said, is showcasing them as well-rounded, not just engineers. Many of the professionals and professors chosen to help with group discussions are those with a background in arts or music.

"A main focus of the event will be to challenge the commonly held misconception that engineers are insensitive human calculators.

Poli Sci prof heads to New York NGO

Knight will lead the newly formed Global Centre for Responsibility to Protect

JEN HUGHES
News Staff

This June, University of Alberta professor Andy Knight will be relocating his office from the eleventh floor of the Tory Building to a spacious suite on Fifth Avenue in New York City to begin his tenure as executive director of the new Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect.

Knight, a professor of international relations in the Department of Political Science and the director of the Peace and Post-Conflict Studies Certificate Programme, was named to the position on 14 February and will officially begin his role on 1 June, 2008.

In his role as executive director, Knight will be responsible for collaborating with the international community to develop strategies for advocacy, prevention, and intervention relating to mass atrocities.

"This Centre was designed to try to help the United Nations and the UN Secretary-General's office identify conflicts before they actually become conflicts," Knight said. "And if they do happen to break out into conflicts, then also identify rapid reaction capabilities of the United Nations to handle these situations [...] and try to quell the conflicts and stop the possibility of mass slaughter, of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes."

Arising out of discussions at the 2005 International Commission on State Sovereignty, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) centers around the obligations of states to protect their populations against crimes of genocide and mass atrocity and the responsibility of the international community to intervene in states that fail to protect their own populations from these crises.

According to Knight, R2P is now considered a global norm that can be used across the globe to combat situations of domestic conflicts.

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