Greetings Alumni

The long-awaited Engineering 7 building is opening at the end of this month and you’re invited to join the festivities. Mark your calendar for October 29 to celebrate with the Waterloo Engineering community — professors, students and alumni — and explore the newest (and quite possibly the most awesome) building on campus! There’s a lot to see in Engineering 7, including the RoboHub, the Engineering Ideas Clinic®, new classrooms, cutting-edge research labs, maker spaces, a new machine shop, an expanded 3D Printing Centre, and much more.

Join the Global Network

In addition to organizing reunions, alumni events and special campus events, we’ve made networking and connecting with the Waterloo Engineering community even easier for you. Our global network of engineering alumni is continuing to grow in the Waterloo Engineering Hub powered by Ten Thousand Coffees. This online networking service (free to users) is a University of Waterloo alumni-founded company that offers a personal approach to alumni networking.

Within the platform, only our alumni and students are part of the Waterloo Engineering Hub, so you know it’s exclusive and highly relatable. The idea is to sign up and then reach out to your classmates (no matter the year of graduation) for a virtual or real-life coffee and see where that conversation takes you. It might be a new career opportunity, a new idea, a new employee or connecting with old friends. Join today for free at uwaterloo.tenthousandcoffees.com/hub/waterlooengineering.

If you plan to visit the University of Waterloo, let me know in advance. I’d be pleased to buy you a cup of coffee at the new C&D in E7 or lunch at the Bomber and give you a tour of the newest buildings on campus.

Sincerely,

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P.S. If you have any story suggestions for future issues of WEAL or eWEAL, please send them to me. Some of our best stories come from your suggestions!

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In Memoriam

The Faculty of Engineering expresses deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following graduates who have passed away:

Scott M. Beauchamp (Comp ’90)
Paul D. Brophy (Mech ’74)
Murray J. Burke (Civil ’78)
Wah-Kin K. Chan (MSci ’85)
Paul H. Critchley (Arch ’73)
John H. Dueckman (SD ’80, ’82)
James W. Duxbury (Mech ’75)
David E. Gilroy (Elect ’71)
Donald N. Gray (MSci ’75)
Andrew W. Hunt (Elect ’93)
Hing T. Kung (Chem ’79)
Danny K. Lam (Civil ’14)
Kenneth W. Loach (Chem ’71)
James A. Main (Mech ’73)
Melvin S. Morphet (Civil ’67)
Simon S. Naipaul (Elect ’75)
Robert W. Oddson (Civil ’63)
Gary D. Oulton (Elect ’78)
Frank A. Rovers (Civil ’70, ’72)
Walter W. Smith (Chem ’76)
Eric (Ric) Souls (Civil ’72, ’88)
Harold M. Surminski (Civil ’71)
Srinivasan Venkatesh (Mech ’74)
John F. Wastle (Civil ’73)
Gary B. Watson (Civil ’79)
David H. Wilson (Mech ’66)
Margaret Wojtarowicz (Civil ’97)
James S. Woodhouse (Elect ’71)
Playing competitive online poker was so lucrative for Prem Kalevar (BASc ’12, Mechatronics) — earning him more than $400,000 in his last year of university alone — he considered turning his serious sideline into a full-time career.

But after watching classmates succeed as entrepreneurs and pursuing several business interests himself, including a student rental property and two technology startups, he opted to aim higher instead.

“I didn’t want to make my life about a card game,” he says.

**Helping companies compete globally**

Six years later, Kalevar is working to help turn the Toronto-Waterloo technology corridor into a world powerhouse as co-founder of an organization that brings together early-stage startups and angel investors with ties to the University of Waterloo.

Waterloo Alumni Angels held its first pitch event about 18 months ago and has already facilitated seed funding for several fledgling companies by successful graduates.

“They’re essentially marketplaces where we connect the right kinds of startups with the right kinds of investors,” says Kalevar, who spent about four years at startup Whirlscape. “It’s all about matching supply and demand.”

He only plays poker for fun now while investing in the stock market and doing his part through the volunteer angel group to prepare Canada for the future by diversifying its traditional, resource-based economy.

“This is how I can make my dent — by accelerating this transition so more tech companies and more players in this ecosystem can compete on the world stage,” Kalevar says.