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# IN THIS ISSUE

**PRESIDENTS  
MESSAGE**

**ADVICE  
FROM OUR  
EXECS**

**SIGNING OFF**



CHRIS HADFIELD PRESENTING AT FOSSA ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

# FOSSA RECAP

P5 PLUS

# FOSSA FORMAL 2024



P5 PLUS

P5 PLUS

6

21

20A

20

19A

18

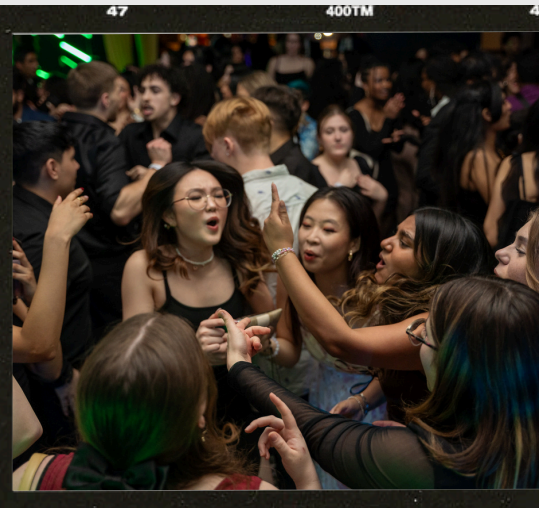
17A

17

# FOSSA ◀ REWIND JORDYN'S REVIEW

Being the President of FOSSA this year has truly been a once-in-a-lifetime experience! FOSSA fosters a community unlike any other and I am eternally grateful for the family that FOSSA has given me. This team has taught me that having a strong support system is foundational to thriving as a university student. I wouldn't be in the position I am now if it weren't for all of the FOSSA executives, both previous and current, who welcomed me into this community, pushed me to try new things, and made Laurier such a lively place to be. My biggest piece of advice to all students is to get involved in your school community. Join a club, volunteer at Orientation Week, become a campus ambassador, write for the Cord, apply to a faculty association. You don't need to be super outgoing, -

confident, or social to succeed in these kinds of roles, you need to be passionate about the work you're doing and these skills will follow. FOSSA was the first club I joined at Laurier and it completely transformed my undergraduate experience. Through this organization, I have gained invaluable leadership skills, built my confidence, and met some of my closest friends. It all starts with getting involved! As the school year comes to a close, I would like to thank my entire executive team for making this year possible. It has been an immense privilege to work, learn, and grow alongside each one of you. I can't wait to see everything FOSSA will accomplish in the years to come!



# FRIENDS ON FOSSA..

*..ARE FOR FOREVER*

## Sara DeSousa, Vice President

My favourite memory from this year is FOSSA O-Day. We worked so hard all summer to bring a fun and informative event to the student body. When we faced challenges that day, our team really came together and made the event succeed. Reflecting on that day always makes me happy because it was a glimpse into what the rest of our year would look like! Being part of FOSSA for the past two years has taught me about the importance of community. Through FOSSA, I've seen how a group of dedicated individuals can create change in our community. Every single person on our team has an important role and contributes uniquely to

what we accomplish. Personally, the friendships I've made on our team are friendships that I will cherish for life. Whether its collaborating on tasks, sharing knowledge, or offering support, the FOSSA community has given me a safe place to express myself at Laurier. To future FOSSA executives, my advice is to embrace the entire journey. Remember to prioritize not only the work but also the friendships you will make along the way. Celebrate the successes and don't be afraid to ask for help because it will make the team stronger in the future. Have fun and know that your work is contributing to -



**Sara DeSousa and Riya Rakkar at Fossa Formal**

something greater than yourself! By the end of the year, you'll realize that all of your hard work has made a positive impact on our science community.



**The Team at Our Chris Hadfield Event!**

# LOOKING BACK..

*AT THE BEST PARTS OF THIS YEAR*

## Gurleen Banger, Director of Finance

I cannot choose one favourite memory but I think I can narrow it down to three. My favourite memory this year was FOSSA formal because there was a lot that went into planning and organizing the event and it was great to see it all come together. I also enjoyed the set up process because we got to work together to get the turret ready for the night, and seeing everyone dressed up was so fun. However, I also loved anytime the office was full before a meeting and everyone was talking and laughing.

I think those moments brought the team together over the years and I enjoyed getting to know everyone on the team. Lastly, FOSSA Fuel was always something I looked forward to because not only was it entertaining to get everyone's weekend debrief every Monday morning, but I think FOSSA fuel made a difference in the student body because it allowed us to interact with students while also offering them breakfast :).



**Gurleen Banger and Ben Shaolin,  
Director and VP of Finance**

# WHAT I LEARNED..

*AND ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE*

## Aditya Pandya, VP of Clubs and Associations

My fav memory as the Clubs & Assoc. VP was getting to meet everyone at FOSSA Formal and getting a chance to highlight their contributions to the science community at Laurier! During my time with FOSSA, I also learned how important it is to appreciate and incorporate the perspectives of those who are under your management when acting on an idea. If you set a new rule for example, then you should also make sure to understand whether those who are subject -

to the rule are okay with it, or if changes need to be made. This two way communication can help to make you an effective leader in any context and FOSSA taught me that :) I guess that is also my advice for future execs - take the time to learn about others' ideas and incorporate them into your own to produce an idea that encapsulates a vast perspective.



**Aditya Pandya and Ben Shaolin at O-  
Day celebrations!**

# THE REP EXPERIENCE

*..AND WHY WE LOVED IT*

## HUMJIT KAUR, ZARA BELANGER-PEPPER AND AISHWARYA PENUMAKA

As the student representative team for FOSSA, we are extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity, and have had an amazing year. We have been able to fully immerse ourselves into the interesting realm of Science, and we have joined such a warm, welcoming, and fun team that we are so glad to call our FOSSA family. Our favourite memory of this year was the “Cocoa & Cram” event that we planned right before the 2023 Fall Term exam period. We ordered hot chocolate and cookies for everyone studying in the Science Atrium, played Christmas music, and booked a classroom for students to come and watch some winter themed movies. The turnout was awesome, and it was great being able to -

see so many people wanting to take a break from school stress and join in on some FOSSA fun! For the future FOSSA representative team, our advice would be to value the importance of the amazing team you are in. Building a positive and supportive team environment not only boosts morale but also enhances productivity and creativity. Encourage open communication, feedback, and collaboration among team members. Celebrate successes, learn from failures, and always strive for continuous improvement. Remember that a strong team foundation is key to overcoming obstacles and achieving shared goals. Most importantly have fun and enjoy the journey, good luck!



**Group hug!**



**Geena Melbourne and Crystal Nguyen,  
2/3rds of the Marketing Team!**

## TEAMWORK..

*..MAKES THE DREAM WORK*

### The Marketing Team

The FOSSA marketing team cherishes many moments together, from the fun competition of trivia nights (Crystal and Shafeeq) to the collaborative energy of weekly meetings (Kaylyn) and the elegance of the FOSSA Formal (Geena). Being part of FOSSA has fostered creativity (Crystal), teamwork (Geena), and using campus resources (Kaylyn).

For future execs, Kaylyn advises to take initiative and ask questions, while Crystal suggests keeping track of tasks and checking in with others. Shafeeq emphasizes transparency in actions and decisions. FOSSA offers a rich experience that combines fun, learning, and growth that the Marketing Team valued during their time in FOSSA!

# ITS ALL ABOUT BALANCE

*WORK HARD, PLAY HARD*

## Arfan Sivarooban, VP of Academics

Reflecting on my time in FOSSA, the annual FOSSA Formal continues to be my favourite memory. The day begins with a setup that starts early in the morning, rushing home to get ready and transitions into an evening of celebration. One thing being on FOSSA has taught me is how to manage my time effectively. Balancing the demands of FOSSA with academic and personal interests was initially challenging, especially in first year. However,

to the rule are okay with it, or if changes need to be made. This two way communication can help to make you an effective leader in any context and FOSSA taught me that :) I guess that is also my advice for future execs - take the time to learn about others' ideas and incorporate them into your own to produce an idea that encapsulates a vast perspective.



**Anamika Sran, Arfan Sivarooban and Alyssa Scheifele getting ready for formal!**

# COMMUNICATION..

*..IS KEY*

## Harjot Dhamee, Photo/Vid Coordinator

My favourite memories this year would be every time FOSSA hosted an event during the academic year. Especially during stressful times, having fun stuff to do like painting, tie-dye, and movie night - allowed me to have that break! Throughout my experience in FOSSA, it has taught me the importance of organization. With being a student and taking on many things, it can be very overwhelming during challenging academic times.

Since joining FOSSA allows me to explore my creativity and hobbies - I found it important to utilize balance to allow myself to excel academically and enjoy being a member. If you're planning on joining FOSSA, the best advice I could give would be to prioritize communication. As times can be challenging and overwhelming, it's okay to communicate that to your team! We're all human and it's valid to communicate that :D



**Harjot Dhamee and Jordyn Heron at FOSSA's holiday party!**

# ITS OKAY TO MAKE MISTAKES

*.. IT WILL BE OKAY*

## Jaylan Tran, Photo/vid Coordinator

My favourite memory this year was definitely FOSSA Formal. The whole team worked so hard to make this event possible and it was amazing to see it all come together. It was also so fun spending time with the other executives. This year on FOSSA, the most important thing I've learned was the importance of communication, especially in a large team setting. When every ,

executive's job depends on the job of others it is important that there is communication to make sure that everyone is on the same page. My advice for future executives of FOSSA would be to take accountability. There is going to be plenty of times where mistakes are made. Fortunately, the team is always so supportive. As long as you acknowledge what went wrong and aim to fix it, everything will be okay.



**Jaylan Tran and Chris Hadfield!**

# ORGANIZATION..

*..IS EVERYTHING*

## The Events Team

As a team our favourite memories have been seeing our events come together. The event that comes to mind would be FOSSA Formal. We started planning everything for formal in December and continued planning all the way until the day of. Seeing everyone being able to have so much fun at the events was truly the biggest reward. Something that being on FOSSA has taught all of us would be organization. Organization is key, especially on the events team. We learned how important organization was from the get-go this year, while planning O-Day (it was rough). But, with much trial and error, by the winter term we found our rhythm. Our advice for any future execs would be to learn through error.



**Events team at trivia night!**

Mistakes are common when planning events and that's not a bad thing. Don't be afraid to use mistakes to your advantage!

# OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE..

*..IS WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS*

## Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Indigeneity Coordinators

To the bright future FOSSA execs, if you're reading this we know that you have so much potential and abilities waiting to be shown to the team. Don't be scared to push the limits of those capabilities to create something truly amazing. Most importantly, do anything but get down on yourself! Ask for help, take a break, reflect on the amazing things you've done, and look towards the future! The best achievements come from those who believe in themselves, push the boundaries and reach out for help when they need it!



**“Don't be scared to push the limits of your capabilities to create something truly amazing. The best achievements come from those who believe in themselves.”**

Something FOSSA has taught us as the EDII team is how to be a voice for ourselves and others. It has allowed us to be a voice for those who do not have the platform to do so. It has also allowed us to empower marginalized communities and create an inclusive space for all. Being on FOSSA has taught us to be more aware of our actions and words when interacting and connecting with people from different diverse groups like different ethnicities, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and more.

Some of our favourite memories this year have been the Tulips & Treats sale, our diversity training workshop with CSEDI, and the DVIS panel! During the Tulips and Treats sale, we were able to decorate heart-shaped cookies with our fellow students and give back to the community by giving proceeds to LSPIRG and Kitchener's Women's Shelter! Our EDII Workshop was something we had been planning with CSEDI and had a wonderful turnout and were able to promote and educate ourselves and fellow science clubs on equity and diversity! The DVIS panel was a remarkable experience, being able to hear from three powerful, brave, and inspiring individuals!



**The communications team has had a great year, from crafting monthly newsletters to experiencing joyous celebrations with our amazing FOSSA family. We feel immensely proud and honoured to have been given this opportunity to share our creativity with you all. Each event held this year has had it's own special touch, making it impossible to only choose one favourite. We are so happy to have seen so many students come together and share these moments. As we reflect on the past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for all the memories made and will cherish them forever!**

**Thank you,**



**Signing off,  
comms team**