

Talk on Communication Skills

Carnegie Mellon University
Department of Chemical Engineering

In my last official semester as a teaching assistant (TA) in the department, I decided to do something extra to mark the end of my service as a TA. After consulting with previous students who recently graduated, I felt that the topic of communication in a professional setting would be an excellent idea. In fact, communication skills appear as a high-priority requirement in both academia and industry as reported in many literature surveys on education and the academia/industry interface (references are listed below). In addition, at the AIChE Annual Meeting held in San Francisco, CA in November of 2013, in a special plenary organized by the late John Chen, AIChE Fellow, Rui Vogt, Associate Director of Research and Development at The Dow Chemical Company, asked his colleagues to rate the importance of skills and competencies, and among others, communication and presentation skills was given a 4.7 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being most important (CEP Magazine, April 2014, pages 4-5, 14-15).

I would like to invite all members of the department to a talk by Scott J. Bury from The Dow Chemical Company who has kindly agreed to be the speaker of this event. The talk title and abstract are in the next page. For undergraduates, this event has been approved as an Experiential Learning requirement.

The event information is given below (food and refreshments will be provided!).

Location: DH 2210

Day: October 23, 2014

Time: 6:00 PM

I would like to acknowledge the 2013-2014 officers of the AIChE student chapter and the department for helping me with the organization and logistics of this event.

References

Martin, R.; Maytham, B.; Case, J.; Fraser, D. (2005). Engineering Graduates' Perceptions of How Well They Were Prepared for Work in Industry. *European Journal of Engineering Education*. 30(2):167-180.

Nguyen, D. Q. (1998). The Essential Skills and Attributes of an Engineer: A Comparative Study of Academics, Industry Personnel and Engineering Students. *Global Journal of Engineering Education*. 2(1):65-75.

Sageev, P.; Romanowski, C. J. (2001). A Message from Recent Engineering Graduates in the Workplace: Results of a Survey on Technical Communication Skills. *Journal of Engineering Education*. 90(4):685-693.

Amp-Up Your Career: Building Your Communication Toolset

Your communication toolset will be a deciding factor in your career success. Fortunately effective communication is a skill that can be learned, improved and mastered. However this also means that to build your toolset, you need a plan and the diligence to put it into action. Technology has emphasized the importance of quality communication skills but also made it painfully simple to sink your career with poorly executed communication. But where to start? Do you start with pithy Tweets or Super Animated Power Point Presentations?

Attend this entertaining talk and find out. Get perspective on what you need in your communication toolset. Learn how simple it is to build it. Learn how to put together your plan for lifelong learning and improvement of your communication skills.

Short Bio:

Scott J. Bury, PhD

BS Biology and Biotechnology, WPI

PhD Chemical Engineering Rice University under Clarence Miller (a long time CMU professor before he went to Rice)

20+ years at Dow Chemical R&D having fun running pilot plants to building math programs all to solving really interesting problems.

He likes to attempt to go fast on mountain bikes and is a good cook.