

Preparing Students for an Interdependent World:
Role of Cooperation and Social Interdependence Theory

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Engineering Education:
Towards Building World Class Human Capital

Regional Conference on Engineering Education –
Johor 2007

December 3-5, 2007

John F. Kennedy Moon Speech - Rice Stadium

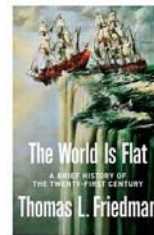


September 12, 1962

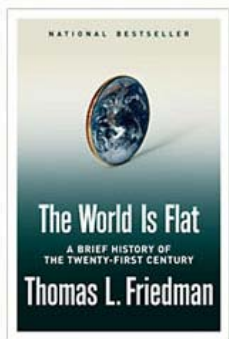


Apollo 8 – 12/29/68

The World is Flat



“Clearly, it is now possible for more people than ever to collaborate and compete in real-time, with more people, on more kinds of work, from more corners of the planet, and on a more equal footing, than at any previous time in the history of the world”



Platform for Collaboration
(1st Three Flatteners):
1. 11/9/89
2. 8/9/95
3. Work Flow Software

NYTimes MAGAZINE April 3, 2005
It's a Flat World, After All
By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Video – Think Global Series:
<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/radio/features/2005/05/collaboration/>

Age of Interdependence

Tom Boyle of British Telecom calls this the age of interdependence; he speaks of the importance of people's NQ, or network quotient – their capacity to form connections with one another, which, Boyle argues is now more important than IQ, the measure of individual intelligence.

Cohen, Don & Prusak, Laurence. 2001. *In good company: How social capital makes organizations work*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Business School Press.



Interdependent World

- Essential knowledge, skills, habits of mind, ... for an interdependent world?
 - Reflect individually and list essential skills ~ 1'
 - Turn to the person next to you ~ 2'
 - Introduce yourself
 - Compare lists
 - Develop a joint list
 - Present to whole group (if randomly selected)

The reports...

- *Engineering Research and America's Future* (NAE, 2005): Committee to Assess the Capacity of the U.S. Engineering Research Enterprise
- *The Engineer of 2020* (NAE, 2004) and *Educating the Engineer of 2020* (NAE, 2005)
- *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future* (NRC/COSEPUP, 2005)
- *Innovate American: National Innovation Initiative Final Report* (Council on Competitiveness, 2005)

Successful Attributes for the Engineer of 2020

- Possess strong analytical skills
- Exhibit practical ingenuity; possess creativity
- Good communication skills with multiple stakeholders
- Business and management skills; Leadership abilities
- High ethical standards and a strong sense of professionalism
- Dynamic/agile/resilient/flexible
- Lifelong learners

Desired Attributes of a Global Engineer*

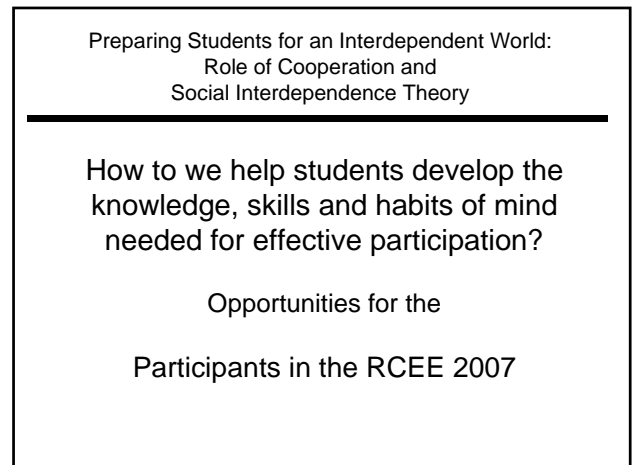
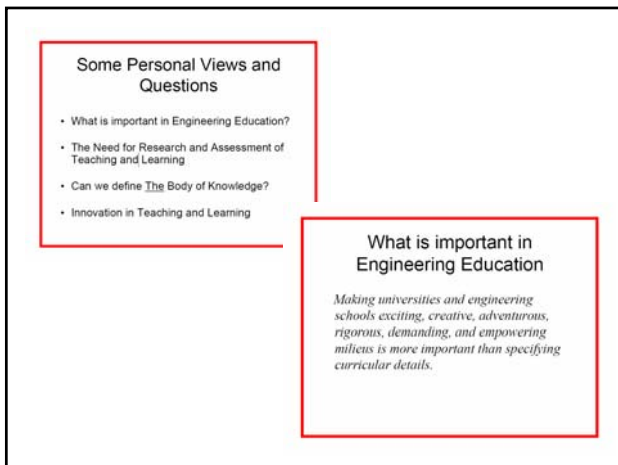
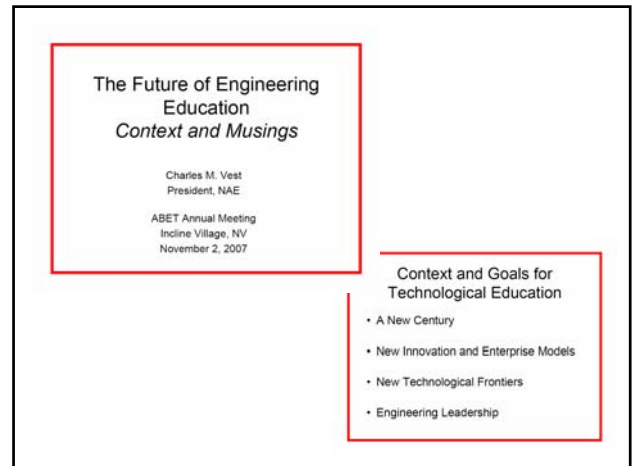
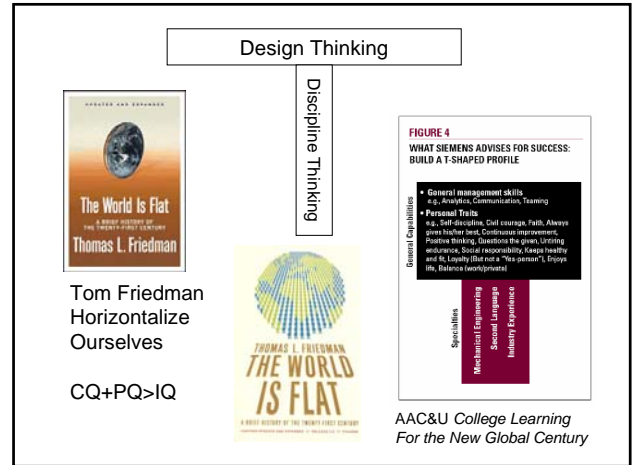
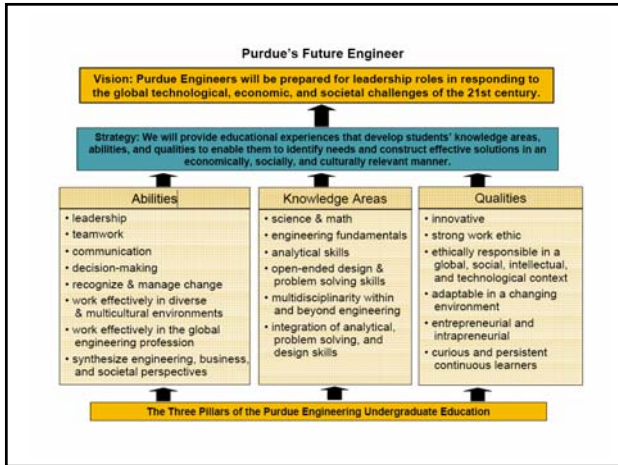
- A good grasp of these engineering science fundamentals, including:
 - Mechanics and dynamics
 - Mathematics (including statistics)
 - Physical and life sciences
 - Information science/technology
- A good understanding of the design and manufacturing process (i.e., understands engineering and industrial perspective)
- A multidisciplinary, systems perspective, along with a product focus
- A basic understanding of the context in which engineering is practiced, including:
 - Customer and societal needs and concerns
 - Economics and finance
 - The environment and its protection
 - The history of technology and society
- An awareness of the boundaries of one's knowledge, along with an appreciation for other areas of knowledge and their interrelatedness with one's own expertise
- An awareness of and strong appreciation for other cultures and their diversity, their distinctiveness, and their inherent value
- A strong commitment to team work, including extensive experience with and understanding of team dynamics
- Good communication skills, including written, verbal, graphic, and listening
- High ethical standards (honesty, sense of personal and social responsibility, fairness, etc)
- An ability to think both critically and creatively, in both independent and cooperative modes
- Flexibility: the ability and willingness to adapt to rapid and/or major change
- Curiosity and the accompanying drive to learn continuously throughout one's career
- An ability to impart knowledge to others

*A Manifesto for Global Engineering Education, Summary Report of the Engineering Futures Conference, January 22-23, 1997. The Boeing Company & Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Desired Attributes of a Global Engineer*

- A multidisciplinary, systems perspective, along with a product focus
- An awareness of the boundaries of one's knowledge, along with an appreciation for other areas of knowledge and their interrelatedness with one's own expertise
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In my entire life as a student, I remember only twice being given the opportunity to come up with my own ideas, a fact I consider typical and terrible. I would like to start this paper by telling how I came to realize that schooling could be different from what I had experienced.

Eleanor Duckworth, Twenty-four, forty-two, and I love you: Keeping it complex, *Harvard Educational Review*, 61 (1991), 1-24.



Lila M. Smith

Pedago-pathologies

Amnesia

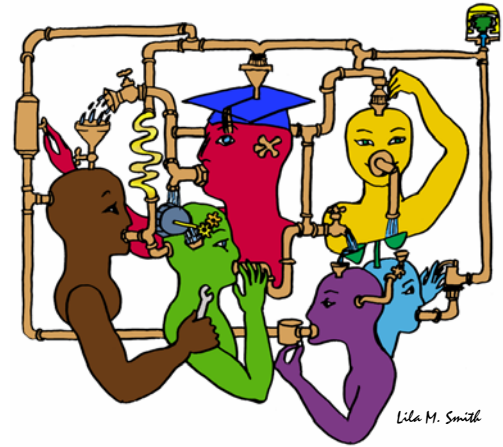
Fantasia

Inertia



Lee Shulman – MSU Med School – PBL Approach (late 60s – early 70s), Currently President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of College Teaching

Shulman, Lee S. 1999. Taking learning seriously. *Change*, 31 (4), 11-17.



Lila M. Smith

Pedagogies of Engagement



Foundations for Pedagogies of Engagement

1. Learning is a social activity (John Dewey)
2. Innovative learning requires ambiguity (Stuart Pugh)
3. All learning requires un-learning (John Seely Brown)
4. Learning is situated (Jean Lave)

Foundations - John Dewey

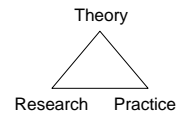
John Dewey's ideal school:

- a “thinking” curriculum aimed at deep understanding
- **cooperative learning within communities of learners**
- interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary curricula
- projects, portfolios, and other “alternative assessments” that challenged students to integrate ideas and demonstrate their capabilities.

Dewey, John. 1915. *The school and society*, 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Cooperative Learning

- Theory – Social Interdependence – Lewin – Deutsch – Johnson & Johnson
- Research – Randomized Design Field Experiments
- Practice – Formal Teams/Professor's Role



Third Edition
ACTIVE LEARNING:
COOPERATION IN THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM

David W. Johnson
Roger T. Johnson
Karl A. Smith

International Book
1998 (2004)
Edin, Missouri
978-0-07-003121-2

Figure A.1 A General Theoretical Framework

Cooperative Learning

- Positive Interdependence
- Individual and Group Accountability
- Face-to-Face Promotive Interaction
- Teamwork Skills
- Group Processing

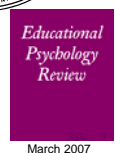
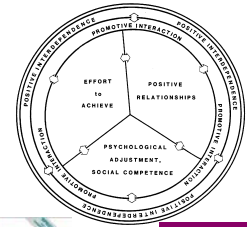
Cooperative Learning Research Support

Johnson, D.W., Johnson, R.T., & Smith, K.A. 1998. Cooperative learning returns to college: What evidence is there that it works? *Change*, 30 (4), 26-35.

- Over 300 Experimental Studies
- First study conducted in 1924
- High Generalizability
- Multiple Outcomes

Outcomes

1. Achievement and retention
2. Critical thinking and higher-level reasoning
3. Differentiated views of others
4. Accurate understanding of others' perspectives
5. Liking for classmates and teacher
6. Liking for subject areas
7. Teamwork skills

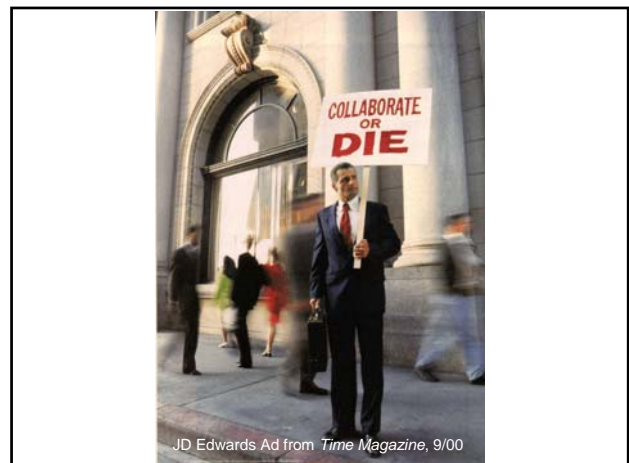


Shaping the Future: New Expectations for Undergraduate Education in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology – National Science Foundation, 1996

Goal – All students have access to supportive, excellent undergraduate education in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology, and all students learn these subjects by direct experience with the methods and processes of inquiry.



Recommend that SME&T faculty: Believe and affirm that every student can learn, and model good practices that increase learning; starting with the student's experience, but have high expectations within a supportive climate; and build inquiry, a sense of wonder and the excitement of discovery, plus communication and teamwork, critical thinking, and life-long learning skills into learning experiences.



Top Three Main Engineering Work Activities

Engineering Total

- Design – 36%
- Computer applications – 31%
- Management – 29%

Civil/Architectural

- Management – 45%
- Design – 39%
- Computer applications – 20%

Burton, L., Parker, L., & LeBold, W. 1998. U.S. engineering career trends. *ASEE Prism*, 7(9), 18-21.



Preparing Students for an Interdependent World

“If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity.”

President John F. Kennedy, Commencement Address, American University, June 10, 1963.

Cited in Harlan Cleveland, *Nobody in charge: Essays on the future of leadership*, Jossey-Bass, 2002.

Safe for Diversity

The required solvent for civilization is respect for differences. The art is to *be different together*.

Civilization will be built by cooperation and compassion, in a social climate in which people of different groups can deal with each other in ways that respect their cultural differences.

Harlan Cleveland, *Nobody in charge: Essays on the future of leadership*, Jossey-Bass, 2002.

