

Quarterdeck Meeting – 2/14/12

- Announcements
 - Thank you notes in the next month
 - We need people to help print, pack, and work with spreadsheets.
 - Points for dirty work
 - Contact QDOfficers@umich.edu if interested.
 - DAPCEP starts March 3
 - Double points for March 3 program.
 - If you signed up, check Ctools, the curriculum is on there.
 - The Tuesday before, you will meet to talk about the program that Saturday.
 - Next week Great Lakes Great Rivers SNAME Sectional Meeting
 - You only pay for food and registration.
 - Next week's meeting
 - Professor Don Winter, former Secretary of the Navy, ruminates on the future of the Navy and the role the United States' fleet will play in global politics.
- Presenter Bruce Rosenblatt
- Bruce's PowerPoint
 - Personal Integrity
 - Be Honest...Always
 - Be Ethical
 - Be Polite
 - Dress Appropriately
 - Vision
 - Be strategic; try to see the big picture
 - Build your network
 - Communicate
 - Be specific and concise
 - Written and oral communications are key
 - Helpful Hints
 - Provide quick estimates
 - Make informed assumptions
 - Keep involved
 - Work Ethic
 - Come early/stay late
 - Work hard (work smart)
 - Find a mentor
 - Professional Development
 - All experience is good experience
 - Perfect time management skills
 - Focus on "learning" your subjects
 - Learn how to learn

- Learn from your mistakes
- Future Focus
 - Adapt to change
 - Question your boundary conditions
 - Make your own breaks
 - Study success
 - Build Relationships
 - Actions speak louder than excuses
- Choices
 - AAA (After Ann Arbor)
- One size does not fit all
 - Small fish in a big pond or big fish in a small pond
 - What do you want to do when you grow up?

Q&A

- Benefits of MS and PhD
 - Getting more education is never bad. The degrees are applied differently. Less places want the skills of a PhD. There are positives and negatives to more education right away. In my opinion, opportunity to do right away in engineering, and get an MBA after some experience.
- How many years did you spend in the industry before you got your MBA?
 - I was 34 years old when I went back. Mine was different because it was an executive MBA. The youngest in my class was 30 and the oldest was 55. Regular MBA is not as important to get a lot of experience. Some companies will even pay for you to go back to school.
- With the evolution to computers, have students nowadays lost some critical skills?
 - Yes, in a nutshell. Like a GPS, you can use it and not know how you got somewhere. You have to understand what went into things to better understand them. If you can apply that to the big picture, you can do more yourself.
- What areas of the industry will be most in demand in the next 20 years?
 - It changes over time. You should focus on your interests. Not much is going to die. Shipbuilding will shrink. You should focus on your interests, get good at it, and keep abreast of the industry.
- What are the steps US shipbuilders need to do to compete in commercial shipbuilding?
 - In my opinion, I don't see the US shipyards competing. Korea is very good. US shipbuilding is not going away. There are many old ships that need to be replaced.
- Do you see any lobbys of the Jones Act to be repealed?
 - Yes, there are 2 sides to every story. It is not going away. There is lots of cargo on ships.
- What is MARAD and what does it do?
 - The Maritime Administration. It was once a powerful organization. They used to fund design research, etc. Now take care of school ships (SUNY Maritime) and do studies (Marine Highway). It is not what it once was.

- Haiti and super ferries – the Navy owns those ferries now. MARAD and government bailed them out. It was built for another market and didn't make it.
- Are maritime regulations good or bad? (Environmental; LNG)
 - Some are very good; some are causing trouble and forcing adaptation.
 - LNG will grow in the next few years. Timing is everything. In Naval Architecture, it just requires putting a different powerplant. In Marine Engineering it is very different.
- With the current budget crisis, where is the Navy shifting money to?
 - The Navy has to cut the budget. You will probably see the number of classes go down and more in each class. Also see more multipurpose ships.
- Is the age gap (retirement) in the maritime industry a problem? Will some knowledge be lost?
 - Good for you guys (students). That is why you need a mentor. Look for experience. Students now have better background overall.
- If you had to pick an LCS design, which one and why?
 - I am not that involved with either. All ships have problems and I just don't know.
 - What happened on LCS is a new admiral wanted a superfast, convertible, inexpensive, designed and built faster than ever, for the lowest price ever. It just doesn't add up. Stuff happened and both are less than perfect.
- Was it a mistake not to go with one LCS design?
 - It was an industry decision. Both were good designs.
- From a design firm standpoint, what do you think will happen with commercial and military shipbuilding?
 - You will see the consolidation of shipyards, driven mostly by economics. Our firm handles mostly overflow, with shipyards with no engineers or overwhelmed engineers. So it may not be good for our firm.
- With rising fuel prices, do you think the marine industry will switch to hybrid electric?
 - Things will change, but it must make sense economically. It has worked on cruise ships.
- Do you recommend a higher degree or go into industry?
 - You can go either way. Easier and maybe better to get experience through internships. Just concentrate on getting your degree and getting experience.
- What was your business and entrepreneurial management experience?
 - I think I should have done more engineering before going into management. Don't go into management too early, get a good engineering base.