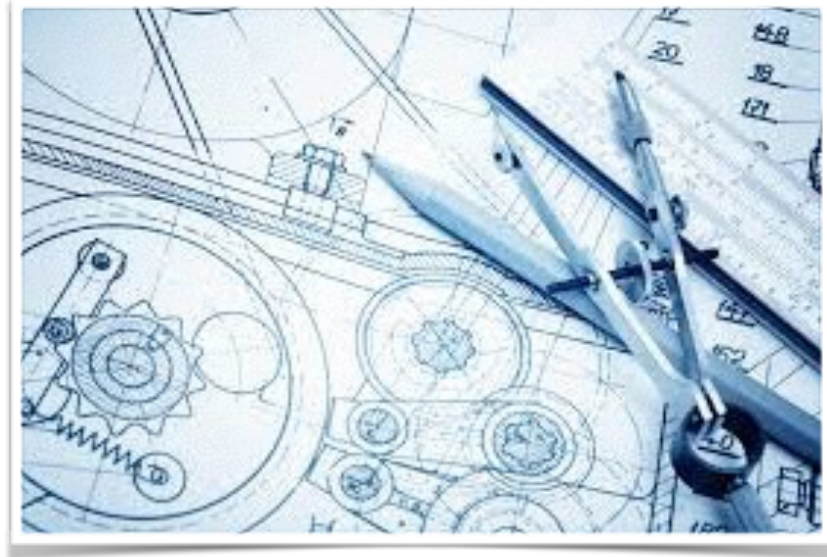


The Daily Newsletter

Ken Standig: An Interview of the college experience as a civil engineer

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Introduction

In order to prepare for the college and future careers, it is very important to talk with an professionals and get an idea how we will be. As a one of the seniors graduating from high school, I decided to interview with one of the engineers to consider my future. Also, this is done as an EAL final exam to develop communication skills in English. This time, I interviewed Mr. Ken Standig who is a civil engineer.

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What did you major in college?

At first, I was planning to study physics when I was in high school. When I enter the [RPI](#), I thought that civil engineering is great because I can actually touch and see the roads and bridges when the project is completed. So, I studied the civil engineering and finally got bachelor degree and master's degree. Civil engineering was very interesting and exciting area for me.

What classes did you took?

As a civil engineer, I studied civil engineering courses, calculus, chemistry physics, materials, and mechanical drawing. This is because there were no computers at that time. I did not take any minors, but I studied structural engineering as a concentration of the civil engineering like a minor.

How was your everyday life in college like?

I was very busy everyday because I took multiple different classes such as large classes and chemistry lab. I enjoyed extracurricular activities such as football team and fraternity club. Although these are very busy, I was able to take enough sleep everyday.

What was the biggest difference between high school and college?

I think that the most biggest difference was the housing. During high school, I lived with my family and walked to the school. However, I lived in dormitory in the first year and in the apartment in the rest of the years and I was apart from my family. However, this was a good opportunities for me to know more about friends from all over the world.

What were the difficulties in college?

The most difficult thing was the time management. In college, I had a lot of research papers, projects, and exams while I actively participated in activities. There were so much opportunities in college and we can choose what we want to. So, I think that managing the schedules were very difficult.



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How was the transition from college to your first job?

To tell the truth, I got my job before graduating from the college because I used the internship. So, there was not much difficulty in starting the job in the same company after the graduation. Exploring the internship will be able to ease the difficulty of the transition and I encourage you to take this opportunity.

What is the most interesting part of your job?

I am right now working in small consulting company. It is very exciting to figure out what technology is necessary for the projects and design.

If you can advise to yourself in college, what would you say?

It is a good question. I would say to myself to be in touch with classmates. The connection between friends would benefit you a lot especially when you get a job.

Conclusion

Throughout this interview, I learned important lessons preparing for college and the job. In addition to these questions, I was able to ask the questions about my interested majors: electrical engineering and biomedical engineering. When I enter the college after a few months, I would like to incorporate this advice into my planning in college.

[Interview Conducted by Aru Akabayashi](#)

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