Alumni Student Mentor Program (ASMP)
Student Info Session
Outline

• Program Logistics

• Expectations of students
  – General, phone, email

• Staying connected
Goals of ASMP

• Learn about fields of interest, industry vs grad school

• Gain sense of professionalism and maturity

• Link community

• Establish a ChBE culture of service

• Way for alumni to help students
Matching

• Based on (most important at top):
  – Field
  – Interests after graduation
  – International
  – Location
Feedback

• Check in during semester

• Survey at end of academic year
Types of Advice / ?’s to Ask from the Mentor Program: Student Survey Results

In what one way has your mentor been most helpful?

- My mentor showed me how to develop a focus on one field and communicate why I chose it.
- Discussed possible job and internship opportunities and helped me discover if it'd be a good fit.
- Gave me interview advice that really helped me get an internship.
- Always provided descriptive and clear e-mail responses to all of my questions.
- She talked about her career in engineering and showed me around her office, describing her typical work day; this provided some insight as to what I may be doing for work upon graduating.
- He provided me with an opportunity to go speak with someone about getting research position.
- Great to hear insight from someone in a similar field of interest and how they got involved in international work.
- She helped me understand what life was like in the "real world".
- My mentor helped put my engineering undergraduate degree into better perspective for me and made me feel more confident with what I can do.
- Advice on how to apply for a internship or job.
- My mentor shared how she entered the work force.
- Being open to any questions.
- My mentor has helped provide contacts for potential keynote speakers for an upcoming SWE conference.
- Provided a list of good books to read to prepare for my internship this summer.
- Talking to him about the path he chose and what he wished he would have done differently was very interesting.
- Talking about how school was useful and he applied what he learned to his career now.

Bolded responses expressed by multiple students
Types of Advice / ?’s to Ask

Mentor Program: Alumni Survey Results

What type of advice did you provide to your student? (career, classes, activities, resume, networking, job, etc.)

• How to select a career path
• What to expect in a ChE career
• We talked about her future career aspirations
• **We talked about my job, what I do and what I like about it**
• To visit Career Services to determine if he wanted to follow a management or science career path
• Research vs. industry advice for future jobs
• To take the Campbell skills and interests inventory test
• Long term career goals
• How to capitalize on career opportunities after receiving an engineering degree
• **Networking advice**
• Encouragement
• **Resume critique**
• Importance of getting job experience before graduating and starting early (sophomore year)
Types of Advice / ?’s to Ask
Mentor Program: Alumni Survey Results
What type of advice did you provide to your student? (career, classes, activities, resume, networking, job, etc.)

- What companies look for in an intern program candidate
- How to look for internships
- How to get experience that might be interesting to potential employers
- Tactics for securing a first job
- Coursework that might be of interest to potential employers or might be interesting in general
- What language to pick up and taking a technical writing class
- Study pointers
- Ways to relieve the pressure of school by prioritizing tasks and staying calm
- General class and schedule advice on how to handle a hard high-credit ChemE load while still finding some school-work-life balance
- We discussed some classes and professors, and how I used to go about them
- Possible activities to get involved with at school
- Challenges I faced in undergrad and that I face now
- Details about some of my daily/weekly routines while I was in school
- How life in industry is different from life in school
- Advice on topics that are not often discussed, but of the highest importance, such as the importance of meeting people and talking with them personally; in my experience this critical element of finding a job was completely neglected by career services.
- What it takes to be successful when you start at a new job
Expectations of Students

• Meet in person or Skype at least once a semester

• Act professionally
  – Respectful of personal boundaries
  – Be culturally sensitive

• Reasonable number of emails or phone calls
  – Keep up relationship
Phone Etiquette

• At start – confirm still good time for both
  – Reschedule if partner rushed

• Hear – focused effort
  – Eliminate Distractions
  – Note Taking – focuses visual attention
Email Etiquette

- Clear subject line
- Address formally (Dear x,)
- Clear and succinct
- Proofread messages
- Be clear and detailed about what you want
- No sensitive content
- Respond promptly to emails
Your First Meeting

• Before 1st meeting, prepare:
  – Who am I?
    • Personal activities, why CU, proudest accomplishments, aspirations
  – I would like my mentor to help me with...

• Jot down notes afterwards
Please Don’t:

• Take more than 48 hrs to respond to email

• Come to meetings in extremely casual attire

• Have your phone on during meetings

• Miss meetings without notice

• Go too long without emailing
Please Do:

• Be honest/upfront about expectations + available time

• Establish regular communication schedule
  – What if we haven’t communicated in months?

• Be flexible (rescheduling)

• Be proactive
  – If do not hear back, email again
  – Then again
  – Then contact me
EASY to Get Connected...

...HARD to stay connected

Relationships take time and work, but are worth it!
May 2014 Student and Mentor Survey Results
Alumni Student Mentor Program (ASMP)

• ASMP was launched in Feb 2014
  – 65 student/alumni matches

• Most student/mentor matches emailed, talked on the phone or met for coffee; some attended events

• In May 2014, we had students and mentors fill out different surveys
  – 18 student responses
  – 30 alumni responses

• Following are the quantitative results as well as some consolidated answers to qualitative questions
Mentor Program: **Student Survey Results**

18 responses
Statements with a strong positive response are underlined.

- a) My mentor provided helpful advice.
- b) I now understand my career options better.
- c) I now have a better understanding of what life is like after school.
- d) I feel better prepared to get a job or higher degree.
- e) My mentor helped me get a job/internship.
- f) My mentor communicated with me in a timely manner.
- g) I emailed with my mentor at least twice during the semester.
- h) I met in person or Skype'd with my mentor at least once during the semester.
- i) I felt like my mentor really wanted to help me.
- j) My mentor did not make me feel uncomfortable in any way.
- k) This mentor program was useful.
- l) I would recommend this mentor program to a friend.
Mentor Program: Student Survey Results

Please share a quote about the program or your mentor.

• “I am very thankful for the program. I took the advice of my mentor on standing out in interviews and was successful in obtaining an internship I am very excited about.”

• “The program has allowed me to gain valuable insight into starting an international engineering career from an experienced professional.”

• “The mentorship program really opened my eyes to the bigger picture of what school is for.”
In what one way has your mentor been most helpful?

- My mentor showed me how to develop a focus on one field and communicate why I chose it.
- Discussed possible job and internship opportunities and helped me discover if it'd be a good fit.
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Bolded responses expressed by multiple students
Mentor Program: Alumni Survey Results

30 responses
Statements with a strong positive response are underlined.

a) I felt my advice was well-received by my student.
b) I felt I could really help my student.
c) My student communicated with me in a timely manner.
d) I emailed with my student at least twice during the semester.
e) I met in person or Skyped with my student at least once during the semester.
f) Participating in this program was worthwhile to me.
g) I would recommend this mentor program to other alumni.
Mentor Program: Alumni Survey Results

Please share a quote about the program.

• “This program offers students insight into what is in the world just beyond homework assignments and midterms, while allowing alumni to reconnect with the program in a very positive way.”

• “It was a great way for former alums like me to give back to the ChBE department.”

• “I am glad that I participated in the CHBE mentoring program, especially since I was paired with a student interested in pursuing a career in patent law, which is my discipline. We did not have this type of mentoring program when I was a chemical engineering student at CU and would have found it extremely helpful to have a contact in the field as opposed to finding out the hard way.”
Mentor Program: Alumni Survey Results

What type of advice did you provide to your student? (career, classes, activities, resume, networking, job, etc.)

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• Encouragement
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Continued on next slide; bolded responses expressed by multiple alumni
Mentor Program: Alumni Survey Results

What type of advice did you provide to your student? (career, classes, activities, resume, networking, job, etc.)

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- How to look for internships
- How to get experience that might be interesting to potential employers
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- What language to pick up and taking a technical writing class
- **Study pointers**
  - Ways to relieve the pressure of school by prioritizing tasks and staying calm
  - General class and schedule advice on how to handle a hard high-credit ChemE load while still finding some school-work-life balance
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