

# 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.

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

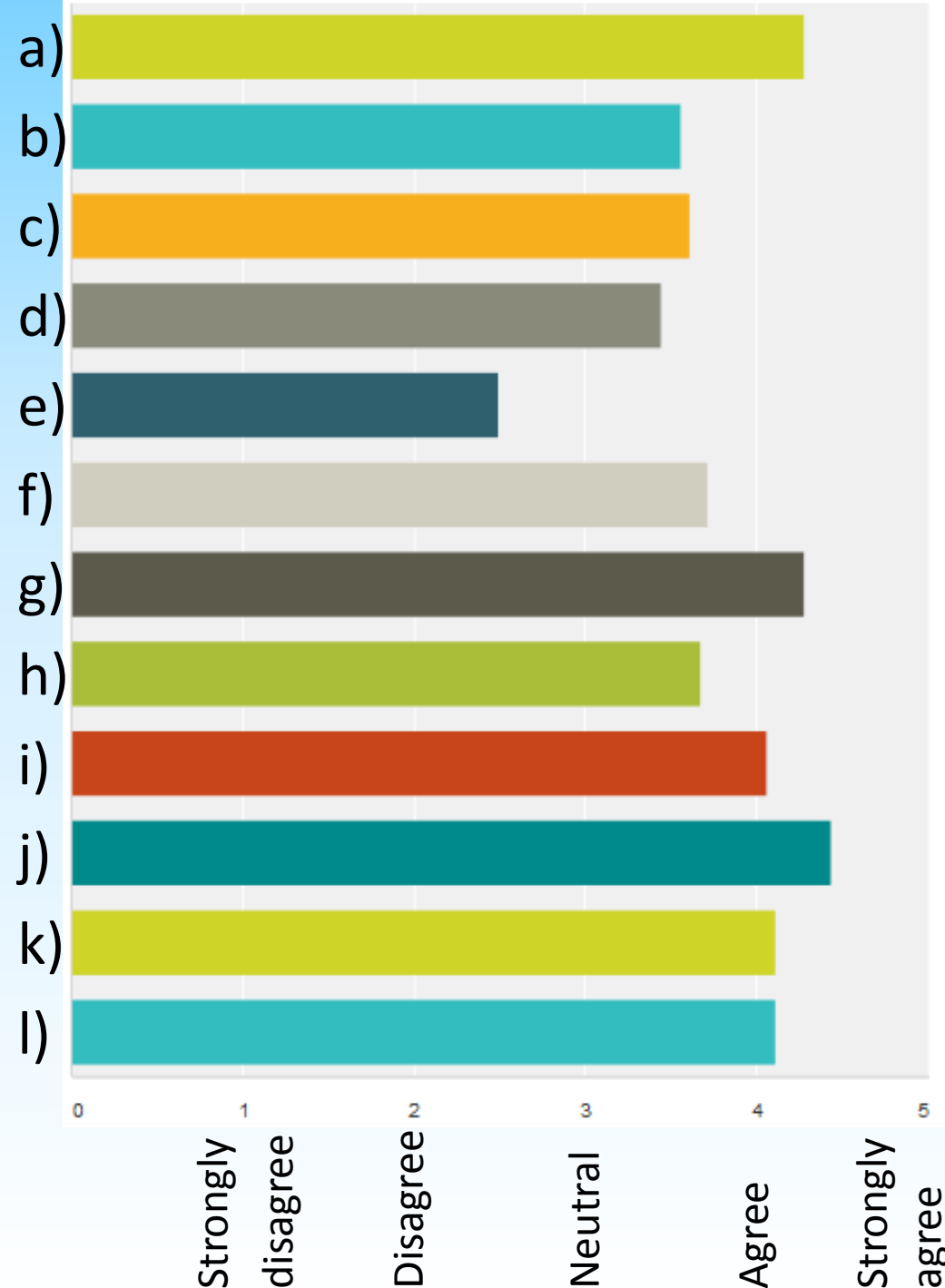
- ASMP was launched in Feb 2014
  - 65 student/alumni matches
- Most student/mentor matches emailed, talked on the phone or met for coffee; some attended events
- In May 2014, we had students and mentors fill out different surveys
  - 18 student responses
  - 30 alumni responses
- Following are the quantitative 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.”

# Mentor Program: **Student** Survey Results

## In what one way has your mentor been most helpful?

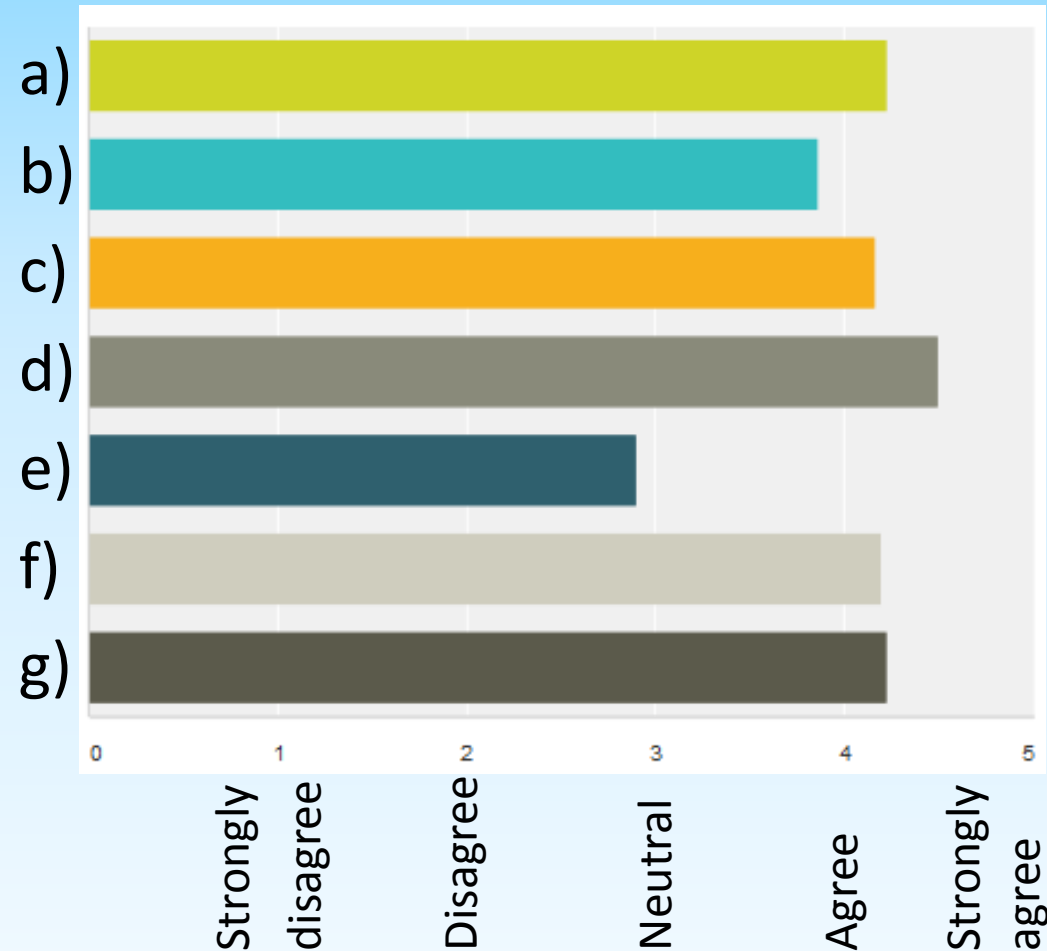
- My mentor showed me how to develop a focus on one field and communicate why I chose it.
- Discussed possible job and internship opportunities and helped me discover if it'd be a good fit.
- Gave me interview advice that really helped me get an internship.
- Always provided descriptive and clear e-mail 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.

# 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.)

- **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)**

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.)**

- 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