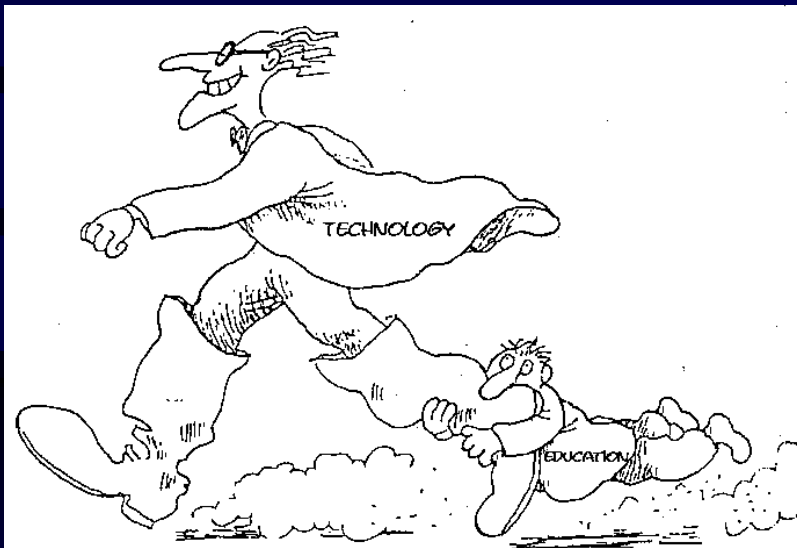


Lifelong Learning



“In the new economy, you graduate and you’re set for fifteen minutes. Working and learning are fast becoming the same activity.”

Don Tapscott, *The Digital Economy*.

Source: l3d.cs.colorado.edu/philosophy.html

Something to think about

“The illiterate person of [the future] will not be the person who has not learned how to read, but rather the person who has not learned how to learn.”

Soc. of Manufacturing Eng.

Lifelong Learning is *not* a new fad.

The first issue (1922) of *Reader's Digest* led with an article on the importance of continuing to learn throughout one's life.

Author: Alexander Graham Bell

Half-life of Knowledge

- 7.5 years (ME)
- 5 years (EE)
- 2.5 years (CMPE)

(an *expert* estimate from the 1980s cited by Ernest T. Smerdon, *Lifelong Learning for Engineers: Riding the Whirlwind*)

Approaches to Lifelong Learning

- In-house training/seminars
- Conferences & Workshops
- Short Courses
- *Part-time* graduate courses
- Graduate School
- Professional School
- Self-directed learning

In-House Training/Seminars

- Common at large companies
- Almost always free
- Done on company-time

Conferences & Workshops

- Join TMMOB
- Local Chapter Meetings
- Regional Conferences
- National Conferences
- Workshops
- Trade Shows

Short Courses

- Offered by universities
- Offered by commercial organizations

Part-time graduate courses

- Evening classes
- Related fields (e.g., Materials Science)
- Professional (e.g., MBA)

Graduate School

- MS-without a thesis
- MS-with a thesis
- PhD (research, academic positions)

Professional School

➤ Management (MBA)

➤ Patent Law (JD)

Self-Directed Learning

- Trade journals
- Handbooks
- Videos/DVDs
- On-line resources

Lifelong Learning: The fun never stops!

