Perspectives

Tom BLASINGAME
Petroleum Engineering — Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-3116 (USA)
+1.979.255.8808 — tom@blasingame.us
Overview:

● Opening Remarks
● Where are You Now?
● Where Do You Want to Be?
● STEP (Strategy-Tactics-Execution-Perspective)
● The Difference Between Good and Great
● Perfection is the Enemy of Good Enough
● Life Balance/Life Choices
● Closing Remarks

You are rewarding a teacher poorly if you remain always a pupil.
Friedrich Nietzsche (German scholar, philosopher and critic of culture, 1844-1900.)
Opening Remarks:

● Your Education…
  ■ *Is being an engineer what you are best at?* (maybe?)
  ■ *What more do I need to know?* (we all evolve…)

● Your Future…
  ■ *Short Term…* (right now!)
  ■ *Near-Term…* (a year or so from now…)
  ■ *Long-Term…* (when you start losing your hair…)
  ■ *The End…* (what have you really accomplished?)

*There are no shortcuts in evolution…*  

Louis D. Brandeis (American Supreme Court Justice, 1856-1941)
Where are You Now?:

● Starting Your Career...
  ■ Choices? (there are no wrong choices…)
  ■ Commitments? (you are only as good as your word…)

● Your Roles…
  ■ On the job? (your job is to LEARN to do your job…)
  ■ Off the job? (have a hobby, but be a role model…)
  ■ "It's not the job I wanted…" (then change jobs…)
  ■ "It's not the job they promised…" (then adapt…)

Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (American Baptist Minister and Civil-Rights Leader. 1929-1968)
Where Do You Want to Be?:

● Short/Near-Term...
  ■ Your value is your skills set... (harsh, but true...)
  ■ Concrete goals... (experience, exposure, excitement!)
  ■ Your limitation is your inexperience... (listen/learn/do!)

● Long-Term...
  ■ 70% of young engineers want management (3% get it)
  ■ Are you fit for command... (yes ... no ... maybe?)
  ■ Are you NOT fit for command... (then adapt...)

One who finds no satisfaction in himself seeks for it in vain elsewhere.
François de la Rochefoucauld (French classical author, 1613-1680)
STEP (Strategy-Tactics-Execution-Perspective):

● Points to Consider:
  ■ Activities ≠ Productivity (success = tasks completed!)
  ■ Achieve what you plan… (failure to plan = plan to fail!)

● STEP:
  ■ STRATEGY (planning — be complete…)
  ■ TACTICS (tasks — be concise…)
  ■ EXECUTION (action — focus on achieving results…)
  ■ PERSPECTIVE (review — feedback is essential…)

Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat.

Sun Tzu (Chinese General and Author, b.500 BC)
The Difference Between Good and Great:

- **Good:**
  - Good managers do things right… *(your strengths…)*
  - Good leaders do the right things… *(your values…)*

- **Great:**
  - Great achievements = desire to succeed *(fact of life…)*
  - Great achievers make great sacrifices… *(e.g., family…)*

- **Ambition:**
  - Ambition is fine, but know your limitations *(trust me…)*

---

Greatness lies, not in being strong, but in the right using of strength.

Henry Ward Beecher (Liberal US Congregational minister, 1813-1887)
Perfection is the Enemy of Good Enough:

● Adapt to the Task:
  ■ You are no longer in school… (not being "graded"…)
  ■ You must work from incomplete data… (don't guess…)

● Learn How to Work:
  ■ You are paid to complete tasks… (don't waste time…)
  ■ You are paid to make decisions… (don't be afraid…)
  ■ You will make mistakes… (never put others at risk…)
  ■ You will get your hand slapped… (you are Aggies…)
  ■ You are only as good as your last time at bat… (sorry…)

Practice means to perform, over and over again in the face of all obstacles, some act of vision, of faith, of desire. Practice is a means of inviting the perfection desired.

Martha Graham  (American Dancer, Teacher, and Choreographer, 1894-1991)
Life Balance/Life Choices:

● Life Balance:
  ■ *Family must come first in your career*… *(trust me…)*
  ■ *You get vacation, take it*… *(trust me…)*
  ■ *Always ask your family*… *(they will tell you the truth…)*

● Life Choices:
  ■ *You can achieve anything, not everything*… *(sorry…)*
  ■ *You have the strength to change, use it*… *(trust me…)*
  ■ *Manage your misery, you can’t eliminate it*… *(reality…)*

---

*Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better take things as they come along with patience and equanimity.*

Carl Gustav Jung (Swiss Psychiatrist, 1875-1961)
Closing Remarks: *Happiness Is...*

- **Knowing Who You Are:**
  - *People rarely change...* (know who you are...)
- **Knowing What You *DO* Want:**
  - *Be prepared to sacrifice for what you want...* (sorry...)
  - *Goals change...* (money... kids... golf...)
- **Knowing What You *DON'T* Want:**
  - *Keep your "idiots quotient" low...* (you will see...)
  - *The only evidence of life is growth — don't stagnate...*

---

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope as old as your despair...

Perspectives

End of Presentation

Tom BLASINGAME
Petroleum Engineering — Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-3116 (USA)
+1.979.255.8808 — tom@blasingame.us