IMPROVING PROJECT COMMUNICATION

WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE PROJECT TEAM

Presented by Stuart G. Walesh, PhD, PE D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE, F.NSPE Consultant and Author stuwalesh@comcast.net

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- Provide a basis/place for taking notes during the webinar.
- Provide additional material (e.g., the appendices) for self or group study after the webinar.

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IMPROVING PROJECT COMMUNICATION: WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE PROJECT TEAM



I draw on my project management experiences in the public, private, and academic sectors; on research; and on lessons learned from successes and failures

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As a result of this webinar, you should be able to:

- Be more aware of communication's role in successful projects
- Learn and use communication tactics to contribute more to project success

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APPENDICES

A: RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

B: PRESENTER

C: EXPONENTIAL GROWTH OF RELATIONSHIPS

D: COMMUNICATING GLOBALLY

E: RED FLAG WORDS

F: GENERATIONS IN YOUR WORKPLACE AND

BEYOND

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TOPICS

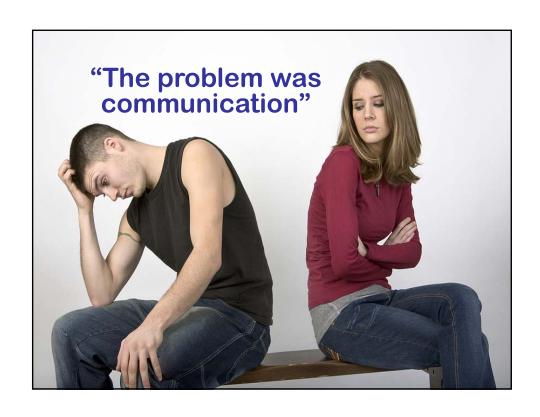
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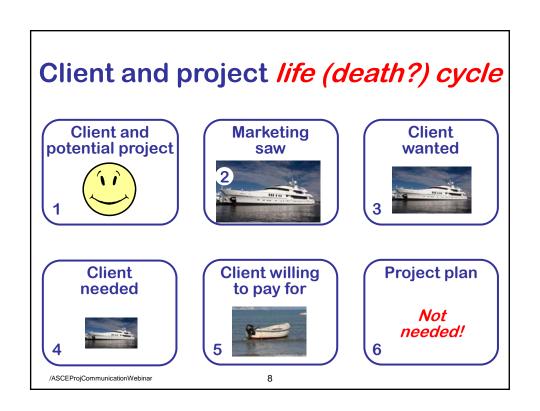
PROJECT COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

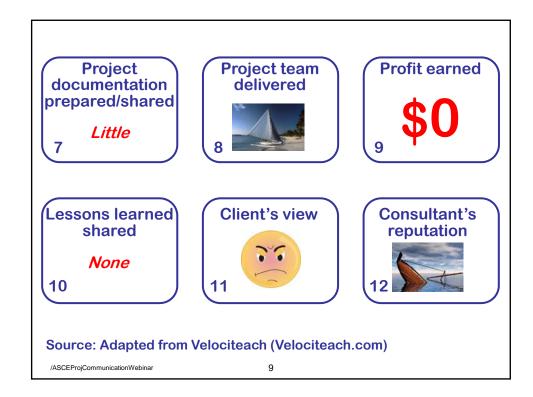
PROJECT COMMUNICATION TIPS

RECAP

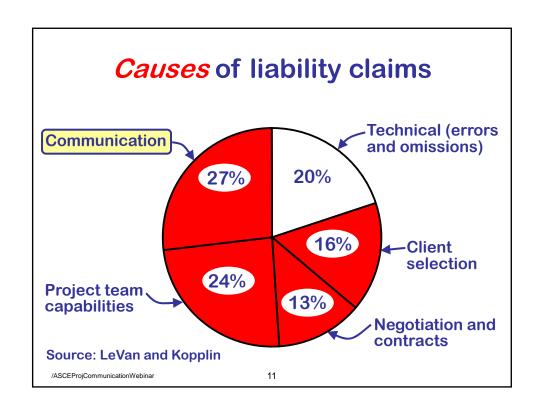
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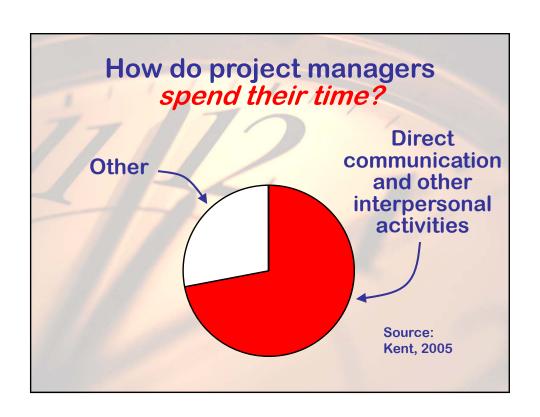














TOPICS

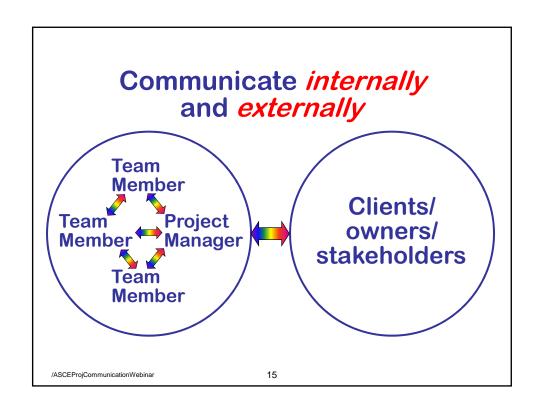
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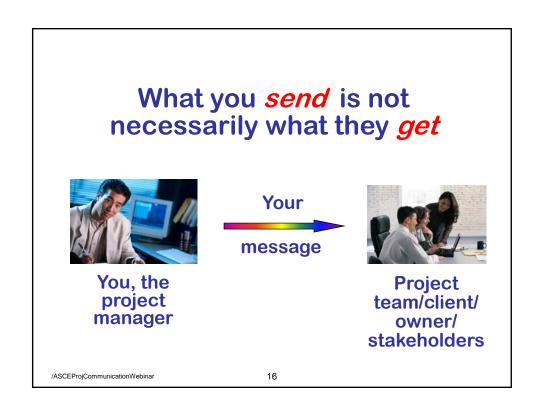
PROJECT COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

PROJECT COMMUNICATION TIPS

RECAP

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You wanted them to see a *chalice*



but they saw two children

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Fatal assumptions when we send a message

They understand

They agree

They care

They will act

Source: Clark and Crossland, 2002

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TOPICS

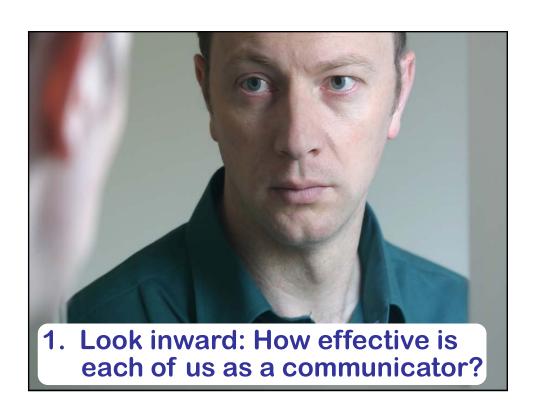
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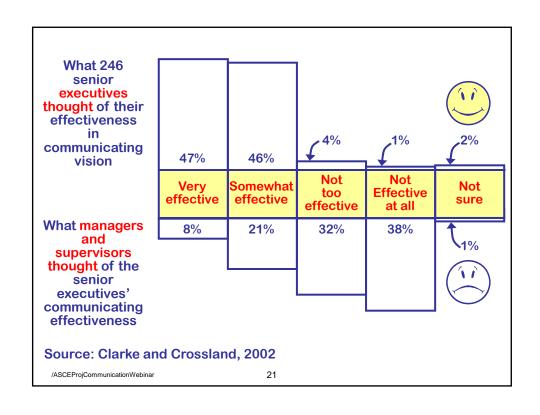
PROJECT COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

PROJECT COMMUNICATION TIPS

RECAP

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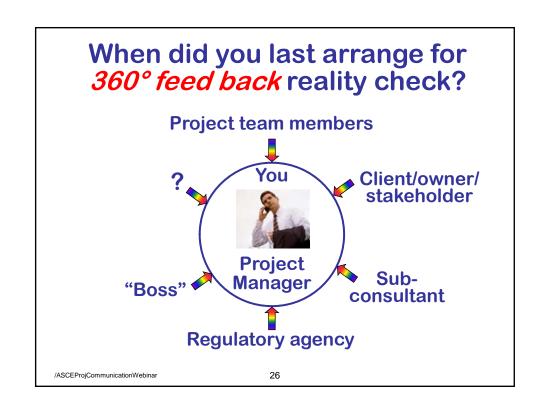












When a project is going well

Look out the window?



Gaze into the *mirror?*



Source: Collins, 2001

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Reward/recognize

Personal comment





Note

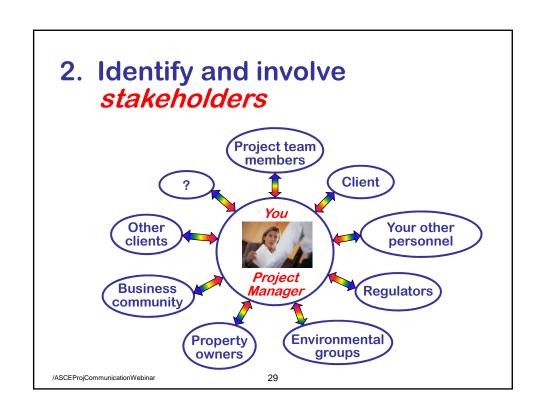
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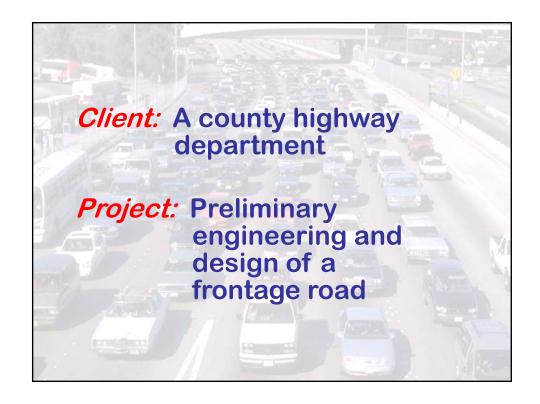


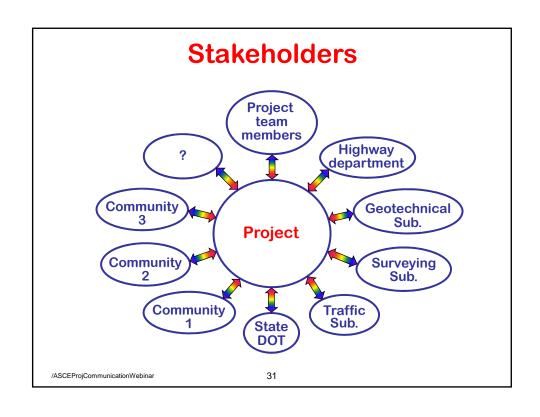


Financial

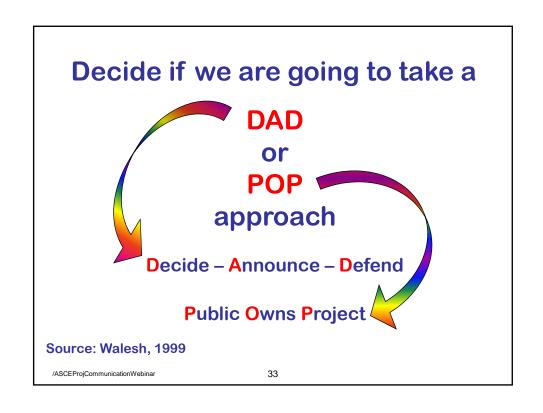
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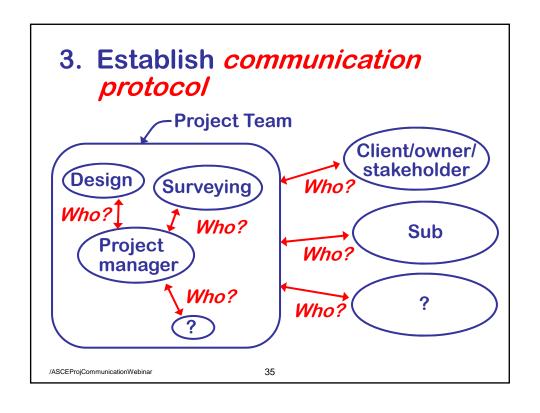


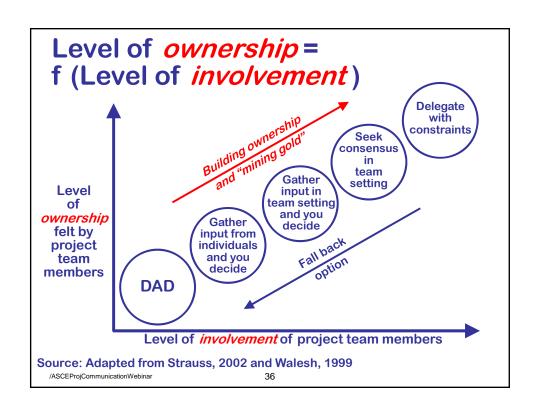






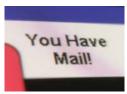






Collaboratively select communication tools





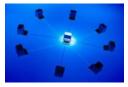
Telephone/ texting/ tweets



Website



Blog



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Create a system to monitor the most important project performance indicators

Share the system and the indicators:

Deliverables Schedule **Budget**

Public acceptance/transparency?

Keeping the mayor "happy?"

Securing a state grant?

Winning a project award?

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What do you or I communicate by not communicating?

- "It wasn't that important after all,
- It doesn't matter that it didn't get done,
- There are no consequences for missing a deadline, and/or
- Late is OK in our organization."

Source: Azzarello 2013

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The telephone



- Create an agenda
- Avoid giving bad news
- Minimize abbreviations, acronyms, and shop talk

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Issue status reports

- Work completed during period
- Work *planned* during next period
- Information/items needed
- Schedule and budget

One page maximum

Names of key team leaders

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Mix "Push" and "Pull"

Method you use as PM	Mode	
	"Push"	"Pull"
Copy others on email/texts/progress reports/etc. you send	х	
Request periodic oral or written status reports		Х
Conduct periodic or as-needed team meetings	Х	Х
Forward selected emails/texts with added comments	х	
Refer one or more individuals to a website/ person/other resource and request response	х	Х
Ask questions		Х
Request review of text/drawings/analysis/etc.		Х

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What is the role of social media in your evolving project communicative environment?

LinkedIn Facebook YouTube
Twitter Blogs ?

Be careful with confidential/sensitive project information

Maybe use to "push" information to the public

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Miscommunication ? Disaster







Deaths: 114 Injuries: 200

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyatt_Regency-walkway_collapse, Hoke 2011

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Communicate
communicate
communicate
communicate
with team members/clients/
owners/stakeholders

Don't treat them like mushrooms



"Kept in the dark and fed manure"

Source: Based, in part, on Davenport, 2005

- 4. Bring newly-formed, dispersed, project teams, together *face-to-face ASAP*
 - Then rely on *electronic meetings*



 Plan, execute, and follow-up as carefully as you do for face-toface meetings



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5. Build *intra-team camaraderie* and trust

- *Everyone* prepares for and *contributes* something to meetings
- Don't always meet at least cost location
- Avoid high status low status language

Source: Based in part on Brenner, 2003

Making *electronic meetings* work

 Display photos of team members on the computer



 Ask each person, or one person at each meeting, to share something personal (e.g., favorite quote, influential book, memorable trip)



 Engage everyone—call on them by name

Source: Zoninsein, 2010

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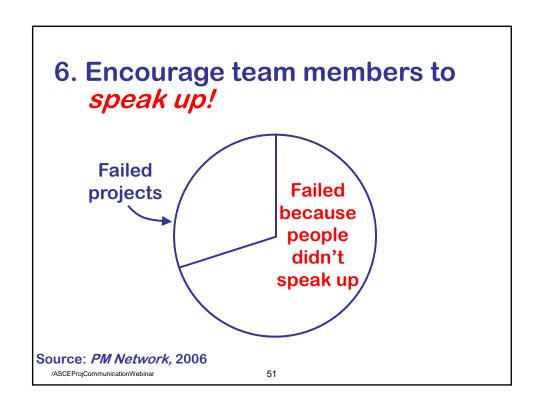
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- Use a "Vent" agenda item—encourage members to share biggest concerns about the project, team, or client
- Suggest anonymous use of the pound or hashtag key (on telephone conference calls) if someone talks too long, too much, or off-topic

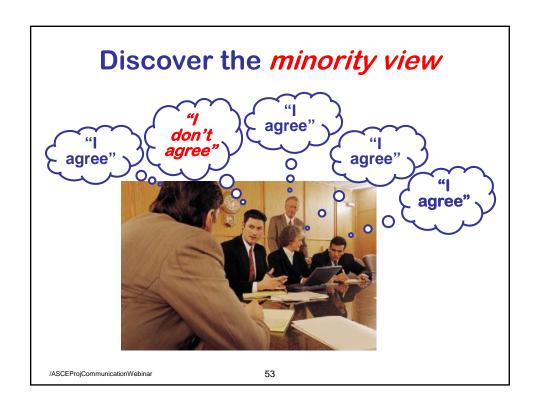


Source: Zoninsein, 2010

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Avoid dismissive gestures

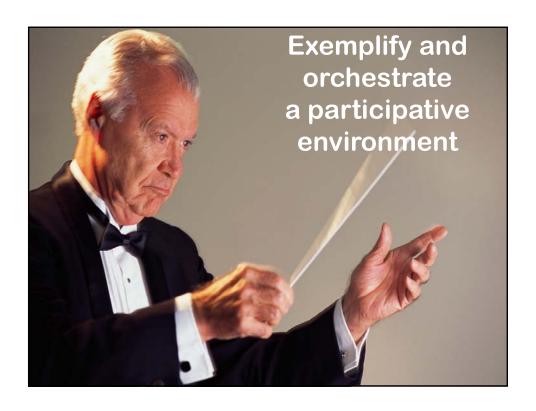
Eye rolling Heavy sighing Shrugging Tossing a document—with a "spin" Laughing at—not with **Self-grooming** Looking at watch You don't **Checking email**

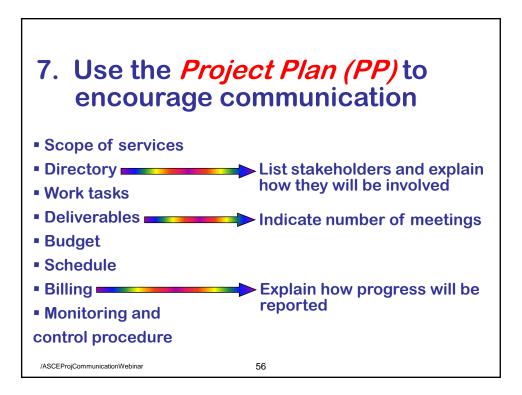
do these?

Are you sure?

Source: Brenner, 2007

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CATEGORY

Absolutes/superlatives

Words of promise

Multiple meanings/interpretations

EXAMPLES

Best, all,...

Assure, warrant,...

Periodic, safe,...

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9. Plan, execute, and follow-up on internal and external meetings

Do we need to meet?

Reason 1:
Working session

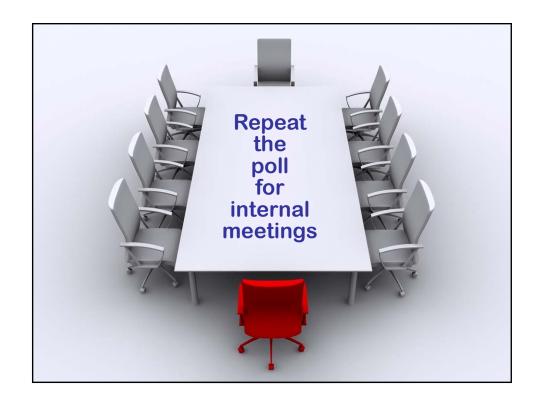
Reason 2:
Briefing on critical, non-routine topics



Time out for your input



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10. Bring the field into the office ASCEProjCommunicationWebinar 63



11. Recognize preferred ways of learning/understanding



Auditory: understand mainly by hearing



Visual: understand principally by seeing



Kinesthetic: understand mainly by touching/doing

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Anticipate varied styles by using:

Carefully written text



Practiced verbal briefings



Visuals



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Ductile iron pipe (DIP)



Polyvinyl chloride pipe (PVC)

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12. A project is likely to be viewed in very different ways by stakeholders

Stakeholder

View of the project

You, the project

manager

Your first opportunity to profitably manage a large project



City engineer

Negative – forced to do it by the council







Explore using psychological type models such as:

Myers Briggs:¹

16 types (e.g., INTJ and ISTJ)

• People Mapping:2

4 types (Leader, task, people, free spirit)

Sources:

- 1) Wankat and Oreovicz
- 2) Lillibridge

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When we make a recommendation to a ...

Leader Will want to know about the *long* term impact

Task person Will want to know how it would be implemented

People person Will want to know impact on others

Free spirit | Will want to know what is innovative/unique

Source: Based, in part, on Alessandra, 2004

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Speak, write, and answer questions

With qualifications keyed to audience

Positively, with high expectations

Source: Walesh, 2004, pp. 89-91

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I'll be glad to... I'll have to...

I'll try to... I will...

This should take I'll get it to you by... a few weeks to...

To tell the truth... Just tell it!

This is a problem This is an opportunity

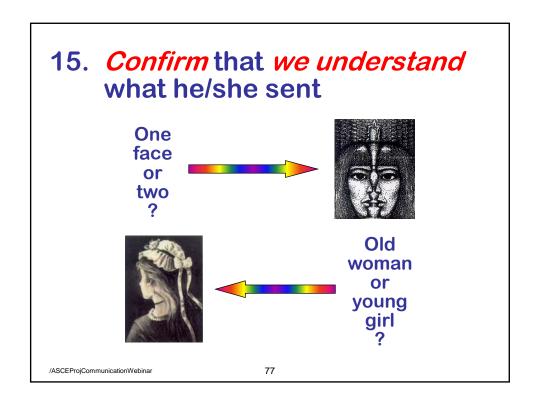
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14. Practice "e-tiquette" with email

- Proofread
- If you wouldn't say it, don't spray it
- Create an informative subject line and opening sentence
- Don't even suggest lewdness, crudeness, pornography, sexual harassment, etc.
- Use a complete signature
- Balance high tech with high touch

Source: Based, in part, on Conlin 2002, and Goupil 2008



Ways to *confirm* our understanding:

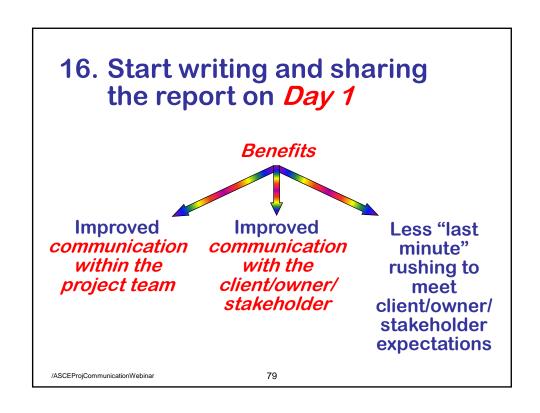
Ask using active verbs

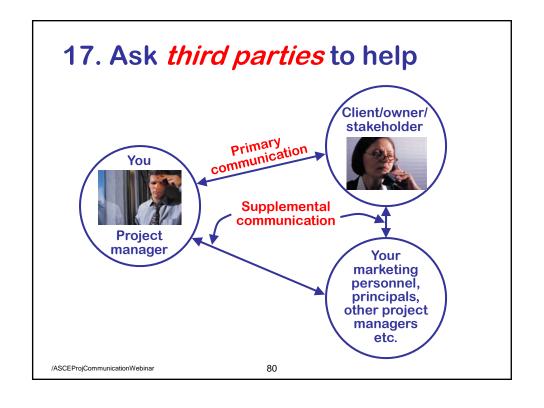
Paraphrase

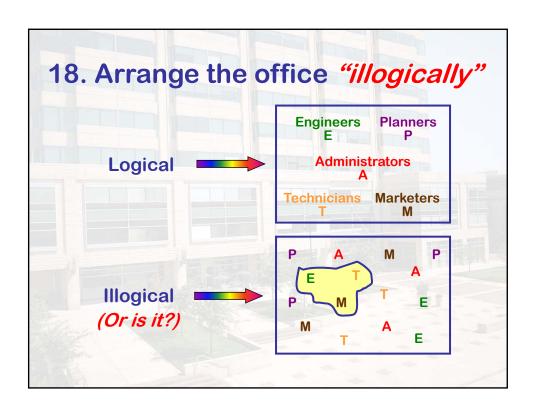
Draw/sketch

Follow up in writing

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19. Work with the generations in your workplace Caveat!

Generation Age in 2016

Traditionalists 71 or older

Baby boomers 52 - 70

Generation X 36 - 51

Generation Y 35 or younger

See Appendix F for preferences/characteristics

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Engaging Baby Boomers (Age in 2016: 52 - 70)

- Explain the advancement path
- Protect them from their workaholicism
- Provide technology assistance
- Enable them to teach/coach/mentor younger personnel

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Engaging Generation Xers (Age in 2016: 36 - 51)

- Coach and mentor
- Provide frequent (more than annual) feedback
- Involve them in vision/mission
- Provide competent managers
- · Reward based on merit
- · Offer flexible scheduling
- Stress teamwork
- Help them enrich their resumes
- Respect their personal life
- Ask for their opinions

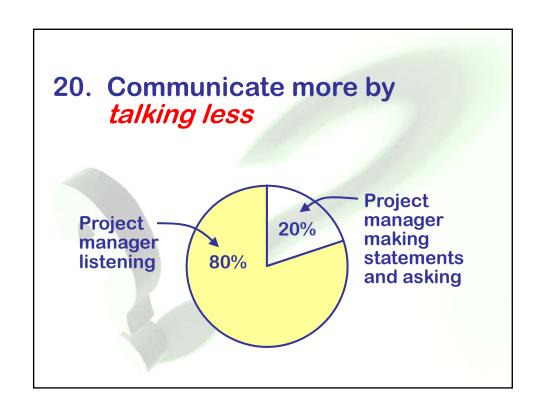
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Engaging Generation Yers (Age in 2016: Up to 35)

- Provide latest technology
- Provide very frequent feedback
- Indulge them
- Stress teamwork
- Offer flexible scheduling
- Ask for their opinions

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"Listening" with our eyes



Resists your message, closed mind



Thinks your words are deceptive



Has questions/concerns

Sources: NIBM, 1988; Wang, 2009

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Does not believe you



Deciding



Good decision

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As a result of this webinar, you should be able to:

- Be more aware of communication's role in successful projects
- Learn and use communication tactics to contribute more to project success

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TOPICS

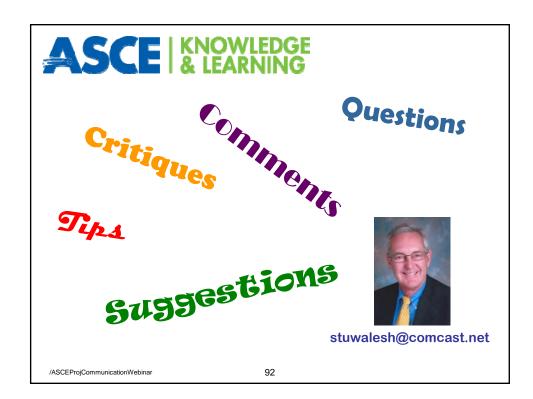
INTRODUCTION

PROJECT COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

PROJECT COMMUNICATION TIPS



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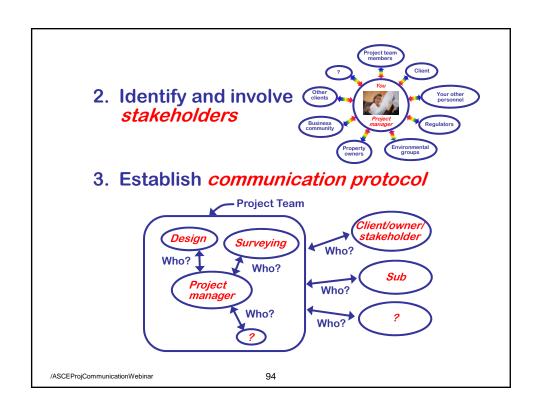
Poor communication
 within and outside of the
 project team causes
 problems



- *Tips* for improving project communication:
 - 1. Look inward



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4. Bring new teams together *(face-to-face)* early in the project



5. Build intra-team camaraderie



6. Encourage team members to *speak up!*



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7. Use the *PP* to encourage communication



8. Carefully use *red flag* words



9. Plan, execute, and follow-up on *meetings*



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10. Bring the field into the office



11. Recognize different styles







12. *Frame* your message for them



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13. Trim hedges



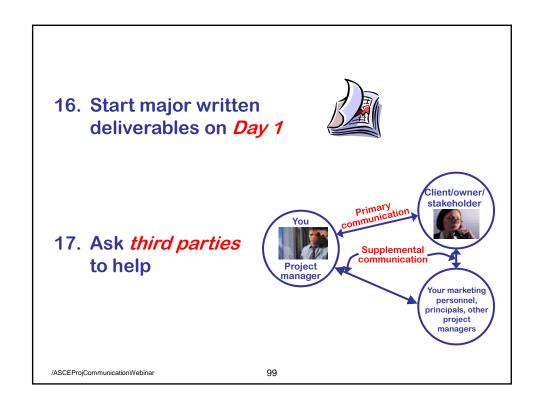
14. Practice *e-tiquette*



15. *Confirm* our understanding



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18. Arrange office
"illogically"

P A M P
E T A
P M T E
M A E

19. Work with the generations

Traditionalists
Baby boomers
Generation X
Generation Y

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20. Talk less, ask more



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APPENDIX A: RESOURCES

Note: Listed here are sources cited earlier plus additional materials for individual and group study. If you know of a useful resource that should be included, please let me know.

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Thank you, Stu Walesh stuwalesh@comcast.net

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Books and Articles

Alessandra, T. 2004. "Dr. T's Timely Tips, Adjusting to Other People's Behavioral Styles," June 19 (http://www.alessandra.com).

ASCE. 2007. *The Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025,* ASCE, Reston, VA.

Azzarello, P. 2013. "How to Lay Down the Law If Your Team Keeps Blowing Deadlines," Fast Company, February 2013. (http://www.fastcompany.com/3006023/how-lay-down-law-if-your-team-keeps-blowing-deadlines)

Bauerlein, M. 2009. "Why Gen-Y Johnny Can't Read Non-verbal Clues," Wall Street Journal, August 28.

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Beckwith, H. 2003. *What Clients Love,* Warner Business Books, New York, NY. (Offers these additional communication suggestions relevant to projects: 1) use your space (office) to communicate to clients that they belong and you care about them, 2) ok to occasionally err, but never let your communication suggest you don't care, and 3) apply rule of 3—people tend to be able to remember 3 ideas, topics, etc.)

Brack, C. 2011. "Life's Too Short for Bad Project Management," Project Management Insights, *CE NEWS* Webcast Series, April 8.

Brack, C. 2011. "Project Revival," *CE NEWS*, December, p. 20. (Addresses the communication challenges associated with relaunching a project that was put on hold. Suggests revisiting client goals and preferences, accounting for changes in project team personnel, and investigating events and changed conditions that could impact budgets and schedules.)

Brack, C. 2012. "Weekly Update!," CE NEWS, June, p. 28.

Brenner, R. 2003. 'Dispersed Teams and Latent Communications," *Point Lookout* (e-newsletter), Volume 3, Issue 36, September 3.

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Brenner, R. 2007. "Dismissive Gestures: Part I," *Point Lookout* (enewsletter), Volume 7, Issue 12, March 21.

Brenner, R. 2007. "Virtual Conflict," *Point Lookout* (e-newsletter), Chaco Canyon Consulting, October 17. (Cautions that, as virtual teams become more common, so does conflict. Physical separation, in spite of ease of electronic communication, tends to lead to miscommunication because it is not informed by the richness of face-to-face encounters. Urges face-to-face communication.)

Brown, S. 2010. "Online Social Media: Pitfalls and Opportunities for Civil Engineering Firms," *CE NEWS*, February, pp. 26-27.

Bucero, A. 2005. "Today Is A Good Day," *PM NETWORK,* November, p. 22. (Notes the domino effect that the project manager's attitude has on the project team and others.)

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Burns, D. D. 1999. *Feeling Good: The New Mood Therapy,* Chapter 10, "The Cause of It All, Avon Books, New York, NY. (Introduces the Dysfunctional Attitude Scale which helps an individual determine his or her "silent assumptions." A silent assumption is "an equation with which you define your personal worth. It represents your value system, your personal philosophy, the stuff on which you base your self-esteem. Includes a 35 question self evaluation instrument. This tool helps a person determine the degree to which he or she has "psychological strengths" or "emotional vulnerabilities" in these seven value systems: approval, love, achievement, perfectionism, entitlement, omnipotence, and autonomy.)

Carlson Learning Company. 1994. *Personal Profile System: A Plan to Understand Yourself and Others,* Minneapolis, MN. (Describes the DiSC profile system which uses dominance, influence, conscientiousness, and steadiness.)

Clarke, B. and R. Crossland. 2002. *The Leader's Voice,* SelectBooks, New York, NY.

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Cohen, Y., H. Ornoy, and B. Keren. 2012. "MBTI Personality Types of Project Managers and Their Success: A Field Survey," Project Management Journal, June, pp. 78-87. Provides an effective summary of the four dichotomies in the Myers-Briggs system. Concludes that "project managers (females and males) have a unique personality-type distribution that distinguishes them from the general population." That PM personality-type focuses on NT, intuition and thinking.

Collins, J. 2001. *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*, HarperCollins, New York, NY. (Dispels some leadership myths such as leaders tend to be charismatic.)

Conlin, M. 2002. "Watch What You Put in That Office E-mail," *Business Week*, September 30, pp. 114-115.

Culp, G. and A. Smith. 2001. "Understanding Psychological Type to Improve Project Team Performance," Journal of Management in Engineering, American Society of Civil Engineers, January, pp. 24-33.

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Davenport, T. H. 2005. *Thinking for a Living: How to Get Better Results from Knowledge Workers*, Harvard Business School Press. (This book recognizes that special efforts are needed to work effectively with knowledge workers—typically most members of a project team in an engineering organization. The author's ideas are likely to be especially useful to new project managers.)

Decker, B. 1992. *You've Got to Be Believed to Be Heard,* St. Martin's Press, New York, NY.

Dixon, P. A. 2007. "Choosing Your Words Carefully," Holmes Murphy & Associates, October 23.

Feith, D. 2013. "The Real Cures for Gun Violence," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 19-20, p. A11.

Frehsee, N. 2013. "Strength in Numbers," *PM NETWORK,* June, pp. 46-53.

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Gale, S. F. 2007. "The Turn Around Artist," *PM NETWORK*, pp. 29-35. (Notes that the characteristics of dysfunctional teams "always circles back to a lack of trust and poor communication"—Notes that "sometimes there are too many of the same kinds of people on a team.")

Gale, S. F. 2011. "External Stakeholders Can Derail a Project if Their Concerns Aren't Addressed from the Outset," *PM NETWORK*, September 2011, pp. 30-34.

Gilbert, D. 2006. *Stumbling on Happiness*, Vintage Books, New York, NY.

Gladwell, M. 2000. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference,* Little, Brown, and Company, New York, NY.

Gohring, N. 2004. "Face Time," PM NETWORK, November, pp. 41-45.

Goupil, J. 2008. "Effective Communication," From the Editor, *Structural Engineer*, July, p. 8.

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Harrin, E. 2010. *Social Media for Project Managers,* Project Management Institute, Newtown Square, PA. (A review in the September 2010 *PM NETWORK* states "Many companies that initially used social media to reach customers and build their reputations and now expanding its use to internal project management as well.")

Hessen, C. N. and B. J. Lewis. 2001. "Steps You Can Take to Hire, Keep, and Inspire Generation Xers," *Leadership and Management in Engineering – ASCE*, Winter, pp. 42-44.

Hoke, T. 2011. "Ensuring the Safety, Health, and Welfare of the Public," A Question of Ethics column, *Civil Engineering*, July, pp. 42-43. (Reviews the disastrous 1981 failure of atrium walkways in the Kansas City Hyatt. One conclusion: Repeated miscommunication led to the physical disaster.)

Kaplan-Leiserson, E. 2010. "Engineers Work On Their Social Life," *PE*, NSPE, May, pp. 30-33.

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Kegan, R. and L. L. Lahey. 2001. *How the Way We Talk Can Change the Way We Work,* Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA. (The authors claim that our success and significance is partly and significantly determined by how we speak to ourselves and others. Seven language transformations are offered. For example, moving from the language of blame to the language of personal responsibility.)

Kent, S. 2005. "Better Behavior," *PM NETWORK*, November, pp. 4-8. (Cites a Templeton College, Oxford, UK research paper which concluded that "27 percent of a project manager's time is spent on direct communications and another 45 percent on other interpersonal activities." Stated differently, almost three fourths of the project manager's time is interaction with people. If your organization has a project manager education and training program, is sufficient time devoted to direct communication and other interpersonal activities?)

Korzybski, A. 2002. "Manhood of Humanity: The Science and Art of Human Engineering—Appendix 4: Some Non-Aristotelian Data on Efficiency for Human Adjustment," Copyright by Antig Illium.

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Leadership and Management in Engineering, quarterly publication of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Reston, VA. (Emphasis is on the "soft" or people side of engineering practice presented in a variety of ways ranging from short tidbits to in-depth articles. Includes many communication topics.)

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E-Newsletter

"Point Lookout," a free weekly e-newsletter from Chaco Canyon Consulting. Featured are essays and white papers on teamwork, conflict, and project management. Many previously published essays and white papers are available at no cost. To subscribe go to http://www.chacocanyon.com/. (4/16)

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Websites

"ASCE Archived Micro LearningWebinars Available Online,"
(http://mylearning.asce.org/diweb/catalog?db=0&c=79&q=
%22Micro+Learning%22&f1=1&f2=1&_ga=1.1525915453.
1053679034.1457196835). Provides for purchase of webinars using your ASCE email and password. By taking and passing a post-test, users receive CEUs based on the course length. Go to the link and search under "Walesh" to find the following archived Management and Leadership webinars originally presented by Stu Walesh: (4/16)

- Critical Path Method: Introduction to the Method and Software
- Delegation: Improve Your and Their Productivity
- Ethical Behavior: The Key to Earning Trust
- Holding Productive Meetings to Increase the "Bottom Line"
- Improving Project Communication: Within and Outside of the Project Team
- Marketing 101

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- Mentoring: Guidance for Mentors, Protégés, and Organizations
- Monitoring Project Budgets and Schedules: Introduction to the Earned Value Method
- Project Planning: How to Think Through Before You DO
- Quality: What Is It and How Do We Achieve It?
- Release the Leader Within You and Others: The Seven Qualities of Effective Leaders
- Retaining and Recruiting "A" Personnel
- Scope Creep: Focus on Prevention and Improve Project Performance
- Solving Problems and Pursuing Opportunities
- Speaking: How to Prepare and Deliver a Convincing Presentation
- The Five Habits of Highly Effective Marketers
- Time Management: A Roles and Goals Approach to Life Balance
- Working Smarter: Using Brain Basics to Enhance Individual and Organizational Performance
- Writing: How to Engage and Convince Your Readers

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"Helping You Engineer Your Future"

(http://www.HelpingYouEngineerYourFuture.com) offers complimentary ideas and information to help individuals and organizations improve their project management knowledge and skills. Provides links to free online resources and summarizes news and events. (4/16)

"Human Metrics" (http://www.humanmetrics.com) provides a free personality test. (4/16)

"TeamTechnology" (http://www.teamtechnology.co.uk) provides an introduction to the Myers-Briggs personality profile system and introduces the Mental Muscle Diagram Indicator (MMDI) personality test. (4/16)

"The Project Management Institute" (http://www.pmi.org/) is the official website of the PMI. Included are membership information, conference and seminar announcements, calls for paper, and a bookstore. (4/16)

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Blog

"All About Project Management Offices,"

(www.aboutpmos.blogspot.com) is described as "a discussion of project management offices from the perspective of the director of the PMO." Includes links to websites and podcasts. (4/16)

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APPENDIX B: PRESENTER

Stuart G. Walesh, PhD, PE provides management, engineering, education/training, and marketing services. He draws on more than 40 years of engineering, education, and management experience in the government and private sectors to help individuals and organizations engineer their futures. Walesh has functioned as a project manager, department head, discipline manager, marketer, professor, and dean of an engineering college.

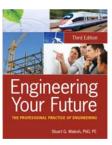
Representative clients: include ASCE; Boston Society of Civil Engineers; BSA Life Structures; Castilla La Mancha University; CDM; Clark Dietz; Daimler Chrysler; DLZ; Earth Tech; Utility Board of Evansville, IN; Harris County (TX) Flood Control District; Hinshaw & Culbertson; Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Indiana Department of Transportation/Purdue University; J. F. New; Leggette, Brashears & Graham; Midwest Geosciences Group; MSA Professional Services; PBS&J; Town of Pendleton, IN; Pennoni Associates; Taylor Associates; City of Valparaiso, IN; University of New Haven; University of Wisconsin Engineering Professional Development; and Wright Water Engineers.

Walesh authored *Urban Surface Water Management* (Wiley, 1989), *Flying Solo: How to Start an Individual Practitioner Consulting Business* (Hannah Publishing, 2000), *Managing and Leading: 52 Lessons Learned for Engineers* (ASCE, 2004), *Managing and Leading: 44 Lessons Learned for Pharmacists* (ASHP, 2008, co-authored with Paul Bush, Pharm.D), *Engineering Your Future: The Professional Practice of Engineering -* Third Edition

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(Wiley and ASCE Press, 2012), and *Introduction to Creativity and Innovation for Engineers* (Pearson, 2016).







Walesh is author or co-author of over 200 publications and presentations and has facilitated or presented over 200 workshops, seminars, webinars, and meetings throughout the U.S. He recently chaired NSPE's Engineering Body of Knowledge Subcommittee and has chaired many national committees.

In 1995, he received the Public Service Award from the Consulting Engineers of Indiana; in 1998, the Distinguished Service Citation from the College of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin; in 2003, the Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Leadership Award presented by ASCE; in 2004, he

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was elected an Honorary Member of ASCE; in 2005, he was elected a Diplomate of the American Academy of Water Resource Engineers; in 2007, he was named Engineer of the Year by the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers and received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Society of Professional Engineers; in 2008, he received the William H. Wisely American Civil Engineer Award from ASCE for leadership in promoting engineering as a profession; in 2009, he received the George K. Wadlin Distinguished Service Award from the Civil Engineering Division of the American Society for Engineering Education; in 2010, he was named a Fellow Member of the National Society of Professional Engineers; in 2013, he received an Alumni Achievement Award from Valparaiso University; and in 2014, he received the Thomas A. Morris Leadership Award from the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers.

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APPENDIX C: EXPONENTIAL GROWTH
OF RELATIONSHIPS

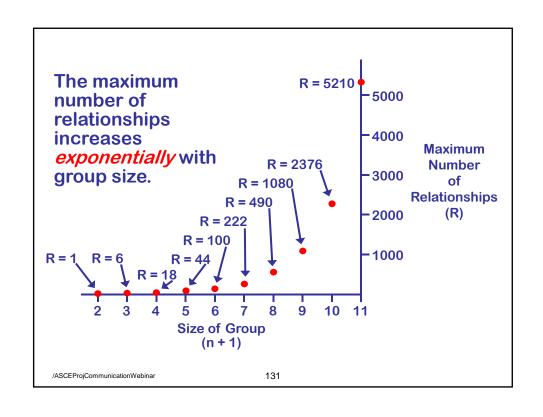
Example of increased complexity: Possible one-on-one and one-on-two or more relationships based on group size.

Size of group	Size of group excluding manager/leader (n)	Group configuration with relationships	Maximum number of relationships (R)
2	1		1
3	2		6
4	3		18
Etc.	Etc.	Etc.	Etc.
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$$R = n(\frac{2^n}{2} + n - 1)$$

Source: Korzybski, 2002; Polakov, 1933

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- Study culture's/country's history.
- Be aware of civil and religious *holidays*.
- Learn several phrases in their language (e.g., thank you, good morning). Visit a language department at your local college/university to learn the correct pronunciation.

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- Avoid "our" sarcasms, clichés, jokes, etc. which can be easily misunderstood.
- Appreciate that written communication will often get more attention.

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- Be careful to understand common, frequently used words.
 - "Hai" in Japanese means "I've heard you speaking" but does not mean "I agree" and/or "will do as you suggest."
 - "Claro" in Spanish means "that is obvious," but does not mean "I agree."
 - "Table it" in Canada and UK means discuss it now.

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- Understand customs/protocol (e.g., coffee before discussing business in the Middle East, avoid hand on shoulder in many cultures/countries).
- Recognize that some individuals may view *questions* as a sign of mistrust.
- Focus on understanding their goals.

Sources: For all, except "common words" advice: P. Carrato, Bechtel; M. Fink, A. Epstein and Sons; D. Lau, CDM; J. Sauer, BSA Life Structures; and R. Schroedel, Earth Tech. See Weiss, 2003, for common words advice, and Silver, 2009 for additional ideas.

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- Avoid being directly critical of someone in China. The Chinese place great value on "saving face" and maintaining a high level of respect for one another.
- Note that Asian cultures put much more value on face-to-face communication than, for example, Americans and Asian cultures highly value relationships.

Source: Gohring, 2004.

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APPENDIX E: RED FLAG WORDS

Absolutes and superlatives

All, always, any, best, every, highest, maximum, minimum, never, none, only

Words of promise

Approve, assure, ensure, examine, certify, guarantee, insure, investigate, supervise, test, warrant

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Words of multiple meanings/interpretations

Complete, defend, equal, essential, estimate, expert, final, full, furnish, install, necessary, periodic, required, safe, specialist, thorough

Source: Adapted from Dixon, 2007

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			APPENDIX F: GENERATIONS IN YOUR WORKPLACE AND BEYOND
Generation ¹	Birth years¹	Age range in 2014	Preferences/ characteristics
Traditionalists ¹ (or Veterans born before 1939 ²)	Before 1945	69 or older	 Respectful of authority² Solid work ethic More motivated to exceed expectations than younger workers⁵
Baby boomers ¹	1946 - 1964	50 - 68	 Competitive, pay your dues³ Workaholics, committed to employer, live to work¹ Love/hate view of authority² More motivated to exceed expectations than younger workers⁵
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Generation ¹	Birth years¹	Age range in 2014	Preferences/ characteristics
Generation X ¹	1965 - 1980	34 - 49	 Skeptical, independent-minded³ Prefer learning via mentoring and coaching, detest incompetent leadership, want involvement in mission and vision, need many positive strokes⁴ Balance work and personal life, committed to career not employer, limited supervision, embrace technology¹ Unimpressed by authority²
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Generation ¹	Birth years¹	Age range in 2014	Preferences/ characteristics
Generation Y ¹ (or Millenniums ²)	1981 - 2000	14 - 33	 Teamwork, feedback, technology³ Married to technology, over- indulged, instant gratification, flexibility¹
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