ETM

Department of Engineering and Technology Management

Technology Management Seminar Series

Graduate Seminars – Spring 2013

Tapping Team Power through Levels of Alignment

Abstract:

Engineering and technical teams are always full of smart people wanting to succeed. Sometimes these teams achieve amazing things, but far too often teams just don’t seem to reach their potential, and some of these teams are outright disasters! What makes the difference?

Our stories about “what happened?” often emphasize the role of the visionary leader, the technical ace, or the bad apple in the barrel. These people matter, but it’s not just about who they are as individuals. They bring talent or attitude to the team, but what blossoms and what rots depends a lot on the team environment.

In his presentation, Tom will address team environment and performance in terms of alignment: individual, interpersonal, and organizational. Using examples drawn from his extensive experience leading successful (and not so successful) technical organizations, he will discuss a practical framework to help leaders and other team members get more of what they want – success and fulfillment.

Thomas Robertson, Ph.D.
Founder and Principal
Thinking Teams

Background:

Tom Robertson is Founder and Principal at Thinking Teams. After earning a Ph.D. from Purdue University doing research in bioengineering and artificial intelligence, Tom was a Member of the Technical Staff at Bell Labs, automating failure detection and repair in the Bell System. He then led businesses performing leading-edge R&D at TASC; was Director of Engineering and Chief Scientist at Lockheed Martin Advanced Simulation Center; and served as VP/GM at Atlantic Aerospace. Realizing his main interest had become developing R&D leaders and organizations, he joined a Boston area R&D firm with MIT roots to lead business units, recruit and mentor leaders, and help the firm grow to become part of a global aerospace company. Tom started Thinking Teams to broaden his contribution and to share his passion for helping talented teams achieve great results in highly challenging situations.

Day: April 12, 2013

Time: 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Room: EB 103
1900 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201