

# Employers and Ethical Standards

## Broad-based education better prepares engineers for the workplace

An engineer's eye takes in much of how the world works. They see the way systems come together to form a cohesive whole; they know the mechanics behind a good, functioning unit; they understand how design shapes public projects. But having knowledge that goes beyond the basics is often the telling difference between good engineers and great ones.

That difference is found in a comprehensive education.

"My LMU education allows me to address issues that others aren't necessarily prepared to face," says Jeanette Storey '97, MBA '02, who is director of development for the School of Biological Sciences at UC Irvine.

The benefits of a well-rounded, liberal arts curriculum are corroborated by LMU graduates and the companies that hire them. LMU's Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering graduates excellent engineers who are exposed broadly to the world they plan to serve.

In the Jesuit academic tradition, all students are required to take a substantial core program in the liberal arts — including philosophy, English, history, theology and speech — in addition to the requirements for their major.

That broad-based education is "one of the key things I've taken from LMU and been able to apply directly to my work," says Francis Sideco '99. The electrical engineering major is now a senior analyst for iSuppli, a high-tech market research firm in El Segundo, Calif. "I've noticed that my education as an engineer helps me marry the expertise I have to communication skills." Sideco says he saw his advantage even more when he reached management levels, where he had to convey abstract thoughts

to less-technical audiences. "Definitely philosophy classes, or English classes and even a theology class helped me in those situations."

### INDUSTRY LEADERS SEE STRONG ETHICS IN LMU STUDENTS

LMU graduates' grounding in the humanities yields unforeseen benefits. "I have found that treating all people at work, whether they are fellow employees, supervisors, janitors or new hires, with respect and consideration makes a world of difference in building a healthy working environment," says Allan Avelino '01, MBA '08.

Their technical education wins LMU graduates high praise, too. "We've been very successful with Loyola Marymount grads," says Bret Botzong, a manager of government programs with Boeing Satellite Systems in El Segundo, Calif. "I've always been impressed with how well they are prepared for the workplace. They have an exceedingly good grasp of electrical engineering due to a lot of personal attention."

Botzong has hired a dozen or so Loyola Marymount graduates, beginning years ago with summer hires. "It gave us an opportunity to see how they worked out," he says. From that experience, he sought out more LMU people as needs arose.

Botzong is impressed, as well, with Loyola Marymount's program as a whole. "The curriculum is well-rounded ... and professors use the summers to get industry experience. They take that 'real-life' stuff back to the classroom." He notes that an additional measure of the program is the enthusiasm of recent

graduates during interviews: "Several of them, the first thing they brought out were their senior projects. You could see how excited they were about it."

The aerospace industry, Botzong says, has become interested in instilling a sense of ethics in employees. Companies have "to train people to do the right thing," he says, even to the point of giving classes to employees. While he can't directly credit LMU's broad-based curriculum for the quality of the LMU graduates he works with, Botzong says that they "seem to be well-versed, with a good moral compass."

### ALUMNI INCORPORATE JESUIT PHILOSOPHY INTO THE WORKPLACE

The Seaver College of Science and Engineering's ethos of public service prepares ethically minded, morally courageous graduates for diverse and challenging work situations.

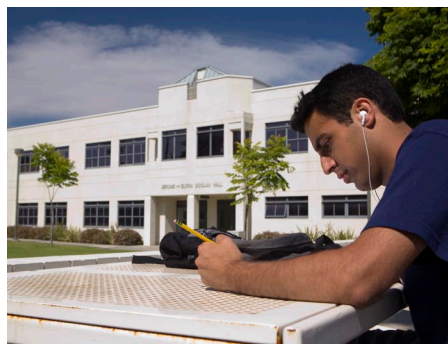
Mukhles Bhuiyan, a power engineering manager for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, is impressed with the quality of the LMU graduates he's encountered on the job. "They're good kids, with very good attitudes. They are willing to learn and willing to work in a team," he says. Bhuiyan says that in discussions with recent LMU graduates, they mention to him that their experiences at Loyola Marymount have prepared them for the workplace.

Martha Townsend '83 leaned on the education and spiritual resources she gained at LMU when she made the transition from a secure job with a corporation to an entrepreneurial enterprise. Townsend is president of Market Ready Rx, her Santa Bar-

*Martha Townsend '83 credits her Jesuit education for her enormous success.*



All Seaver College undergraduates take at least one course in ethics.



bara, Calif., firm that guides biomedical companies through the process of unveiling and marketing new devices. She credits her LMU experience for the persistence and boldness she needed to be a success.

"Jesuit learning is to challenge everything, which is part of science, too. Biotechnology companies come to me with million-dollar questions. My [LMU] training helps me to challenge assumptions and find the right solutions for them. That comes from a Jesuit education," she says. "How I approach a problem is influenced by my education. Also, a dedication to service was instilled in me at LMU. It's about giving back. I still do that today."

LMU graduates embody the scientific spirit of investigation, experimentation, development and innovation, combined with a spiritual dimension and work ethic that makes them sensitive to the needs and values of society.



*A manager of government programs with Boeing Satellite Systems, Bret Botzong believes LMU graduates "have a good moral compass."*