

# CommunityMatters™

A Monthly Newsletter for the ABET Community

June 2008

## InsideABET

### 2008 Annual Meeting to Bring Together ABET Stakeholders for Visioning, Alliances, and More

*Charting Tomorrow* will be the theme for the 2008 ABET Annual Meeting. The event will take place at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, KY, on Thursday, October 30, and Friday, October 31.

This year's special conference will encourage participants to explore current and projected developments in the areas of student learning outcomes, millennial learning models, and the K-12 pipeline and assess the potential impact of those developments on educational paradigms, U.S. graduate competitiveness, and educational quality assurance.

The conference begins a presentation from this year's keynote speaker, **James J. Duderstadt, Ph.D.**, is President Emeritus at the University of Michigan, where he currently directs the Millennium Project. He is also the author of *Engineering for a Changing World: A Roadmap to the Future of Engineering Practice, Research, and Education*, and he will provide a provocative view of the future of technological education based on the findings of his report.

The meeting will continue with four sessions, each of which will be introduced by a content expert who will provide the session's context. Then, trained facilitators will direct breakout sessions where participants will work in small groups to address the following pressing issues for the technical community:

#### ► Anticipating Needed Competencies

Participants will identify the professional competencies needed to succeed in the applied science, computing, engineering, and technology professions of the future. Then, they will consider appropriate educational sequences and disciplinary

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## VolunteerSpotlight

### Dave Cook

*Through rain or snow or sleet or hail,  
ABET volunteers never fail!*

Normally, this is an inside joke in ABET circles, but last fall, David A. Cook, Ph.D., proved just how true this statement could be.

Dave, a 23-year veteran of the Air Force who now works as a Senior Research Scientist for the AEGIS Technologies Group in Albuquerque, became a member of ABET's Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) last summer. His first assignment as a team chair was to visit a program at an institution in California last fall. That sounds easy enough to accomplish, doesn't it?

Dave's team arrived on campus at 8 sharp Monday morning to begin their visit, only to find the institution closing an hour later as high winds and nearby wildfires threatened the school. Dave's team relocated to a Mexican restaurant and later to a Starbucks to continue interviewing the program's faculty. Then, they began an arduous drive back to their hotel via back streets, as the Interstate was closed.

"Of course, *all* of the street signs were downed by the winds," he said. "We had only a vague notion of where the hotel was located.

Most stop signs and traffic lights were down, also contributing to the general merriment."

By Tuesday morning, the wildfires had emitted so much ash that the team had to scrape the rental car's windshields before they could drive anywhere. By that afternoon, the school had officially closed for the week.

"Our team adopted 'Come on Baby, Light My Fire' and 'Blowing in the Wind' as our official team songs," he said.

Still, Dave and his team found ways to continue their evaluation. The program's chair boxed up 70 pounds of course materials and shipped them to Dave, who parsed

them out among the team members to review. Two months later, Dave returned to campus alone to complete the visit.

"Believe it or not, the week before my second visit, they had a minor earthquake," he said. "If a third visit was required, I would have expected the Black Death to reappear."

In July, Dave will help the CAC determine the program's action during the commission's annual meeting. Then, he will begin his assignment for the 2008-2009 accreditation cycle, which is unlikely to be nearly as challenging as this year's was. After all, Dave is one team chair who has endured trial by literal fire.



## LookAhead

June 21 — Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes, Pittsburgh, PA

June 21-22 — Program Evaluator Training, Pittsburgh, PA

July 16-20 — Summer Commission Meetings, Arlington, VA

August 4-8 — Institute for the Development of Excellence in Assessment Leadership (IDEAL), Baltimore, MD

August 7 — ABET Industry Advisory Council Meeting, Baltimore, MD

# InsideABET

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structures that can respond to those future needs.

- ▶ **Adapting to Millennial Learning Models**  
The coming generations will be adept at employing asynchronous learning opportunities (podcasts, streaming video) and leading interactive virtual lives (gaming, social networking). This session will consider whether academe will change the traditional educational paradigm to meet these students' technological savvy and, if so, how.
- ▶ **Organizing to Improve the Pipeline**  
Without adequately prepared, diverse students entering technical programs, these professions will fail. This problem is being worked by organizations, institutions, the government, industry, K-12 educators, and others, but not often in concert. During this session, participants will formulate strategies to address these issues and develop new alliances along the way.
- ▶ **Rethinking Quality Assurance**  
This session will engage participants in exploring the previous sessions' implications for accreditation and developing a framework for educational quality assurance that can adapt to new paradigms and encourage innovation while maintaining the quality ABET accreditation signifies.

Some of these sessions will run concurrently, and they will be offered multiple times to allow attendees to participate in several topics. A Friday afternoon wrap-up panel will bring together all participants to share the preliminary findings from the previous sessions.

ABET would like to have as many stakeholders as possible involved in this pivotal event, and it is anticipated that scholarships will be available to support travel and lodging expenses for those working on issues surrounding the K-12 pipeline deficit.

The latest information about the Annual Meeting will be posted at [www.abet.org/annual.shtml](http://www.abet.org/annual.shtml) as it becomes available, so please check back for further details throughout the summer.

## Special Buy 4, Get 1 Free Offer on ABET Webinars!

Build your school's assessment and accreditation library with CD recordings from ABET's first webinar series. A CD recording of any single topic is \$149. All CDs include an automated, 90-minute presentation with coinciding audio, as well as a master set of handouts related to that topic. Also, ABET is currently running a special offer when you can buy any four CDs and get a free fifth recording of your choice if you purchase before September 30.

To view the full list of topics covered over the webinar series or to purchase CD recordings, visit [www.abet.org/webinar.shtml](http://www.abet.org/webinar.shtml).

## What's Going on with ABET This Summer?

*CommunityMatters* is going on its annual summer hiatus, but that doesn't mean that ABET will be. Here's just a short schedule of the events that will occur before our return in September:

- ▶ **ABET Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes**
  - ▶ Saturday, June 21, Pittsburgh, PA
- ▶ **ABET Program Evaluator Training**
  - ▶ Saturday, June 21, and Sunday, June 22, Pittsburgh, PA
- ▶ **Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) Institutional Representative Briefing — FREE!**
  - ▶ Sunday, June 22, Pittsburgh, PA

- ▶ **2008 Summer Commission Meeting**

- ▶ Wednesday, July 16, to Sunday, July 20, Arlington, VA

- ▶ **The Institute for the Development of Excellence in Assessment Leadership (IDEAL)**

- ▶ Monday, August 4, to Friday, August 8, Baltimore, MD
- ▶ *You still have time to submit your application!* Visit [www.abet.org/ideal.shtml](http://www.abet.org/ideal.shtml) for details!

- ▶ **ABET Industry Advisory Council Meeting**

- ▶ Thursday, August 7, to Saturday, August 9, Baltimore, MD

In addition to hosting these events, ABET is continuing work on the following projects:

- ▶ The Partnership to Advance Volunteer Excellence (PAVE)
- ▶ The ABET Board's Strategic Planning Task Groups on Globalization and Governance
- ▶ Further harmonization of the accreditation criteria and processes
- ▶ The programs for its Society and Commission Summits this fall
- ▶ The 2008 Annual Meeting
- ▶ And much, much more!

You can keep up with us this summer — and all year long — by subscribing to *ABET E-NEWS*: [www.abet.org/sign\\_up.asp](http://www.abet.org/sign_up.asp). See you in September!



**Don't Forget to Apply for the 2008 ABET President's Award for Diversity!**

More details at [www.abet.org/diversity.shtml](http://www.abet.org/diversity.shtml).

## ABETOnline

- ▶ Apply for this summer's IDEAL at [www.abet.org/ideal.shtml](http://www.abet.org/ideal.shtml).
- ▶ Prepare your nominations for this year's President's Award for Diversity: [www.abet.org/diversity.shtml](http://www.abet.org/diversity.shtml).
- ▶ Sign up for ABET's E-NEWS alerts at [www.abet.org/sign\\_up.shtml](http://www.abet.org/sign_up.shtml).

## CommunityMatters™

*CommunityMatters* is a monthly publication of ABET, Inc., produced for and distributed to more than 3,000 stakeholders, including ABET-accredited programs; ABET commission, Board, and council members; ABET member societies; and program evaluators.

**Editor:** Gloria Rogers, Associate Executive Director of Professional Services

**Writers:** Liz Glazer, Communications Manager  
Keryl Cryer, Communications Specialist

**Questions or comments:** [eglazer@abet.org](mailto:eglazer@abet.org)

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# Assessment101

## Assessment Tips with Gloria Rogers, Ph.D.

### The Challenge of Leadership

It is not unusual to get an e-mail from an assessment leader who is frustrated by the resistance he or she is getting from program faculty in the development and implementation of a continuous quality improvement (CQI) system at the program level. The following are some principles that may help as we try to get others to participate in the CQI process.

### Change Is Difficult<sup>1</sup>

Do you remember the last time you had to switch from one software version to another one? Or maybe you can remember when your program went from a quarter system to a semester system. Change is hard. It is always easiest to maintain the status quo. Why are we surprised when there is resistance when we ask our colleagues to do something new or different? Any significant change will usually generate the following stages:

Stage one is **denial**, the inability to picture or understand impending change and how it will affect the status quo. It generally produces such questions related to the impact it will have on the current work load or priorities. It is commonly believed that, if it is ignored, it will go away.

Stage two is **resistance**. This incorporates a wide variety of behaviors designed to avoid dealing with change. A common strategy is to keep talking about why it won't work, thereby avoiding any forward progress.

Stage three is **exploration**. Faculty begin to make the new processes or practices "their own." It usually begins with just a few on board, but as they demonstrate progress, others will join.

Stage four is **commitment**. The program experiences general, wide acceptance of the new way of doing things.

### Resistance is Natural

Unfortunately, the resistance stage can be very painful if we don't understand the basics.

First of all, resistance is to be expected. It is a normal reaction, as people always resist things they perceive to not be in their best interest. It can be seen as an expression of power — the ability to not get what you don't want. The more openly you communicate and the more you allow individuals to express their resistance, the less likely they will end up feeling like "victims." There are various levels of resistance.

- 1) Need for additional information
  - "I just need to clarify some things, so I have a better picture of what's happening."
- 2) Emotional attachment to current situation
  - "I have too much at stake to buy in."
- 3) Values-based attachment to current situation
  - "This is in total conflict with my beliefs about how an organization should be run."

The role of the assessment leader is to surface the resistance.

**LISTEN** to what faculty have to say and try to understand the source of the resistance. It is important that the resistance is respected and honored. Keep communication open while you are trying to understand what the source of the resistance is.

At the same time, it is important to stay focused and grounded in sound principles of CQI. Pick your battles carefully, and remember that not every battle is worth winning.

The challenge is to create an environment that promotes change and is characterized by open communication but ensures effective processes at the same time.



<sup>1</sup> Based on information published in *Managing Change in Organizational Development* by Mike Morrison, available online at [www.rapidbi.com/created/changeManagement.html](http://www.rapidbi.com/created/changeManagement.html).

IDEAL

Apply now for the August 4-8 session of the Institute for the Development of Excellence in Assessment Leadership (IDEAL) in Baltimore at [www.abet.org/ideal.shtml](http://www.abet.org/ideal.shtml).

# YourCorner

## Board of Directors

This summer's Board Briefing teleconference will be on Wednesday, July 30, at 2 p.m. Eastern time. Please provide any topics or questions to be addressed during the briefing to Rachele Daucher at [rdaucher@abet.org](mailto:rdaucher@abet.org).

## Commissioners

The Summer Commission Meeting is just around the corner, so make your reservations by June 6. Contact ABET's Accreditation Manager, Ellen Stokes, at [estokes@abet.org](mailto:estokes@abet.org) if you need assistance.

You should already have received your assignment(s) for fall 2008 visits. It's time to make initial contact with your institutional representative(s) and schedule dates for your visit(s). Log into the secure website and click "Manage Visit Team" for contact information.

## Institutions

The Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) will hold an Institutional Representative Briefing before ASEE's Annual Conference in Pittsburgh this summer. This workshop, led by TAC Chair Mike Robinson, will guide you through the TAC accreditation process. The event will be held Sunday, June 22, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Hilton Pittsburgh Hotel. **No registration fee required!** Contact Beth Mundy at [bmundy@abet.org](mailto:bmundy@abet.org) for additional details.

## Member Societies

ABET is continuing to make your tools easier to use and will keep you informed about any database enhancements. Be sure to continue going to <http://abethome.abet.org/online> regularly.

Also, mark your calendars for the 2008 Society Summit, which will be Monday, October 6, near Baltimore. Our goal is to learn how to best assist you and prepare for the coming year. If you have any questions, contact ABET's Meeting and Member Services Manager, Donna Clark, at [dclark@abet.org](mailto:dclark@abet.org).

## Program Evaluators

ABET's member societies are assigning PEVs to visits, so please be sure your bio information is up-to-date. Follow the link at [www.abet.org/pev.shtml](http://www.abet.org/pev.shtml) to log in and make needed changes.

# Member Societies

ABET is a federation of 28 professional and technical societies representing the fields of applied science, computing, engineering, and technology:

American Academy of Environmental Engineers	Health Physics Society
American Congress on Surveying and Mapping	IEEE, Inc.
American Industrial Hygiene Association	Institute of Industrial Engineers, Inc.
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc.	ISA
American Institute of Chemical Engineers	Materials Research Society
American Nuclear Society	National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers	National Institute of Ceramic Engineers
American Society of Civil Engineers	National Society of Professional Engineers
American Society for Engineering Education	SAE International
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.	Society of Manufacturing Engineers
American Society of Safety Engineers	Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.
ASME	Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
Biomedical Engineering Society	Society of Petroleum Engineers
CSAB, Inc.	The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society



111 Market Place, Suite 1050  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4012

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