



Harley Myler



Harley Myler is Professor and Chair of the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering at Lamar University in Beaumont Texas. He is also the inaugural holder of the William B. and Mary G. Mitchell Endowed Chair in Electrical Engineering. The Mitchell Chair in the College of Engineering was made possible by a gift of \$1.2 million by the alumni couple to the Lamar University Foundation. Mr. Mitchell is a former Vice-Chairman of Texas Instruments, Inc. Dr. Myler's research interests are in digital video processing with an emphasis on broadband and broadcast distribution. This includes source and destination display and presentation technologies, channel efficiency considerations, compression and coding, Internet and intranet issues, multimedia formats and video quality analysis and investigation.

Dr. Myler came to Lamar from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, where he was a professor of electrical engineering. He began his college education at the Virginia Military Institute and received a double-major bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and chemistry in 1975. After serving as a missile systems officer in the Army, he began graduate studies at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in 1979 and earned the MSEE in 1981 and the Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1985. He began his academic career as an instructor at NMSU before joining the faculty at the University of Central Florida in 1986. He is a registered Professional Engineer in electrical engineering in both Florida and Texas.

Dr. Myler has received several awards for teaching excellence from honor societies and other entities, including Computer Engineering Educator of the Year at UCF and a Fulbright Specialist Grant to teach engineering in Tunisia. Recently he was selected as one of three Lamar University Outstanding Faculty Members. He has published numerous books and articles and has obtained patents and copyrights for his work, in addition to securing more than \$3.2 million in research grants.

Why did you choose to study the engineering field?

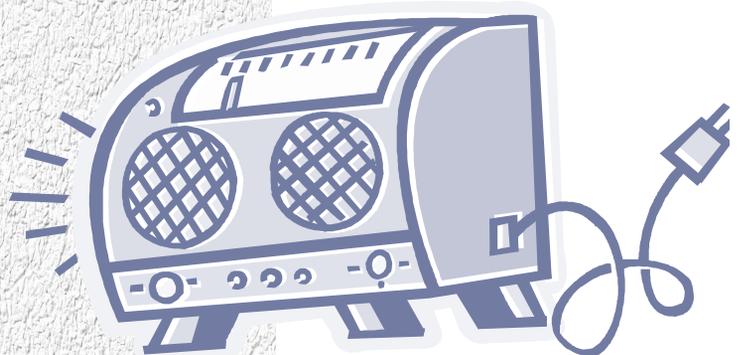
I built my first radio when I was about 10 years old. My father taught vocational electronics so I had a bit of help and I think that was what set me on the path to EE.

What do you love about engineering?

The abstraction of the problems to be solved. I get a great delight in manipulating electrons and photons--those of us that know how to do it form an exclusive club.

What don't you like about engineering?

The fact that engineering is a profession - no different than law or medicine - yet we do not enjoy the same level of recognition that those fields do.





Whom do you admire, and why?

Tesla, Edison and Armstrong. They were the pinnacle, in my opinion, geniuses of our discipline. Each a bit different type of electrical engineer, but EE's no matter how you look at it.

How has the engineering field changed since you started?

The complexity of the problems. The team is now far, far more important than that lone engineer tinkering away on a project. Our projects are mind-boggling!

What direction do you think that the engineering field is headed in the next 10 years?

I side with the authors of the NAE report "The Engineer of 2020", the need for engineers is just going to increase, the complexity of the problems and their scale is increasing and the technologies available to us are now in regimes relatively unknown a decade ago. We are the solution to the world's ills once we put politics and cultural issues aside. The global engineering economy is going to be intensely competitive and put significant demands on the skills and abilities of tomorrow's engineers.

What is the most important thing you have learned in the field?

That engineering is a community and that we transcend gender, race, and culture. An engineer, is an engineer. Once you are trained as an engineer, once your mindset is on engineering, you enter into a special world where the collective goal is to move us all forward and do it cleanly, efficiently and cost effectively. We can literally do anything that we put our minds to--a great feeling.

What advice would you give to recent graduates entering the field?

"Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain." Now that we live in a world where telecommunication is near ubiquitous, it is easy to get caught up in what simply amounts to noise. The noise I am talking about comes from those who do not realize the power of engineering and what it can do, and what it has done, to change the world. There is a bright future out there for you, with significant challenges to test your mettle--embrace it and let's get to work!

If you were not in the engineering field, what would you be doing?

I simply can't imagine it--probably science.

Finish this sentence: "If I had more time, I would..."

...restore antique radios. Very relaxing and fulfilling.

