

Professor Scharf Imparts Wisdom to Spring Graduates

Dr. Louis Scharf, professor of electrical and computer engineering at Colorado State University, has learned a lot in 38 years as an educator. He shared a bit of his wisdom with the College of Engineering's class of 2009 at the spring commencement ceremony held in Moby Gym.

In a speech that he lightheartedly promised would last no more than six minutes, Scharf concisely and creatively touched on what it means to be a successful engineer in today's world and the ongoing value of a solid education from a great institution.

After reviewing the elements of a good engineering education, he told the graduates, "All of you will eventually do what you were educated to do: think and puzzle and reason and design and invent. These special gifts will make you useful, rational, skeptical, and critical citizens of this great democracy, able to debate public policy to protect our ecosystems, conserve energy, revolutionize education, re-design transportation, and re-engineer health care. These are your challenges."

Scharf maintained a personal tone throughout his talk, as he shared practical advice sprinkled with humor. He continually emphasized the importance of commitment, integrity, and being a well-balanced individual.

In addition to writing three books and countless highly cited research publications, Scharf has taught courses that span the department's undergraduate and graduate curriculum. Last year, CSU's undergraduate students named him one of six professors in the College of Engineering who has made a special impact on their professional development. It is no wonder Scharf was chosen to deliver the inspirational charge.