To: Engineering Communications

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Subject: Engineering Distinguished Lecture- Professional Development

Terry Jones was the founder of Travelocity.com and several other tech-related travel businesses. His talk was not focused on his businesses, but instead the potential he sees in artificial intelligence, or A.I., as a tool for almost any business. He believes that A.I. is at a critical point right now where the rate of use is exploding. He talked about how the average American will see A.I. becoming more embedded in their daily life. Terry showed a lot of graphs showing the growth in use of A.I. by the top companies in the world, and he touched on how use of A.I. is growing because of the smaller companies as much as the large ones. He told us about companies like Google and Amazon which have made A.I. technologies accessible to startup companies by offering remote access to high-performance GPUs and CPUs, which are required to run A.I. tasks and learning. Finally, Terry talked about how A.I. would affect the current workforce throughout the world. He talked about massive job loss, but he also talked about what he says people often fail to consider. He talked about the potential massive job gain in previously unknown types of work that will arise from A.I. taking the more menial jobs in society. His outlook on the future was very positive, but when asked about his thoughts about the potential dangers of A.I. he clearly stated that everyone working with A.I. should be careful. The main take away from this lecture was that A.I. is growing fast in adoption and development currently and that while it can provide great tools in developing the human species, it can also act as a detriment to society if executed poorly.