September 5, 2017

To: UW Civil, Environmental, and Geological Engineering Classes of 2022
Re: GENE 199 “Communication in the Engineering Profession”

Welcome to engineering at the University of Waterloo!

If you haven’t already done so, I am writing to encourage you to register for GENE 199 “Communication in the Engineering Profession.” Beginning in fall 2017, the course is offered every fall term to all 1A students in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Geological Engineering. Starting next year, it will be a requirement for all of our programs. For your reference, here’s the course descriptor:

**GENE 199 Communication in the Engineering Profession:** This course will teach written and oral communication in the civil, environmental, and geological engineering profession. Professional communication skills are critical technical skills necessary for success in the engineering profession. Students will practice internal and external genres of communication relevant to groups that might include clients, peer groups, technical staff, public audiences, and regulatory and policy-focused stakeholders. Students will enhance their critical thinking skills and creative competencies to better understand meaning-making, perception, and responsibility. Through an iterative communication design process that emphasizes student agency and confidence, students will craft audience-specific messages through writing, presenting, and video making.

**Why should you register for this course?**

- It will deliver the key communication skills required of professional engineers that have been identified by co-op employers as needing improvement in the general co-op population. Thus, we expect that it will enhance your employability.
- Upper year course (e.g., capstone design) instructors in the Civil, Environmental, and Geological Engineering program will expect you to have the communication skills covered in GENE 199.
- Top performers in each stream (CIVE and ENVE/GEOE) will be recognized with prestigious performance awards, judged by both co-op employers and faculty members.
- The CEE Department strongly encourages you to register for GENE 199 because we believe it is a critical component of your training as a professional engineer.

Please make sure to join us—I look forward to meeting you in class!

Sincerely yours,

Monica B. Emelko, Ph.D.
Professor
Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies