

Letter to *The Daily Collegian*

(sent December 15, 2012)

The (not so?) obvious cheating issues (and solution!?)

Both students and instructors should avoid the temptation to cheat when the going gets tough. Students, because education does not boil down, of course, to getting a good grade; it's not even about getting a good job (on the basis of a hopefully well deserved diploma), but about being able to keep a job by demonstrating continuous-learning skills and problem-solving tools. And instructors, because by dumbing down our courses to an unreasonable level (especially in today's fiercely competitive global economy), we not only eliminate the temptation (and necessity!) to cheat; we also delude ourselves that the students are learning and deceive the students (as well as their prospective employers!) that they have acquired the necessary skills. So the responsibility of the students is not to bite more than they can chew and to manage their college years more efficiently. And our responsibility is to teach, and insist that the students learn, only what is *absolutely necessary and sufficient* in today's information-saturated world.

Ljubisa R. Radovic

Professor

Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering