

**Flirting for Engineers**

by Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr Leong Wai Yie

Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr Leong Wai Yie is currently the Chairman of Women Engineers Section. She is involving in biomedical signal processing analysis and wireless communications.

Jean Smith recently conducted a Half Day Workshop for engineers on Igniting Your “It” Factor.

A social and cultural anthropologist who studies and comments on human behaviour, body language, human interaction and relationships, Jean works with individuals on confidence building and social skills, at both a personal and group level.

She has been offering emotional intelligence training in relationships and dating, on how some people just have ‘it’? Those who mastered the art can seamlessly approach anyone they’d like.

They are fluent conversationalists, and are always at the top of everyone’s list when it comes to spending time. What is ‘it’ that these people have? They are fantastic flirts!

Flirting can help us in a number of ways; whether it’s getting a free coffee at Starbucks, fitting in well with your colleagues, or asking out the attractive stranger that you’ve had your eye on. Flirting can help you in both work and social situations, and everyone has the potential to do it.

Secrets of flirting

During the workshop, the engineers learnt all the secrets of flirting, to improve both their social and work lives on:

- How to create instant liking with everyone you meet
- How to recognise signs that someone is interested in you (and how to flirt back!). How to become a body language expert
- How to look at rejection in a different light; it’s not scary, but rather an effective weeding out mechanism.

And, in the usual Flirtology style, we expect lots of fun, and a group of interesting, like-minded people. Jean Smith commented that “why don’t we ever say anything to Shelia in accounting when she, continually, pilfers our favorite pens? Nor do we say anything to our friend Brian, when he assumes that we will pick up the tab...again? Why don’t tell our parents that we’d love for them to come and stay with us, but not for 10 days?”

Why don't we ever say anything?

Boundaries

It's because we don't have boundaries. We are afraid of what might happen if we lay some down. But this is a mistake, according to Brene Brown. It's also one of the biggest misconceptions that she found in her research. While you might be thinking that if you put down some boundaries people might get upset, or even stop liking you. She found that putting down boundaries has the opposite effect. It doesn't make people like you less or make you feel horrible. It actually increases your capacity for love and compassion.

'The most compassionate and loving people I have met are those with firm boundaries' - Brene Brown.

Ms. Jean Smith (in the middle) coaching engineers on flirting.

