

Richard Cooper – Chair Energy4me Schools Career Guidance Committee



Richard has worked both on and offshore on both the operator/sponsor and supplier side of project operations across multiple industries. He is currently a document controller in Subsea 7's Glasgow-based pipeline production group. Richard is passionate about tackling the challenges of the future and loves working in and promoting the Energy Industry.

Richard has been an active member of the SPE since 2011. He also sits on the Offshore Europe Inspire Committee, the NASA in Aberdeen Steering Committee and is a STEM Ambassador.

Richard holds degrees in Mechanical & Offshore Engineering from Robert Gordon University and History from the University of Aberdeen.

In the Spotlight

What career advice would you give your younger self?

Set a target and work out how to get there. You won't always reach your target – you may instead end up deciding you want something else more, but the simple act of having a plan makes choices easier to make and help you plan. This is especially true with studying – know why you want to study what you're studying, and what you plan to do with it once you've learnt it! Also, remember that doing your job well usually isn't enough to be recognised. You also have to be seen to be doing a good job – remember to invest a little time in being visible.

What do you think are the benefits of being a member of SPE?

My SPE membership has led to more than just industry connections, it has given me great friendships as well. The technical meetings allow me to stay on top of recent industry developments, and it's great to be able to help promote STEM subjects in schools through the Energy4me SCG Committee.

Best Achievement so far?

Going back to university in my 20's and re-training as an engineer. Graduating right before the downturn means that it's not paid off for me yet, but the opportunities ahead of me are much brighter thanks to taking that leap and getting my engineering degree.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

I wanted to be an architect, but I'm not sure I really understood what one of them was. I wanted to be able to know how things were designed and built, and how they came to be – and somehow my twin threads of study in engineering and history have since enabled me to do so.

Your favourite stress-buster?

Meeting up with friends for an evening of board games, good food, and good drink.

What's your dream job?

I'd love to return to working offshore, ideally in a process improvement role. I had a fantastic time working at BP before redundancy, and I miss working in the industry.

Where is your favourite place to go on holiday?

Other than visiting my family in Houston, TX, I'd love to go back to Lake Como in Italy – it's a beautiful place.

What are you reading, listening to or glued to on TV?

I've been reading a lot of isekai light novels recently, but I've just ordered *Wilding: The return of nature to a British Farm* by Isabella Tree and plan to pick up *The High Window* by Raymond Chandler after that, for more hardboiled crime adventures in 1940's Los Angeles.

If you were a character in a TV series or movie who would you be?

I'd be Richard Castle from the TV show Castle – he is excellent at reading people, understanding human nature, and spends his days working at a job he loves.

What's on your bucket list – the things you still want to accomplish?

I want to restore an old castle and surround it with rewilded land. I know my target – I just need to work out how to get there.

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