

"Go and Build Something"

Address by Vice Dean for International Affairs István Reguly

What a time to be an engineer! Your mission here has been - and will be - to learn how to create value, then go and apply it in the world - and a rapidly changing world at that!

It is more important than ever to learn the fundamentals and try to solve problems with a first-principles approach. We are so much less tied to the "old," the "conventional" than a few years ago. You can now have a fresh insight into something and build a solution much quicker.

But how do you find the problems that are worth solving? It is still people who will end up using what you built; it is still people spending money — the market, the purchasing power, has not increased that significantly. So, you need to understand what matters to people - you need to immerse yourself in the real world.

Find solutions to problems that create lasting and genuine value. Look for challenges that lift up the people around you. Tempting as it may be, don't build the next TikTok that exploits the weaknesses of human psychology for financial gain, to the detriment of society. Winston Churchill said, "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us."

Build something that shapes us for the better.

This is a deeply social exercise. You need to be here, talk to your colleagues, find a research group to join, and take a deep dive into something big. Work together, create something, then come back and share your experiences with us, so we can all learn from it.

I truly believe that this wonderful diversity of people, life experiences, and ambitions can serve as rich, fertile ground for great ideas and projects that we can all be incredibly proud of. Now go and build something!