



# MECHANICAL & MATERIAL COLLOQUIUM

For engineers, Technical Communication is more than just a skill — what we've learned leading our workshops

*by Aaron Tallman (MME/FIU)*

Scientists produce consensus through a process of critical peer review. These consensus perspectives are more reliable than the perspectives of any single scientist in isolation. To participate in this process and contribute to scientific consensus-building, what do we need? For students in engineering, a heavy emphasis on ascending levels of coursework is needed to develop technical mastery. Unfortunately, this framework also brings a constant vetting of prerequisite knowledge. It is challenging to develop a consensus-building mindset in such a condition. In this seminar, technical communication will be reintroduced—both as a skill and as a mindset. Arguments for the relevance of theater training exercises will be presented, and the audience will participate in a sample of workshop exercises to demystify practical technical communication.

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Dr. Aaron Tallman joined the Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering at Florida International University as an assistant professor in the Fall of 2021. Prof. Tallman was previously a postdoctoral researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory in MST Division, group 8. Prof. Tallman's expertise is in developing data-driven methods that leverage mesoscale computational modeling of metals. Prof.



Tallman directs the Integrated Modeling of Multiscale Materials Uncertainty lab at FIU (IM3U), which involves both Graduate and Undergraduate students in cutting-edge simulation and modeling research projects. The IM3U lab has received funding from the US DoE and the NRC.

In his education research, Prof. Tallman focuses on technical communication and draws upon his multidisciplinary background. His experience earning a B.A in Theater and working on and in professional theatrical productions complements his research experience. In collaboration with the FIU department of Theater, he designed and has run innovative workshops on technical communication for four years at FIU.

Place:  
EC 1110

Time:  
2:00-3:15 PM  
Jan. 20, 2026

<https://mme.fiu.edu/seminar-schedule>

For questions or suggestions, contact Colloquium Organizers Dr. Jihua Chen ([chenj@fiu.edu](mailto:chenj@fiu.edu)) or Dr. Saja Al-Rifai ([salrifai@fiu.edu](mailto:salrifai@fiu.edu))