DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering
College of Engineering

VISITING LECTURER

Dr. George Hazelrigg

Deputy Division Director
Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacture Innovation (CMMI)
National Science Foundation

Monday, November 2nd at 2pm
Hill Seminar Room
LeBow Engeineering Building, Room 240

We currently think of engineers as problem solvers and we build our engineering curricula around this model. But what defines engineering as distinct from other disciplines is design, and design is all about decision making, not problem solving. Decision making, unlike problem solving, demands prediction and preferences, and is always done in the presence of uncertainty and risk. As a result, our current engineering curricula do not adequately prepare engineering students for their careers as engineers. Because of this failing, many of the methods we teach and practice provide quite poor results. This talk will illustrate shortcomings of the current engineering curricula and point to avenues for improvement.

George Hazelrigg enjoyed designing and building things when he was young, so he decided to go to college to study engineering. He obtained a BS and MS in mechanical engineering from Newark College of Engineering (now New Jersey Institute of Technology) and MA, MSE, and PhD degrees in aerospace engineering from Princeton University. He joined the National Science Foundation in 1982 and in 1996, became program director for the Engineering Design program where, for eight years, he provided support to others in the field. In 2004, he became Program Director for the Manufacturing Machines and Equipment program and has been Deputy Division Director of the CMMI Division since its inception. For two years, he also served as Program Director of the Sensors and Sensing Systems program.

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