Seminar Speaker: G. Don Taylor, Ph.D., P.E.
Charles O. Gordon Professor and Department Head
Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech

Industrial Engineering Distinguished Leader Seminar Series

Time and Location: Monday 11/16/15 from 1:25 to 2:15, Freeman Auditorium

Title: Emerging and Continuing Trends in Worldwide Logistics

Abstract: The field of logistics affects all aspects of modern life. Annual expenditures on transportation and inventory alone accounts for approximately 8.2 of the gross domestic product of the United States and an even larger percentage in many other countries. In spite of the magnitude of modern logistics problems, the field of global supply chain logistics is changing rapidly, and the recent recession has increased the pace of change in unanticipated ways. Five major trends that are expected to continue to shape global logistics in the coming decade will be discussed; the U.S. reliance on imported consumer goods and the emergence of China as the world's manufacturer, the availability and price of energy, the continuing rise of the internet, growing environmental concerns, and increasing governmental debt. After establishing the significance of these trends, attention will be turned to the great logistics challenges that we now face, and discussion will focus on the need for innovation in niche areas, the need for efficiency gains in general, and the need to think big.

Bio: Prof. Taylor is the Charles O. Gordon Professor and Department Head in the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) at Virginia Tech, one of the largest and most highly ranked ISE departments in the United States. He previously held the Mary Lee and George F. Duthie Endowed Chair in Engineering Logistics at the University of Louisville where he was a cofounder of the Center for Engineering Logistics and Distribution (CELDi), one of the National Science Foundation's largest Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers. Throughout his career, Prof. Taylor’s research has focused on the simulation and optimization of complex systems and the logistics of material flow and freight transportation. He has served as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on more than 75 externally funded projects from a variety of funding sources while partnering with more than 60 different companies. His research has led to more than 200 technical publications including 10 edited books. Prof. Taylor has made hundreds of formal presentations at conferences or seminars in more than 20 countries, including 21 keynote or plenary session addresses before audiences that range in size from several dozen to more than 5,000 persons. He holds BS and MS degrees in Industrial Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he was also a 7-time varsity letterman and Captain of the track and cross country teams. He holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of Massachusetts. He is a Fellow and a Past-President of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), the preeminent professional society in his field. He is currently the inaugural Chairperson of the Board of IIE Solutions, Inc., a for-profit subsidiary of IIE. He is also a Fellow of the World Academy of Productivity Science and is a registered Professional Engineer. He is an Eagle Scout, and he has hiked the entire length of the Appalachian Trail.