Engineering Lecture Series Opens

The College of Engineering lecture series opens on Thursday, September 15 at 4:00 P.M. in Quinn Hall Auditorium with Dr. James (“Jim”) C. Spohrer lecture “Holistic Services Engineering for a Smarter Planet.” Dr. Spohrer’s presentation is the first for the 2011-2012 series to exploring the theme “Engineering: Leadership for the Conceptual Age”.

Dr. Spohrer is the IBM Innovation Champion and Director of IBM University Programs World Wide. Jim was one of the first to highlight for global audiences that universities are increasingly one of the largest employers of knowledge workers in cities and, therefore, play a vital role in urban sustainability and service innovation.

The Engineering Lecture Series brings speakers to campus to address topics at the intersection of society and technology. According to Richard T. Schophoerster, Dean, “The lectures in this series are intended to provoke our thinking and stimulate discussions about creating a sustainable future and the socio-technical leadership required to achieve sustainability.” UTEP is responding to the demand for Conceptual Age engineers by embarking on a major transformation of its engineering programs.

According to Alan Greenspan we are in a global progression into the Conceptual Age. An Age that has resulted from “a shift toward value created through the exploitation of ideas and concepts…from the more straightforward utilization of physical resources and manual labor.” Greenspan forecasts that the Conceptual Age will demand “workers [engineers] who are equipped not simply with technical know-how, but with the ability to create, analyze, and transform information and to interact effectively with others.”

The campus community and public are invited to join the exploring the Conceptual Age and learning about UTEP’s new programs to prepare Conceptual Age leaders.

Future speakers include Hector Ruiz, Chairman and CEO of Advanced Nanotechnology Solutions Inc.; Jerry Porras, Lane Professor Emeritus of Organizational Behavior and Change - Stanford University and co-author “Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies” and Caroline Baillie, Chair of Engineering Education - University of Western Australia and host of Building the Impossible, a four part documentary commissioned by the BBC.

The Engineering Lecture Series is made possible by contributions from Bob and Diane Malone and the Halliburton Foundation.