

Distinguished Speaker Seminar

A Taste of Controls

**Professor William Messner
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Abstract

Controls research has many flavors from the highly theoretical to the very applied. The speaker will provide a taste of the diversity of the field by presenting (1) a brief overview of a variety projects in robotics, data storage systems, and software tools for control system design; (2) the design of an electrothermal actuator for skew compensation in disk drives; and (3) the development of a microfluidic system for investigating spatiotemporal dynamics of cells.

Bio

William Messner is a professor of mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. He received his B.S. degree in mathematics from MIT in 1985 and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989 and 1992 respectively. Prof. Messner specializes in application of controls to data storage systems, robotic systems, and microfluidic systems for biological research. During his 2005-6 sabbatical leave he was a Visiting Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School where he worked on the rheology protein networks. Prof. Messner is Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the ASME, and a Senior Member of IEEE.

Friday, February 8, 2008
206 Furnas Hall
11:00 am – 12:15 pm