Electrical and Computer Engineering

Distinguished Lecture

Friday, Sept. 14th, 2012 | 3:00PM – 4:30PM | EIT 1015



John W. Bandler holds the B.Sc.(Eng.), Ph.D., and D.Sc.(Eng.) degrees from the University of London, England. He is a at Professor Emeritus McMaster University, Hamilton. He was President of Optimization Systems Associates Inc., which he founded in 1983, until 1997, when his company was acquired by Hewlett-Packard. He is President of Bandler Corporation. He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE, and a Fellow of several other societies, including the Canadian Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society of Canada. In 2004 he received the IEEE MTT-S Microwave Application Award. In 2012 he received the IEEE Canada A.G.L. McNaughton Gold Medal. He has published more than 470 technical papers. He has written a novel, a screenplay, and several stage plays, three of which have been performed, and one of which he directed himself in 2012.

WATERLOO

Invited by ECE Department
Reception at 3 pm
Free Admission - Limited Seating
Please register at
http://ece-dls.eventbrite.com

Routes To Success In Academic Research: A Personal Perspective

MIT, Berkeley, Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford: what springs to mind? Innovation, privilege, influence, envy, pride, or the Nobel Prize winners on the faculty? All communities are interested in the success of their local academic institutions. Concerns extend far beyond their walls. What promotes successful research? Is it available facilities, imagination, opportunity, leadership, IQ, charm, packaging, or good luck? How can you measure success? Is it by the number of enrolled students, the size of the team, the number of publications, the volume of citations, the size of the budget, the awards received? It may seem surprising how much of one's recognition in a field of endeavor is attributable to the subjective perception of others. So, in addition to the specifics of advanced research in academia, this talk includes issues of impressions and subtext that are essential to behavior and discourse. Researchers must learn to navigate the minefield of ethics, over-exposure, secrets, confidentiality agreements, contracts, collegial envy, and more. Beware "experts" who claim to see no future in your proposed research. And, rather than taking that well-trodden path and being instantly understood and accepted, you should follow your pioneering instinct even if you find yourself initially ridiculed and rejected.