CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SERIES

RICK BROUNS

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

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What I learned after school also mattered

ABSTRACT: When I started college all I really understood about my future career path was that math and chemistry were my favorite high school subjects and much of my pastime involved discovering the fundamentals of mechanical system designs through learning to repair them. Chemical Engineering seemed a very logical choice which enveloped these likes. Four decades later with a rewarding career and a lifetime of learning behind me, I remain convinced this was an excellent choice. This talk will outline the path I followed while illustrating the major choices I made and the lessons learned along the way that made an important difference in my success. I will briefly discuss the importance of being mentored and mentoring others, communicating simply and often, being surrounding with people who inspired and challenged me, embracing diversity of thought, and taking appropriate risks. The talk will also provide a brief introduction to the Department of Energy National Laboratory System as a rewarding career pathway.

LECTURE 02:30 • BAG 261
RECEPTION 3:30• Benson Lobby

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Knowledge and solutions for a changing world

BIOGRAPHY: Richard A Brouns is a University of Washington graduate receiving both BS ('78) and PhD ('93) degrees in Chemical Engineering. Following graduation in 1978 he joined Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) where he worked as a research engineer on energy and environmental technology for 10 years before returning to graduate school in 1988. Dr. Brouns came back to PNNL in 1992 to continue his R&D career, where he stayed until retiring in 2016. Over his 35+ year career he served as both a principle investigator leading process development and engineering design efforts, and later as a program manager for PNNL's work in the field of radioactive waste treatment for safe permanent disposal. Dr. Brouns was a member of the teams who developed the design for four new US Department of Energy nuclear materials processing facilities located at Savannah River South Carolina, West Valley New York, and Hanford Washington. For more than half of his career Dr. Brouns served in multiple senior technical management positions in both the energy and environment and the national security organizations at PNNL. He held various research department management, program management and technology transfer positions in these organizations. When he retired from PNNL Dr. Brouns was the Chief Science and Technology Officer for PNNL's National Security Directorate. In this latter role he was responsible for developing and maintaining investment in the strategic technical direction of a $500 M/yr. National Security R&D portfolio at PNNL. The position included participation in the senior laboratory leadership for technical direction, oversight, and capability development.