Eberhardt Rechtin  
(1926-2006)

A USC Viterbi School professor emeritus who had academic appointments in three departments and who also received an honorary degree from USC, was a giant in the Aerospace industry and a creative force in the academic realm. Through his leadership the USC Viterbi School established an innovative graduate program in Systems Architecting and Engineering that has emerged as a national model for collaborative engineering education and distance learning.

Professor Rechtin played a key role in the development of U.S. space technology and had a storied career in government and industry even before joining USC. He headed a 1960s JPL group that included several future Viterbi School faculty. Prof. Rechtin and several other team members were elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

In 1987 he joined the USC faculty and created the Systems Architecting and Engineering Program. The program provides graduate engineers and engineering managers with the advanced knowledge and skills necessary for the conception and implementation of complex systems. The program emphasizes the processes by which complex systems are conceived, planned, designed, built, tested and certified.

Systems engineering is changing the very nature of industrial and systems engineering, and Prof. Rechtin’s initiative placed the Epstein Department at the field’s leading edge. In addition to writing much of the literature defining systems architecting, Eberhardt Rechtin was a superb teacher who never failed to inspire students and colleagues. Today, the SAE Program is one of the Epstein ISE Department’s largest degree programs.
Richard K. Miller
President, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

Distinguished Speaker: Richard K. Miller was appointed president and first employee of the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering on February 1, 1999, where he also holds an appointment as professor of mechanical engineering.

Before joining Olin College, he served as Dean of Engineering at the University of Iowa from 1992-99. He spent the previous 17 years on the engineering faculties at the University of Southern California (where he held the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs) and the University of California, Santa Barbara. Miller has authored or co-authored about 100 technical publications in the field of applied mechanics, and has won five awards for teaching excellence. He is a member of the governance boards for two independent colleges and The Stanley Group, an international engineering services company. He has served as Chair of the NSF Engineering Advisory Committee, chair of the Association of Independent Technological Universities, a member of the Visiting Committee for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University, chair of the accreditation visiting committees of several independent institutions, a member of the Higher Education Working Group of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is a consultant to the World Bank in forming new universities in developing countries.

He earned his B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of California, Davis in 1971, where he is the recipient of the 2002 Distinguished Engineering Alumnus Award. He received an S.M. in Mechanical Engineering from MIT in 1972, and a Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics from Caltech in 1976.

Daniel J. Epstein
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

3rd Annual Eberhardt Rechtin Keynote Lecture

“What Does Every Engineer Need to Know—Now?”

by

Dr. Richard K. Miller

Thursday, September 24, 2009
4:00 - 5:30 PM

University of Southern California
Andrus Gerontology Auditorium
3715 McClintock Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90089-0191

3:00 - 4:00 PM Reception - GER Courtyard