EBERHARDT RECHTIN, 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.
Dr. Cortese describes a view of health care in terms of three mega-domains: the knowledge domain – the world of medical research, where new ideas inventions and medical approaches are developed, such the concept of individualized medicine based on our unique genetic blueprint; the care delivery domain - the world of physicians and hospitals, where patients are treated; and the payer domain – the world of insurance, governments and others that pay for the delivery of health care. Each of these domains is huge in its own right, their flawed interactions with each other is one of the main reasons why our health care system is so dysfunctional.

Dr. Denis Cortese assumed academic positions as a Foundation Professor in January 2010 at Arizona State University (ASU) in the W.P. Carey School of Business and the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering. He is also the director of ASU’s Health Care Delivery and Policy Program. He currently serves on the board for Pinnacle West, RAND Health, and the National Coalition for Healthcare Information (NCHI). In addition he is chair of IOM Roundtable on Value and Science Driven Healthcare and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering’s Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Some of Dr. Cortese’s honors and awards include, National Healthcare Leadership Award - National Center for Healthcare (2009); Leo Black Award for Excellence in Healthcare Information Technology - Mayo Clinic (2009); Commencement address - Mayo Clinic College of Medicine (2009); Commencement address - Luther College (2009); Honorary Doctor of Science Degree - Luther College (2009); Medal of Merit - American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (2008); Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2007); Top 50 Physician Executives in Healthcare (2006, 2008); and Honorary Fellow - Royal College of Physicians (2005).