

Lessons from Living Life on the Boundary



Nadine Aubry, Carnegie Mellon

Dr. Aubry is the Raymond J. Lane Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

Thursday, December 3, 2009

4:30 pm

Porter Hall 100 (Gregg Hall)

In this lecture I will first discuss my own field of expertise, mechanical engineering, and describe how it lies at the crossroads of physics, mathematics, engineering and even the arts, while also being the backbone of numerous applications crucial to society including aerospace, automotive, energy, the environment, nanotechnology, bioengineering, materials, robotics, information technology, etc.

My life on the boundary further included immigrating to the United States, raising three children while pursuing a career, and being a faculty member/researcher and a university administrator. I will discuss how I often had the feeling of being a minority and a sense of not belonging with the upper crust. Lesson after lesson, however, I learned that this very feature of my life gave me much strength which, in retrospect, I now consider to be my most valuable asset in serving my family, my department and my profession. I hope that sharing my experiences will be helpful to today's generation of CMU diverse young women and men who may also be struggling with similar circumstances and have the feeling that they are "living life on the boundary."