Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Seminar Details: George O. Strawn

Centennial Celebration Seminar

All students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the ECpE department are invited to attend the following Centennial Celebration Seminar:

Date: April 10

Time: 1 p.m.
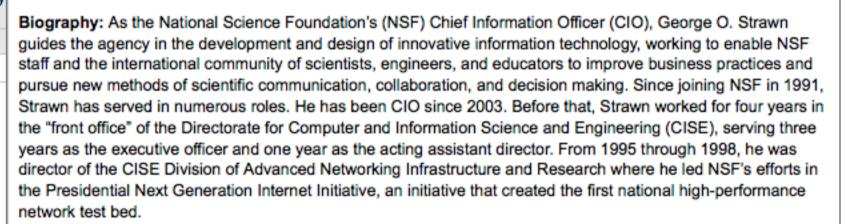
Location: 3041 ECpE Building Addition

Seminar title: "In Pursuit of New Methods for Scientific Communication"

Speaker: George O. Strawn, Chief Information Officer, National Science Foundation

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Abstract: Electrical Engineering has contributed to many of the most important developments of the last 100 years. Among the most important of these developments is the digital computer, for which Iowa State University's Clifford Berry shares credit with John V. Atanasoff. The digital computer has in turn spawned many important developments, one of which, electronic communication of scholarly information, may be maturing at this time. This talk will review recent developments in this area and speculate on its importance for the future of science and engineering.

Biography: As the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Chief Information Officer (CIO), George O. Strawn guides the agency in the development and design of innovative information technology, working to enable NSF staff and the international community of scientists, engineers, and educators to improve business practices and pursue new methods of scientific communication, collaboration, and decision making. Since joining NSF in 1991, Strawn has served in numerous roles. He has been CIO since 2003. Before that, Strawn worked for four years in the "front office" of the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), serving three years as the executive officer and one year as the acting assistant director. From 1995 through 1998, he was director of the CISE Division of Advanced Networking Infrastructure and Research where he led NSF's efforts in the Presidential Next Generation Internet Initiative, an initiative that created the first national high-performance network test bed.

Strawn was NSFNET (the "bridge" network between the ARPAnet experiment and the global commercial Internet that we know today) program director from 1991 to 1995. He supervised the progression of the NSFNET backbone network from 1.5 megabits per second to 45 megabits per second—ultra-high performance in 1991. From 1993 to 1995, he was involved with defining and deploying the "new" (privatized) Internet architecture, which directly led to today's Internet.

Strawn has served as co-chair of both the interagency Large Scale Networking Working Group, the international Coordinating Committee
for Intercontinental Research Networks, and the interagency Federal Networking Council. He currently serves as co-chair of a group of science agency CIOs seeking to create faster uptake of new IT products and services created by government-supported research.

Prior to joining NSF, Strawn was a computer science faculty member at Iowa State University. He also held several administrative positions there, including director of the academic Computation Center and chair of the Computer Science Department. Strawn also has held several positions in the computer industry and worked as an information technology consultant in both private industry and government. He holds a PhD in mathematics from Iowa State University and an undergraduate degree from Cornell College.

Additional details: Seminar will begin at 1:10 p.m. Reception to follow seminar; refreshments provided.