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Gilbreth Lectures to focus on water infrastructure and cloud computing

Two engineers chosen by peers in the highly-selective Frontiers of Engineering program, will give talks before members of the National Academy of Engineering at its annual meeting at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, October 16.

Jeanne VanBriesen, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director, Center for Water Quality in Urban Environment Systems, Carnegie Mellon University will give a talk titled “Water Infrastructure in a Digital Age.” Armando Fox, adjunct associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley and a co-founder of the Berkeley Reliable Adaptive Distributed Systems Laboratory will speak on “The Potential of Cloud Computing: Opportunities and Challenges.”

The Armstrong Endowment for Young Engineers—Gilbreth Lectures — named in honor of Lillian M. Gilbreth, the first woman inducted into the NAE — were established in 2001 by the Council of the National Academy of Engineering as a means of recognizing outstanding young American engineers and making them more visible to the NAE membership. Recipients of the lectureships are selected from among presenters at NAE’s Frontiers of Engineering symposia (http://www.naefrontiers.org), through a vote by meeting participants.

VanBriesen has received the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association Professional Research Award, the honor of Best Research Paper in the Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management and the Professor of the Year for the American Society of Civil Engineers, Pittsburgh Chapter. VanBriesen was a presenter at the NAE Frontiers of Engineering Education in 2010 and a presenter on infrastructure at the National Academy of Engineering Indo-American Frontiers of Engineering Symposium in 2008.

Fox has authored several papers on the application of machine learning to diagnosing, characterizing, and identifying operational problems in cloud computing installations. His 2003 collaboration with David Patterson on Recovery-Oriented Computing earned him the distinction of being included in the "Scientific American 50" top researchers. He previously helped design the Intel Pentium Pro microprocessor and founded a company to commercialize his UC Berkeley dissertation research on mobile computing.
Lecturers will receive a plaque, an honorarium, and travel expenses to the NAE Annual or National Meeting. Funding for the lectureship is derived from income on an endowment that has been designated for the encouragement of young engineers.