

SPRING 2018 BOVAY LECTURE

FEATURING ED HARRIS



BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Harris' early interests in professional ethics for engineers focused on exploring and creating ethical methods appropriate for professional ethics, and on some of the standard issues in engineering ethics, such as conflicts of interest, confidentiality, cross-cultural ethical dilemmas, ethical issues in risk, and environmental ethics. More recently, his interests have turned to the relationship of technology to human well being or quality of life, a subject which he hopes to pursue more fully in the coming years.

MAKING LIFE HARD AGAIN:

what can we learn from the amish about the complex relation of technology to well being

ABSTRACT

Engineers have committed themselves, through their codes and in other ways, to the promotion of human well being or quality of life as the highest goal of their profession. What is well being or quality of life and what is the relationship of the technologies created by engineers to well being or quality of life? Psychology and philosophy have come up with some answers to the first question. A look at the Old Order Amish provides some interesting and provocative considerations relevant to the second question. One conclusion is that creators of technology should pay more attention to human biology and the importance to humans of the natural world.

Monday, March 19th • 6:00 PM • Rudder Auditorium