

2009 IMEEC
Plenary 5: Graduate Education and Future Directions
March 31, 2009
Hilton Head, S.C.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Richard N. Smith	Professor, Mechanical Engineering and Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
<p>Richard Smith received a B.A. in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University and the M.S. and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. Prof. Smith has had a wide variety of experiences in many elements of engineering education, including research, teaching, curriculum development and academic administration during his 34 year professional career, most of which has been spent at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a faculty member in the (now named) Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering. His research and teaching expertise has been in heat transfer and thermal-fluid sciences, with research applications in manufacturing and materials processing, especially solidification processing, as well as energy utilization and conversion, and his activities have been centered in the Heat Transfer Division of ASME.</p> <p>In 2004, he completed a 3-year appointment as Program Director for the Thermal Transport Program in the Chemical and Transport Systems Division of the National Science Foundation. For the last four-plus years, he has served as Associate Dean of Engineering for Academic and Student Affairs at Rensselaer, where he has responsibility for the full spectrum of the educational enterprise for 3200 undergraduate students in 12 engineering majors within 7 academic departments.</p> <p>Prof. Smith also serves as a Program Evaluator representing ASME to the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. He recently completed service on the ASME Task Force on Graduate Education, organized under the Committee for Education of ASME, which addressed, among other things, the goals, objectives and implementation strategies that ASME should adopt with respect to its graduate student and graduate education agendas. He currently serves on the ASME Vision 2030 Committee, whose goals include 1) to define the knowledge and expertise that an ME graduate should have to be globally competitive in the 21st century, and 2) to provide recommendations on the features of an ME curriculum that will provide the needed knowledge and skills.</p>	