

Miller

Distinguished Lecture

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

4:10 to 5:00 p.m.

305 Carver Hall

Hospitality in 404 Carver Hall at 3:30 p.m.

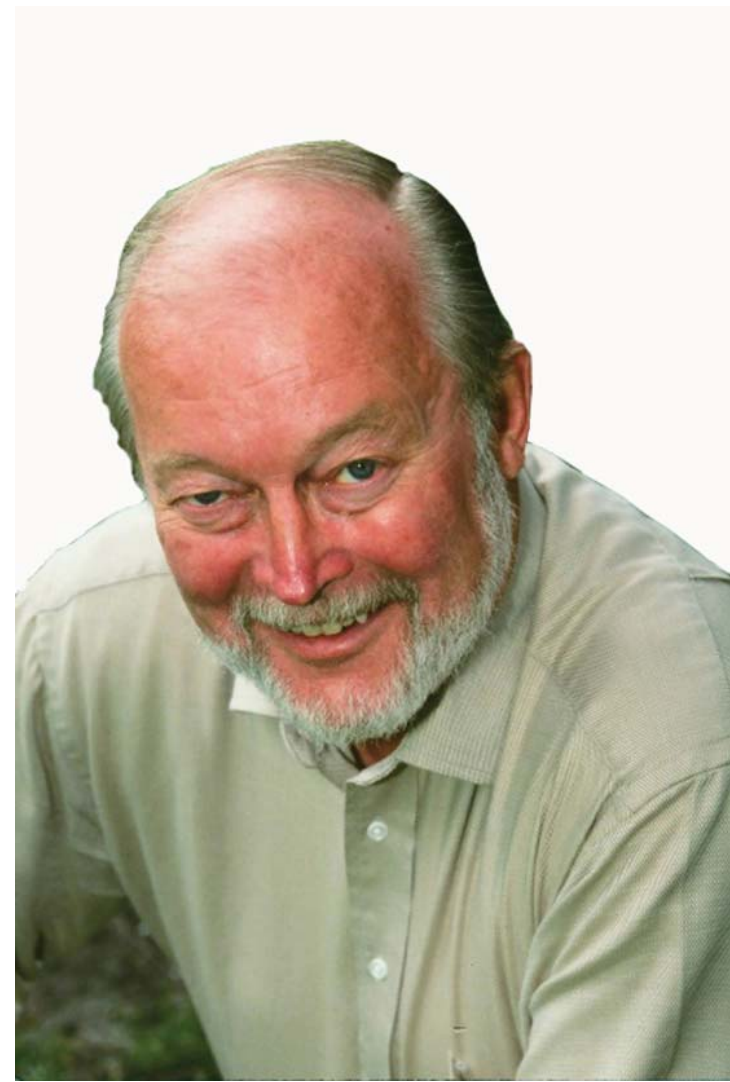
We vote, we decide; but why can we get bad outcomes?

Voting, as well as decisions in science, engineering, business and on and on are central to almost all of what we do. But, overly frequently the outcome sure appears to differ from what we expect should happen. As I will show in this expository lecture, which will have several actual examples, the problem is caused by how we make decisions.

A warning; expect to leave this lecture worrying whether a correct decision was made in a recent election (maybe for a new chair, or who to hire), or setting, that was of importance to you.

Don Saari is a Distinguished Professor of Economics and Mathematics as well as the Director of the Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, Irvine.

Saari also serves as the Chief Editor of the *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* and on editorial boards of several journals on analysis, dynamics, economics, and decision analysis. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the AAAS, a Guggenheim Fellow, the past chair of the US National Committee of Mathematics, chair of the US delegation to the 2002 general assembly of the International Mathematical Union, and a member of several NRC committees including Math Science Education Board. He holds honorary doctorates from Purdue, Université de Caen, and Michigan Technological University. Saari has received more than 10 awards for teaching, including Northwestern's "Most Influential Professor" award.



Sponsors: College of Liberal Arts & Studies, Departments of Mathematics, Economics and Mechanical Engineering.

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This lecture was made possible in part by the generosity of F. Wendell Miller, who left his entire estate jointly to Iowa State University and the University of Iowa. Mr. Miller, who died in 1995 at age 97, was born in Altoona, Illinois, grew up in Rockwell City, graduated from Grinnell College and Harvard Law School and practiced law in Des Moines and Chicago before returning to Rockwell City to manage his family's farm holdings and to practice law. His will helped to establish the F. Wendell Miller Trust, the annual earnings on which, in part, helped to support this activity.

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