

SPRING 2021

**Friday, March 5, 16:00****Edwin L. (Ned) Thomas*****Engineering Leads the Way!***

*This talk concerns schools of engineering and their related departments in their key roles for the future of universities and even more so for their role in training thinkers and doers to lead future society. Over his career, the author has been a faculty member at 5 leading universities and lead both research institutes, academic departments and served as dean of the school of engineering. Thomas loves research, teaching-mentoring and helping grow leaders and organizations. Aspects of materials related research, including the Δαίδαλος flight from Crete, along with starting new departments and high tech start-ups are used to illustrate the great importance of engineering to society.*

**Watch live: <https://youtu.be/TYjsdgdVMfE>**



EDWIN L. THOMAS [NAE] is the Erle Nye Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in the Materials Science and Engineering department at Texas A & M University. Dr. Thomas is a materials scientist and mechanical engineer and is passionate about promoting engineering leadership and student design competitions. His research is currently focused on using 2D and 3D lithography, direct-write and self-assembly techniques for creating metamaterials with unprecedented mechanical and thermal properties. His group does 3D reconstruction of periodic materials using both TEM and dual electronion beam SEM. Thomas is the former Dean of Engineering at Rice University (2011-2017) and former head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2006-2011). He was named Morris Cohen Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in 1989 and is the founder and former director of the MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology (2002-2006). Before joining MIT in 1988, Thomas founded and served as co-director of the Institute for Interface Science and was head of the Department of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts (1977-1988). He is a recipient of the 1991 High Polymer Physics Prize of the American Physical Society and the 1985 American Chemical Society Creative Polymer Chemist award. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2009. He wrote the undergraduate textbook, The Structure of Materials. Thomas received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Massachusetts and his Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Cornell University.