

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
ME/IE 8773-8774**

**MAIN DEPARTMENT SERIES
Topic: GLOBALIZATION
Host: Joachim V.R. Heberlein**

Growing with a Global Organization: Personal Perspectives

by

**Ronald L. Christenson
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Cargill, Inc.
Minneapolis, MN 55440-5724**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2005
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Room 1130 ME**

Coffee and refreshments will be available at 3:15 p.m. in Room 1130 ME before the seminar

ABSTRACT — Ron Christenson will share perspectives on growing with a global organization. He has worked for Cargill, Incorporated, for 35 years. Cargill is a company of 124,000 people that spans 59 countries, and has 80 businesses. He will discuss his personal experience in living abroad with his family, the impact that his work and that of the company he works for has had on the communities in which they do business; including citizenship, ethics, economic, the environment and safety. He will discuss globalization impact on talent and leadership development.

BIO — Ronald Christenson was elected corporate vice president and chief technology officer in August 1994. His current responsibility includes corporate leadership for corporate plant operations, environment, health and safety and food safety. He is a member of the Corporate Center, Functional Leader for Plant Operations, and is a member of the Citizenship and Technology Committees.

Christenson joined Cargill in 1970 and has held several plant managerial positions in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina and Argentina. He also supervised the construction of processing plants in North Carolina, Argentina and Saskatchewan. In 1982, he assumed a plant operations general management role for multiple oilseeds processing plants and refineries on a global basis.

He is keenly interested in the safe, efficient construction and operation of processing and manufacturing plants while focusing on engaging the plant employees, satisfying customers, enriching the communities where Cargill's plants are located. In his current corporate role, his leadership is key in setting up networks and communities of practice that leverage scope and scale of Cargill's Plant Operations activities. These activities include centers of excellence around environment, health and safety, food safety, plant reliability, engineering construction management and separations technology.

Christenson is chair of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology Advisory Board. He is an avid outdoorsman who is interested in bicycling, cross-country skiing and hunting. Christenson graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in 1972. He is a registered professional engineer.

Informal Faculty Luncheon: Wednesday, December 7, 2005, 12:00 noon. Meet in 1100 ME and walk to lunch with other faculty. Dr. Christenson will not be able to attend.