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COLLOQUIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Statistics
Virginia Tech

Thursday, October 15, 2009
204 Hutcheson Hall
3:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: Bjarne Bergquist, Lulea University of Technology

TITLE: Quality Improvement in Process Industry Experimenting with time series and Improving Quality of International Research Cooperation

ABSTRACT:

Process industries such as minerals, pulp and paper or chemical industries accounts for around 30% of Sweden's export income and more than 60% of total net export, and does directly or indirectly employ 27% of the country's total workforce. The importance in rural areas such as northern Sweden where Luleå University of Technology is situated, is much greater, and local process industries are therefore important research partners.

Process industrial processes are usually continuous, which means that the product continuously passes process steps and gradually changes form into the final product. From a quality perspective, the continuous nature of the processes makes process improvement and control difficult. Traceability is difficult to manage and the many process gauges makes monitoring and process development a task with multivariate and auto correlated data, often not measuring the property most sought for, but what is more easily measured. In Quality Technology, we have worked with quality related difficulties not seen in parts production and in this seminar; I will introduce some of the problems we are facing and a few possible solutions.

The aims of those funding our visit to Virginia Tech is that the visit will help us gain insights into what creates a sustainable international (non-EU) cooperation with special focus on production related research. I will therefore present a Swedish outlook on things we see as drivers or hindrances to international cooperation. Why is international cooperation important for us; what are the driving forces and barriers; which Swedes are inclined to go abroad and for what reason and when in their careers would a stay abroad be suitable?

With this introduction, I hope to gain a few comments and ideas on areas where we seem to differ from the American system, what is important in both starting and for maintaining active cooperation, and what things are drivers for Americans.



☺ Please join us after the colloquium for refreshments at Top of the Stairs (217 College Ave.) ☺