



Water@Wayne Seminar Series Presents:

Glen Daigger, Professor of
Engineering, University of Michigan

Closing the Knowing/Doing Gap

Thursday, January 25, 2018
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Bernath Auditorium, Undergraduate Library
5155 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202

Factors such as population and economic growth, increasing resource scarcity, and climate change, coupled with aging infrastructure and, in some locations such as Michigan shrinking cities, have created a time of “reinvention” for urban water management. Responses include the “One Water” concept, where water managed in an integrated fashion within the urban area rather than as separate “stove pipes”, and the blossoming interest in resource recovery from the used water stream. This is leading to dramatic changes in approaches to urban water management, and rapid advances in new and improved technologies. These dramatic changes also necessitate changes in professional practice to recognize the developmental nature of technologies which must be evaluated and either implemented today or allowed for in plans and designs, and the significant changes in the supporting infrastructure which will enable these new approaches. Significant institutional changes are needed and are occurring. Understanding the life-cycle of technology development, including the importance of learning curves, when evaluating evolving technologies; using risk and opportunity analysis as a formal step in options analysis; and including visioning and scenario analysis as regularly used components of professional practice become essential components of professional practice if we are to seize the potential opportunities before us. Right now, a significant gap exists between what we “know” we can do and what we are actually “doing”. This gap is created by the fact that historic approaches to urban water management planning are ill-suited to the rapid changes now occurring. They need to be updated with proven techniques and approaches adopted from other areas of professional practice.

Dr Daigger will outline the principal drivers for changes in urban water management, and the new approaches which are evolving. Leadership by both the academic and practice communities is necessary to create the necessary change.

A reception will immediately follow the seminar.

The seminar is free and open to the public; registration is requested at <https://events.wayne.edu/>.