A Small Footprint Curriculum for Computing and other Lessons Learned from the Invention of Olin College

Educational institutions evolve slowly. In 2000, the FW Olin Foundation launched a new college with the explicit intent of designing a new kind of engineering education from a clean slate. This talk will explore the key insights gained in that process -- both for engineering education generally and for computer science in particular -- and set those lessons in the context of the broader changes in engineering and computer science taking place at the national and international levels.

Bio:

Lynn Andrea Stein is a founding faculty member of the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. Stein's research, at Olin and over a decade on the faculty of MIT, spans the fields of artificial intelligence, programming languages, and computer science education. She is a co-author of the foundational documents of the semantic web and the "mother" of a humanoid robot and an intelligent room. Stein is also active in the computer science education community, a member of curricular advisory boards, and a frequent speaker at educational conferences on work including pioneering curricular applications of inexpensive robotics and an innovative curriculum for introductory computer science. Stein is currently on sabbatical leave at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Colloquium Coordinator: Cindy Chen, cchen@cs.uml.edu, Website: http://www.cs.uml.edu/~cchen/colloquia/