The Abstract for the Colloquium on Friday April 7 has been revised. Please see below:

COLLOQUIUM

Friday April 7, 2017
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Hamilton Hall, Room 305

Robert N. Rodriguez
SAS Institute
2012 President, American Statistical Association

Is the Statistics Profession Prepared for the World of Big Data?

The demand for statistical skills has never been greater in areas of business, government, and research where customer value, policy-making, and scientific discovery are increasingly driven by new sources and novel uses of data. According to McKinsey Global Institute, the United States alone will face a shortfall of 140,000 to 190,000 “deep analytical positions” by 2018. This demand is the result of five trends: the growth of business analytics, the phenomenon of Big Data, the arrival of data science, the power of distributed computing, and the prevalence of unstructured textual data. In response to these trends, we must differentiate the contributions of statisticians from those of data scientists. Training the next generation of statisticians with the technical and leadership skills needed in emerging areas of practice will equip them for unprecedented career opportunities and impact.

About the Speaker

Robert N. Rodriguez joined SAS in 1983 and is a senior director in SAS Research & Development with responsibility for the development of statistical software. He received his PhD in statistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and worked as a research statistician at General Motors Research Laboratories before joining SAS in 1983. Bob is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, and he served as the 2012 president of the ASA.