



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

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Engineering inspired by nature: New videos from the University of Washington

Three new programs on UWTV feature UW experts

SEATTLE — Look at nature through an engineer’s eyes by tuning in to three new programs on UWTV.

In this new lecture series, you’ll hear from some of the University of Washington’s leading researchers as they explain their groundbreaking work in neurobotics, alternative energy solutions and nanoscale technology. See how the complex and sophisticated systems nature builds are inspiring cutting-edge developments in engineering at UW, and beyond.

Associate professor and director of UW’s Neurobotics Lab, Yoky Matsuoka is a trailblazer in the emerging field of neurobotics, transforming our understanding of how the central nervous system coordinates musculoskeletal action and of how robotic technology can enhance the dexterity and mobility of people with disabilities. In “Where Humans and Robots Connect,” you’ll hear this rising star talk about her quest to build the ultimate prosthetic: a fully functional replica of the human hand, controlled directly by the brain.

As worldwide demand for oil soars and supplies tighten, how will we keep transportation moving? Current and emerging technologies can quickly convert a wide range of plant matter to transportation biofuels, offering a partial solution. UW chemical engineering professor and Associate Dean of New Initiatives in College of Engineering Daniel Schwartz and Miles P. Drake, Senior Vice President Research and Development and Chief Technology Officer for Weyerhaeuser, explore the promise of biofuels and a “greener” energy future in “Beyond Oil: Powering the Future.”

Nature builds the most complex and sophisticated systems, so engineering researchers such as Babak Parviz, UW assistant professor of electrical engineering, are turning to nature for solutions. Imagine using DNA as a template to “grow” electronic devices, or custom-designing molecules to build transistors. Learn about the amazing new, yet ancient, world of “self-assembly” on the nanoscale in “Back to Nature for the Next Technology Revolution.”

About UWTV

UWTV is the University of Washington’s award-winning television channel, offering original, non-commercial educational video programming – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A unique educational resource, UWTV provides viewers direct access to the world-renowned scholars, scientists and researchers whose insights and discoveries are at the heart of our university and are changing our world. Learn more at uwtv.org.

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