

**UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**

**FORRESTAL LECTURE SERIES**



**DR. VIJAY KUMAR**  
*Nemirovsky Family Dean of Penn Engineering*  
*University of Pennsylvania*

**7:30 p.m.**  
**November 14, 2016**  
**Alumni Hall**

**DR. VIJAY KUMAR**  
**NEMIROVSKY FAMILY DEAN OF PENN ENGINEERING**  
**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**V**ijay Kumar is the Nemirovsky Family Dean of Penn Engineering with appointments in the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, Computer and Information Science, and Electrical and Systems Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Since joining the faculty in 1987, he has served Penn Engineering in many capacities, including Deputy Dean for Research, Deputy Dean for Education, Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, and Director of the GRASP Laboratory, a multidisciplinary robotics and perception laboratory.

Dr. Kumar has also served as the assistant director of robotics and cyber physical systems at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (2012 – 2013). He received his Bachelor of Technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in 1987.

Dr. Kumar maintains an active research portfolio with interests in robotics, specifically multi-robot systems and micro-aerial vehicles. Detailed information on his research portfolio is available at [www.kumarrobotics.org](http://www.kumarrobotics.org). He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (2003), a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (2005), and a member of the National Academy of Engineering (2013).

Dr. Kumar is also the recipient of the 1991 National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award, the 1996 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching (University of Pennsylvania), the 1997 Freudenstein Award for significant accomplishments in mechanisms and robotics, the 2012 ASME Mechanisms and Robotics Award, the 2012 IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Distinguished Service Award, a 2012 World Technology Network Award, a 2013 Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Award, and a 2014 Engelberger Robotics Award.

## FORRESTAL LECTURE SERIES

The Forrestal Lecture Series was established at the Naval Academy in May 1970 in honor of the late James V. Forrestal who, as one of the foremost proponents of seapower of our era, was instrumental in the development of the modern Navy. Secretary Forrestal served in the Navy's flight program in World War I, leaving service as a lieutenant junior grade. He reentered government service in 1940 as an administrative assistant to President Roosevelt. Later that year, he was named Under Secretary of the Navy.

Long an advocate of naval supremacy, he was the man responsible for the remarkable logistical building of the Navy in the early war years. He became Secretary of the Navy in 1944, following the death of Frank Knox.

Secretary Forrestal took unprecedented strides towards establishing racial equality in the Navy. He also served as the chief architect of the vastly complicated merger of the War and Navy Departments into the National Military Establishment (later the Department of Defense). He was named the first Secretary of Defense by President Truman in 1947. The awesome burden of reorganization quickly took its toll and Secretary Forrestal resigned for health reasons in 1948. He died one year later.

The purpose of this series is to enhance the Brigade of Midshipmen's awareness and appreciation of the social, political, and cultural dimensions of the Nation and world. Featured are leading representatives from various disciplines—government, the arts, humor, literature, education, sports, politics, science, and other fields.



*This evening's Forrestal Lecture is generously sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Finnigan (Class of '49) of Los Altos, California, and the Class of 1946 through charitable funds established at the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. The Brigade of Midshipmen acknowledges this support with deep appreciation.*