

# DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

## WILLIAM MAXWELL REED SEMINAR SERIES

### “A Career in the Aviation Business”

**Alan Anderson**  
Boeing Company

**Abstract:**

Alan Anderson will share his experiences on the role of Innovation in a large company, as well as his thoughts about the differences in the approach to Life Safety in both the Airline Industry and Automotive Transportation.

Alan, a Mechanical Engineer who worked at the Boeing Company for 43 years, will describe his career starting as an entry level Design Engineer to the role of a Chief Engineer on the 787 Airplane Program. He will highlight both the difficulties and rewards that he experienced establishing the Boeing Concept Center, an organization within Boeing’s Research and Development organization tasked with looking “over the horizon” to future opportunities and solutions.

Alan will also share his thoughts about Commercial Aviation Safety, and his more recent work and concerns about Automotive Safety.

**Speaker Bio:**

Alan Anderson is a retired Executive from the Boeing Company where he worked for 43 years. Alan attended Dartmouth College and the University of Washington where he graduated with a BSME in 1968. He was assigned to the new 747 Airplane Program where he was a Design Engineer. During his tenure, he worked on all models of Boeing’s jet transport airplanes. He worked as a Designer, Manager, and Chief Engineer. During his career Alan developed a passion for both Safety and Innovation.

At the time of his retirement, he was a Chief Engineer on the 787 Airplane Program, and the Director of the Boeing Concept Center.

Alan was married for 52 years and had 2 children, a son who became an Elementary School Teacher and a daughter who became an Engineer.

**Date:** Friday, November 3, 2023  
**Place:** Whitehall Classroom Building 110

**Time:** 3:00 PM EST  
**Contact:** Dr. Jonathan Wenk

Attendance open to all interested persons