Abstract
During my days at NCSU there was a common theme among fellow graduate students - to worry about the future. This was often followed by a healthy discussion of "Is any of what we are learning of any use?"

In this talk I can't definitively answer these questions. But can shed some light with my own professional life since NCSU.

So breaking with traditions, this talk is not focused on deep OR theories but more on how OR shaped my career. The problems encountered and models developed. More important the soft use of OR in managing day to day management problems.

Bio
Mani Agrawal is President - Business Consulting at M.N. Dastur & Co.(Dasturco), the premier engineering consulting organization, internationally recognized as one of the largest in the world. With over 50 years of exemplary assignments around the world. Prior to Dasturco, Mani was the Consulting Practice Leader at Cognizant in Europe, served in the Chicago office of McKinsey & Company, was a visiting lecturer at Urbana-Champaign’s University at Illinois, and as Chief Scientist at Manugistics in Denver, Colorado.

Mani Agrawal holds a Ph.D. in Operations Research from North Carolina State University, and a Master’s in Engineering & Operations Research from Vanderbilt University. He is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, with a Bachelor of Technology in civil engineering.

Refreshments will be served in Daniels Hall Room 401 starting at 4:00 p.m.