



Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering

Human 2.0: New Minds, New Bodies, New Identities

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

5:00 – 6:20 p.m.

Bicentennial Hall Room 216

Middlebury College

***** Open to the General Public *****

Professor **Hugh Herr** of the MIT Media Lab will explore the concept of a new age when machines will no longer be separate, lifeless mechanisms, but will instead be intimate extensions of the human body. Such a merging of body and machine will not only improve the quality of life for disabled people, but will allow individuals in general to experience cognitively, emotionally and physically augmented capabilities. In his presentation, Professor Herr will describe a new era where technology will merge with our bodies and our minds to forever change our concept of human capability. The lecture will feature research work that is blurring the distinction between "able bodied" and "disabled," demonstrating technologies at the neural-digital interface. Professor Herr will introduce sweeping new research initiatives that will soon benefit us all, from techniques to treat conditions such as Alzheimer's disease or depression, to sociable robots to monitor the health of children or the elderly, to the development of smart prostheses that can mimic and even exceed the capabilities of biological limbs.

5:00 PM **INTRODUCTION**

Jeff Finkelstein, President
Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering
Microprocessor Designs, Inc
Shelburne, VT

5:05 PM **SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

5:15 PM **INVITED LECTURE**

“Human 2.0: New Minds, New Bodies, Identities”

Professor Hugh Herr
Program in Media Arts and Science and
Health Sciences and Technology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

6:05 PM **OPEN DISCUSSION**

The **Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering** was founded in 1995 as an outgrowth of the Vermont State Science and Technology Plan. It has as its main purposes the recognition of outstanding achievement and contribution in the disciplines of science and engineering; the fostering of a deeper understanding of scientific and technical matters among the citizens of the State of Vermont; and providing expert and impartial technical advice to the people, to organizations and to local and state agencies in Vermont.

