W. Bernard Carlson

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Bernie Carlson is the Joseph L. Vaughan Professor of Humanities and Chair of the Department of Engineering and Society at the University of Virginia. He also holds a joint appointment with the History Department and is a Center Associate in the Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry. Bernie studied history and physics as an undergraduate at Holy Cross College, received his Ph.D. in the history and sociology of science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984, and did his postdoctoral work at the Harvard Business School.

As a historian of technology, Bernie has written widely on invention and entrepreneurship as well as on the role of technology in the rise and fall of civilizations. His publications include *Innovation as a Social Process: Elihu Thomson and the Rise of General Electric, 1870-1900* (Cambridge University Press, 1991; paper 2002) and *Technology in World History*, 7 volumes (Oxford University Press, 2005). In 2008, *Technology in World History* was awarded the Sally Hacker Prize from the Society for the History of Technology as the best book aimed at a broad audience. It has since been translated into Korean.

With support from the Sloan Foundation, he recently completed *Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age.* Published by Princeton University Press, the book has been translated into eight languages. *Tesla* was long-listed for the Royal Society's Winton Prize for popular science writing in 2014 and it won both the Sally Hacker Prize as well as the IEEE's Middleton Award in 2015.

In addition to his books, Bernie has filmed 36 lectures on "Understanding the Inventions that Changed the World." These lectures were released on DVD by The Teaching Company in 2013.

Bernie directs Engineering Business Programs at UVa and teaches a course on "Engineers as Entrepreneurs." For over a decade, he was a consultant on history and knowledge management to Corning Incorporated and has served on the governing boards of several professional groups related to history, business, and engineering, including the IEEE History Committee, the Business History Conference, and the National Inventors Hall of Fame. He recently finished a five-year term as Executive Secretary for the Society for the History of Technology.