

# MAX GOODRICH

## DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES



**Dr. Peter Zimmerman**

Ph.D. Stanford University, 1969  
Filosofie Licentiat degree, Lunds  
Universitet in Lund, Sweden, 1967  
experimental nuclear and  
elementary particle physics

Fellow, American Physical Society, 1988

**Wednesday**  
**November 11,**  
**5 p.m.**  
**Room 130**  
**Nicholson Hall**

**LSU**

College of  
Science  
Department of Physics  
& Astronomy

### **Taking the King's Shilling:** from studying nuclear terrorism at LSU to briefing the Queen of England

**A PUBLIC LECTURE BY**  
**DR. PETER ZIMMERMAN,**  
**PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SCIENCE &**  
**SECURITY, KINGS COLLEGE LONDON**

While teaching at LSU I got fascinated by the notion that it was possible for a well-heeled terrorist group to build its own atomic bomb. That ultimately led to a complete change in my career pattern including extensive government service and a stint as Professor of Science and Security in London. The intersection of physics with national security policy is a fascinating field, not easier than pure physics, but with very different questions on the table, totally different constraints on your research and publications, and the fact that real lives can be lost if you give a wrong answer.

My new career led me to a job working with then-Senator Joseph Biden and later to London for several years where I got to study the details of the Bush Administration's intelligence on nuclear weapons in Iraq. Along the way I had to become an expert at missile defense, export control, deterring and detecting proliferation, strategic arms control, and, after the Senate was attacked, the spread and treatment of anthrax along with many other problems I had never known existed.