

## **Sigma Xi Lecture to focus on bioengineering**

3/17/05

Dr. Robert M. Nerem, the Parker H. Petit Distinguished Chair for Engineering in Medicine and the director of the Robert H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience at Georgia Tech, will present the annual Sigma Xi Lecture at Alfred University at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The lecture, "Bioengineered Tissues: The Science, the Technology and the Industry," is sponsored by the Alfred University Chapter of Sigma Xi and the National Academy of Engineering. "Tissue engineering, or what some call regenerative medicine, is recognized as having enormous potential," says Nerem. "To date, the scientific advances have been exciting and this continues with the focus on stem and progenitor cells and scaffolds that are more biologic in nature." But, he says, "The development of products and therapies has been over-promised and under-delivered," although the potential remains. Moving from something that is feasible in the laboratory to a product that is commercialized and approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration will take a "combination of a device and a biologic." Nerem is also director of the Georgia Tech/Emory Center for the Engineering of Living Tissues, a National Science Foundation-funded engineering research center, and a part-time senior advisor for bioengineering in the new National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at the National Institutes of Health. He received his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University, and prior to joining Georgia Tech, was on the Ohio State faculty for 15 years. He was also a member of the faculty at the University of Houston from 1979 to 1986.