

The George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

Annual Distinguished Lecture

INVITATION

*The Search for
Excellence and
Equity in
Higher
Education:*

*A Perspective
from an
Engineer*



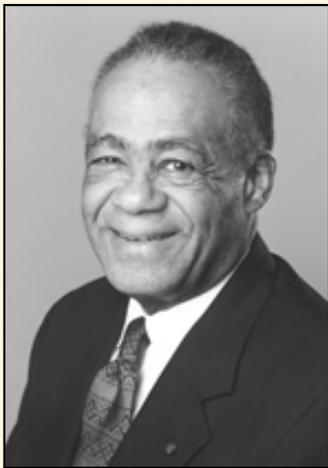
John Brooks Slaughter
President and CEO
National Action Council for
Minorities in Engineering
(NACME)

Tuesday, April 10, 2003

3:30 p.m.

Van Leer (Electrical
Engineering) Building
Auditorium

BIOGRAPHY



Dr. John Brooks Slaughter is the fifth president and CEO of NACME -- The National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc. Founded in 1974, NACME is a nonprofit corporation that conducts research, analyzes and advances public policy, develops and operates precollege, university and workplace programs, and broadly disseminates information through publications, conferences, and electronic media. NACME is also the nation's largest private source of scholarships for minorities in engineering.

Dr. Slaughter has a long and illustrious career as a leader in the education, engineering, and scientific communities. President Emeritus of Occidental College in Los Angeles, California, he also served as assistant director and, later, director of the National Science Foundation and Chancellor at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Slaughter is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an eminent member of the Tau Beta Pi Honorary Engineering Society. In 1993, he was inducted into the American Society of Engineering Education Hall of Fame.

Dr. Slaughter began his professional career as an electronics engineer at General Dynamics and spent 15 years at the U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory in San Diego, where he became head of the Information Systems Technology department. He was Director of the Applied Physics Laboratory and Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Washington, Academic Vice President, and Provost at Washington State University and, most recently, The Irving R. Melbo Professor of Leadership in Education at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Slaughter serves on the board of directors of IBM, Northrop Grumman, and Solutia, Inc. He earned the Ph.D. in engineering science from the University of California at San Diego; an M.S. in engineering from UCLA and a B.S. in electrical engineering from Kansas State University. He holds honorary degrees from more than 20 institutions. Dr. Slaughter was honored with the first U.S. Black Engineer of the Year award in 1987, the Martin Luther King Jr. National Award in 1997, and the Heritage Award of the Executive Leadership Council in 2001.

He has been married for more than 40 years to Dr. Ida Bernice Slaughter. They have two children.

SYNOPSIS

There is an immutable and inevitable divergence between the desire for selectivity and the goal of diversity in higher education. It is manifested in many ways, most recently and publicly in the form of the legal case contesting the affirmative action admission policies of the University of Michigan and the decisions of Princeton University and MIT to open programs originally designed for underrepresented minorities to white and Asian students. But viewing this as simply a contest between an adherence to principles of meritocracy and a quest for inclusiveness in academe marginalizes the issue as being one of what constitutes best and masks the underlying questions of what is right, what is responsible, and what is necessary.

Nowhere are these matters more prevalent in higher education than in the several disciplines of science and engineering. Historically, matters of diversity and pluralism have not been highly visible on the radar screens of science and engineering departments in our nation's colleges and universities and the relative absence of women and minorities in and in front of the classrooms and laboratories is one indication of this reality. To be sure, too few African American, Latino, and American Indian young people complete high school with the necessary math and science preparation to enter and complete a rigorous scientific or engineering education. And for many women and other underrepresented groups, academic scientific and engineering communities are perceived as unfriendly places to enter and attempt to take up residence. There are many reasons that these inequities either are or appear to be true and it is encouraging to note that a growing number of activities are underway to address them. But a coherent, widely accepted, broad-based, and well-supported effort that is designed to effectively redress these disproportions and apparent injustices in treatment remains elusive.

America requires all of the scientific and engineering talent it can muster to maintain a competitive edge in the global marketplace of ideas and artifacts. Failure to address the inequalities that exist in our educational systems, especially in higher education, could doom us to a position of technological inferiority among the principal nations of the world.

THE WOODRUFF SCHOOL

The George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering Annual Distinguished Lecture was established in 1990 to honor an engineer who has made a significant contribution to society and to provide a forum for that person to interact with the Georgia Tech community.

Support for the lecture is made possible by the generosity of the late George W. Woodruff, an alumnus and influential Atlanta businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist. In September 1985, at the age of 90, Mr. Woodruff attended the ceremonies to rename the School of Mechanical Engineering in his honor. Today, the Woodruff benevolence continues to benefit Georgia Tech through the support of two major scholarship funds and a significant, unrestricted endowment. The Woodruff bequest to the School of Mechanical Engineering underwrites two faculty chairs -- the George W. Woodruff Chair in Mechanical Systems, and the George W. Woodruff Chair in Thermal Systems -- and activities such as the Woodruff Faculty Fellows Program, the Woodruff Graduate Fellowship Program, the Woodruff Teaching Intern Program, and research and teaching assistantships for graduate students.

The Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering is the oldest and second largest of ten divisions in the College of Engineering at Georgia Tech. The School offers academic and research programs in mechanical engineering, nuclear and radiological engineering, and health physics. The enrollment includes 1350 undergraduates and about 690 graduate students. Studies are directed by a full-time faculty of 78 professors, 18 research faculty, and four academic professionals, who are supported by 47 staff members. The George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering is the only educational institution to be designated an ASME Historic Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site.

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Distinguished Lecturers

- 1990** Donald E. Petersen, Chairman and CEO, Ford Motor Company
- 1991** Samuel C. Florman, Author and Professional Engineer
- 1992** Chang-Lin Tien, Chancellor and A. Martin Berlin Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of California, Berkeley

- 1993** Sheila E. Widnall, Associate Provost and Abby Rockefeller Mauze Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 1994** Roberto C. Goizueta, Chairman of the Board and CEO, The Coca-Cola Company
- 1995** James J. Duderstadt, President, The University of Michigan
- 1996** Norman R. Augustine, Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation
- 1997** Charles M. Vest, President and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 1998** Robert A. Lutz, Vice Chairman, Chrysler Corporation
- 1999** George H. Heilmeier, Chairman Emeritus, Bellcore
- 2000** William A. Wulf, President, National Academy of Engineering
- 2001** Euan Baird, Chairman, President, and CEO, Schlumberger
- 2002** John H. Sununu, President, JHS Associates, Ltd.
- 2003** John B. Slaughter, President and CEO, National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME)

Lecture

Thursday, April 10, 2003, 3:30 p.m.
in the Auditorium of the Van Leer
(Electrical Engineering) Building,
Georgia Institute of Technology

Reception

After the lecture, guests are invited
to a reception to honor Dr. Slaughter.
Look for the yellow tents on the George
P. Burdell Plaza adjacent to the Love
Building..

Parking

Parking will be available in the Visitor Parking Lot (see the map for location). To arrange for parking, please call (404) 894-3200 by April 7th.

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GWW/RG02-2003