• Pleased to welcome NACME to Georgia Tech
• Have had NACME President John Slaughter here on prior occasions:
  o April 2003: Woodruff Annual Distinguished Lecture; spoke on diversity in higher education, especially science and engineering
  o May 2004: commencement speaker; presented him with honorary doctoral degree
• GT recognizes importance of increasing minority participation in science and engineering; works hard to attract outstanding minority students and help them succeed:
  o Minority Recruitment Team in Admissions office pays special attention to minority applicants; helps them get acquainted with Tech through personal attention and special events like The Family Affair (for high school juniors and seniors) and Welcome Weekend (overnight stay for minorities who have applied).
  o Current students: OMED, African American Student Union (which puts on Black Leadership Conference)
  o Attract minorities to grad school through FOCUS, special programs to involve minority undergrads in research.
• NACME a partner with us in this endeavor by providing scholarships, for which we are deeply grateful. (Recognize NACME scholars in audience.)
• NACME support has helped GT become national leader in graduating minority engineers:
  o Generally lead the nation in graduating African American engineers for at least one degree level, often more than one;
  o 2000: recognized by *Black Issues in Higher Education* for becoming first non-historic black institution to lead the nation in graduating African American engineers at all three degree levels simultaneously.
• Two important trends:
  o Population more diverse
  o Technology more pervasive in every aspect of life.
• Result: Society looking for leaders who understand science and technology; minorities need to be full participants in those opportunities.
• Georgia Tech is committed to encouraging and helping minorities become full participants and leaders in 21st century age of technology.