

Office of the Dean and CEO presents

A talk by former NASA astronaut

Bonnie J. Dunbar (Ph.D.)

28 March 2011, 2-3 pm

Lecture Hall 238

Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar will discuss her career as a NASA Mission Specialist, five space flights, more than 50 days in space, her career path and the future of aerospace. She will also speak about her partnership with Boeing for the building of the space shuttle.

Dunbar recently retired as the President and CEO of the Museum of Flight (MoF) to assume the position of Executive Director of Wings Over Washington, an affiliate organization of The Museum of Flight in Seattle Washington. The MoF is the largest private air and space museum in the world, with an education program that provides for more than 100,000 students per year. Wings Over Washington is dedicated to future development of the Museum and building the Aviation High School. Dunbar retired from the NASA Johnson Space Center in 2005, where she had a 27 year career as a Space Flight Controller, an astronaut, and a member of the Senior Executive Service.

As a NASA Mission Specialist astronaut she has served as the Payload Commander on two flights, including the first Space Shuttle docking mission to the Russian Space Station, Mir. Following her flight career, Dunbar served in the government Senior Executive Service for seven years holding various management positions at the NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and at the NASA Johnson Space Center.

Dunbar holds BS and MS degrees in Ceramic Engineering from the University of Washington, and a PhD in Mechanical/Biomedical Engineering from the University of Houston. She graduated from the Harvard School for Senior Managers in Government in 2001. Prior to working for NASA, she was a senior research engineer with Rockwell International Space Division where she helped to develop the equipment and processes for manufacturing the thermal protection system for the Space Shuttle.



Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar

PERSONAL DATA: Born March 3, 1949, in Sunnyside, Washington.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Sunnyside High School, Sunnyside, Washington, in 1967; received bachelor of science and master of science degrees in ceramic engineering from the University of Washington in 1971 and 1975, respectively; and a doctorate in Mechanical/Biomedical Engineering from the University of Houston, 1983. Certified Professional Engineer in Texas.

SPECIAL HONORS: Associate Fellow, AIAA. Elected to the National Academy of Engineers (2002). American Ceramic Society James I. Mueller Award, Cocoa Beach, Florida. (2000). Inducted into the Women in Technology International (WITI) Hall of Fame in 2000. NASA Space Flight Medals (1985, 1990, 1992, 1995 and 1998). Superior Accomplishment Award (1997). Member, National Science Foundation (NSF) Engineering Advisory Board, 1993-1999. NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal (1996). NASA Outstanding Leadership Award (1993). Fellow of American Ceramic Society (1993). Design News Engineering Achievement Award (1993). IEEE Judith Resnik Award (1993). Society of Women Engineers Resnik Challenger Medal (1993). Museum of Flight Pathfinder Award (1992). AAES National Engineering Award (1992). NASA Exceptional Service Award (1991). University of Houston Distinguished Engineering Alumna (1991). M.R.S. President's Award (1990). ACS Schwartzwalder P.A.C.E. Award (1990). University of Washington Engineering Alumni Achievement (1989). NASA Exceptional Service Medal (1988). ACS Life Membership (1986). General Jimmy Doolittle Fellow of the Aerospace Education Foundation (1986). American Ceramic Society (ACS) Greaves-Walker Award (1985). Rockwell International Engineer of the Year in 1977.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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