



Norris Wilkerson

Class of 1973

Norris Wilkerson, a native of Fairfield, Alabama enrolled at Tuskegee University in the fall of 1965. He had hopes of making the football team as a walk-on. Although the football dream never panned out, the experience was quite fruitful. Wilkerson was inspired by the assistant football/head baseball coach, Ralph Bishop, to try out for the baseball team. Needless to say, Wilkerson made the team as an outfielder and was later awarded a scholarship. He lettered all four years, lead the team in home runs and RBI's, and was team captain in 1969. The team won the SIAC Championship and was chosen to participate in the NCAA Regional for the first time in the school's history. Wilkerson finished his career at Tuskegee as a first baseman.

As a Mechanical Engineering major, Wilkerson described himself as an above average student who sometimes found it difficult to balance the student/athlete role. As demanding as the classroom was, Wilkerson's campus life was active. He found time for an occasional Pinochle game, socialize with friends, or play intramural football. In 1970, a military draft notice interrupted his college life. He was honorably discharged in 1972 and returned to Tuskegee to complete his degree in 1973.

Wilkerson began his professional career as a trainee for Allison Transmission Division of General Motors. He steadily progressed to Associate Project and Senior Project Engineer. Wilkerson chaired the team that deployed engineering work stations throughout the division on several computer aided engineering committees. As a stress analyst, he was responsible for performing some of the complex analysis on transmission components. Additionally, he provided tools and programs for others to do preliminary design work. Wilkerson retired from GM in November of 2003.

Although a strong believer in community involvement and service, Wilkerson's efforts were slowed in recent years due to a personal family crisis involving a sibling. However, he is still actively involved with the Minorities in Engineering Program of Indianapolis (designed to introduce at-risk minorities to engineering), and the local alumni club. He is a United Way Key Club member and supporter of many local charities.

A strong, loyal and consistent supporter of the University, Wilkerson is an Eminent Associate. Moreover, he is a viable and active member of the Indianapolis-Tuskegee Club. Wilkerson is the club's treasurer and publicity chairman.

Wilkerson lives in Indianapolis, IN with his wife Lynda and two daughters Ashley & Therese.