

Stewardship Science Today

Chief Science and Technology Office

DR. GREENAUGH TRIBUTE ISSUE | FEBRUARY 2024

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My first encounter with Dr. Greenaugh was during a meeting at LLNL in 1998. There was escalating contention between two individuals in the room, until Dr. Greenaugh calmly stepped in and restored order and decorum. I thought, 'There's a grownup in the room!' During the subsequent 25 years our paths crossed many times, and we became friends as well as colleagues. On numerous occasions, I have admired his calm, professional, 'grownup' presence, which remained in place even when he faced strongly held opposition to his views. I am grateful to Dr. Greenaugh for setting this example, for his mentoring of younger employees, and for the many other substantial contributions he made to NNSA missions over the course of his long career. I will greatly miss his presence, his contributions, and his friendship.

— Dr. Marvin Adams
Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs
NNSA



It is while grieving and with deep sadness that we put together this memorial issue to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Kevin C. Greenaugh who passed away December 17, 2023 after a 9-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Dr. Greenaugh was an exceptional man, mentor, leader, friend, husband, father, and grandfather. It is a special man who is grieved by so many in his passing.

I first met Dr. Greenaugh in 2005 as my professor teaching Energy Engineering at Howard University where he taught as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Engineering for over 25 years. He was one of those exceptional professors who motivates and inspires his students. He was kind enough to mentor me through my studies and into my professional career at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), where I worked along side him for 17 years.

His service to the NNSA was exceptional, and you will read about his positions and accomplishments in this issue. In addition to those accomplishments, Dr. Greenaugh was a great man who was beloved by his staff and colleagues. He was a thoughtful, motivating, professional leader who moved mission work forward all the while inspiring his staff to think a little harder, give a little

I have had the pleasure of working for Dr. Greenaugh and having a front row seat to his genius. He was an insightful, thoughtful, and analytical man. He was a champion who invested in many of us and served as an inspiration to all.

— Jahleel Hudson

bit more, and reach just a bit further in solving day-to-day work issues. Always he was kind, thoughtful, and professional to those around him, elevating the tone of the government work environment.

Dr. Greenaugh also was the “go-to guy”—the person in the organization who had both a broad and deep understanding of the mission work and who was called upon again and again to brief Congress on the issues and challenges of the NNSA. He did so eloquently, and always was respected and well received. Dr. Greenaugh’s passing leaves a great hole in the NNSA, but, fortunately, he inspired, motivated, and mentored so very many that his legacy lives on.



— Jahleel Hudson
Acting Director, Technology and
Partnerships Office

Remembering Dr. Kevin C. Greenaugh

At the time of Dr. Greenaugh’s passing, he was a member of the Senior Executive Service of the U.S. Government serving in the role of Chief Science and Technology Officer for NNSA’s Defense Programs. This role focused on the development of a vision, strategy, and plan for continued enterprise program modernization and bolstering the science, technology, and engineering development needed to ensure a more responsive and resilient NNSA enterprise. He was the Chair of the Defense Program’s Science Council that supports the Deputy

Administrator for Defense Programs in studying and evaluating aspects of the Research and Development, Stockpile Sustainment, and Strategic Materials and Infrastructure programs. Previously, he served as the Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Enterprise Capabilities for Defense Programs. In this role, he managed a six-billion-dollar portfolio for the Stockpile Research Development and Evaluation and Production Modernization programs. Prior to that, he managed

a two-billion-dollar portfolio as the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Strategic Partnership Programs enabling nuclear deterrence, nonproliferation, and counterterrorism programs through partnered projects and was the Deputy Assistant Deputy Administrator for Stockpile Management.

With over 35 years of experience working in the nuclear enterprise, he was the Executive Secretary of the Mission Executive Council comprised of Under-Secretaries of four major agencies. He was responsible for interfacing with senior officials of the executive and legislative branches of government as well as industry and academia. In his work for NNSA, he managed nuclear stockpile sustainment programs, such as weapon and infrastructure modernization projects, strategic materials, assessments employing Quantification of Margins and Uncertainties, and engineering science. He also served as the Senior Advisor for Policy to the Administrator of NNSA. Recently, he was quoted in the *New York Times* and *Physics Today* regarding his work for NNSA.

Prior to joining NNSA, Dr. Greenaugh worked at MITRE Corporation, where he was one of the primary consultants to the Department of Energy regarding energy and fuel cycle facilities. Prior to MITRE, he worked as a fire researcher and later an engineer in the energy inventions program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and as a fuel cycle expert at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He worked for eight years as a scientist and engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he published numerous technical reports on his research activities pertaining to uranium science, nuclear energy, and nuclear nonproliferation.

Dr. Greenaugh was born in the United Kingdom and was reared as a U.S. military dependent. He spent a formative part of his youth in Berlin during the Cold War and later moved with his family to Augusta, Georgia where he was exposed to the challenges of segregation in the United

From Those Who Knew Him Well

Kevin was one of our most experienced senior executives in NNSA. He was a valued member of our executive team in Defense Programs, and a good friend. Those of us who were lucky to work with him benefited greatly from his deep technical knowledge, respect for others, and good humor. As we mourn his loss, we will never forget his willingness to help new executives and his passion for mentoring junior staff.

— Mike Thompson, Former Executive Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, NNSA

It is hard to put into words how much I learned from Kevin: both through his guidance and his actions. I am equal parts angered and saddened by how much he had to fight (both inside and outside of NNSA) for access and advancement in his professional career, but I know that he would have ZERO regrets. As I mourn his loss, I will take immense comfort in that, as well as in having the honor of knowing him for over 20 years.

— Dr. Njema J. Frazier, Director, Strategic Partnerships & Engagement, NNSA

As the first African American to receive his PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Maryland, Howard University Professor of Powerplant Technology, and a leader of many facets of NNSA's Defense Programs, I am proud and honored to have been Dr. Kevin Greenaugh's student and mentee. Dr. Greenaugh taught me many great things in and outside of the office, and I will cherish all the moments that we shared for the rest of my life. He was not only an excellent professor and government leader, but he was also a great husband, father, friend, and fraternity brother. Let's celebrate his amazing accomplishments and never forget the impact he made on everyone he touched.

— Todd Hughes, Program Manager, Nuclear Enterprise Assurance, NNSA

I always marveled at how Kevin was able to make important and impactful contributions on such a wide array of technical topics. But even more impressive was the fact that without fail he made me feel smart and special. I will miss his insight and his friendship.

— Dr. L. Diane Hurtado, Special Assistant to the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, NNSA

States. He excelled in both academics and athletics and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boys Scouts of America. He received his bachelor's in Chemistry from Mercer University, a master's in Nuclear Engineering from the University of New Mexico (Albuquerque), a master's in Public Policy from the University of New Mexico (Santa Fe), completed post-master's studies at the University of Arizona, and was the first black individual to earn a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Maryland. He went on to receive an engineering certificate in product development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and attended the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Greenaugh married his friend and college sweetheart, Cheryle. They

soon welcomed the arrival of their daughter, Cianti, and then moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico, where Kevin and Cheryle worked as scientists. While in Los Alamos, they welcomed the arrival of their son, Giavanti. The family then relocated to Maryland, where Kevin earned his Ph.D. and where he and Cheryle pursued their successful government careers. Kevin and Cheryle were married for 46 years.

Dr. Greenaugh was an avid basketball player and played regularly on intramural teams throughout his life. This included Saturday morning games all the way through 2023. His intramural team at Los Alamos once played an exhibition game with the Dallas Cowboys. He also enjoyed golf and skiing, and first learned to ski on the bunny slopes at Los Alamos.



A highlight of Dr. Greenaugh's career was meeting former First Lady Michelle Obama in the DOE cafeteria when she visited DOE and NNSA.

Dr. Greenaugh remained committed to education throughout his life and taught courses in energy and fuel cycles in the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences at Howard University for over 25 years as an adjunct professor. He published and presented numerous technical papers and received national awards, including Distinguished Alumni from Mercer University, Black Engineer of the Year, a Centennial

Award from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. where he was an active member for 49.5 years, and the National Trail Blazer Award in Science. He was honored with municipal commendations from U.S. cities and was a member of many technical organizations, including the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. He was a former National



Dr. Greenaugh was active with his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for 49.5 years.

President of the National Technical Association. His life and career are a testament to resilience, excellence, and contributions to both scientific advancement and societal progress.

