“ALMOST 15 YEARS AGO, I GAVE A SPEECH TITLED “ENGINEERING: THE LIBERATING DISCIPLINE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.” At the time, it reflected my belief, maybe naïve, that an engineering education can empower people and prepare them for life as well as a more classical liberal education. Since then, my experiences in different academic – Caltech and Georgia Tech, and industry environments have reinforced my conviction that this facetious title does in fact reflect today’s reality. In an international and networked environment, professional and personal opportunities for top engineering and scientific talent are global and boundless. Furthermore, the contributions of top talent extend beyond engineering and science.

Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau took office as President of King Abdullah University of Science & Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia on July 1, 2013. Prior to this he served as President of California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the United States. After receiving his PhD in civil engineering from Stanford University, he led a distinguished career as a professor and administrator at Purdue University and Georgia Institute of Technology. He then served as president of Golder Associates, a geotechnical consulting company, before returning to Georgia Tech where he became dean of its college of engineering, and then Provost. Dr. Chameau has received numerous awards for his outstanding contributions as an educator and university leader.