



that's one of the main drivers I had for becoming a chemical engineer. I thoroughly enjoy my profession. .

GE — And where did you do your studies?

**SHELTON** — At the University of Houston. I received a BS degree in 1967 and a Masters in 1970, both in chemical engineering.

**SHELTON** — Well, it was quite a challenge. There are a lot of factors that prevent young minority students from becoming engineers. And the first one was financial. My parents were not able to afford to send me through college. And, because I had excellent grades in high school, I was able to get into a work-study program, and, with this, obtained financial resources to help cover the expenses. It was also an environment in which I was “one of the few,” I think, maybe one or two minority student in my chemical engineering class. But in my experience, for chemical engineers, even back in the 1960s, race was not a big issue. The difficult curriculum we faced together made us a sort of fraternity. And we were all accepted. We worked together, long hours, sometimes overnight, on our numerous assignments. So, in retrospect, I found that the chemical engineering academic community at the University of Houston was open and supportive.

But, there were many cultural barriers. Segregation was still common practice. In my first job, I was one of the first black engineers in the plant. And so, working with operators in a manufacturing operation, it is very important, to gain their confidence and work closely together

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**SHELTON** — Basically, we're trying to raise funds to ensure that we have perpetuity for the scholarships in the future. MAC scholarships have been primarily financed by the Foundation,