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World-renowned MIT professor to speak at Case engineering speakers series

Martha L. Gray to discuss biomedical imaging, interdisciplinary training

March 4, 2005 | For more information: [Laura M. Massie \(216\)-368-4442](#)

Martha L. Gray, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor recognized internationally for her research on novel biomedical imaging techniques and interdisciplinary training, will be the featured speaker at Case Western Reserve University's Allen H. Ford Distinguished Visiting Professor Lecture Program on Tuesday, March 15, at 4 p.m., at the Wolstein Building, 2103 Cornell Road.



The lecture is being co-sponsored by Case's Academic Careers in Engineering and Science (ACES) program.

ACES seeks to contribute to the development of a national science and engineering workforce that includes the full participation of women at all levels of faculty and academic leadership. The program is funded with a five-year, \$3.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation as part of the NSF's ADVANCE Institutional Transformation program. The ADVANCE grant is being used, in part, to sponsor week-long visits to campus by senior women scientists and engineers, and to provide "opportunity grants" to Case's female faculty.

Gray, the Edward Hood Taplin Professor and director of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Science and Technology (HST), and a professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT, has deep expertise in establishing programs with enduring connections between the science, medicine and business cultures that ultimately must work together to effectively translate from "bench to bedside." HST is designed to focus science and technology on human health needs through education and research from a clinical perspective. This effort engages faculty, staff and students of the two institutions in research activities which utilize the unique health care resources that exist in the Cambridge-Boston area. It also offers opportunities for undergraduates to participate in these research programs at the interface of technology and medicine.

Gray joined the MIT engineering faculty in 1987. The Ford lectureship at the Case School of Engineering's department of biomedical engineering is designed to maintain the university's leading role in facilitating interaction between researchers in medicine and engineering.

Lynn Singer, Case's deputy provost and vice president for academic programs who also serves as director of ACES, says that Gray's appearance puts an exclamation point on the need for women to strive for careers in science and engineering and how ACES fits into the current climate.

"The ACES program is helping to increase the number of tenure-track women teaching in the sciences and engineering at Case," Singer said. "And Professor Gray's success illustrates the importance of encouraging women to pursue careers in those areas."

The Case School of Engineering has added three women to its faculty this year, bringing to 12 the number of women on its faculty or 10.2 percent of its total. That compares with 9.9 percent for engineering schools nationally. Three years ago, women accounted for four percent of the engineering faculty.

"Increasing the number of women on our faculty has been a high priority for us," said Robert F. Savinell, dean and George S. Dively Professor of Engineering. "We know there are many highly qualified women available, and ACES has provided useful tools for enlarging our pool of applicants to include more women. It is also helping our faculty create a climate that promotes full inclusion of women in academia."

Gray also will give two additional lectures during the week to Case's departments of biomedical and mechanical and aerospace engineering, and the department of orthopedics faculty and residents at the Case School of Medicine.

The March 15 lecture is free and open to the public. A reception follows the event. For more information, contact Case's department of biomedical engineering at (216) 368-4063, e-mail bmedept@case.edu, or visit the department's Web site at http://bme.case.edu/news/2005_0107.html.

About Case Western Reserve University

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