

B0073-R

1985  
Inaugural Lecture  
York Distinguished  
Lecturer Series

World Hunger:  
What to Do

Dr. Norman E. Borlaug  
7:30 PM September 11, 1985  
University Auditorium  
University of Florida Campus

## York Distinguished Lecturer Series

The York Distinguished Lecturer Series was established in 1984 through SHARE by an endowment from Dr. E. T. York, the former Chancellor of the Florida State Board of Regents and Mrs. York. Dr. York has given signal service and leadership to national and international agriculture. Thus, it is fitting that the York Lecturer will be an individual who has achieved outstanding international distinction and is recognized as a leader in agriculture or a related discipline. Each year, at least two recognized leaders in their field of endeavor, nominated by members of the faculty, are invited to campus.

The York Lecturer Series incorporates two innovative features. In addition to delivering a public lecture, the invited scholar is encouraged to spend up to a week on the University of Florida campus participating with faculty and students in activities such as workshops, seminars and lectures. The lecturer also has the opportunity to establish a continuing relationship with the University as a visiting professor.

Through these features, the series promotes intellectually stimulating experiences for students and faculty and affords the University community prolonged close association with internationally recognized leaders. The establishment of this series is in recognition of the proud contribution this University has made towards the betterment of mankind.



Dr. and Mrs. E.T. York

---

## Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

---



Norman E. Borlaug was born in Cresco, Iowa in 1914. He received a B.S. in forestry from the University of Minnesota in 1937. After three years with the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho and Massachusetts, he returned to the University of Minnesota where he received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology in 1940 and 1941.

Borlaug served as an instructor while he was a graduate student at Minnesota. From 1942 and 1944, he worked as a microbiologist for E.I. DuPont and Company, Wilmington, Delaware, where he conducted research on agricultural chemicals.

In 1944 he was appointed geneticist and plant pathologist assigned to organize and direct the Cooperative

Wheat Research and Production Program initiated in Mexico as a joint undertaking between the Mexican government and the Rockefeller Foundation. The position involved research in genetics, plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, agronomy, soil science and cereal technology. This outstanding program made Mexico self-sufficient in wheat production by 1956 and laid the basic foundation for further improvement of wheat production there and in other areas of the world.

In 1963, Dr. Borlaug became director of the Wheat Research and Production Program, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). In that position, he devoted most of his efforts to wheat research

and production problems and to the training of young wheat scientists on a global basis.

Fruits of his efforts and those of his colleagues are the high-yielding fertilizer-responsive, widely adapted dwarf wheat varieties which have sparked dramatic changes in wheat production, first in Mexico and then in other areas of the world. For his research on dwarf varieties of wheat, now commonly called the "Green Revolution," Dr. Borlaug was awarded the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Borlaug has been involved in programs of research and production in ten American, eight African and ten Asian countries. At CIMMYT he has trained more than 150 young scientists from 23 countries. It is widely recognized that wheat programs worldwide have benefitted from CIMMYT wheat research.

Dr. Borlaug currently divides his time as a Senior Scientist at the Rockefeller Foundation and as a Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, at Texas A&M University. He also serves as ex-officio consultant on wheat research and production problems to many governments in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

During his illustrious career, Dr. Borlaug was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and has received 22 honorary degrees from foreign and U.S. universities, including the University of Florida. He has been a member of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) since 1973, receiving that organization's

Distinguished Achievement Award in Food and Agricultural Sciences in 1982. He also is a member of Alpha Zeta, Xi Sigma Pi, and Sigma Xi, honorary agricultural and research fraternities.

In 1984, Dr. Borlaug's name was placed in the Agricultural Hall of Fame at the national center in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

Dr. Borlaug has received dozens of government and civic awards. In 1977, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and in 1983 he was selected for the A.D. White Professor-at-Large Distinguished Professorship at Cornell University. In 1984, he was recognized for sustained service to humanity through outstanding contributions in plant breeding from the Governors Conference on Agriculture Innovations in Little Rock, Arkansas. Also in 1984, he received the Henry G. Bennet Distinguished Service Award at commencement ceremonies at Oklahoma State University. In 1985, a new agricultural science building on the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus, was named in his honor.

Dr. Borlaug is married to Margaret Gibson Borlaug. Their children are Norma Jean Borlaug and William G. Borlaug.

Dr. Borlaug stands with a select few at the pinnacle of a research and teaching profession dedicated to the alleviation of world hunger and suffering. His visit and lecture are an appropriate way to inaugurate the York Distinguished Lecture Series, particularly with the world focus on famine in Ethiopia and the population explosion in Africa.

---

## Dr. and Mrs. E.T. York



The life of Dr. E.T. York exemplifies the land grant philosophy of applied knowledge for public service. He has spent a lifetime in service to the land grant university system and as an advocate for the use of international agricultural development as a weapon against world hunger and malnutrition.

Fittingly, his career parallels the critical growing years of the land grant institution from its youth as life support for the nation's agricultural producers into maturity as a complex, multifaceted university.

The Alabama native received bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn University. He was awarded a doctorate from Cornell University in 1949, where he studied under the tute-

lage of the internationally renowned agronomist, Dr. Richard Bradfield.

While at Auburn, he married Vermelle Cardwell of Evergreen, Alabama. A campus leader at Auburn, Mrs. York has become in recent years a successful businesswoman and real estate developer in Gainesville, Florida.

From 1949 to 1956, Dr. York served at North Carolina State University, first as professor and then as chairman of the Department of Agronomy. He directed Alabama's Extension Service and was administrator for the Federal Extension Service from 1961 to 1963.

Dr. York has applied the land grant institution's philosophy of knowledge for public benefit into a lifelong advocacy for international agricultural develop-

---

ment. In that role, he has led several presidential missions and served on many national and international bodies concerned with agricultural development and world hunger.

"A world filled with hungry, sick, and poverty-ridden people is likely to be an unstable world. The United States has a vital stake in the outcome of the war on hunger," Dr. York said in a 1983 speech.

Dr. York currently serves as chairman for the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) of the Agency for International Development. This board is concerned with strengthening and mobilizing the resources of U.S. universities to help Third World nations improve their agricultural sectors through effective research and education institutions.

As Provost of Agriculture and Vice-President for Agricultural Affairs at the University of Florida from 1963 to 1973, Dr. York effected major, far-reaching changes. In an effort to more clearly reflect the land grant university's unique, tripartite mission of teaching, research, and extension, Dr. York brought together the College of

Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service and the State Agricultural Experiment Stations under the single administrative umbrella of the present Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

He established the Center for Tropical Agriculture, which extended the Institute's international influence. He initiated DARE (Developing Agricultural Resources Effectively), a long-range planning effort. Dr. York also founded SHARE (Special Help for Agricultural Research and Education), a University of Florida Foundation program that raises private funds for agriculture. Over the years, SHARE has generated more than \$19 million through gifts of cash and other assets from thousands of donors.

After a period as Executive Vice-President and Interim President of the University of Florida, he served as Chancellor of the State University System of Florida from 1975 to 1980. Since 1980 he has dedicated himself full time to a wide range of activities related to the problems of world hunger and malnutrition.

York Distinguished Lecturer Series  
1008 McCarty Hall  
University of Florida  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

*Paid for by private funds*