ASEE/SEFI/TUB COLLOQUIUM.

ASEE will hold an international colloquium jointly with the European Association for Engineering Education (SEFI) and with Berlin Technical University in Berlin this fall. This meeting will focus on three major topics: entrepreneurship, national accreditation and global practices, and technology in learning systems. The dates for the meeting are September 15-18, 2001. Prospective presenters are invited to submit an abstract on one of three topics either by email to m.dingman@asee.org or fax to 202-265-8504. Go to http://www.asee.org/conferences/international/ for more information.

ASEE NATIONAL ELECTION.

By now you should have received your 2001 ASEE National Ballot, which was enclosed with your March issue of Prism Magazine. We urge you to vote and remind you that ballots must be returned to headquarters by March 31, 2001. Remember that you must sign the ballot envelope to have your vote counted. If for any reason you have not received your ballot, please let Sandra Wingate-Bey know immediately. Bey's email address is: s.wingatebey@asee.org and her telephone number is 202-331-3510.

GOOD STORIES COMING IN APRIL PRISM.

I recommend two excellent articles in the April Prism. The first is about Henry Samueli, who is the co-founder of Broadcom Corporation, a $26 billion silicon chip company. Read how an electrical engineering professor from UCLA, who in his own words "barely made tenure," followed his entrepreneurial bent to spectacular success. The second article, "The Digital Divide," provides a cautionary view. "Digital divide" is a phrase that analysts and politicians use frequently today implying that the nation is separating into two camps - the technology haves and the technology have-nots, with the have-nots disproportionately black or Hispanic. Both the federal and state governments are taking steps to enable broader training and access to information technology systems. But this article notes that much more needs to be done if we are to prevent the divide from widening.

PRISM WINS PRINT AWARD.

United Litho, Prism Magazine's printer, entered Prism in a recent competition run by The Printing Industries of Virginia (PIVA). We are delighted that PIVA has awarded the March 2000 issue of Prism the "Best in Print Award of Excellence." The cover story for this issue was "Finding Their Way," which examined obstacles women in engineering education face in a field dominated by men.

ASEE BOARD APPOINTS REP TO IACEE.
The ASEE Board of Directors appointed Frank Burris, UCLA Extension, to serve on the new IACEE Council to be elected in Toronto in May, as ASEE's representative to the International Association of Continuing Engineering Education.

2001 ASEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

This year's annual conference will be held June 24-27, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This year's meeting should be outstanding. Dean Kamen will be the main plenary speaker. Kamen has repeatedly made national news as an innovator and inventor. His newest and yet unveiled invention, IT, has gotten considerable media play. The conference program also includes three mini plenaries, 225 technical sessions and over 1000 technical presentations. The picnic will be at the National Atomic Museum and there will be tours of Sandia Labs -- all this and hot air ballooning too! Register early, make hotel reservations, and take a look at the cool conference site: http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2001.

EDC SUPPORTS R&D TAX LEGISLATION.

The ASEE Engineering Deans Council has announced its support for legislation introduced by Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) to make the Research and Development Tax Credit a permanent feature of the tax code. Congresswoman Heather Wilson (R-NM) is introducing permanent R&D Tax Credit legislation in the House. In letters to the three Members of Congress, Stephen Director, EDC Chair and Dean of Engineering at the University of Michigan, noted that a permanent R&D Tax Credit "serves a variety of national interests," such as encouraging long-term commitments to research projects in the private sector. In addition, Director wrote, the provision strengthens the relationship between industry and academe by "promoting the commercialization of research results by industry and providing real-world experience for science and engineering students and faculty." At the press conference held to announce the introduction of the bill, Lloyd Griffiths, Dean of the School of Information Technology and Engineering at George Mason University of Fairfax, VA, spoke for the EDC in favor of the measure.

CIVILS GIVE U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE LOW MARKS.

The American Society of Civil Engineers released its annual Report Card for America's Infrastructure this week, billed as "an expert assessment of 12 infrastructure areas essential to the nation's economic survival and quality of life." With an overall grade of D+, the Report Card estimates the cost of improving national infrastructure conditions at $1.3 trillion. Selected assessments include a D+ for Roads, a C for Bridges, a D- for Schools, and a D+ for Energy. The entire Report Card is available on-line at the following URL: http://www.asce.org/reportcard/