August 1998

SEATTLE ANNUAL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS. It was a good annual meeting in Seattle. ASEE's Meetings and Conferences Department worked hard to make this one of the more outstanding annual conferences ASEE has held. Folks loved Seattle as a destination, and this was reflected in an increased attendance of 15%. The annual picnic was held at the Science Center and drew 1400 attendees. Kids of all ages had a great time. The main plenary was held on Tuesday this year, and the first speaker was George Rathmann of ICOS Corporation. He spoke long and intensely about the pitfalls and rebounding highs of establishing a successful corporation. It was a fascinating talk loaded with detail and passion. Phil Condit of Boeing was the next plenary speaker and he was the headliner that drew the crowd. Condit gave an entirely different presentation. He spoke briefly and broadly to general engineering/corporate issues and then went immediately into a lengthy Q&A period and allowed the educators to direct the flow of interest.

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS met in Seattle and elected the following officers: Jerry Jakubowski (Vice President Members Affairs) as First Vice President; Earl Dowell (Chair Engineering Deans Council) for Vice President for Institutional Councils; and Teresa Hein (Chair, Professional Interest Council III) as Vice President for Professional Interest Councils. The Board approved several motions, among them: a motion to endorse the theme of "Engineering: Education to Serve the World," for next year's annual conference in Charlotte, NC; approval of Nashville as the annual conference site for 2003 and Salt Lake City for 2004. Acting on the ASEE Finance Committee's recommendation, the Board also approved raising ASEE membership dues to $69.00, which is under the amount that the membership had approved in 1992. This increase will not go into effect until the new fiscal year, in October.

At the ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, '97-'98 ASEE President Lyle Feisel addressed banquet attendees and said that ASEE had had a good year due to the "dedication, energy and effort of member volunteers." He introduced incoming '98-'99 ASEE President, Ernest Smerdon, who spoke about his plans for the coming year. He identified increasing ASEE membership as one of his primary goals.

John Weese was introduced as ASEE’s President Elect, and in his Thank You Resolution (traditionally given at the close of the banquet) he noted that more than 1900 prime registrants and 1100 exhibitors, guests and family members had registered for the '98 meeting. He also thanked Seattle for arranging marvelous weather (no rain) which proved a welcome respite for those from the sweltering South.

FEDERAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT ACT (S.2217). Meanwhile, back at ASEE headquarters, Public Affairs reported that things were active on the legislative front. Senator Bill Frist (R-TN), Chair of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space of the Senate Commerce Committee, had asked for quick Commerce Committee action on S. 2217. (Senator Frist, who is a heart surgeon, acted as the emergency physician in last week's shooting on Capitol Hill.) Rapid consideration of S.2217 is very encouraging and is a result of the support of the engineering and scientific community for doubling the investment in the federal non-defense budget. The successor to the Gramm-Lieberman bill, S.2217 (also referred to as the Frist-Rockefeller bill for its principal authors) currently has at least 16 cosponsors and more are being sought. EDC Chair Earl Dowell and Public Policy Committee Chair Roland Haden have written to Senators McCain, Frist, Rockefeller,
Gramm and Lieberman to inform them of the Engineering Deans Council's endorsement.

**PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE TO MEET IN WASHINGTON THIS FALL.** The Program Planning Committee, which includes the PIC Chairs, VP for Institutional Councils and the Immediate Past President, will be meeting in Washington, DC, on October 24, 1998, to work on the technical program and sessions for the '99 Annual Conference in Charlotte. Plenary speakers have already been confirmed: Rick Priory, Chairman and CEO of Duke Energy, and Ralph Snyderman, Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of the Medical School at Duke.

**ASEE’S PRECOLLEGE BROCHURE A BEST SELLER.** The precollege guidance publication, "Engineering: Your Future," which was developed by the ASEE Publications Department continues to sell well. Last month alone, 3500 copies were sold. You can view and order this brochure at the ASEE web site at www.asee.org/precollege/

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