SENATOR GRAMM OPENS ASEE COLLOQUIUM. Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) gave the opening address at the Feb. 10-11, 1998 ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) Public Policy Colloquium. Gramm spoke strongly and specifically to the importance of support for the National Research Investment Act of 1998, which both the EDC and the ASEE Board have endorsed. Attendance at this Sixth Annual Public Policy Colloquium hit an all time high with 85 deans of engineering from 28 states present. Other speakers included: Dr. John Gibbons, Science Adviser to President Clinton, who spoke about major increases in NSF and NIH funding and other features in the FY ’99 budget; and Dr. Wendy Baldwin, Director of Extramural Research at NIH and Chair of the Bioengineering Consortium, who talked about federal bioengineering programs.

CLINTON NAMES COLWELL TO NSF. President Clinton has nominated Dr. Rita Colwell as Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Colwell is currently President of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and a professor of Microbiology at UM. She has been a member of the National Science Board and a past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She holds an M.S. from Purdue and a Ph.D. from the University of Washington. If confirmed, Colwell would replace current NSF Director Neal Lane. Lane has been nominated to head the Office of Science & Technology Policy, replacing John Gibbons, who has announced his resignation.

CONSIDER THE IRI/ASEE PROGRAM. Tenured engineering faculty or those who hold full time tenure track university appointments are invited to apply for the IRI/ASEE Engineering Faculty Program. This is a new program that offers the opportunity for first-hand industrial experience in a current business environment. Applications are initially being sought by Lockheed Martin Electronics & Missiles; PPG Industries, Inc.; Phillips Research; The Gillette Company; and Warner Lambert-ADAMS Worldwide R&D. Assignments range from 10 weeks during the summer to an academic year or another time period, depending on the arrangement made between the faculty member and company. Faculty will serve as active contributing members of the host companies. Companies are expected to provide a stipend plus reasonable lodging and travel expenses. Go to http://www.asee.org/fellowship/ for complete information and applications forms.

BOARD VOTES EARL DOWELL AS VP INSTITUTIONAL COUNCILS. At its winter meeting, the ASEE Board of Directors voted Earl Dowell as the Vice President for Institutional Councils, replacing recently deceased Board Member Rodger Payne. Dr. Dowell serves on the ASEE Board as Chair of the Engineering Deans Council, and is Dean of Engineering at Duke University.

1998 NATIONAL ASEE BALLOT MAILED WITH MARCH PRISM. Be aware that your ‘98 ASEE Ballot is included with the March issue of PRISM Magazine, which you should be receiving shortly. Be sure to vote and return your ballot to ASEE headquarters by March 31, 1998. Remember to sign your name on the signature line on the outside of the return envelope – if you fail to sign, your vote will not be counted. The slate of candidates for this year’s elections are: President-Elect - Wallace Fowler and John Weese; Vice President Member Affairs - Gerald Jakubowski and Paul Giolma; PIC I Chair - Burks Oakley and John Steffen; PIC IV Chair - David Whitman and Duane Abata; PIC V Chair - Patricia Chance; Zone I Chair Elect - Thomas Kim and Thomas Weber; Zone III Chair Elect - Tom Roberts and Charles Johnson; Zone IV Chair - Richard Moore and William Wells. For a look at the candidates’ photos, bios and statements, go to ASEE’s homepage at http://www.asee.org, and click on the About ASEE box. Elections, set off in sprightly stars, is at the top.

CREATIVITY IS KEY. The March issue of PRISM places the focus on creativity in engineering. There are two excellent lead articles, “Awakening Creativity” and “Brain Storms.” Both articles
point out that all engineering students have the ability to generate fresh ideas and approaches and that they can learn to enhance this creative potential with help from their professors.

**THE CREATIVE ENGINEER.** Coincidentally, there is a handsome new exhibition, "Breaking Through: The Creative Engineer," that opens February 26 in Washington, D.C. at the National Building Museum. The exhibition, which runs to November 8, is designed to show the sweep of modern engineering and to explore some of the kinds of thinking that characterize innovative engineering. Examples include disparate challenges from the development of thrilling roller coaster rides at Disney to the construction of Colorado's Hanging Lake Viaduct and the reorientation of the Kissimmee River in Florida. "Breaking Through" is supported by National Engineers Week, an annual event that recognizes engineers' contributions to society. The National Building Museum is located at 401 F Street, Washington, D.C., at the entrance to the Judiciary Square Metro station on the Red Line. Museum hours are 10-4 Mon-Sat, and 12-4 Sun., and admission is free.

**SECOND US-RUSSIAN ETHICS WORKSHOP HELD.** The second in the series of U.S.-Russian Workshops on Engineering Ethics Education, supported by an NSF grant to ASEE and co-sponsored by AAAS and ASEE, was held in Moscow, recently. The theme of the workshop was "Designing Engineering Ethics Education in Russia." About 40 Russian engineers and ethics scholars attended the workshop sessions. The Moscow Aviation Institute and the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences were the hosts. A third and final workshop is scheduled for May 29-June 3, 1998.

**U.S. NEWS RANKING OF SCHOOLS ATTACKED.** This is about ranking law schools, but interesting. In the Feb. 19th Wall St. Journal, p. B2, a story entitled "Law Schools Assail Magazine's Ratings," reports that 164 of the nation's 180 ABA-endorsed law schools have banded together to discredit the ranking of law schools by U.S. News and World Report. The Association of American Law Schools and the group of 164 are endorsing a letter that warns that the U.S. News ranking is unreliable and sending it to the 93,000 current law-school applicants. The group has an independent consultant's study that shows the flaws of the U.S. News survey. Even high-ranked schools have joined the action. Yale University (#1) signed the letter as did seven others in the magazine's top ranked 10 -- including Stanford, Columbia and New York University. Harvard University (#2) and University of Chicago (#4) did not. While U.S. News admits to the difficulty in ranking schools, the magazine claims the rankings are independent and accurate. "We're not in the business of trying to please the deans. U.S. News is in the business of providing readers with information to help them sort out the differences between schools and pick the best schools for them," says the U.S. News editor of special projects.

**Marian Tatu, Editor**

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