### Publications

**ASEE Action Newsletter - September 2002**

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The upcoming ASEE/SEFI/TUB International Colloquium is ASEE's first international conference held abroad. The dates are October 1-4, 2002, and the meeting will take place in Berlin. ASEE President Gene DeLoatch will give the opening presentation on Wednesday, October 2 with SEFI President Tor-Ulf Weck. This meeting has an excellent program and will provide an opportunity to meet colleagues from here and abroad in an exciting international setting. The program will explore three major areas of engineering - national accreditation/global practices, entrepreneurship, and technology and learning systems. The sessions will all take place at the Berlin Hilton, Tel: 011 49-30-20230. If you haven't booked your hotel, you should do so as a limited number of rooms have been blocked. Also, see good news in next item.

### RATE AT BERLIN HILTON DROPS

Now participants can stay at the ASEE/SEFI/TUB Colloquium Headquarters Hotel for eur178 (approximately $172.00 US Dollars). This is about a $50 per night reduction. If you have already booked at the Berlin Hilton, your room rate will be adjusted to the eur178 rate. If you have made your reservation at another hotel in Berlin, it's not too late to reserve a room at the Berlin Hilton. This new rate is the result of continued negotiation by ASEE's director of conferences, Bill Ryan, who says, "Why stay at another hotel and commute to the meetings at the Berlin Hilton when you can stay at the headquarters hotel for such a great rate." The Berlin Hilton's contact information is as follows:

- Berlin Hilton
  - 178 Euros ($172.00 US)
  - Mohrenstrasse 30
  - 10117 Berlin, Germany
  - Tel: 011 49-30-20230
  - Fax: 011 49-30-20234269

### TUNING UP FOR NASHVILLE

It is already time to submit abstracts for next year's Annual Conference in Nashville (June 22-25, 2003). ASEE began accepting abstracts August 5, 2002 and will do so until November 1, 2002. Abstracts must be submitted via the CAPS system.

### THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO CONTINUE IN NASHVILLE

The 6th WFEO World Congress on Engineering Education and the 2nd ASEE Global Conference on Engineering Education will be held in Nashville immediately prior to the 2003 Annual Conference, June 20-23. Lyle Feisel, past president of ASEE, is serving as Chair of ASEE's second global conference.

### ASEE RECEIVES NDSEG CONTRACT

ASEE has been awarded a $105 million contract to administer the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) fellowship program, which provides graduate fellowships, over the next three fiscal years. During this period, ASEE will be administering an additional $30 million in fellowships that were initiated under a previous NDSEG contract.

### WULF/SLAUGHTER SPEECHES ON THE WEB

Main Plenary speakers at ASEE's 2002 Annual Conference in Montreal were William A. Wulf, President of the National Association of Engineering, and John Brooks Slaughter, President and CEO of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. Wulf and Slaughter shared the platform at the Main Plenary and spoke to a standing room only crowd of engineering educators. Attendees at this year's Annual Conference topped 3,300 -- a record for ASEE. To read the plenary speeches, go to: Plenary Speeches
LEARNON.ORG PARTNERS WITH GLOBALSPEC.COM

ASEE's continuing education web site, Learnon.org, has teamed with GlobalSpec.com, which bills itself as the web's fastest, searchable database of technical products and services and uses the tagline, Speed to Spec. Go to: http://www.Globalspec.com for a look at a quick and impressive web site where engineers, teachers, and students can locate online the technical tools and components needed for both classroom and workplace. Learnon and GlobalSpec will link to each other for direct access. GlobalSpec's technical library contains 1,250 articles and application notes, and reference and information links of value to engineers.

EIR TO MEET IN SEPTEMBER

The next meeting of the Engineers International Roundtable (EIR) will be held 1pm - 4pm, Friday, September 13, 2002, at the National Academy of Engineering, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. The meeting will begin with a panel discussing how some firms that do business internationally practice sustainable development. At the May meeting of the EIR, Andrew Reynolds, Deputy Science and Technology Adviser at the Department of State, challenged attendees to work corporately to develop a strategy for sustainable development in the post-Johannesburg world. In the business meeting there will be a discussion of how the EIR could contribute to developing such a strategy for the engineering community. The business meeting will follow the panel and include reports from societies on international activities related to sustainability, and reports on other international issues of interest to the engineering community. For more information contact W. E. Kelly at kellyw@cua.edu.

ENGINEERS SPEAK OUT IN WALL ST. JOURNAL

On June 7th an article entitled "CEO's Worry about the Future of New Generation of Engineers" appeared in the Wall St. Journal. The article analyzed the supply side of the engineering workforce, noting that graduation rates for engineering declined from 80,000 in the mid-1980's to 60,000 in 1998. It was suggested that engineering graduation rates have declined due to the design of engineering curricula. The article claimed engineering programs largely follow a "boot-camp model," and quoted NAE President William Wulf saying, "We throw really hard math and science at them for two years and only then let them do some fun stuff. No wonder we're losing 40% of the freshman who start in engineering."

A follow-up article, entitled "Angry Engineers Pin Shortage on Low Pay, Layoffs, Age Bias," ran on July 5, and presented engineers' responses to the June piece. Instead of faulting the engineering curriculum for the drop in graduation numbers and subsequent workforce squeeze, respondents blamed the demoralizing working conditions that face engineers. A 47-year-old mechanical engineer was quoted: "Companies view engineers as labor to be discarded when times are tough. Industries such as aerospace want seasoned, innovative engineers during peak periods and then discard them when the contracts end." Other complaints mentioned salary stagnation, age discrimination, the boom-and-bust cycle of the field, and displacement by foreign workers hired under the H-1B visa program. Wrote one respondent, "Potential engineers are reading the writing on the wall and choosing more lucrative and stable careers in business, medicine, and law."

TEACHING ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONFERENCE

The "Teaching Entrepreneurship to Engineering Students" Conference is scheduled for January 13-16, 2003 in Monterey, CA. Chaired by Eleanor Baum, Cooper Union, and Carl McHargue, University of TN, this meeting sets the stage for continuing dialogue between engineering educators and the business community. See: http://www.engconfintl.org/3as.html.

7th NCIIA MEETING

The 7th Annual meeting of the National Collegiate and Innovators Alliance will take place in Boston, MA, March 20-23, 2003. Deadline for proposals for papers, panels, and workshops is September 30. Theme of the meeting is "Big Ideas in a Small World: Invention, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education. See: http://www.nciia.org/events/conf03.html.

5th IEP INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

The International Engineering Program at the University of Rhode Island announces the 5th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education in Warwick, RI, October 24-27, 2002. The meeting is designed to provide exchange of information among current practitioners and those who seek to internationalize their engineering programs. See: http://www.uri.edu/iep.

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