April 2000

GREATEST ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENTS ANNOUNCED

The Greatest Engineering Achievements of the 20th Century as selected by the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) were announced by astronaut/engineer Neil Armstrong during National Engineers Week 2000. The achievements – nominated by 29 professional engineering societies – were selected to show the important role engineering has played in improving the quality of life during the 20th century. The achievements announced were as follows: 1) Electrification, 2) Automobile, 3) Airplane, 4) Safe and abundant water, 5) Electronics, 6) Radio and television, 7) Agricultural mechanization, 8) Computers, 9) Telephone, 10) Air conditioning and refrigeration, 11) Interstate highways, 12) Space exploration, 13) Internet, 14) Imaging technologies, 15) Household appliances, 16) Health technologies, 17) Petroleum and gas technologies, 18) Laser and fiber optics, 19) Nuclear technologies, and 20) High performance materials. The Great Achievements Project, initiated by the NAE, is part of a larger public awareness campaign to bring public focus to the contributions of engineering. For more details, go to http://www.greatachievements.org.

TAU ALPHA PI GAINS ENTRY TO ACHS

Tau Alpha Pi, the honor society for Engineering Technology students, was formally admitted to membership in the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) at the ACHS annual conference in Orlando, FL. With more than 65 member honor societies, ACHS spans the range of academic disciplines. As a member of ACHS, Tau Alpha Pi joins the ranks of Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering honor society, and societies representing chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical, and other branches of engineering. Membership in ACHS will help Tau Alpha Pi develop and maintain the high standards of academic achievement and professional promise shown by the best students in Engineering Technology. See: http://www.asee.org/honor/#tap

ASEE PRESIDENT’S AWARD

The ASEE President's Award for the Promotion of Engineering is a new ASEE national award that is sponsored by the ASEE Engineering Deans Council. The award recognizes those organizations that promote engineering careers through various media. Any member of ASEE may nominate an organization for this award, which consists of a suitably inscribed plaque to be presented at the annual Awards Banquet held during the ASEE Annual Conference. For further details, go to: http://www.asee.org/awards/nominationinfo/special.cfm#Presidents

PUBLIC POLICY COLLOQUIUM

The ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) held its annual Public Policy Colloquium, February 15-16, in Washington, D.C. Speakers included Representative Thomas Ewing (R-IL), David Gergen of U.S. News and World Report, and OSTP Associate Director
SENATE EXPANDS SECTION 127 COVERAGE

The U.S. Senate passed S. 1134 by a 61 to 37 margin making employer-provided educational assistance permanently tax exempt for both undergraduate- and graduate-level courses. The White House has threatened to veto the bill because of opposition to the education savings account provision, which would allow families to set aside up to $2,000 per child annually in tax-free accounts for pre-college educational expenses.

ASEE PRESIDENT TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION (IGIP) SYMPOSIUM

John Weese, ASEE President and Regents Professor and Engineering Accreditation Coordinator at Texas A&M University, will attend IGIP 2000. The IGIP meeting will be held March 27-30, 2000 at the Biel School of Engineering and Architecture, in Biel, Switzerland.

NDSEG PANELISTS REVIEW FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

Last summer, ASEE won a contract from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) to administer the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program (NDSEG). To increase the number of U.S. citizens trained in disciplines of science and engineering of military importance, the Department of Defense awards up to 150 new three-year graduate fellowships of up to $20,000/per year plus tuition. ASEE has the responsibility for processing the applications, and as part of that responsibility, the Projects Department organized its first NDSEG panel meeting in February, where 90 panelists met and reviewed the 1,750 fellowship applications received.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE SET

The ASEE Executive Committee will hold its next meeting on Saturday, April 15, 2000 at ASEE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

IEEE/ABET TO HOST WORKSHOPS AT ASEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) will hold two educational workshops on June 20, 2000 during ASEE's Annual Conference in St. Louis, Mo. The first, EC-2000 Training Workshop, co-sponsored by the Committee on Engineering Accreditation
Activities, will seek to train IEEE members serving as program evaluators and department heads under the new ABET Engineering Criteria 2000.

The second, Engineering Technology Workshop, co-sponsored by the Committee on Technology Accreditation Activities, will teach the standard ABET Engineering Technology Criteria to IEEE members who serve as program evaluators and department heads.

Both workshops will take place at the Adams Mark Hotel, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The cost for each workshop is $200 in advance, $250 at the door. For more information, contact: Accreditation Administrator, IEEE Educational Activities, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331, Phone: 1 732 562 5484, E-mail: eab-accred@ieee.org.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY CHINA’S THREE GORGES DAM

China 2000, a study abroad course at Eastern Illinois University, School of Technology, is scheduled to take place May 27-June 10 for students, faculty, and others. Cutoff date for registration is April 20, 2000. China 2000 will study a construction project currently underway in China, namely the Three Gorges Dam. After the completion of this Chinese construction project in 2009, an area 400 miles long will be submerged under a mass of water half the height of the Sears Tower. Various and significant effects (geological, ecological, sociological) are expected. Students and faculty members will study and report through the Internet. For further details, contact: Wafeek Samuel Wahby at Tel: 217-581-2318; email: cfws@eiu.edu. Also, see: http://www.eiu.edu/~tech/China2000.htm.

EIU TO HOST “CONMATEQ 2000”

The School of Technology at Eastern Illinois (EIU) will host a symposium on construction materials and equipment in Charleston, IL, on September 7-9, 2000. The theme is The 21st Century: Academia and Industry Together for Better Construction Materials and Equipment.” Authors are invited to submit abstracts before May 8, 2000 to Wafeek Samuel Wahby, Chair ConMatEq 2000 Symposium Planning Committee, School of Technology, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Illinois 61920, email: cfws@eiu.edu. For more information, go to: http://www.eiu.edu/~tech/.

ICEE-2000 TO BE HELD IN TAIWAN

Professor Che-Ho, Program Chair for ICEE-2000 and Vice President National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, has announced that the International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEE) will be in Taipei and Tainan, Taiwan, August 14-18, 2000. Organized as an information exchange forum, ICEE emphasizes international collaboration, partnership, and networking. Further information can be viewed at: http://icee2000.nctu.edu.tw.