JANUARY COVER STORY IN PRISM
The cover story in the January issue of Prism should be of considerable interest. It’s an interview with a top official at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) who talks about DARPA’s controversial new Information Awareness Office (IAO) and its aim to spot potential terrorists by tracking financial footprints. Terrorists, like the rest of us use cell phones, credit cards, and airlines. They have phone and hotel bills, airline tickets, and use computers to go online. Such everyday transactions leave a signature in information space, and the trick is to detect that signature before damage is done. Engineering researchers are involved by working to develop software that will observe behavior of suspicious individuals. However, IAO has raised controversy over privacy concerns, and this article, which is the first the Pentagon has permitted about the elite research agency, suggests that someday Americans may have to balance the loss of liberty against greater security.

STILL TIME TO NOMINATE A WORTHY ASSOCIATE
The deadline is near, but you still have time to nominate one or more deserving colleagues for an ASEE award. The awards will be presented at the 2003 ASEE Awards Banquet at the Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, June 22-25, 2003. A list of awards being offered for 2003 is available on ASEE’s web site, along with online award nomination forms and other related information at: http://www.asee.org/awards. The deadline for submitting award nominations is January 15, 2003. The deadline for submitting Fellow Member nominations is February 1, 2003.

CIEC CONFERENCE IN TUCSON

JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION
The January 2003 issue of JEE will contain the following articles:

- Designing and Teaching Courses to Satisfy the ABET Engineering Criteria, by Richard M. Felder and Rebecca Brent.
- A Retrospective on Undergraduate Engineering Success for Underrepresented Minority Students by Gary S. May and Daryl E. Chubin.
- Efficacy of Using a Single, Non-Technical Variable to Predict the Academic Success of Freshmen Engineering Students, by Laura W. Lackey, W. Jack Lackey, Helen M. Grady, and Marjorie T. Davis.
- Engineering Design: Examining the Impact of Gender and the Team’s Gender Composition, by Melissa Laeser, Barbara M. Moskal, Robert Knecht, and Debra Lasich.
- An Assessment of In-Person and Remotely Operated Laboratories by Madara Ogot, Gregory Elliott, and Nick Glumac.
- The Relationship Between Department Rank and College Rank in Engineering Graduate Program Rankings Conducted by U.S. News and World Report by Bruce A. Vojak, Raymond L. Price, and James V. Carnahan.
- Are Undergraduate Engineering Students at Greater Risk for Heart Disease than Other Undergraduate Students? by Christopher Foster and Leslie Spencer.
- Delivering an Engineering Laboratory Course Using the Internet, the Post Office, and a Campus Visit by David G. Alexander and R. E. Smelser.
- Retention 101: Where Robots Go...Students Follow by Carlos Pomalaza-Raez and Brenda Henry Groff.
- Some Comments on the Robustness of Student t Procedures by Joshua M. Tebbs and Keith M. Bower.
- Engineering Accreditation and Standards for Technological Literacy by Douglas Gorham, Pam B. Newberry, and Theodore A. Bickart.
- Bioinformatics: A New Field in Engineering Education by Richard Hughey and Kevin Karplus.

The October 2002 issue of the Journal is the most recently published issue, and it can be viewed on ASEE’s web site at: http://www.asee.org/publications/jee/issue2002.cfm.

LEADERSHIP GROUP MEETING
ASEE’s K-12 Center got off to an auspicious start in November with the first meeting of the Center’s advisory board. The board met at ASEE headquarters to hear presentations about the Center’s future activities. James Johnson, Howard University, who heads up the Deans Task Force on K-12, spoke on what the deans were planning. Jackie Sullivan from the University of Colorado detailed the research agenda and company representatives offered views on the Center’s activities.
**SUSTAINABILITY MEETING**

The next meeting of the Engineers Forum on Sustainability will be held on Friday, January 10, 2003 from 9 a.m. -12 noon at the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC. The agenda for the meeting will be distributed electronically at a later date. All attendees at the Forum's meeting are also invited to remain for the meeting of the Engineers International Roundtable. See next item.

**EIR TO MEET IN JANUARY**

The next meeting of the Engineers International Roundtable (EIR) will be held January 10, 2003, 1-4 p.m., at the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). The meeting will focus on discussion of two international issues of importance to the engineering community: (1) how the engineering community can implement the actions outlined in the Engineering Declaration on Sustainable Development presented at the WSSD in Johannesburg; and (2) ensuring a meaningful role for the engineering community when the U.S. reenters UNESCO. As background, the EIR participated in a meeting on November 1, 2002 to begin implementing the actions outlined in the declaration. Panelists from the World Bank, Department of Energy, USAID, National Research Council, Environmental Protection Agency, the National Academy of Engineering discussed activities and opportunities that could support the declaration. On November 22, there was a meeting to discuss organizing the U.S. participation in UNESCO and the EIR participated in this meeting with AAES and the WFEO CommTech committee. A report on the status of the U.S. reentry into UNESCO will be provided followed by discussion of opportunities for the engineering community. The business meeting will follow the open discussion 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.

**ANNUAL SEFI MEETING**

The annual meeting of the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI) will be held in Porto, Portugal September 7-10, 2003. The conference theme is “Global Engineer: Education and Training for Mobility.”

**NSF DOUBLING CLEARS CONGRESS**

Both the House and Senate have passed H.R. 4664, the NSF Authorization Act of 2002. The bill puts NSF on a five-year doubling path, calling for approximately 15% annual increases in the agency's budget between FY 2003 and FY 2007. The last two years of the authorized spending levels are contingent on NSF making “successful progress” towards five specific management goals. The final version of the bill absorbed several other research and education-related measures that had been under consideration in Congress: H.R. 1858 (K-12 math and science education); H.R. 100 (master teachers); H.R. 3130 (The Tech Talent Act, on undergraduate education); and H.R. 2051 (biotechnology research).

**DO ENGINEERS HAVE MORE FUN?**

You might enjoy reading “Like a Rowing Stone,” which appeared in the December issue of Smithsonian Magazine, and is about racing concrete canoes. For the 15th Annual National Concrete Canoe Competition, 250+ civil engineering students from 25 universities descended on Lake Mendota in Madison, WI. The canoes were strong and superlight, and the competition fun and fierce. Clemson University won the race this year, as they did in 1999 and 2000. But the University of Alabama in Huntsville is determined to reclaim the national title next year - they've in 2001 and four earlier years. Drexel University hosts the 2003 competition next summer. For information about concrete canoes and competitions, concrete other sports, as well as the Smithsonian article by Michael Behar, go to: http://ConcreteCanoe.org.

Happy Holidays!

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