PHILLIPS PETROLEUM TO RECEIVE ASEE AWARD. The Phillips Petroleum Company has been selected to receive this year’s ASEE Presidential Award for its television portrayal of the importance of engineers and engineering technology. The 30-second segment, “Engineers Make a World of Difference,” first aired during the 1998 NCAA basketball finals. ASEE President Lyle Feisel will make the presentation to Phillips Petroleum at the ASEE Annual Awards Banquet on July 1, 1998. The Presidential Award recognizes industry for promoting the engineering profession to the general public. Last year, ABB received the award for its television spot that enhanced the image of the engineer.

RUSSIAN ETHICS WORKSHOP. The third workshop in the NSF-funded ASEE project on Engineering Ethics Education in Russia and the U.S., was held in Moscow in early June 1998. ASEE along with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Institute of Engineering Ethics (NIEE) co-sponsored this project with the Moscow Aviation Institute and the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Philosophy. The workshop sessions, under the theme, “Assessing Experience in Teaching Engineering Ethics,” covered the development of instructional modules for teaching engineering ethics, using the Internet to advance engineering ethics education and to promote interest in and access to engineering ethics by practicing engineers, business, and students. ASEE also met with top officials of the Russian Association for Engineering Education to consider ways in which this counterpart association can help disseminate the results of this project to appropriate institutions in Russia.

COLWELL CONFIRMED BY SENATE TO HEAD NSF. The Senate has voted to confirm Rita Colwell as Director of the National Science Foundation. Colwell will be the first woman to head NSF. Previously she was President of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and Professor of Microbiology, and she was formerly President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

LANE CONFIRMATION EXPECTED. The Senate is expected to act favorably on the nomination of Neal Lane as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House. Lane has been Director of the National Science Foundation, and previously he was Provost at Rice University.

SENATE PASSES NSF AUTHORIZATION BILL. The Senate has passed a National Science Foundation authorization bill for $3.7 billion for FY’99 and close to $3.9 billion for FY2000, sums consistent with President Clinton’s budget request.

ASEE COSPONSORS CNSF EXHIBIT. ASEE cosponsored the Coalition for National Science Funding Annual Exhibit on Capitol Hill, which focuses on NSF-supported activities. Members of Congress and their staff stop by and see first-hand how federal funds are being used in university research. This year, the Ohio University display used a video-computer and showed how research has advanced corrosion prevention for deep water piping systems -- systems that transfer oil from offshore drilling sites to land-based refineries. The Virginia Tech team displayed results of a program that requires freshman engineering students to work in teams to conceive, design and produce a new product. Students make connections between basic science and engineering practice while learning team work and project management skills.
WISE INTERN AT ASEE. Robert Thornburg, an NSF-sponsored WISE Intern, will be housed at ASEE this summer. He will work under the auspices of ASEE's Public Affairs Department and will write a paper on an aspect of sustainable development. Thornburg is a junior at Notre Dame and one of the top students in the Chemical Engineering Program. His extracurricular activities include serving as an editor and writer for the Notre Dame Technical Review.

TAU ALPHA PI. With the concurrence of the ASEE Board, ASEE assumed management of Tau Alpha Pi, the engineering technology honorary society, last year. Since ASEE began providing administrative support, a total of 71 chapters have been identified, and this spring, there have been 540 inductees from 64 chapters. Future plans include design and production of a Tau Alpha Pi brochure and of a Web Page. For many years Tau Alpha Pi was run under the sole direction of Dr. Frederick Berger, founder of the Berger Award (which recognizes excellence in engineering technology education). Dr. Berger, who, unfortunately, is in failing health, had requested that ASEE assume the management of the society.

WHO'S WHO IN ENGINEERING. If all goes as planned, copies of the new ASEE's Directory of Engineering Education Leaders for 1998 will be available for previewing at the Annual Conference in Seattle. This new directory is a virtual who’s who of engineering and engineering technology college leaders, and it includes over 12,000 deans, department heads, research directors, faculty and administrators. If it comes off the press as promised, the directory will be available for a first time look at a directories booth on the exhibit floor. It and other ASEE directories can be ordered at the booth. ASEE directories published this year include the Profiles of Engineering and Engineering Technology Colleges; Directory of Undergraduate Engineering Statistics; Directory of Engineering Technology Statistics; and Directory of Graduate Engineering and Research Statistics. These statistical directories are for the 1996-97 academic year.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE. This year's ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition will be in Seattle, Washington, June 28-July 2,1998. The Conference will be at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, where technical and poster sessions and exhibits will be held. Business meetings, workshops and meal events will take place at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. Visit ASEE's web site at www.asee.org/conferences.

Marian Tatu, Editor
m.tatu@asee.org