October 1997

ACTION ALERT! Mary Dalheim, Publications Department, says they've gotten a flood of orders for ASEE's brand new precollege brochure. This is the colorful and catchy recruitment brochure that can start high school students thinking about engineering as a career. View the prototype at: http://www.asee.org/precollege/. The booklet sells for a reasonable $1.25 per booklet, plus postage and handling, and the minimum order is 100 booklets. Mary has extended the deadline to October 1 because of the surge of interest in this hot new item. This is definitely the LAST CALL for the first print run. Fax your order form immediately to 202-265-8504. If you need an order form, call 202-331-3556. Brochures will be shipped by November 3, 1997.

NEW ASEE-NSF VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM. NSF has awarded ASEE a grant to undertake a Visiting Scholars Program. The one-year program will support visits by highly respected educators to selected colleges of engineering to conduct pairs of two-day workshops with the intent of enhancing the quality of engineering teaching. On the initial visit in January or February 1998, the scholar(s) will make one or more presentations to a group of engineering educators, will meet privately with the educators, and leave them with a "homework" assignment. The scholar(s) will make a follow-up two-day visit in May or June. ASEE will work with NSF to identify outstanding educators - such as the Johnson Brothers who conducted the ERM/Addison-Wesley Lecture at the '97 Annual Conference. (See article in May-June '97 issue of PRISM.) Those interested in submitting names of potential Visiting Scholars should contact Kathy Tollerton (202-331-3507, k.tollerton@asee.org) or Don Davis (202-331-3537, d.davis@asee.org)

NO LATER THAN OCTOBER10. Please be prepared to provide your candidate's name and address, a brief description of the person's special contribution, and why you think the person is a good nominee. Deans of colleges of engineering interested in participating in the program should get in touch with Kathy Tollerton.

ASEE/ABET HOLD SUCCESSFUL ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE. In September, ASEE held a joint conference with ABET on Outcomes Assessment in Engineering Education. The meeting was a sellout, and 380 attendees packed the ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. The program was a successful mix of speakers, Q&A and workshops, and at every level participants shared their concerns, anxiety and quest for answers. There was good give and take between speakers and audience, and some of the best Q&A sessions took place with the industry panelists. Representatives from companies such as Boeing, Conrail and Hughes spoke about assessment practices in industry and then took questions from the floor about what industry wants in engineers. The speakers' talks will be compiled and put up on the Web.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM MEETS. To support the principles and practice of sustainable development, AAES and ASEE held a meeting of The Engineers Forum for Sustainable Development, at the National Academy of Engineering last month. The President's Council on Sustainable Development and sixteen other organizations were represented. Board member, Teresa Hein of American University, represented ASEE. The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled for December 10, and the agenda will focus on sustainable development in engineering education.

DEANS SUPPORT NEW MEMBER DRIVE. ASEE, with the help of engineering deans, has launched a new Deans Program to get more new ASEE members. The 1997-98 Dean's Program offers prospects two years of free membership in ASEE. The deans pay for the first year of membership, and ASEE waives the second year's dues. This program is open to faculty members who haven't been members of ASEE before. If you know of colleagues who would be eligible for this program, recommend them to your dean or campus rep. It's new so it's right at the beginning of our home page at http://www.asee.org.
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ARTICLE - RECOMMENDED READING. Four years ago an engineering student stole a notebook containing research that he had performed while working as a lab assistant. The university prosecuted, the jury agreed with the university, and the student went to jail. This is the cautionary tale that begins the article, "Intellectual Property: Policies, Practices, and Possible Time Bombs," that appears in the October issue of ASEE PRISM. Intellectual property is an area of law that can touch faculty members and their students through the long reach of patents and copyrights. This article provides an excellent round-up of current policies and emerging issues involving patents and copyrights.

LET PRISM KNOW YOUR GOOD NEWS. If you or someone at your institution has been appointed as dean, associate dean, department head/chair, or other position, let ASEE PRISM know. Although space constraints don't allow PRISM to publicize every new faculty appointment, the magazine regularly prints news of major appointments related to engineering and engineering technology education. Send information to About People, ASEE PRISM, 1818 N St., NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036; e-mail: b.panitz@asee.org.

RICHARD CRAIN, CHAIR-ELECT ZONE IV, DIES. ASEE was saddened to learn that Dick Crain of Washington State University had passed away August 27. Dick had been a longtime supporter of ASEE and last year was elected to the ASEE Board of Directors as chair-elect of Zone IV. Throughout his 32 years as a teacher, Crain won numerous awards for his outreach and fine educational efforts. For example Boeing recognized Crain as one of a small number of Outstanding Educators in 1995 and 1996. He also received WSU's 1996 Sahlin Award for Excellence in Instruction. WSU's has announced that a Memorial will be established in Crain's honor. Crain had had a long and distinguished career, and his many friends, associates, and students will miss him. A tribute from WSU can be viewed at http://www.wsu.edu/NIS/releases/nh134.htm.

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