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ASEE Action Newsletter

October 2006

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NEXT NAE PRESIDENT

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) 2007 nominating committee has recommended Charles M. Vest, president emeritus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), as the sole candidate to be the next president of NAE. Voting by the NAE membership will take place March 2007 for a six-year term to begin July 1. If elected, Vest will succeed William A. Wulf, whose second term as NAE president will end June 30, 2007. Wulf will return to his previous position as a Chaired University Professor at the University of Virginia. The full news release text regarding Vest's nomination can be viewed at: http://national-academies.org.

ASEE GLOBAL COLLOQUIUM SET FOR BRAZIL

ASEE will be holding its 5th Global Colloquium on Engineering Education, October 9-12, 2006. This year the Colloquium will be in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil -- famed for its attractions ranging from Carnival to Sugar Loaf Mountain, to the beautiful beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana. The keynote speaker for this important international meeting will be Dr. Frannie Leautier, Vice President of the World Bank Institute. The first woman from Tanzania to earn a Ph.D. from MIT, Leautier is a leading expert in infrastructure strategy formulation in developing countries. To read more about Leautier and her considerable achievements, see her full profile in the September issue of Prism Magazine. Presentations at the Colloquium will address issues of primary and secondary education, curriculum for the global engineer, and Engineering for the Americas. Attendees will also have ample opportunities to tour sites in Rio as well as visit engineering colleges in Brazil. Registration can now only be processed on site in Rio, but details can be seen at: http://www.asen.org/conferences/international/2006. Also taking place at the Rio Colloquium will be the inaugural meeting of the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFiEES). The leadership of this organization will be elected at this meeting, and the strategic direction will be developed.

HAWAII CONFERENCE ABSTRACT DEADLINE

The deadline for abstract submission for the 2007 ASEE Annual Conference in Hawaii is fast approaching. Be sure to submit your abstract no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, October 4, 2006. All submissions must be made via http://www.asen.org/SmoothPaper. For more information, go to: http://www.asen.org/annual2007.

BUCKIUS TO HEAD ENGINEERING DIRECTORATE

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has named Richard O. Buckius, professor of mechanical engineering and former head of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as the new NSF assistant director for engineering. Buckius has been serving as acting assistant director since September 1, 2005, and he assumed his new role for a two-year term beginning September 15, 2006. He holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

NEW ASEE DATA AVAILABLE

ASEE's Profiles and Data Books were shipped in September to ASEE members who selected this option on their membership renewal form. Copies can also be ordered online, and the price is $50. Much of this new data is available online at: http://www.asen.org/colleges. This year's survey results found that while degrees awarded increased at all degree levels during the 2004-05 academic year, enrollment at the bachelor's and master's levels decreased for the second consecutive year. 73,602 students received bachelor's degrees from engineering colleges, which is the highest since the mid-1980's. The recent growth at the undergraduate level over the last six years should soon end, indicated by a drop in recent enrollments. The decreasing percentage of women enrolled is of special concern. Only 17.5 percent of enrolled undergraduates were women during the fall of 2005. The percentage of women receiving bachelor's degrees has slowly declined from 21.2 percent in 1999 to 19.5 percent in 2004-05. It appears that this trend will continue for the near term. Please visit http://www.asen.org/colleges for additional data.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program (NDSEG)

The fellowship program is sponsored by the Army Research Office, Office of Naval Research, Air Force Office of Scientific Research and the DoD High Performance Computing Modernization Program. This program is intended for U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens at or near the beginning of their graduate studies in science and/or engineering programs. The fellowships are for three year tenures. The stipends begin at $30,500 for first year fellows, $31,000 for second year fellows, and $31,500 for third year fellows. Full tuition and fees and a health insurance allowance are included as part of the program. The application deadline is January, 2007. Go to: http://www.asen.org/ndseg for applications and detailed program information.

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

For U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent resident aliens at or near the beginning of their graduate studies, this program offers a stipend of $30,000 a year for three years and a $10,500 cost of education allowance to the university, which assures students in U.S. institutions of a tuition waiver. For application and deadline information, go to: http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov. For additional program information, go to: http://www.nsf.gov/grfp.

The Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship Program (SFFP)

This program is intended for U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have an earned doctorate in science or engineering and who hold full-time science or engineering faculty positions at U.S. colleges, community colleges and universities. The duration of this summer fellowship is from eight to 12 continuous weeks and
research is performed on-site at an Air Force Laboratory. There is a competitive weekly stipend and relocation and daily expense allowances are available. The application opened in August and the application deadline is November 1, 2006. Go to: http://www.asee.org/sffp or email sffp@asee.org.

**The Office of Naval Research (ONR) Summer Faculty Research and Sabbatical Leave Program**

This program is intended for U.S. citizens who hold teaching or research appointments relating to science and/or engineering at U.S. academic institutions. A competitive stipend, relocation and travel allowances, and a pre-program site visit are offered. Application deadline is December 1, 2006. Go to: http://www.asee.org/summer.

**The Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) Postdoctoral Fellowship Program**

This program is open to U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents and offers a competitive stipend as well as insurance, relocation, and travel allowances. This program offers one to three year postdoctoral fellowships designed to increase the involvement of scientists and engineers from academia and industry to scientific and technical areas of interest and relevance to the Navy. This program has a rolling admission. Go to: http://www.asee.org/resources/nrl.

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