ASEE Action Newsletter

September 2007

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PRISM PROFILES ASEE PRESIDENT JAMES MELSA

There is an interesting profile/interview of ASEE president Jim Melsa coming in the October issue of Prism Magazine. The article, “Educator For The Real World,” follows Melsa's unusual path to success that combined careers in both academia and industry. Today, Melsa says one of his best life moves was taking a job at Tellabs, a telecommunications equipment manufacturer in 1985. “Not only did this job have an unexpected financial windfall, but it was an incredible learning experience that prepared me to be a better dean of engineering when the opportunity arose.” In 1994, Iowa State was successful in luring Melsa back to academia.

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ASEE'S NEW ELECTRONIC JOURNAL Launches

The inaugural issue of Advances in Engineering Education (AEE) is up on the web and can be viewed at: http://advances.asee.org. This new publication has been eagerly awaited and is under the direction of Editor Larry J. Shuman, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of industry engineering, University of Pittsburgh. AEE will highlight advances in instruction, pedagogy, technology and assessment in engineering education, including those presented creatively through multimedia. Information including the guide for authors; associate editors; advisory board; and mission and vision can be found at http://advances.asee.org. AEE is actively soliciting articles for upcoming issues. Shuman can be emailed at: shuman@pitt.edu.

TOP:

INDO/US FORUM

This summer, ASEE co-led an Indo/US collaboration for Engineering Education, which brought US and Indian representatives together at two separate meetings to discuss collaborative activities. In June, a group of US engineering education leaders traveled to New Delhi and Mysore and met with Indian engineering, science, government and corporate leaders. The second meeting took place in August at the National Academy of Engineering in Washington, D.C. Speakers included: N.P. Ravindra, senior vp of Infosys; Robert Dynes, president of University of California System; H.D. Kumaraswamy, Hon. chief minister of Karnataka, India; Desh Deshpande, founder and chairman of Sycamore Networks; Richard Buckius, assistant director, Directorate of Engineering, NSF; Satish Kulkarni, US Embassy, India; James Melsa, president of ASEE, and Frank Huband, ASEE executive director. Charles Vest, president of the National Academy of Engineering, and Kris Gopalakrishnan, chief executive officer Infosys addressed participants via videotape. All involved in this international initiative applauded Desh Desphande and his generous commitment of $333,000 to move this effort forward.

TOP:

WILLIAM E. KELLY HEADS UP ASEE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bill Kelly, former dean and professor at Catholic University has joined ASEE staff as head of ASEE's Public Affairs Department. Kelly retired from CUA in September, but will teach this fall on an adjunct appointment. He served as chair of the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) in 2001-2002 and on the National Advisory Board for “Engineering Change: A Study of the Impact of EC 2000.” Until December 2006, he served as chair of the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) Personnel Certification Accreditation Committee that accredits personnel certifiers to ISO 17024. Kelly is currently a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Committee on Sustainability.

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MARK MATTHEWS IS MANAGING EDITOR OF PRISM

Mark Matthews has been named managing editor of ASEE's Prism Magazine. His considerable experience includes serving as Washington news editor and diplomatic and Middle East correspondent for The Baltimore Sun. He recently authored “The Lost Years: Bush, Sharon and Failure in the Middle East,” published by Nation Books.

TOP:

ENGINEERING, GO FOR IT!

ASEE's K-12 magazine, Engineering, Go For It! has published its third edition. Over 300,000 copies of this latest edition have been distributed, and a total of more than one million copies of all editions are in circulation. The newest version of Engineering, Go For It! will be sent to ASEE members with the October issue of Prism Magazine.

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FOR 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Submission of abstracts for the 2008 Annual Conference and Exposition, Pittsburgh, PA, June 22 - 25, 2008 is now open. For further information, go to: www.asee.org/conferences/annual/2008/index.cfm.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ASEE administers a number of federal programs that offer fellowship opportunities, including the following:

Summer Faculty Fellowship

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) Summer Faculty Research and Sabbatical Leave Program. This program is intended for US citizens who hold teaching or research appointments relating to science and/or engineering at US academic institutions. A competitive stipend, relocation and travel allowances, and a pre-program site visit are offered. Application deadline is December 4, 2007. Go to: www.asee.org/summer.

The Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship Program (SFFP)

This program is intended for US citizens or permanent residents who have an earned doctorate in science or engineering and who hold full-time science or engineering faculty positions at US colleges, community colleges and universities. The duration of this summer fellowship is from 8 to 12 continuous weeks and research is performed on-site at Air Force laboratories. There is a competitive weekly stipend, and relocation and daily expense allowances are available for those who qualify. The application opened on August 1st, 2007. To apply online, go to: www.asee.org/sffp.

Undergraduate/Graduate

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 and a one-time $1,000 travel allowance. For application and deadline information, go to: http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov. For additional program information, go to: www.nsf.gov/grfp.

Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Program

The purpose is to promote the education, recruitment and retention of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in science, mathematics, and engineering studies; the DoD is also interested in supporting the education of future scientists and engineers in a number of interdisciplinary areas. Scholarships and fellowships awarded include salary or stipend, full tuition, required fees, federal employee benefits, and up to $1000 book allowance per year. The SMART Program will allow individuals to acquire an education in exchange for a period of employment with the Department of Defense. The program is intended for citizens and nationals of the United States; students must be at least 18 years of age to be eligible for an award. Application deadline is December 14, 2007. For information and to apply online, go to http://www.asee.org/smart.

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 at or near the beginning of their doctoral studies in science or engineering programs. The fellowships are for three year tenures and include full tuition and fees, a competitive stipend, and a health insurance allowance. The application deadline is January 7, 2008. Go to: http://www.asee.org/ndseg for applications and detailed program information.

Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

This program is open to US 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/nrl/.

2008 EPICS CONFERENCE


FREDERICK J. BERGER DIES

ASEE was saddened to learn that Fred Berger died September 1, 2007. Berger, recognized for his many contributions as an engineering technology educator, was the founding executive director of Tau Alpha Pi, the professional honor society for the engineering technologies. In 1990, he established the fine ASEE Frederick J. Berger Award to recognize excellence in engineering technology education. He will be deeply mourned by friends and associates, and the engineering community is poorer with his loss.

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