

## iNEER TRANSITIONS, 2002-2003

A number of changes took place in the professional life of several long time supporters of the ideals of international cooperation in engineering education and research in general and iNEER in particular. We highlight the following transitions in chronological order.

**Professor Che-Ho Wei, March, 2002:** In the cabinet reshuffle of the Taiwan, Republic of China government, Wei was re-appointed as Chairman, National Science Council (NSC), by the Prime Minister. He has served in that position since April, 2001. Prior to coming to NSC, Wei had been Vice President at National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) since 1998. He received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electronic Engineering from National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) in Hsinchu, Taiwan, and the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1976. He served as Dean of the College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science during 1995-1998. Wei was the founding chairman of the Taipei Chapter of IEEE Circuits and Systems Society and of the IEEE Communication Society. During 1992-1994, he served as a member of the Board of Governors, IEEE Circuits and Systems Society. He was an associate editor of IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology from 1995-1997. Wei received the Distinguished Research Award in 1990 and 1996 from the National Science Council, and the Distinguished Professor Award from the Chinese Institute of Engineers in 1995. He was the recipient of the IEEE Third Millennium Medal and the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society Golden Jubilee Medal in 2000. A specialist in digital communications and signal processing, he was co-chair of ICEE-2000 and chairman of the iNEER Board from 2001-2003. His leadership and organizational skills propelled ICEE-2000 to great success. The recipient of the iNEER Achievement Award in 2000, Wei is a member of the iNEER Board since inception, and is co-editor of the recently published iNEER Special Volume: “Engineering Education and Research – 2001: A Chronicle of Worldwide Innovations.”

**Professor Saul Fenster, July, 2002:** A co-founder of iNEER, Fenster assumed the position of President-Emeritus of the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Newark, New Jersey, USA. He served as President of NJIT from 1978 – 2002. His vision and leadership was largely responsible for the creation of iNEER, which was formed at a meeting he hosted at NJIT in 2000. The author or co-author of several textbooks and numerous technical articles, he also serves on the board of directors of IDT Corp., and the Board of several mutual funds of Prudential Insurance Company. He is a Board member of the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology; and a past member of the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame. He co-chaired the Task Force on Building a World-Class Economy in New Jersey; chaired the Governor’s Task Force on Waste Management Emergency and served on the Governor’s Commission on Science and Technology, and the New Jersey Water Supply Commission, of which he was Vice Chair. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Fund for Educational Advancement, among other committees and councils. A member of the

iNEER Board, AAAS, SME and the Council on Competitiveness, Fenster is a Fellow of ASME and ASEE. He was a member of the iNEER Board from inception to 2002. He continues on the Board as Co-Founder.

**Professor Robert Altenkirch, July, 2002:** Following a national search, Altenkirch was named the seventh President of New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, New Jersey, USA. He succeeded Prof. Saul Fenster. Professor Altenkirch came to NJIT from Mississippi State University (MSU), where he was Vice President for Research. His extensive academic experience includes serving as Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Kentucky; Dean of College of Engineering and Architecture at Washington State University; and Dean of Engineering at MSU. A mechanical engineer, Altenkirch received a B.S.M.E. from Purdue, a M.S. from University of California, Berkeley, and Ph.D. from Purdue. He has hundreds of publications and presentations to his credit, and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, ASEE. Altenkirch is a fellow of ASME and is a member of the iNEER Board. Upon Altenkirch's selection, James Kennedy, Chairman of NJIT Board of Trustees who chaired the Presidential Search Committee, said: "Robert A. Altenkirch is a strategic academic and research leader. His results-driven involvement in university research, teaching and administration provides an outstanding base for the president of a growing scientific technological research university like New Jersey Institute of Technology" (From <http://www.njit.edu/old/News/Releases/232.html>). He is strongly behind NJIT's commitment to support international cooperation and iNEER.

**Professor Wojciech Zielinski, September, 2002:** The Silesian University of Technology (SUT) held election for Rector in 2002 and Dr. Zielinski was elected. He had been Vice Rector for Education since 1996. He assumed the position of Rector of SUT in September, 2002. He obtained both the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at SUT. From 1981–1991, he was Vice Head of the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology, and was the Head of the Institute from 1991–1997. He is a member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Organic Industry in Warsaw; the Committee for Pesticides; the Council of International University in Zittau, Germany, since 1996; Polish Committee of Standards; Scientific Council of the Centre of Polymer Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences; and the Committee for Pesticides. He received Achievement Awards from the Ministry of Education in 1976, 1978, 1984 and 1987. Zielinski's research is directed at the synthesis of organic compound, with special emphasis on biologically active compounds.

**Professor Vaclav Roubicek, February, 2003:** Roubicek stepped down as Rector of VSB – Technical University of Ostrava on February 1, 2003 having served two terms, the maximum allowed under VSB rules. His leadership during his tenure as Rector from 1997-2003 was marked by unprecedented dialog and close cooperation between VSB and institutions abroad, capped by a USA-Czech Republic collaborative program in advanced friction materials. He was Vice Rector for R&D and Foreign Affairs during 1991-1997. A passionate internationalist, he pushed strongly for the development of international collaboration. His vision and leadership led in no small measure to the founding of iNEER. In November, 2002, following the second round of the Senate elections, he

became one of only 81 senators in the Upper House of Parliament in the Czech Republic. The Senate is currently meeting to vote on a successor to Vaclav Havel, President of Czech Republic. Roubicek's senate term will expire in 2008. In December, 2002 he was elected by an overwhelming majority of the iNEER Board and the ICEE-ISC to be the new Chairman of iNEER and ICEE-ISC, succeeding Che-Ho Wei. A co-founder of iNEER and member of its Board since inception in 2000, he was General Chair of ICEE-1999, setting a new standard on how to run a successful ICEE. Roubicek is a specialist in mining and mineral resources research. The author of numerous papers and text books, he is co-editor of the recently published iNEER Special Volume: Engineering Education and Research – 2001: A Chronicle of Worldwide Innovations.

**Professor Tomas Cermak, February, 2003:** Cermak was elected as Rector of VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, Ostrava, Czech Republic in elections held in November, 2002. He assumed the position on February 1, 2003 succeeding Vaclav Roubicek. Cermak first came to VSB in 1964 as a senior assistant, rising to become Head of the Department of Electrical Machines and Drives at VSB in 1985. In 1990 he became Rector, which position he held until 1997. In 1997, he was appointed to be Vice Rector for R&D and Foreign Affairs. His service record includes membership of the Scientific Board of VSB and of the State Committee for Scientific Degrees. He chairs the Engineering Division of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic. He was past member of the Scientific Board of the Technical University of Kosice, Slovak Republic; the Czech Engineering Academy; Vice President of Czech Universities Council; and General Assembly of Czech Academy of Science. An early believer of the value of international cooperation in engineering education and research, he was actively involved with the organization of ICEE since ICEE-1997. He is a member of the ICEE International Steering Committee. He is Chairman of the Board of Vesuvius (formerly Hinckley) Slavia Group. He is also Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Supervisory Boards of OZOBEL and Vitkovice Steel Company, respectively. He teaches courses in control of electrical drives and machines; power energy systems, among others. He has written 9 textbooks, and published 50 papers in journals and conference proceedings, with another 35 research papers based on industrial collaboration. He holds 4 patents.