

Societies open to engineers

By Tom Dekle

"As an engineering technology student you will find that engineering societies can help you in many ways," says Dr. William A. Welsh, department head of engineering at Capitol Campus.

"There is no better way for me to come into personal contact with other professionals in my field," says Larry Lash, alumnus of Capitol Campus who works for Tracey Engineers Inc. of Camp Hill, Pa.

After talking with a dozen people in the engineering field—students, faculty, and professionals—it is evident that there are definite advantages to joining an engineering organization. Most agree that membership adds prestige to a resume. These organizations are also helpful in building contacts between engineers which can be helpful in finding a job. "In engineering it's a matter of finding where the jobs are," says Lash. "The conferences put me in contact with people in my field who are looking for employees."

Many of the organizations also offer publications and technical journals to their members. "The resource

material in the magazines put out by the societies is the most valuable benefit these organizations offer," says Wendell Lepo, alumnus of Capitol Campus now working as an electrical engineer for Metropolitan Edison of York, Pa.

Some of the societies offer technical updates and information on the standards being set for the industry. As an example, the ANSI, American National Standards Institute, develops, through testing, stan-

give legal information important to anyone working with materials that may later be used by the general public. "The only reason I join the societies is for the valuable publications," was Lash's comment on the publications.

Many of the societies have libraries and information services.

As an example of what a society can provide: the IEEE, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, is typical of

may choose to join. As a student, the first society would cost \$5.00 and then 75 percent of a full membership cost for each extra society. After college the student may obtain full membership at a reduced \$36.00 for the first year; then up to the \$61.00 a year full rate.

The IEEE, like most societies, offers conferences and workshops. They offer approximately 125 conferences across the country a year. At a conference you have a chance to meet with other professional engineers as well as an opportunity to attend workshops and seminars.

There are many organizations such as the ASM, American Society for Metals; ASME, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers; PSPE, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers; ITE, Institute of Transportation Engineers, plus many more. On our campus we have clubs in all of these organizations.

To join one of the clubs, or to find out what other societies may be of an interest to you, talk to your adviser or anyone in the engineering department. They will be glad to assist you. "Every student of engineering technology," says Welsh, "should join at least one of the many societies while in college."

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**Larry Lash
Capitol Campus Alumnus**

dards for such things as the strength of metals. "Many engineers use those standards when deciding which metal to use in the building of a structure," said Victor H. Hight, engineer for Gilbert Commonwealth of Reading, Pa. The updates also provide vital information on the daily changes in the profession.

There are also publications put out by the societies that

all the societies. The IEEE offers a student membership rate. A student who carries at least a 50 percent academic load of engineering courses may join for \$15.00 a year. The student member receives a monthly magazine called *Potentials* and is kept in contact with various student chapters of the IEEE in the area.

In the IEEE there are 31 specialized societies which you

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