The John M. Fluke Endowed Technology Fund has been established with a gift of $5 million to the University from Lyla Fluke. Announced at the October 13 groundbreaking ceremony for The Washington Technology Center facility, the gift will be used for faculty or graduate student support, equipment purchases, technology transfer, or other activities that involve the University and the WTC. The new WTC facility, to be completed in 1990, will be named the John M. Fluke Hall in recognition of the gift.

The building will house both research laboratories and administrative offices for the five-year-old center, which to date has operated without a centralized facility. The WTC was created by the Legislature to encourage statewide collaboration among academic and industry experts in science and engineering, to promote research, and to stimulate technology transfer from the state's research universities to the private sector.

A strong supporter of the College of Engineering and the WTC, the late John M. Fluke, Sr. was an electrical engineering graduate of the University and founder of the Everett-based John Fluke Manufacturing Company.

Thanks to a $47,800 grant from the ARCO Foundation, the Minority Engineering Program (MEP) will initiate a mentoring program for entering freshmen, and expand tutorial services and adjunct class instruction. "The ARCO Foundation grant will enable MEP to assist students in a significant way during the freshman year, usually the time of highest attrition," says Cheryl Berg, director.

This year, MEP counts nearly 80 freshmen in the program. These students will be paired with more advanced MEP students, who will provide tutoring, counseling, and personal support. The mentoring program will be developed and managed by a minority graduate student. The College was one of 24 U.S. colleges and universities to receive ARCO Foundation funding to recruit and retain minority students.

Washington MESA received $230,000 from the National Science Foundation for the second year of the "Washington Middle School Engineering Program" grant, according to Patricia MacGowan, director, MESA statewide. The grant is designed to enhance mathematics and
science curricula in middle schools and provide support for teachers to work with engineers in developing hands-on projects. Project key staff include MacGowan, Thomas Stoebbe, professor and chair, MS&E, and Nancy Cook, MESA state coordinator.

MacGowan recently attended the National Association of Pre-College Directors (NAPD) regional seminar, where she presented four outstanding teaching awards. The seminar, held in Chicago, October 17–18, focused on the theme of enriching mathematics and science education through school, college, and industry collaboration.

Irene Peden, professor, EE, recently received three separate appointments in national organizations. She has been named to the Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems (CETS) of the National Research Council (NRC). CETS is the largest of the 16 commissions that comprise the basic operating units of the NRC, whose role is advising government agencies.

Peden has been elected a Fellow of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), one of 44 members of the first such group in ABET’s history. The new Fellows will be inducted at the December 2 meeting of the ABET Board of Directors in Washington, D.C.

Peden is also a member of the NASA Space Station Crew Selection Advisory Panel. The panel establishes criteria and guidelines for the selection of astronauts who will work together in larger groups and for longer periods of time in space than has been the case in previous phases of the U.S. space program.

Charles Sleicher, professor and chair, ChemE, has been elected to the Governing Board of the Council for Chemical Research. The Council is an organization founded in 1980 to support university research in chemical sciences and to promote better communication, understanding, and cooperation between the chemical industry and chemistry and chemical engineering departments in research universities. Its membership consists of the chairmen of chemistry and chemical engineering departments throughout the country, and corporate representatives from the chemical industry.

William Heideger, professor, ChemE, was appointed director of the engineering advising center at the beginning of Fall Quarter. Heideger succeeds Robert Joppa, who became professor emeritus of aeronautics and astronautics upon his retirement last June.

Robert J. Marks II, professor, EE, has been awarded the first Honorary Membership in the Puget Sound Section of the Optical Society of America for “his efforts in founding the Puget Sound Section and his excellent performance as the section’s first president.” The award was made by current President R. Aaron Falk, of Boeing Aerospace, at the Section’s bi-monthly meeting on August 2.

President William Gerberding has appointed John Bollard, professor, A&A, as secretary of the faculty. Bollard will act as a liaison between faculty and the administration and as an advocate for the faculty. Chair of the department of aeronautics and astronautics from 1961 to 1976, Bollard will continue teaching courses in the department.

Ed Wenk, Jr., professor emeritus, CE and public affairs, was recently named to two lectureships. As First Stuckenber Distinguished Lecturer on Technology and Human Affairs at Washington University, St. Louis, he spoke on the “Politics of Technology and the Technology of Politics,” October 17. Wenk has been appointed Regents Distinguished Lecturer for 1989 at the University of California at Berkeley.

In addition to lecturing this year at colleges, corporations, and professional societies across the country, Wenk has been serving as advisor to NASA on economic benefits of the U.S. space program, and advisor to Congress on technological issues of the next century. He has also been commissioned by Encyclopedia Britannica to rewrite the extensive entry on “Engineering,” for its next edition, to be published in 1989.