

ALUMNI TIMES

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Egleston Dinner 1981 —Old and New Traditions

The annual Thomas Egleston Associates Dinner was held on November 5, 1981, in the Rotunda of Low Memorial Library. The dinner, traditionally held each fall to honor new members of the Thomas Egleston Associates, was also the occasion for the presentation of the 1981 Egleston Medal for distinguished engineering achievement. Other innovations included formal (black-tie) evening dress and the addition to the program of a guest speaker, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover '29MS, himself a former Egleston Medalist.

The Egleston Medal, the Columbia Engineering School Alumni Association's highest honor, was awarded to Edward Cohen, who earned the B.S. degree in 1945 and the M.S. degree in 1954, both at Columbia Engineering. Currently the managing partner of Ammann & Whitney, chairman and chief executive officer of Ammann & Whitney, Inc., and president of Safeguard Construction Management Corp., Mr. Cohen is a well-known leader of the civil engineering community and the author of more than a hundred papers on design and structure. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Wason Medal of the American Concrete Institute, the Laskowitz Gold Medal of the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Ridgeway, State-of-Art, and Raymond Reese awards of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is an honorary life member of the New York Academy of Sciences, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and a past president of the American Concrete Institute, New York Concrete Industry Board, and Metropolitan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. During his long association with Ammann & Whitney, Mr. Cohen has been responsible for the design and construction of many outstanding buildings, bridges, highways, and mass transportation systems, as well as aerospace, communication, industrial, and military facilities in the U.S. and overseas.

During the evening's ceremonies, new members of the Dean's Associates, the



Christine Carleton and Patricia Likins share a smile during the cocktail hour.

elite major donor group within the Thomas Egleston Associates, received silver-oxide statuettes of Le Marteleur, the sculpture by Le Meunier that has stood near the various doors of the Engineering School since its presentation to the School in 1914 by the Class of 1889. Similar statuettes in a bronze finish were given to Thomas Egleston Associates who have been members for five years continuously, and new members of the Associates received certificates of membership.

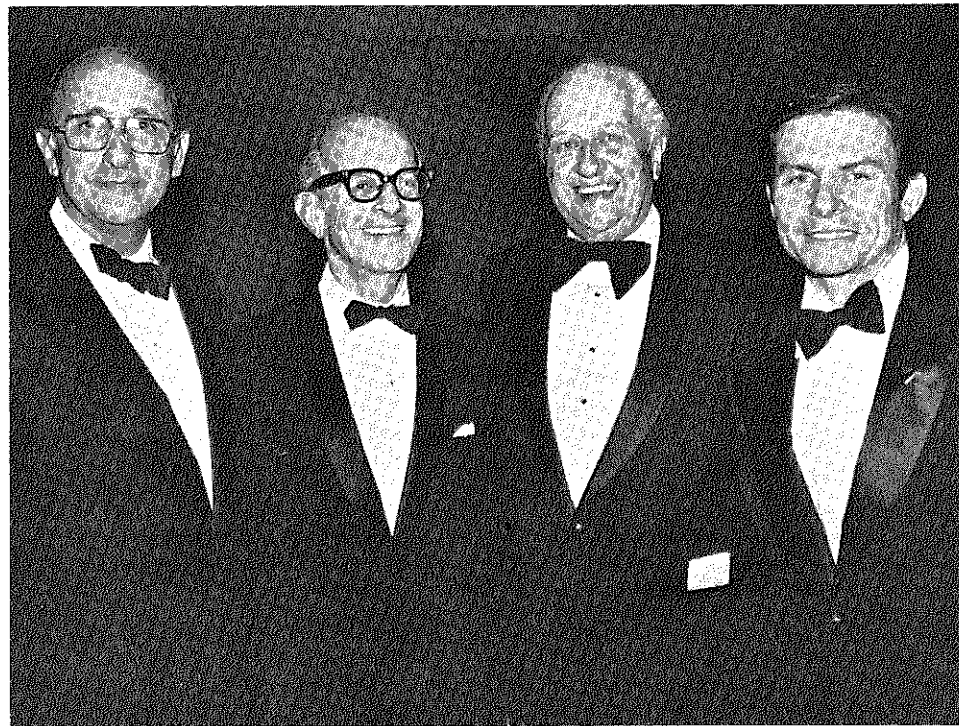
Admiral Rickover, who received the Egleston Medal in 1955, is commonly known as the father of our nuclear navy, having directed the U.S. Navy's nuclear programs for many years. He praised Columbia as "the first institution that encouraged me to think, rather than memorize. My teachers were notable in that many had gained practical engineering expertise outside the university, and were able to share their experience with their students. Much of what I have subsequently learned and accomplished in engineering is based on the solid foundation of principles I learned from them."

By contrast, in his very lively and engaging address, "Doing a Job," Admiral Rickover pointed to what he considers some shortcomings of modern education. "Many who teach 'management' in our universities do their students and society (continued on page 2)



Left to right, Provost Peter Likins, Admiral Hyman Rickover, Eleanore Rickover, and Eugene Remmer '43.

Robert Gross Named Dean



Historic Moment: All four living deans of the School of Engineering and Applied Science attended the Thomas Egleston Associates Dinner on November 5, where ubiquitous campus photographer Manny Warman took this rather special photograph. Left to right: Robert A. Gross, currently dean of the School; Ralph J. Schwarz, acting dean 1980-81 and 1975-76; Wesley J. Hennessey, dean from 1969 to 1975; and Peter Likins, dean from 1976 to 1980.

Scientist and teacher Robert A. Gross, a pioneer in the development of fusion energy—the energy source of the sun and stars—was named dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science in November.

A professor in the School since 1960, Dr. Gross heads the Columbia Plasma Physics Laboratory, one of the world's major university groups working to develop controlled fusion energy. He assumed his duties as the twelfth dean of the School on January 1, 1982.

Dr. Gross succeeded Peter W. Likins, who stepped down as dean last year to become provost of the University. Ralph J. Schwarz, acting dean since July 1980, returned to his post as vice dean in January and has resumed teaching and research.

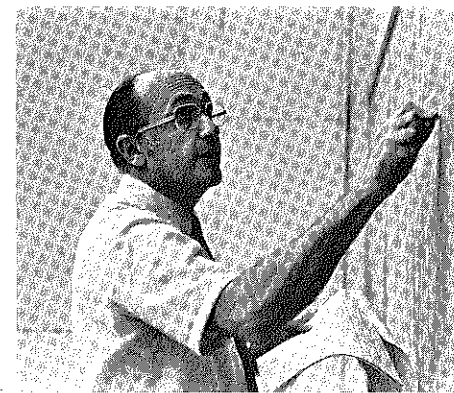
"Robert Gross is a brilliant scientist, sensitive teacher, and superb administrator," said President Sovern in making the announcement. "The students he has trained during the past two decades are among the leading scientists now working at the frontier of energy research. His deep commitment to scholarship and to the quality of student life at Columbia equip him well for this new challenge."

"We have a demanding program designed to challenge bright students," commented the new dean. "Good people are our most important contribution. Columbia's Engineering School has the distinct possibility of being the best in the Ivy League and one of the best in the U.S., and I look forward to leading the further development of its strong tradition of excellence."

Robert Alfred Gross graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1949, was awarded a fellowship for doctoral studies in applied physics at Harvard, and earned the Ph.D. degree there in 1952. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard the following year, then joined the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corp. where he rose to chief research engineer. In 1959-60, as a senior National Science Foundation fellow, he studied controlled fusion at the University of California at Berkeley and Livermore.

Upon joining the Engineering School's faculty as a full professor in 1960, he established the Plasma Physics Laboratory, serving as chairman of the interdepartmental Plasma Physics Committee from 1960-1970. Dean Gross was chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering from 1970-76, and subsequently chaired the Department of Applied Physics and Nuclear Engineering from its creation in 1978 until this past December. In 1980 he was named to the Percy K. and Vida L.W. Hudson Professorship.

Among Dean Gross's many awards are the Waverly Gold Medal for new research in supersonic combustion, the G. Edward Pendray Award of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) for outstanding contributions to aerospace



Professor Gross at work, 1981.

literature, and the 1975 Great Teacher Award of Columbia's Society of Older Graduates. He is a fellow of both the American Physical Society and the AIAA and has served as vice president of the AIAA. He has been a visiting professor at universities in Australia, Italy, and the Netherlands; a senior visiting fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences; a US-USSR exchange scientist; a Guggenheim Foundation fellow; and twice a Fulbright-Hays senior fellow. The author of more than 80 scientific publications, Dean Gross is a consultant to a wide range of industrial firms and government agencies.