

The Dodecahedron



A note from our President

Dear Fellow AAIE Members,

The semester is in full swing as a new class of Industrial Engineers makes their way through Bell Engineering and White Hall.

It was so good to see so many of you at the banquet last Spring and the impact of you are making on future generations of Industrial Engineers.

Together, with all your support, the Academy awarded \$100,000 in scholarships for this academic year. What an incredible accomplishment as our combined endowments now exceed \$2.6 million.

Your support has made AAIE the envy of programs across the campus and across the county, as we continue to get inquiries about how we have achieved such great things.

But your support extends beyond scholarships. Your involvement in mentor circles, and mock interviews, and guest lectures, intern and full-time hiring creates a

strong pipeline of future Industrial Engineering talent.

Mentor Circles kicked off on September 12, but it is not too late to plug in if you still want to participate this Fall. Just reach out to Marc Alley at Marc.alley@jbhunt.com

I hope each of you has a great fall and winter holiday. I am excited about our Spring Banquet on April 24th, 2020. There will be some fun new features to harken back to our days when we were in class and new ways to support the next generation of Industrial Engineers. I hope to see each of you there!



Jonathan Fite
AAIE President

All the best,
Jonathon Fite
BSIE '96, MSIE '98

Fall 2019

AAIE
Officers

Jonathan Fite
President

Karen Jewell
President-Elect

Martha Wolf
Secretary

Jim Burgin
Treasurer

Vance Clement
Past President

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Board of Directors	Officers	Year Ending	Name
Board Member	President	2019	Jonathan Fite
Board Member	Secretary	2021	Martha Wolf
Board Member	Past President	2021	Vance Clement
Board Member	Pres-Elect	2019	Karen Jewel
Board Member		2020	Angela Kuli
Board Member		2020	Alvin Rhodes
Board Member		2020	Rita Willcoxon
Board Member		2020	Derek Malstrom
Board Member	Treasurer	2021	Jim Burgin

Student interns in the field...

Burns & McDonnell, an engineering design and construction company based in Kansas City, is reaping the benefits of the University of Arkansas, Industrial Engineering Program.

From the company's inception in 1898 with an emphasis on civil engineering projects, it has grown to more than 7,000 employees today. That growth can be attributed to many things, one of which is its unwavering emphasis on client success. While traditional engineering degrees predominate the employee landscape, shifting tides across the company's ten business units are opening new doors for changing perspectives, and no degree program is better poised to help accelerate change and growth at Burns & McDonnell than the Industrial Engineering Program.

For Summer 2019, the company hired a total of 408 interns (out of 19,320 applicants, across all disciplines). From a meager 2.1% overall acceptance rate, the University of Arkansas, Industrial Engineering Program can proudly boast that it batted a perfect 3 interns placed with 3 applications.

Alexandra Gentile, Maddy Suellentrop, and Payton Moore each were awarded internships. AAIE volunteer participation contributed to this success, but their success is more appropriately described as entirely theirs: preparation built on the program's rigors, outstanding academic records, previous internships, and mock interview preparations.



This sharp trend hiring trend, while modest in overall numbers, does indicate that historical engineering firms are beginning to realize that IE's can help unlock value across a diversity of business units, especially in a marketplace with increasing emphasis on technology in all aspects, including project management, design, and construction.

Today, the company has industrial engineers in Aviation, Water/Wastewater, Construction, Facilities, and Business Technology Consulting. Payton, Maddy, and Lexy's success as interns will certainly help pave the way for future students at Burns & McDonnell. But more crucially, they are literally forming the first wave of a new generation of thinking within the company. The University of Arkansas Industrial Engineering Program can be very proud that its contributions to academic and professional excellence are being recognized by industry leaders.

"...no degree program is better poised to help accelerate change and growth at Burns & McDonnell than the Industrial Engineering Program."

Committee Chairs	Position
Stu Garrett	Membership
Marc Alley	A4U chair
Open	Publicity
Bob Etien	Scholarship co-chair
Tim McKenzie	Scholarship co-chair
Cindy Westcott	Scholarship co-chair
Open	Global Experience
Open	Publications

Scholarship News

It may sound like old news by now, but in the Spring of 2019 AAIE awarded \$100,000 in new scholarships to 54 deserving Industrial Engineering students. Your generous giving the last 30 years has created Scholarship Endowments for Academic, Financial Need, Global Experience and Graduate Studies that will live far into the future. Since all your donations are given in perpetuity, the \$100,000 award level should now become the new foundation for continuing growth in both number of students supported and magnitude of individual scholarships.

When you look at the chart (below), a few points stand out to me. (A) Scholarship awards have almost doubled in the last 5 years (\$53,000 to \$100,000). Everything we do is designed to ultimately provide financial assistance to deserving IE students, both undergrad and grad students. (B) Donations have exceeded \$100,000 annually for the last five years and totaled \$186,000 in 2018-19.

(C) AAIE Scholarship Endowments have grown almost \$1,000,000 in the same five year period and now stand at \$2,600,000.

Looking ahead to 2019-20, I'm happy to inform you that once again you have the opportunity to have your individual donations matched by anonymous members. You make a gift to any of the four AAIE Scholarship Endowments, and the Matching Pool will make an equal donation to the AAIE Graduate Studies Endowment until the new \$50,000 pledge is fully utilized. The Grad

Endowment, which was initiated in September 2017, now exceeds \$360,000.

I've recently received questions regarding AAIE recognition levels. The Academy system is relatively straight forward. All recognition levels are based on 'cumulative lifetime Scholarship donations'. John Imhoff Fellows are recognized after reaching \$1,000 of lifetime donations. Permanent Named Scholarships are awarded annually after \$10,000 of cumulative donations. After each additional \$10,000 in donations, Named Scholarship awards are increased appropriately. More detailed information can be found at our website, 'aaie.uark.edu'. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Let's make this another year with donations exceeding \$100,000 and watch the number and size of scholarship grow.

Thank You!

Your Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering is Making A Difference!



Bob Etien
Scholarship Chair

"It's OFFICIAL!"
Your AAIE will award \$100,000 in new scholarships for 2019-20.

To make a contribution:

Please make check payable to:
University of Arkansas Foundation and mail to:

AAIE
Dept of
Industrial Engineering
4207 Bell
Engineering Center
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

OR

Online at:
<https://aaie.uark.edu/giving/>

And don't forget to ask if your company offers matching donations!



YEAR	Scholarship Endowments	Scholarship Donations	Scholarships Awarded
2009-10	\$1,115,000	\$42,300	\$22,500
2010-11	\$1,305,000	\$32,700	\$31,500
2011-12	\$1,330,000	\$42,100	\$31,500
2012-13	\$1,455,000	\$23,300	\$58,800
2013-14	\$1,625,000	\$41,500	\$53,000
2014-15	\$1,715,000	\$108,700	\$67,500
2015-16	\$1,780,000	\$138,900	\$70,000
2016-17	\$2,060,000	\$153,200	\$75,000
2017-18	\$2,455,000	\$249,600	\$80,000
2018-19	\$2,600,000	\$186,800	\$100,000

"Our students are fortunate to have such a committed group of alumni supporting them to graduation and beyond.."

From the Department...

Dear Academy Members,

A new academic year is well underway and we are looking forward to another great year! The fall semester brings exciting energy from students, hopeful football fans, and beautiful foliage.

In the last Dodec, I mentioned that we were immersed in a search for a new IE faculty member. I am excited to announce that not one, but two reputable and knowledgeable Industrial Engineering professors have joined our IE family. Sandra and Burak Eksioglu came to us from Clemson University, and they



will bring a wealth of knowledge, leadership, and experience to our department. Sandra will hold the John M. and Marie G. Hefley Professorship in Logistics and Entrepreneurship. Sandra's research interests include operations research, network optimization, and algorithmic development. She uses these tools to develop models and solution algorithms for solving large-scale problems that arise in the areas of transportation, logistics, and supply chain. Burak's research is focused on the area of optimization with applications in transportation, logistics, production management, supply chain management, and healthcare. Join me in welcoming them and their three sons into the IE family and their new home on the hill!

I appreciate every opportunity I have to brag about our talented faculty. This year, we were fortunate to celebrate many victories and accolades. To name a few, Dr. Kim Needy earned the Albert G. Holzman Distinguished

Educator Award and the Engineering Economy Wellington Award from the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE). Dr. Needy also earned the Merl Baker Award in recognition of exemplary service to the engineering management division



Dr. Ed Pohl
Department Head



from the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). Dr. Tish Pohl also had an outstanding year, earning the Engineering Economy

Division Teaching Award at IISE and the Industrial Engineering Division Distinguished Service Award at ASEE.

Dr. Haitao Liao was recognized for his scholarship and service by being named a Fellow by IISE. Dr. Richard Cassady was honored by the University of Arkansas Honors College with the Distinguished Leadership Award for his support of students. Dr. Cassady was also promoted to University Professor this year, a special honor given only to those who have shown exemplary service in a spirit of collegiality to the University of Arkansas and a combination of service in their profession and to the public through their professional activities. Dr. Ashlea Milburn received the Dean's Award of Excellence in Rising Teaching. Ashlea was recognized for excellence in the classroom. Dr. Kelly Sullivan and Dr. Shengfan Zhang were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Including our newest faculty members, this brings our

(Continued on page 5)

tenured faculty number up to 12.

Student accolades have been extremely impressive, too. At the IISE conference, University of Arkansas students took home 10 out of the 44 scholarships given for a total of \$19,500. This is a record achievement and we



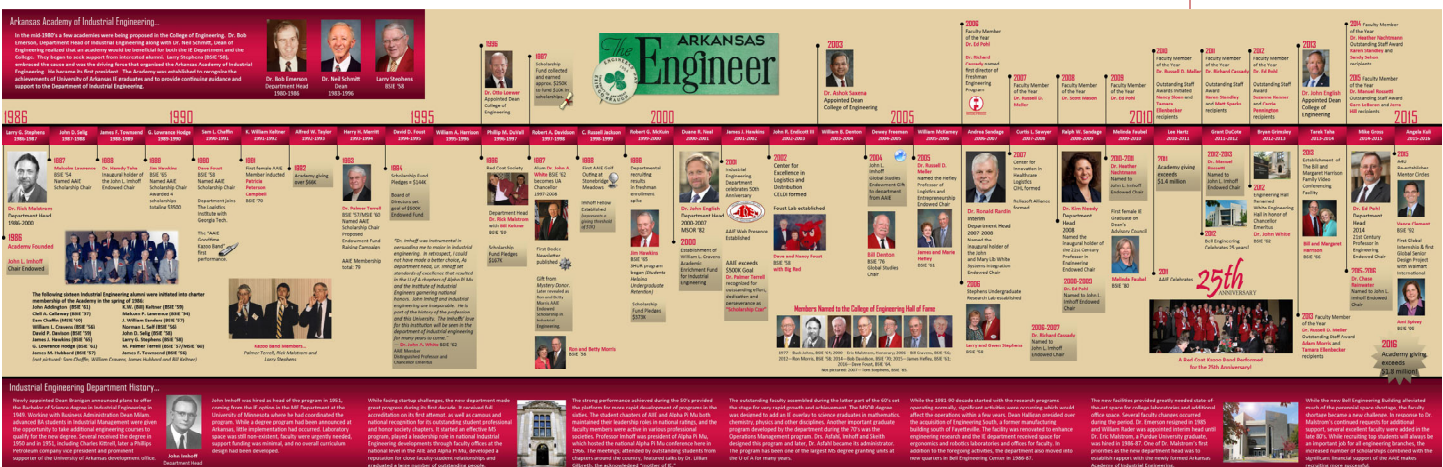
are very proud of these students.

Another record was set this year in regard to studying abroad. 15 students studied abroad in the last school year in 9 different

countries. Many of these students were given the opportunity to study abroad thanks to AAIE's support!

We are already looking forward to the AAIE Induction Banquet on April 24, 2020 and the annual meeting on April 25, 2020.

This will be the academy's 34th annual event, and it has been remarkable to see the ever-increasing support and resources provided to our department over the years. Our students are fortunate to have your dedication to their success through scholarships, mock interviews, mentoring, internships, and other resources. We enjoy celebrating the achievements of our alumni which continue to not only bring positive exposure to the department, but also inspire our students. Bill Harrison and his company, Harrison Energy Partners, was recently added to the 2019 Best Places to Work in Arkansas list by Arkansas Business Publishing Group. Additionally, J. Max Van Hoose has been promoted to Executive Vice President for Harps Food Stores.



Timeline of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering

In 2010 the AAIE celebrated its 25th anniversary. As a memento of the celebration a timeline was constructed that demonstrated the highlights of the first 25 years. In 2015 the timeline was updated for the 30th anniversary. 2020 will mark 35 years of the Academy. You can view the actual timeline in the Craven's Conference Room in the Department next time you are in town!

Scholarships Help Different Students in Different Ways

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Cynthia Westcott, 2019 Academy Inductee. Cindy is currently VP Regional Operations for Arkansas and Oklahoma with CenterPoint Energy and lives in the Little Rock. She has hit the ground running by volunteering to serve on your Scholarship Committee. In her own words below, Cindy explains why she feels so strongly about providing financial assistance to deserving students. — Bob Etien

“Your gift will impact a student more than you can ever know.”

The week before Christmas in 2000, my coworkers and I were called into a meeting. As we filed into the conference room we noticed a television and a VCR that had a VHS tape loaded in it. After everyone was seated, the General Manager of the business forms manufacturing plant in Forth Smith where I was working at the time hit the play button. The head of the investment consortium that our company was a part of proceeded to deliver the news to us that we would all be laid off from our jobs in February 2001 because the plant was closing. There was a range of emotions from everyone in the room and the unsettling atmosphere continued for many weeks after the announcement.

Since there were over 200 employees being impacted by the layoff, the company partnered with the Governor’s Dislocated Worker Task Force of Arkansas. The description on their website states, *“This task force identifies most permanent closings and substantial workforce reductions in advance. Whenever possible, the Task Force begins immediately to work with the company, the community and the affected individuals to lessen the impact of dislocation.”* This task force arranged a day to come and provide resources to the employees. One of the resources was the Western Arkansas Educational Development Agency out of Fort Smith. They were offering tuition paid scholarships to dislocated workers who wanted to go to school and obtain a degree in an “in demand” occupation and engineering was on the list. I consulted with my husband and immediately started the process to take advantage of this opportunity. I had started my industrial engineering degree right out of high school but did not finish it. I was thirty-five years old, married, had a child in first grade and the thought of going from a two-income household to a single income was scary. However, I knew I needed to take advantage of the scholarship opportunity. There would be no way we could afford for me to go back to school without that financial help with tuition. Additionally, the job market at the time was very bleak.

My husband and I were able to do a financial juggling act and keep everything going for the next two and a half years. I refer to this as the “rob Peter to pay Paul” era of our lives. I enrolled in the engineering college on 1/1/2001 and went to school year-round until receiving my degree in May of 2003. Shortly after that, I received a call from Dr. Ernest Fant telling me that he had sent my resume’ to CenterPoint Energy in Little Rock because they were hiring engineers of all disciplines. I secured an entry level engineering job at CenterPoint Energy and started in July 2003. Within the first five years of working, I went back and received my M.B.A. from Arkansas State University as well as my P.E. license. I have been with the company now for over 16 years, have held numerous positions and am now the vice president of natural gas operations for Arkansas and Oklahoma.



**Cynthia Westcott
BSIE 2003**

I know what the AAIE scholarships will do for the students that receive them, just like it did for me. The future opportunities that they will have opened to them would not be without the engineering degree. If someone had told me back in 2000 that in less than twenty years I would be the vice president of the second largest utility in the State of Arkansas I would have told them they were crazy. One single scholarship for one student can make a life changing difference. Training the next generation of engineers is our duty. Providing them with financial assistance in their quest to self-actualization should be viewed as an honor. It is our responsibility to the world to ensure STEM students are successful. I encourage everyone to support the AAIE scholarships however that may be. Your gift will impact a student more than you can ever know.

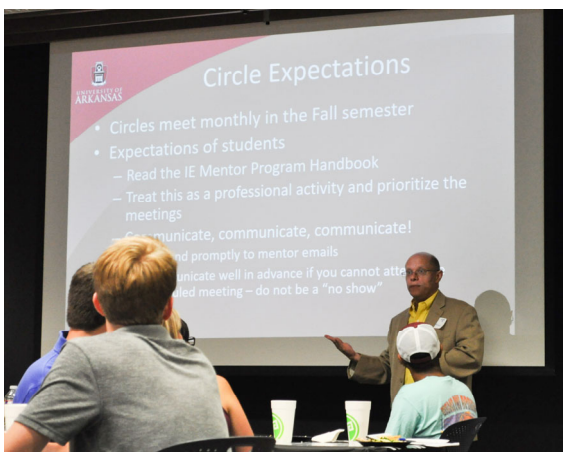
A4U Update

As we see the start of a new academic year, A4U is busy kicking off another year of student support. First off A4U would like to welcome a new name to the committee. Mandy Robinson is our new Mock Interviews co-chair. Mandy is a 2019 inductee and we are excited to have her onboard. Upcoming and ongoing events this Fall are Mock Interviews and Mentor Circles.



Mentor Circles

This year Ross Tompkins has graciously taking on the role of co-committee chair for Mentor Circles. Like a true IE, Ross has taken continuous improvement to the Mentor Circles. Through data analysis and feedback



from 2018, A4U is making a few changes in the spirit of finding ways to improve the experience for mentors and mentees in 2019. A4U would also like to once again give thanks Dr. Tish Pohl for her continuous support and efforts making this program a success. With

Tish and IISE student officers' support we saw student signups increase from 36 – 49 mentees!

The Circles kicked off this year on Thursday September 12 at 6PM in Imhoff Study Lounge. The meeting moved from a Saturday morning to a Thursday evening to better accommodate student and professional schedules. Based on attendance, it looked like a positive change. We had 10 mentors attend in person and another via video conference. We had 38 students attend as well. Maybe it was Ross' leadership, or maybe it was the great dinner setup put on by the department and Carrie Pennington.

Another change this year is a focus on circles meeting in the Fall semester and no formal circles in Spring. For the Spring, we are targeting having an "all circles" event with speakers, networking and shared topics between all students and mentors.

Mock Interviews

A4U will be holding Mock Interviews on September 19, 2019. This will give our IE students the opportunity to participate in in-person interviews, phone screens, and gain confidence to land the internship or full-time job they desire. Attendance has been growing each year for the mock interviews and we look forward to another great event for 2019. We plan to have representatives from over 7 companies participating this year.

If you are interested in supporting A4U and giving back to the students with your time and expertise, please contact me at Marc.alley@jbhunt.com or call 479.236.4357.



Marc Alley
A4U Chair

"We had 10 mentors attend in person and another via video conference. We had 38 students attend as well."



We're on the web : aaie.uark.edu



**Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering
c/o Department of Industrial Engineering
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Fayetteville, AR 72701**

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The Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering (AAIE) was established in 1986 to recognize the achievements of University of Arkansas Industrial Engineering graduates and to provide continuing guidance and support to the Department of Industrial Engineering.

The Academy also provides its members with the opportunity to nurture and support the organization that played an important role in their professional growth and development.

THE DODECAHEDRON is a publication of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering, and the views expressed are those of the AAIE only and do not reflect the official view of the University of Arkansas, the College of Engineering, or the Department of Industrial Engineering. THE DODECAHEDRON is published semiannually and is intended for the membership of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering.

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the Editor at
martha4aaie@hotmail.com**

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