

The Dodecahedron



A note from our President

Happy 35th Anniversary, AAIE! What a year it has been? When I joined in 2015, I was enthusiastic about serving the department and the students. At this time, I did not foresee leading the organization during a pandemic and such uncertain times. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to be your President in 2020, working closely with the IE Department and your Board to keep moving the organization forward. In this trying year, AAIE reached many milestones and fully supported the mission. A quote that has summed up the year for me is "It is the unexpected that changes our lives." This year has been unexpected for all of us in many different ways. I pray that you and your families are healthy and safe and that 2021 brings an improved sense of security for all.



Karen Jewell
AAIE President

How did the unexpected change AAIE? Our goal from the beginning was to maintain our programs and grow where the opportunity presented itself. In A4U, Mandy Robinson, John True, Jason Honeycutt, and Ross Tompkins, forged that path forward. All events pivoted to a 100% virtual setting. Mentor Circles were offered in the Fall, introducing a smaller format with up to 2 mentors and 2 mentees. Mock Interviews occurred in the Fall and the Spring reaching 10-15 students each time. The engagement quality remained in place with feedback from the students positive and the volunteers happy to help. Ben Dye, an AAIE member, stated "Thank you all for putting the Mock Interview event together. It is definitely one of the most rewarding things I do each year!" We are grateful for our volunteers and are always welcoming more. Please reach out if you are interested in supporting future activities.

Student gratitude is also overflowing. If you have not had the chance to review the Impact Videos, please check out the link below. Thank you to Ashley Reeves and Tamara Ellenbecker for organizing, conducting and creating the videos. AAIE's impact remains strong. <https://aaie.uark.edu/aaie-impact/>

Today, our endowments exceed \$3M, and the organization has provided \$1M in scholarships over the past 35 years. This is an outstanding accomplishment! Donations are down modestly, and several members have given \$35, \$350, or more above their annual contribution in honor of our 35th Anniversary.

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Spring 2021

AAIE Officers

Martha Wolf
President

Stu Garrett
President-Elect

Mandy Robinson
Secretary

Jim Burgin
Treasurer

Karen Jewell
Past President

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Scholarship News

It has taken 35 years to reach the \$1,000,000 in total scholarships milestone, however, with Endowments annually funding scholarship levels of \$100,000 plus (and growing), the \$2,000,000 mark could be right around the corner.

What an honor it is to be able to share with everyone the celebration of three significant Academy milestones all at the same time.

- AAIE's 35th Anniversary
- Scholarship Awards surpass \$1,000,000 lifetime level
- Scholarship Endowments exceed \$3,000,000 milestone

The Academy's first Scholarships were awarded in 1988 when five students received \$200 each. In those early years awards were funded on a pay as you go basis. Then in 1992 the first Endowment (Academic) was initiated. In 2009, twenty three years after the Academy was started, Scholarship Endowments reached \$1,000,000. Eight years later, 2017, Endowments exceed \$ 2,000,000 for the first time. In January 2021 Scholarship Endowments surpassed the \$3,000,000 milestone, and are currently \$3,130,000.

These Endowment values are impressive and something we can all feel good about, but they are simply the means to the end, supporting students through Scholarship Assistance. The Academy now actively supports four Endowments; Academic, Financial Need, John Imhoff Global Studies and Graduate Studies. As proud as I am to

be able to announce the \$3,000,000 Endowment level, what is really important in my way of thinking, is that AAIE related Endowments currently generate more than \$100,000 annually to be used for Industrial Engineering Scholarships. With the awards that will be announced this Spring, the Academy will have awarded in excess of \$1,000,000 to U of A students.



Bob Etien
Scholarship Chair

It has taken 35 years to reach the \$1,000,000 in cumulative scholarships milestone. However, with Endowments annually funding Scholarship levels of \$100,000 plus (and growing), the \$2,000,000 mark could be right around the corner.

If it took 35 years to reach the first \$1,000,000, can the Academy award the second million in 10 years, 8 years, 6 years or even 5 years? For a bunch of Industrial Engineers this shouldn't be too difficult of a question.

I have a guess. What's your estimate?

SAVE THE DATE!!!

AAIE is working to adjust to the COVID 19 situation with regards to our board meetings going forward. Our April Board meeting will be virtual with a goal of an in person banquet and induction ceremony in October 2021.

Spring Board Meeting April 17 2021, VIRTUAL MEETING

Summer Board Meeting TBD Virtual meeting

AAIE Banquet/Meeting October 29 2021, Fayetteville AR

Scholarship Levels

Year	Endowment Values	Cumulative Scholarships
1986	-0-	-0-
2009	\$1,000,000	\$200,000
2017	\$2,000,000	\$580,000
2021	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000*
2025	TBD??	TBD??

* Includes April 2021 Awards

Thank You!

Your Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering is Making A Difference!

"Your Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering is making a difference to the students!"

(Continued from page 1)

Each year we strive to increase the scholarships awarded. Last year the target was \$115,000, and this year the Board is targeting up to \$150,000. We reach these goals together by your continued generosity. If you can, please think about honoring our 35th Anniversary with a donation. Click the link in the side bar to the right to be taken to the online giving page for the UofA. Thank you to Jim Burgin, Bob Etien, and Tim McKenzie for everything they do to make the organization better and stronger each year.

In Membership, Marc Alley has done an outstanding job of vetting nominations and obtaining interest from many Industrial Engineering graduates that have excelled in their career. We look forward to October to induct the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 classes. Mark your calendar for October 29th for an in-person Banquet and Induction ceremony. Please check out our new member bio's in this edition of the DODEC.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as President this year. It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of the team. Great seeing everyone at the April Board meeting, and I look forward to gathering in-person in October.

All the best, Karen Jewell



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/](https://aaie.uark.edu/giving/)

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



From the Department...

Dear Academy Members:

It is hard to believe we are about half way done with the spring semester, but the past few months have been filled with excitement for what we are accomplishing and anticipation for what is to come. Many of our classes are meeting face-to-face this semester, with masks and social distancing enforced, and it is good to see the students in person again. We will continue to tip-toe back into some semblance of what we used to know as normal. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel!

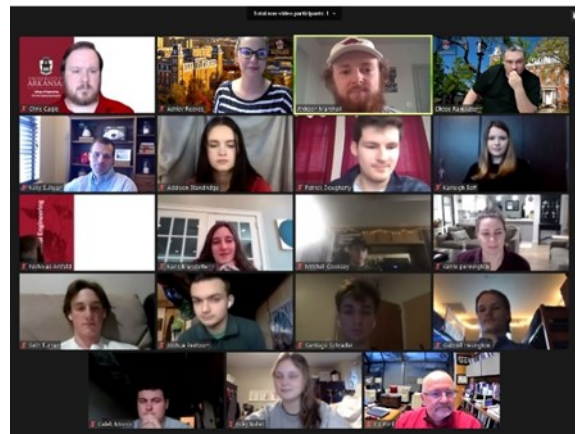


Our students are continuing to thrive despite the unusual environment. Each spring, the Arkansas Alumni Association honors 71 seniors with the Seniors of Significance distinction, and this year, two Industrial Engineering students made the list! I am extremely proud of Madeline Suellentrop and Conner Waybright for this well-deserved accomplishment! Coleman Warren is also making us proud. Recently, he was elected President of the Associated Student Government on campus for next year. Additionally, Coleman was selected as a finalist for a Truman Scholarship. 193 students from 129 institutions were selected as finalists, so it is quite the honor! The Truman Scholarship is the premier graduate fellowship in the U.S.

for students pursuing careers as public service leaders. Coleman will have his final interview for the Truman Scholarship in the next few weeks, so keep him in your thoughts, but Coleman's recent accomplishments do not stop there! He also won a seed funding competition at the University of Arkansas, hosted by the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Coleman started Simple and Sweet, a locally sourced, homemade ice cream company that donates a portion of its revenue to the NWA Food Bank. If you are local to Fayetteville, check out his product and order some for yourself! I know we will continue to hear about the great things all three of these students are doing for years and years to come!



Dr. Ed Pohl
Department Head



Decision Day looked a bit different this year. Last year, Decision Day was

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"We will continue to tip-toe back into some semblance of what we used to know as normal. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel!"

the last event we were able to have prior to going remote. This year, the event was virtual, but still very exciting! We were able to meet our newest IE students via Zoom and introduce them to our department. We will welcome 42 new students and they seem like a great bunch! I am sure you will hear about several of them in future newsletters.



In Faculty news, Haitao Liao and Heather Nachtmann, along with their team of researchers, developed a tool to help public and private sector leaders optimize freight movement across different modes of transportation. The customizable tool integrates a variety of data sources related to the design and operation of ports, locks, dams and ground transportation, and spatiotemporal models, to help decision-makers understand how best to transport freight across the United States. This research is critical to support modern planning needs as well as disaster relief and recovery.

Our department's media specialist, Tamara Ellenbecker, was recently selected as the Staff Member of the Quarter for the College of Engineering. Tamara plays a pivotal role in our department, as she maintains our web

pages, social media presence, news articles, and more. At a time when it could have been easy for her fly under the radar when the campus went remote, she stepped up even more than normal. We were able to stay visible while our office was dark thanks to Tamara's hard work.



I truly believe this helped give a sense of normalcy to our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Tamara's nomination packet will now be in the running for the Staff Member of the Year award later in the semester!

I am hopeful I will see many of you in October at your banquet. In the meantime, please take care of yourselves.



AAIE General Fund Discussion

We've had a few questions about the AAIE General Fund and how it supports the scholarship funds so I thought I'd provide a quick review. As a finance geek, I barely find this interesting so if you need a nap, have at it.

The General Fund is where your annual suggested contribution of \$250 finds its initial home. Think of it as a clearing house for our AAIE day-to-day expenses. We need this account because once money goes into one of the endowment accounts it becomes untouchable. The endowment accounts are invested by the Arkansas Foundation generally providing around four percent return to provide scholarships to our students.

The General Fund is used for our annual banquet and business meeting expenses, to support student organizations (Alpha Pi Mu, INFORMS and IISE), A4U, Board of Director meetings, faculty and staff awards, and the DODEC newsletter. This is where we funded the contest for our students to design our AAIE 35th anniversary logo.

Sometimes there's a bit of discussion about the annual banquet. Think of it less as a party and more as an induction ceremony of new AAIE members. Those new members are a critical ongoing resource to the continuation of our organization. No new members, no new ideas, no new committee members, no new contributions, and so on. At the banquet we also host students that have been awarded AAIE scholarships. Think of this as an initial recruiting activity for 15 years from now when they will become the next class of inductees.

The student organizations provide a great return for us and the department.

When I asked for some of the events they use the money for, I literally filled the back of an envelope. Here's a small sampling. Food drives, welcome back pancake breakfasts, Study Buddy events, meet the faculty lunches, and virtual cooking lessons during the pandemic.



Jim Burgin
AAIE Treasurer

A4U funding provides for Mentoring Circles and Mock Interviews.

We're glad to provide funding for annual faculty and staff awards. You can't imagine the support AAIE receives from the wonderful Industrial Engineering staff. The faculty award ensures we say thank you to those professors that are making our students world class.

Rest assured, your board is watching the budget closely. One recent example--when it looked like we might have to spend \$300 extra on our Red Coats it was pointed out the increase was a potential scholarship for one of our students. We're always looking for ways save so we can fund more scholarships.

Finally, and some really good news, when we find our General Fund holdings larger than we need they are moved into the scholarship endowments. With the pandemic our costs were down this last year, and we swept \$35,000 into the Academic and Financial Needs scholarship funds.

Hope this helps. If you've got questions please feel free to reach to me at jimburgin1@gmail.com.

*A closer
look at what
the General
Fund is and
what it does
for AAIE.*

A4U Mock Interviews Update

After a successful Virtual Mock-Interview in the fall semester, the AAIE and the Industrial Engineering Department hosted a Spring Virtual Mock-Interview event February 23-25 in preparation for the STEM Career fair on March 3rd.

Students were paired with industry partners including ArcBest, Centerpoint Energy, Chesapeake, Harrison & Journeyman, J.B. Hunt, and Michael Baker International. This event allows students to practice their interview skills and get feedback on areas for improvement prior to going through the formal interview process.

Due to Covid-19 the event remained virtual and students had the opportunity to engage with platforms like Teams and Zoom to ensure they would be prepared to interview virtually if needed as they move forward. The feedback from the students was really positive.

Master's student, Namita Balani found the interviews helpful in calming pre-interview nerves: "I enjoy

participating in the Industrial Engineering mock interviews because it is an excellent way to work through pre-interview nerves in an informal setting," Balani said. "It is also an excellent way to meet and network with industry professionals and learn more about their companies and the roles they hold."



Mandy Robinson
AAIE Mock Interviews

If you or your company are interested in participating in if you are interested in participating in the fall, please reach out to John True at John.True@centerpointenergy.com.

For more information, check out this [article](#) in the University of Arkansas News published on March 11, 2021.

Thanks!

Mandy Robinson

AAIE In The News

AAIE Member Ben Dye made the UARK news in an article about the A4U Mock Interviews that were held this spring. Check out the full details [here](#).



AAIE Member Kevin Shellhammer was featured in an article on *Medium* about his new start up *Rescue Plastics* and what he hopes to achieve with this new company. Check it out [here](#).



2021 AAIE New Member Biographies

Marco Barker (BSIE 2000)

Marco is the Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He is also the Principal Consultant and Founder of Barker Diversity Consulting. He also holds a MBA from Webster University and a PhD in Philosophy, Educational Leadership and Research from LSU. He began his career in the telecom industry with AT&T and after a few years moved into research and consulting working in areas of workforce strategy, equity, inclusion and community outreach in places such as LSU, UNC Chapel Hill, Westminster College and now University of Nebraska. Marco has authored articles and book chapters and provided numerous keynote speeches and consultations over his career. His work has been recognized in his communities with receiving the Forty Under 40 by Utah Business, Leadership Utah Class of 2018, North Carolina Goodmon Fellow, and many others. Marco currently resides in Lincoln, NE with his partner Brian.



Jenni (Johnson) Kimpel (BSIE 2006)

Jenni lives in Rogers, AR with her husband Kyle and their two boys Greyson and Bradley. She is the Sr Director of Final Mile Services Business Development for JB Hunt Transport. She began her career as a logistics engineer providing statistical analysis, process flow improvements, and helping improve revenue quality. From there, she moved into managing a market research team and managed the implementation of her company's CRM system. In 2013, Jenni received her MBA from John Brown University. In 2014 Jenni began leading an engineering team to support sales, network analysis and strategy for Final Mile expansion into a new division for JB Hunt where she now serves as a sales leader. Jenni has been recognized as Home Furnishings Forty under 40 award, a 2018 U of A Engineering Early Career Awardee, and Outstanding Board Member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She very active in charitable organizations including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Sharing & Caring of Benton County, and AAIE's A4U. Jenni's hobbies include chasing her busy boys around, running, reading, tennis, and home improvement projects.



Andres Angulo (BSIE 1994, MSIE 2002)

Andres is an Account Director at Phoenix Packing in Dublin, VA, a packaging converter where he oversees market share growth. He also managed from inception to launch the development of the first recyclable thermoformed K-Cup. During his time at Arkansas, he helped publish several papers on inventory management. His past work experience includes The Dow Chemical Company, JB Hunt, HPI Systems, and St. Jude Medical. He is currently developing a health management system using advanced



computational tools to help athletes improve performance and bridge the gap between sports medicine and sports science. Andres' hobbies include cycling, running, scuba diving, and horseback riding. He has recently established a specialty coffee plantation at his farm in his native home of Colombia, where he is using new technologies to manage the crop and monitor the quality through each stage of development. He currently resides in Blacksburg, VA with his wife Natalia and their two kids, Santiago and Luciana.

Jennifer (Farris) Cross (BSIE 2001)

Jennifer is an Associate Professor with tenure at Texas Tech's Department of Industrial, Manufacturing & Systems Engineering. She received both her MS and PhD in ISE from Virginia Tech in 2005 and 2006. She is a member of several professional organizations. Her leadership roles have included serving on the Lean (Operational Excellence) Division Board of Directors with the Institute of Industrial & Systems Engineers (IISE), the IISE Board of Trustees, and Editorial roles for several industrial engineering and engineering management journals. Jennifer has been recognized with numerous best paper awards by IISE, Engineering Management Journal, and at the American Society for Engineering Management Conference. Jennifer currently resides in Lubbock TX with her spouse Samuel and their 2 sons Sammy and Jimmy. She enjoys reading, running, cooking, health and nutrition, and keeping up with trends in home and real estate.



Kyle Kimpel (BSIE 2006)

Kyle is a Sr Director II of Supply Chain Engineering at Walmart. Kyle has a successful track record of increasing productivity and efficiency in large scale conveyance and distributions systems. He has been involved with strategic initiatives to increase capacity and throughput for some of the largest retail distribution systems while also leading and developing teams of engineers. He is actively involved in several community charities such as Benton County Sharing & Caring, the NWA Children's Shelter, and NWA Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Kyle resides in Rogers, AR with his wife, Jenni, and their two boys Bradley and Greyson. His hobbies include golf, camping, hiking, woodworking, and RC cars.



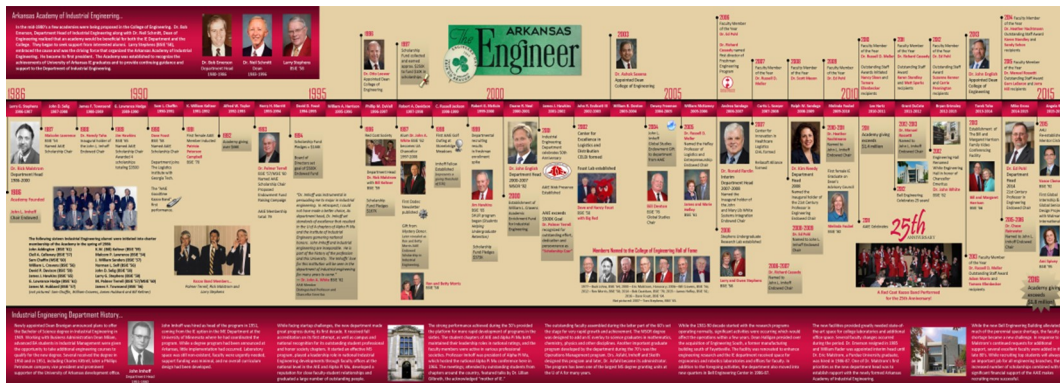
Leigh Anne Fulkerson (BSIE 2001)

She is currently a Sr Manager of Production Engineer for Space Launch Systems at the Boeing Company in St Louis. Her past roles with Boeing include supplier program management, contracts, and pricing. Leigh Anne also holds a MBA from Washington University in St Louis. Her hobbies include watching her sports, golf, tennis and spending time with her dogs.



AAIE Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Name	Year Ending	Officer/Committee
Martha Wolf	2023	President
Stu Garrett	2024	President Elect
Mandy Robinson	2025	Secretary
Jim Burgin	2022	Treasurer
Karen Jewell	2022	Past President
Ross Tompkins	2022	A4U-Mentor Circles
Marc Alley	2022	Membership
Bryan Hill	2023	Global Studies
Erica Kelley	2023	Publications/Publicity
John True	2024	A4U-Mock Interviews
Amanda Furr	2024	Member at Large



Timeline of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering

In 2010 the AAIE celebrated it's 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!

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