

# The Dodecahedron



## A note from our President

Dear AAIE Members,

I hope this issue of the DODEC finds you (finally!) enjoying a break from searing temperatures and dry weather. Fall means many things to individuals, signaling the end of a season (summer) and the beginning of a new season (football). For AAIE, it means a fresh look at mock interviews, mentor circles, and an academic year fueled in part by scholarships you've created through membership and financial support of this organization. Pandemic influences continue, as recruiters place increasing emphasis on remote or virtual interviews. This shift in organizational process means students must learn new skills, adapt to rapidly-changing policies, and develop their professional network in nontraditional ways.



**Stu Garrett**  
**AAIE President**

The word "crossroads" is often overused as a business buzzword. It seems to me that AAIE is at a crossroads, as we've said goodbye to cherished members in 2022 and welcomed two new classes of inductees at the Spring banquet in April. Financial markets – and our personal lives – feel the impact of headlines, such as Ukraine, Inflation, Supply Chain, and a myriad of other socioeconomic pressures. Through all those peaks and valleys, AAIE, its constituency, and its supporters, continues to exhibit what may be the singular defining trait of an industrial engineer: helping individuals, families, institutions and organizations weather change.

Make no mistake, AAIE continues to make a difference. But we need your help now, more than ever before. So I'll pick a different corporate buzz phrase to characterize a concept for you to consider: "Move the Needle." Moving the needle means to make a meaningful impact. Based on our resources, your generosity, and the tremendous volunteers that help run AAIE, your Board wants to always evaluate its prioritization framework (within the bounds of bylaws) to consider and make decisions that move the needle.

As your President, I am advocating for fresh and exciting ways to engage new members and re-engage existing members. We are now at a point where we are inducting members who received AAIE scholarships when they were students. Talk about a circle of life moment! If there's any doubt about Father Time, that realization will quickly erase it. The University and the IE Department continue to expand the

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Fall 2022**

**AAIE  
Officers**

**Stu Garrett**  
*President*

**Mandy Robinson**  
*President-Elect*

**Ross Tompkins**  
*Secretary*

**Amanda Furr**  
*Treasurer*

**Martha Wolf**  
*Past President*

### **Inside this issue:**

**From the President..... 1**

**Scholarship News ..... 2**

**Board Mtg Dates..... 2**

**From the Department... 4**

**Board/Committees ..... 6**

**A4U: Mock Interviews...7**

***“AAIE  
Scholarship  
Endowments  
for all areas  
are at a level  
that should  
support  
\$150,000 in  
Scholarships  
annually  
starting as  
early as 2023.”***

## Scholarship News

For most of 2022 the asset values of all four AAIE Scholarship Endowments have been negatively impacted by the down markets we’ve probably all personally experienced. In addition, as I attempt to write this article I have no idea what the next few months will look like. So with that happy intro, let me share with you what I do know and much of it is GOOD NEWS on the Scholarship front.

In April 2022 your Academy approved the awarding of \$149,000 in new scholarships for the 2022-23 academic year, another record. Every scholarship dollar the Academy awards is the direct result of your scholarship donations over the last 35 plus years. Even with AAIE Scholarship Endowments experiencing approximately a \$400,000 loss in asset value during the last several months, we had \$3,570,000 in Scholarship Endowments on June 30 (year end).

The really good news is that Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering Scholarship Endowments (Academic, Financial Need, Graduate Studies and John Imhoff Global Studies) are at a level that should support \$150,000 in Scholarships annually starting as early as 2023. We’ll keep an eye on the Endowments to make sure we don’t get ahead of ourselves.

Donations for 2021-22 were down some at \$86,000 and unfortunately broke the Academy’s streak of 8 consecutive years with \$100,000 plus in donations. To assure as best we can that we sustain the \$150,000 level in both good and poor market conditions and continue growing awards in the future we need your help.

If the timing is right for you, make a donation to any of the four AAIE Scholarship endowments today. Many Academy members find that donating on line at [aaie.uark.edu](http://aaie.uark.edu) is most convenient for them. Others prefer the potential tax advantages of using appreciated stock for their donations. In recent years members who must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA have discovered the advantages a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) might offer. I cannot provide tax advice, but simply food for thought.

You’ve made it all happen—Let’s keep it growing!

Thank You!

Your Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering is Making A Difference!



**Bob Etien  
Scholarship Chair**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Winter Board meeting February 4, 2023

Location TBD

AAIE Banquet/ Meeting April 14, 15 2023

Fayetteville AR



*"If anyone can  
adapt to  
change.... It's  
Industrial  
Engineers!"*

## From the Department...

Dear Academy Members:

Fall in Fayetteville is unmatched. The energy from our students is filling the hallways and classrooms of Bell and White Engineering, the Razorbacks are making us proud on the football field, and looking out over Dickson Street from the Imhoff Lounge window you see a beautiful sea of orange, yellow, and red.

We started this semester off with a bang by welcoming our two newest faculty members to the team; Alan Vazquez, Assistant Professor, and Brandon Crisel, Instructor. I introduced Brandon to you in the last edition of the DODEC, so I will focus on Alan this time. Alan obtained a bachelors in mathematics from Autonomous University of Neuvo Leon in Mexico, a masters in applied statistics from Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico, and a Ph.D. in applied economics from the University of Antwerp in Belgium. Prior to joining our team, he was an Assistant Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research is primarily focused in statistics and operations research. Alan, his wife Cynthia, and his daughter Mila are settling nicely into Fayetteville. I look forward to you all getting to know Alan and his family.

Last fall in your DODEC, I told you that our Alpha Pi Mu honors society was awarded second place for outstanding



chapter from their national headquarters. I am very happy to announce that this year, the chapter received the first place outstanding chapter honor! I am thankful to Dr. Kelly Sullivan and Ms. Carrie

Pennington for serving as the chapter's faculty and staff advisers. This award is chosen by the national headquarters based on their activities throughout the academic year, a sense of betterment of the field of industrial engineering and a sense of betterment of the national society. Our chapter also took home three of the society's five national scholarships! I want to congratulate Shantal Sarmiento, Natalia Sandhu, and Braden Heiser for such a great achievement!

We also took home a substantial amount of scholarships from IISE this year. Congratulations to seniors Valerie Jackson, Paris Joslin, and Abby Harris, and Ph.D. student Betul Cengil for receiving an IISE scholarship. University of Arkansas had four students awarded scholarships from IISE, which was the third highest amount! I am always so proud of our students!



**Dr. Ed Pohl**  
Department Head



(Continued on page 5)

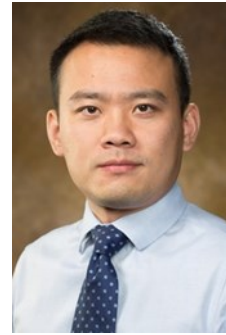


Sandy Sehon, Industrial Engineering fiscal manager, was recently honored with the 2021-2022 College of Engineering Staff Employee of the Year award. Each year, the college awards four staff members of the quarter and then at the conclusion of the academic year, the panel selects one staff member from the four quarter winners to honor as the Employee of the Year. Sandy received the honor of the Employee of the First Quarter and Employee of the Year. Many of you are familiar with Sandy's dedication and important role to our team. We are fortunate to have her expertise and I am very glad she was recognized on a larger level!



Assistant Professor, Xiao Liu, is having quite the year! In the same week, we learned that he, along with colleagues from the UofA and other institutions, received a grant from the

National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish international networks to improve national urban resilience, followed by learning that he received the prestigious NSF CAREER award to study integration of governing physics into data-driven models. Fantastic news all around!



As always, thank you for all that you do. It has been extremely heartwarming to see many of you, both in person and virtually, take part in mock interviews, mentor circles, and participate as guest speakers in our classes. We are fortunate to have you! I hope to see you all soon. Take care of yourselves in the meantime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elwood H. Webb".



## Board of Directors/Committee Chairs

AAIE is pleased to welcome a number of new members to the board and committee positions, including Jenni Kimpel in Membership and Jeff Hardcastle and Jason Honeycutt on A4U.

Position	Name
<b>President</b>	<b>Stu Garrett</b>
<b>President Elect</b>	<b>Mandy Robinson</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Amanda Furr</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Martha Wolf</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ross Tompkins</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Jenni Kimpel/Marc Alley</b>
<b>A4U</b>	<b>Mentor Circles: Jeff Hardcastle Mock Interviews: John True, Jason Honeycutt</b>
<b>Global Studies</b>	<b>Bryan Hill</b>
<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Bob Etien</b>
<b>Publications</b>	<b>Martha Wolf</b>

## President's letter continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

profession's reach to exciting international destinations. The global impact of today's students, new inductees, and future generations of AAIE members, means we need to evaluate ways in which we can effectively serve those who do not fit a traditional member profile, especially in geographic reach. That takes energy and ideation, and I welcome each of you to participate and feed us your ideas.

Another opportunity to move the needle is to find ways for technology to help us harness all the collective knowledge, wisdom, and insights of our

membership. Our members have such an incredible wealth of information that if we do not find a way to archive it, share amongst ourselves, and learn from it, the resultant loss will be an injustice. This is more than an exercise in casual conversation; it's an impactful opportunity to generate a body of knowledge that will make a difference for future generations.

Won't you please help? Step out, step forward, and help make AAIE an even stronger organization.

All the best,  
Stuart R (Stu) Garrett

*"Step out, step forward, and help make AAIE an even stronger organization"*

## A4U: Mock Interviews

For the first time since 2019, AAIE took mock interviews back to Bell Engineering! The world as we know it has certainly evolved to be more virtual since the start of the pandemic, so we kept a virtual option for mock interviews, but added back in an in-person option, too.



Volunteers were pleased to meet with eight students in person and seven students over remote platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, and Zoom. Along with providing tips for success in an interview setting, volunteers also offered resume feedback and career trajectory advice to the students.



**John True**  
**Mock Interviews**  
**BSIE 2003**

Students are offered similar support through the university and college's career services centers, but we are proud of the effort through A4U's mock interview and mentoring initiatives because it is more specialized and will certainly help industrial engineering students excel at the STEM career fair, in their internships, and as they search for career opportunities specifically in industrial engineering fields.

We are grateful to the volunteers for their time and dedication to this important program for the students. We talk a lot about AAIE's financial contributions to our students, but it is just as important to note the time spent mentoring them, honing their skills, and ensuring they are ready for a future in industry. Thank you!



*We are grateful  
to the volunteers  
for their time and  
dedication to this  
important  
program for the  
students.*

**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.**

Contact the Editor at [moogiequilter@fastmail.com](mailto:moogiequilter@fastmail.com)



**Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering**  
**c/o Department of Industrial Engineering**  
**4207 Bell Engineering Center**  
**University of Arkansas**  
**Fayetteville, AR 72701**

