

The Dodecahedron



A note from our President

Dear AAIE Members,

As the peak of fall colors explode here in Northwest Arkansas, I hope that you and your families are safe, healthy, and looking forward to all that comes in the fall season. This year with so many brilliant colors in the leaves, it has reminded me of one of the things I love the most about industrial engineering; we all start as a “green leaf” with foundational skills that allow us to go on a journey of growth throughout our career that can lead to so many ways to serve our companies and communities. As members of the Academy, our accomplishments have been recognized through our induction and we are given the opportunity to leave a legacy through continuing to invest in the Industrial Engineering Department for those students who are just getting started.

It's already been a busy fall of AAIE activities starting with our Fall Board meeting where we talked about several opportunities ahead of our membership including supporting the Industrial Engineering Department as they host the IISE Annual Conference in the spring. We loved being together at the Spring Banquet and are continuing to look for ways to engage our membership which included hosting our first of what hopefully becomes an annual tailgating event before the football game after the Fall Board Meeting. Our Mock Interview event continued with options for students to practice their skills virtually or in

person and Mentor Circles have been kicked off!

Recently someone taught me about the “gap” and the “gain”. As engineers it can be very easy for us to see the “gap” between

where we are today and the optimal state or end goal. There is great importance in stopping to look at the “gain” and remember how far we’ve come. As we approach our 40th Anniversary in coming years, we want to take time now to document accomplishments, memories, and traditions or our membership that create the foundation of our organization and are a part of the legacy that is being left through your contributions! If the craziness of life has kept you from engaging in the past and you find yourself in a season where you have an opportunity to be more involved, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at mandyrobinson345@gmail.com to learn how you can help us turn this vision into a reality! I look forward to getting to know each of you!

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mandy



Mandy Robinson
AAIE President

Fall 2023

**AAIE
Officers**

Mandy Robinson
President

Ross Tompkins
President-Elect

Jenni Kimpel
Secretary

Amanda Furr
Treasurer

Stu Garrett
Past President

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Scholarship News

I hope everyone read the note we sent in early July confirming that Academy Scholarship donations exceeded the \$100,000 goal set in conjunction with the \$60,000 Matching Funds for 2023. When we met for the April Business Meeting we had received approximately \$75,000 in donations for 2022-23. In response to a question regarding how long Matching Funds would be available, I made a comment during the meeting that "In my perfect world additional donations would get us to the goal by June 30, and we would be able to use the remaining \$30,000 of Matching money to jump start the 2023-24 year". Thanks to your great support, that is exactly what happened.

As I write this article, 2023-24 is off to a good start with new Scholarship donations of approximately \$40,000. This total includes the last \$30,000 of Matching Funds from the \$60,000 pledged by two members who wish to remain anonymous. For the last 10 years your Academy's total Scholarship donations are just north of \$1,333,000, and exceeded \$100,000 annually for eight of the last nine fiscal years.

Donations and the Endowments get a lot of attention, and they should. They are the fuel and engine, the power source, for what the Academy delivers... SCHOLARSHIPS. The chart below is one I like to share because it shows what Endowments have done over time and more importantly how Scholarships are increasing over the years. AAIE Endowments reached \$1,000,000 in 2010-11 and supported \$31,500 in scholarships. We hit \$2,000,000 in 2016-17 and \$3,000,000 during 2020-21. Annual Scholarships approved broke the \$100,000

level in 2018-19 and are continuing to increase annually.

However, as most of you are aware, for the last four years the Academy has approved more Scholarships than were actually awarded due to foreign travel constraints that have impacted John Imhoff Global Studies and to a lesser degree Graduate Studies' awards. The good news is there is additional money in both accounts for future use.



Bob Etien
Scholarship Chair

Your Continuing Support Makes it Happen!

As a reminder, it is quick and easy to donate online. Go to <https://aaie.uark.edu/> and hover over the Giving tab, then choose the scholarship account you wish to support. This should auto-fill the account information so that you need only to choose your dollar amount and fill in your personal and payment information. For most of us a simple check is convenient, but transfer of appreciated stock might be more advantageous. If you are at the age where you take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA you might find making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is of value. Please check with your tax adviser if you have questions.

AAIE
4207 Bell Engineering
1 University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

SAVE THE DATE!!!

AAIE Banquet—Friday, April 19, 2024
Annual Meeting—Saturday, April 20, 2024
Fayetteville AR

"There is a new \$60,000 Matching fund for 2023. Make a Scholarship donation to any of the AAIE Endowments, and it will be matched until the \$60,000 is fully utilized."



SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY

Year	AAIE Endowment	Scholarships
2010-11	\$1,305,000	\$31,500
2016-17	\$2,060,000	\$75,000
2018-19	\$2,600,000	\$100,000
2019-20	\$2,760,000	\$93,000*
2020-21	\$3,800,000	\$109,000*
2021-22	\$3,570,000	\$115,900*
2022-23	\$3,645,000	\$144,250*
Sept 2023	\$3,615,000	\$145K/\$160K EST**

**Travel Constraints*

***Awards to be finalized at the Winter BOD Meeting*

To make a contribution:

Please make check payable to:
University of
Arkansas
Foundation

and mail to:

AAIE
Department of
Industrial
Engineering

4207 Bell
Engineering Center

University of
Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR
72701

OR

Online at:
aaie.uark.edu/giving/

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

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
President	Mandy Robinson
President Elect	Ross Tompkins
Treasurer	Amanda Furr
Past President	Stu Garrett
Secretary	Jenni Kimpel
Membership	Cristin Groce/Marc Alley
A4U	Mentor Circles: Jeff Hardcastle Mock Interviews: Jason Honeycutt
Global Studies	Bryan Hill
Scholarship	Bob Etien
Publications	Martha Wolf, Alex Andelman

“Celebrating the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni is easy to do and very rewarding!”

From the Department...

Dear AAIE,

I hope this message finds you well. It is a great privilege to connect with you through this edition of the DODEC for the first time as the Industrial Engineering Department Head. I have been a recipient of the DODEC since my induction into the Academy in 2020, and I am honored to take on this new role and connect with my fellow alumni in a new way.

I want to begin by acknowledging the outstanding work of Dr. Ed Pohl, whose leadership and dedication was instrumental in shaping our department's legacy. I am committed to building upon the strong foundation he laid. As you likely know, Dr. Pohl was appointed Dean of the Graduate School and International Education and I know he will make great strides there, just as he did in Industrial Engineering.

My vision for our department is one of continued growth, innovation, and



excellence. Since assuming the Department Head role in July, we have had a few critical leadership changes that I want to share with you. Dr. Tish Pohl was named Associate Department Head this summer. Her dedication to our students will undoubtedly prove valuable in this role. Dr. Burak Eksioğlu was appointed Director of the Masters of Science in Engineering program, which left a vacancy in our Graduate

Coordinator role. Dr. Ashlea Milburn is the new Graduate Coordinator and has already taken steps for the betterment of our graduate program.

In recent years, our department has seen remarkable growth and progress. We've expanded our faculty by six just this year, updated our curriculum to address industry trends, and forged strong partnerships with leading companies. Our faculty members have been involved in groundbreaking research projects. Recently, Heather Nachtmann was named a Fellow of the Arkansas Research Alliance, which supports and recognizes distinguished researchers with an established history of impact. It was an honor to accompany her, Dean Needy, and Chancellor Robinson as she was honored for this accolade by the Governor at a reception in Little Rock.

These efforts reflect our commitment to staying at the forefront of industrial engineering innovation. Our students remain at the heart of our mission, and I cannot say thank you enough to all of you for your hand in that mission. Whether through mock interviews, mentor circles, or financial contributions, you continue to show up for our students and I know their success can be, in part, attributed to your help.

I was able to connect with many of you at the recent Razorback Football

(Continued on page 5)



Dr. Chase Rainwater
Department Head



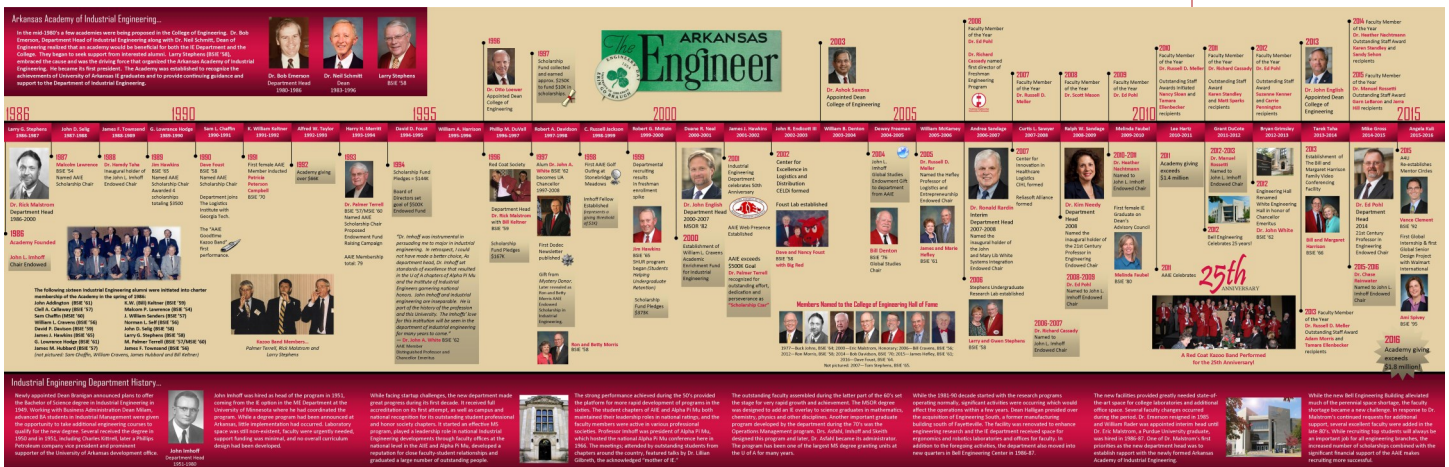
I was able to connect with many of you at the recent Razorback Football Tailgate hosted by AAIE, and it was such a great day.

Tailgate hosted by AAIE, and it was such a great day. I look forward to many more opportunities to foster an environment of collaboration and support between our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Please reach out at

any time with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.

All my best,

Chris Paul



Timeline of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering

In 2010 the AAIE celebrated its 25th anniversary. As a memento of the past 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!

AAIE : Study Abroad!

Aiden Small, currently a sophomore, received a John L. Imhoff Global Studies scholarship which he used to enroll in Dr. Tish Pohl's Summer 2023 Engineering Economics Analysis course in Rome, Italy. Upon returning to the states, he wrote this article. We have shared it for you to enjoy and used his original photos.

My study abroad trip to Italy was one filled with all different kinds of learning, from cultural, to the class itself, to historic, and I left with a new perspective on the world and the people who live in it. Typical class days in Rome were an amazing experience as we would start and end the days with beautiful walks to and from our apartment as well as stopping in the middle of the day to try the food on the streets surrounding our campus.



The campus itself was in an estate type of building with plenty of Italian art and interior design techniques that were different from anything in the United States. During the trip, we also had days where we would tour around the city and experience some of the main tourist attractions such as the Trevi Fountain and the Patheon. These tours had amazing guides that knew the



answer to every question anyone had and told us so many facts about the city that only added to my appreciation for these features.

We also had a second type of tour which were to the course-specific locations, these were more focused on showing aspects relating to our course. One such example was touring Fiumicino Airport and hearing the improvements they've made to the newest terminal as well as the process to increase the number of flights incoming and outgoing. Course-specific trips helped show the application of what we learned in class as well as give us a look into different sectors of business and their application to industrial engineering.

Excursions on my own were how I spent my weekends when we had no class responsibility or planned tours. For me, this included trips to Florence

the first weekend and Naples, Positano, Pompeii, and Sorrento the second weekend. I went with a group of people I met through the class and we planned out the trips during the week when we were not in class.

Planning out entire separate trips on my own was a life experience that would be hard to get elsewhere as lining up transportation, making sure everything was booked correctly, and finding places to stay in a foreign country is not an easy job.

My personal favorite thing we did during the weekend trips was the boat tour we took from the coast of Sorrento to Capri Island. During this tour, we were taken by some features of the coast such as the emerald cove, a castle where one of the ancient princesses would go, and a heart formation naturally eroded by the tide.

Once on the island, we traveled to Anacapri which is the upper part of the island by taking a taxi through very tight and scary roads. The food we ate there was very fresh but the highlight

of the island was the ski lift that took us to the peak where we could see all the



way to the coast of Italy. Overall, this trip provided me with so many life experiences I wouldn't have been able to get otherwise and has given me a new perspective on life itself.

Thank you, AAIE, for making it possible through your generosity for me to have this once in a lifetime opportunity! The John L. Imhoff Study Abroad Study Scholarship is greatly appreciated!

Aiden Small

Industrial Engineering Class of 2026

"Course-specific trips helped show the application of what we learned in class as well as give us a look into different sectors of business and their application to industrial engineering."

— Aiden Small



AAIE : Tailgating at the game!

If you were unable to come this year, we hope to be able to make this a yearly event, so stay tuned for future tailgates. Woo Pig!

Normally, the AAIE Board of Directors avoids football game weekends when planning the fall board meeting, but this year was different. The board had it's meeting in Bell Engineering on Saturday, September 9th, and immediately walked over to Razorback Road where we hosted a fun tailgate prior to the first home football game of the year! AAIE members, I.E. faculty and staff, our esteemed College of Engineering Dean, and cherished family members and friends gathered together over food, fellowship, and of course, football! The Razorbacks thanked us for being there to cheer them on by winning the game 28-6!

A huge thank you to everyone who came! It was great to see everyone in a social setting, connect with old friends, make some new friends, and strengthen the bond of this great organization.

Seeing everyone's kiddos play together was especially heartwarming.

If you were unable to come this year, we hope to be able to make this a yearly event, so stay tuned for future tailgates. Woo Pig!

*Mandy Robinson – AAIE President 23-24
Ross Tompkins – AAIE President-Elect 23-24
Ashley Reeves – AAIE Department Liaison*





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Donations to AAIE :

As part of your membership commitment to AAIE, your annual contribution is required to promote our activities in support of the Department and continue to help AAIE make an impact on students and our future industry leaders and contributors.



There has been some confusion on how to complete financial contributions. The easiest way is to complete the online form linked from the AAIE website. <https://aaie.uark.edu/> or <https://aaie.uark.edu/giving/> to see a short video tutorial that shows you how to make online donations and recurring donations using the website.

Click the Giving drop-down list and simply choose the destination of your contribution from the list of links, and it takes you straight to the payment form.

If you don't want to pay online, there are several other methods available.

If you want to contribute to more than

one fund at the time of payment, you will need to designate the amounts and the fund destination in the comment box provided on the form. Without this information, the gift will be distributed to the fund designation of the form submitted. If you want to give above and beyond your annual membership requirement, you can make your gift recurring or check out the Contribution Levels link from the Giving drop-down list to learn more about the requirements for having a Named Scholarship or becoming a John Imhoff Fellow. <https://aaie.uark.edu/scholarship-levels/>

NOTE: If you want your recurring gift to pay your membership, please add a note in the comment section *"First \$250 towards annual AAIE membership, remaining portion to XX scholarship account."*

While you are pecking around on the website, make sure to visit the AAIE Impact page and see the impact that your contributions are making! <https://aaie.uark.edu/aaie-impact/>

Other Ways to Give

Check

[Electronic Bank Draft](#)

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For a Stock or Wire Transfer

Call Gift Services at (479) 575-7970

Thank
You

Mock Interviews/A4U:

We are thrilled to share the remarkable success of our recent Mock Interview event hosted by AAIE. Over the course of three virtual days and one day on campus, 13 students took part in two different interview opportunities with an inspiring list of volunteer interviewers comprised of AAIE members, UARK I.E. alumni, and various industry professionals.

On September 18, 19, and 20, students met virtually with seasoned professionals who generously shared their expertise in platforms such as Teams and Zoom, which is particularly



these interviews, students are better prepared to tackle future job interviews, internships, and even their



valuable as it mimics the current remote working environment many are likely to encounter in their careers.

The students gained insights into digital etiquette, effective communication, and the art of making a lasting impression through a screen. On September 21, students practiced their interview skills in a more traditional setting: in person in Bell Engineering. Along with honing interview skills, participants were given the opportunity to receive feedback on their resumes, which most students took advantage of.

Our Mock Interview event is not just about practice; it's about empowerment. By participating in

dream careers. The experience also fosters self-confidence, communication skills, and adaptability—qualities that are indispensable in today's fast-paced world.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the interviewers who volunteered their time and expertise to make this event possible. Your dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders is truly commendable.

Stay tuned for future mock interview opportunities as we continue to support and empower the next generation of Industrial Engineers.

*Jason Honeycutt – A4U Mock Interview Chair
Ashley Reeves – AAIE Department Liaison*

Mock Interviews/A4U:



Recommend Someone For Membership

Send the information to Cristin Groce, Membership Chair.

Cristingroce@gmail.com

501.840.1122

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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