



# The Dodecahedron



## A note from our President

Hello AAIE Membership!

Every direction you look here in NWA, you see blossoms on trees and green beginning to burst through! Spring has sprung!! The warm weather has brought a renewed sense of energy and excitement for what is ahead in 2024. We are looking forward to all be together again at our upcoming AAIE Weekend. It is a great opportunity to connect with classmates, meet our newly inducted members, see the impact the Academy has on the students within the IE Department and enjoy being back on campus! If you are like me, being in Bell brings back great memories and serves as a reminder of the purpose of our organization to support the students and department. Mark your calendar for **April 19-20, 2024**, and plan on joining us!

For a variety of reasons, it has been a few years since we were able to host our annual Winter Board meeting in Hot Springs. This year it was great to have everyone back together at dinner on Friday night for a delicious meal at Steinhaus Keller. Saturday morning, we held the board meeting where we discussed some exciting opportunities we look forward to telling you about as we approach our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and last but not least, enjoyed a great afternoon at Oaklawn.

At the end of March, members of the AAIE Board of Directors will be a part of the department's advisory board or

Liaison Committee that deep dives on the IE Department strategy, curriculum and programs, spending time with both Faculty and reviewing technology. This is another way the AAIE



**Mandy Robinson**

organization has an opportunity to serve the IE Department, as Dr. Chase Rainwater, and the outstanding faculty continuing to lead amazing work in improving student experience / opportunities, industry research and increasing the national visibility and reputation of the department.

When I reflect on the momentum we have as an organization and the power that comes from the collaboration and collective efforts of our distinguished membership, it brings me great joy to think about the impact we jointly can make in the lives of our current and future students.

Serving alongside our incredible board members and committee chairs has been so energizing for me and shown me what passionate people we have leading our organization. It has been an honor to serve as your president and I look forward to seeing you all in April!

— Mandy

## Spring 2024

### AAIE Officers

Mandy Robinson  
*President*

Ross Tompkins  
*President-Elect*

Jenni Kimpel  
*Secretary*

Amanda Furr  
*Treasurer*

Stu Garrett  
*Past President*

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***“With unanimous support the Presidents have collectively created a \$130,000 Matching Fund designed to match all your donations between now and the Academy’s 40th Anniversary in April 2026.”***

## Scholarship News: Red Coat 40th Anniversary Challenge

The AAIE Scholarship Challenge continues with the announcement of a new Scholarship Campaign developed entirely by members of the Red Coat Society. With unanimous support the Presidents have collectively created a \$130,000 Matching Fund designed to match all your donations between now and the Academy’s 40th Anniversary in April 2026.

How does “\$4,000,000 by the 40th” sound to you? At the start of this fiscal year, July 1, 2023, the Academy had \$3,645,000 in the four Scholarship Endowments (Academic, Financial, JI Global Studies and Graduate Studies). By late February 2024, those same Endowments total value was \$3,775,000. You do the math. If member response for this latest Matching Fund is as positive as it has been over the last 10 years, we have an outstanding opportunity to exceed \$4,000,000 by AAIE’s 40th Anniversary in April 2026.

Accept the Challenge and take advantage of the opportunity to double the impact of your donation. Contribute to your favorite AAIE Scholarship Endowment, and the Red Coats will make an equal donation until all funds are exhausted.

Make the 40th an Anniversary to remember!

Become a John Imhoff Fellow. There are currently (133) John Imhoff Fellows; however, another (23) members are more than halfway to the \$1000 threshold.

Become a Permanent Named Scholarship Donor. AAIE supports (49) Permanent Named Scholarships; however, an additional (20) members are at least halfway to the \$10,000 Goal.

Join the select group of (20) Academy members that permanently support multiple Named Scholarships annually.

All of us have the opportunity to reach any of these Goals. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Let’s keep the momentum going!

Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering  
4207 Bell Engineering  
1 University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR 72701



**Bob Etien**  
**Scholarship Chair**



### **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!

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

## From the Department...

Dear AAIE,

The Spring semester started off a bit rocky, with inclement weather causing closings and delays during the first week of school, but we are now seeing more sunshine as we enter our busiest, and most exciting, time of the year.

Recently, we had the privilege of hosting two significant conferences that showcased the excellence and innovation within the field of industrial engineering. The IISE (Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers) Regional Conference and



*IISE Student Chapter Officers*

the CELDi (Center for Excellence in Logistics and Distribution) Regional Conference brought together professionals, researchers, and students to exchange ideas and insights. The success of these events is a testament to the vibrant and dynamic community we have fostered here at the University of Arkansas. I am extremely proud of the teams who organized these wonderful events! It was a pleasure to showcase our beautiful campus and the partnerships we have forged

with area industries to our constituents from other schools. A big thank you to Tarek Taha, Vance Clement, Kyle Kimpel, Tyler Beneke, and Russ Meller who each served as a featured



*Dr. Chase Rainwater  
Department Head*

speaker at the conferences. I would also like to thank Marshalltown Company and Sealed Air Corporation for hosting student tours of their facilities. In addition, a special thanks to ArcBest and J.B. Hunt Transport Services for being our industry conference sponsors.

As we look ahead, our calendars are full of exciting events and important meetings. Our department's Liaison Committee will meet soon, followed by the Student Awards Banquet where we will recognize the outstanding achievements of our



students. I am eagerly looking forward to AAIE weekend, as well. It will be wonderful to see many of you and celebrate another fantastic year, plus induct some worthy new

*(Continued on page 5)*

members. After the AAIE picnic, I will head to the College of Engineering awards banquet, where we will be recognizing some of our great alumni. We will wrap up the semester with the Capstone Symposium, some fun celebrations for our graduates, and of course, commencement! Celebrating the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni is not only easy to do but incredibly rewarding.

With a commitment to stay engaged with our alumni and stay connected with the industry partners who could potentially hire our students, senior leadership within the college recently traveled to the El Dorado area to visit with prominent

companies such as Standard Lithium, Lanxess, and Clean Harbors. We enjoyed sharing our experiences and updates with them, and it was meaningful to learn how we can best prepare our future engineers to work for their companies. All in all, a wonderful trip!

I hope you are making plans to attend AAIE weekend in April. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything!



### Board of Directors/Committee Chairs

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





## Meet the 2024 AAIE Inductees!

### David Bates BSIE 2004

Sam's Club, Group Director Growth & Supply Chain Finance

#### Additional Education:

- Washington University, MBA 2008 – Investment Banking & Corporate Finance

#### Personal:

- Living in Bentonville, AR
- Married to Emily with 2 children (Jaxson 5, Hadley 2)
- Interests include spending time with family, traveling, running, playing golf with friends and calling the Hogs

#### Other:

- Work experiences at Boeing, Walmart and Sam's – has worked and lived in St. Louis (Boeing) & Canada (Walmart)



### David Boguslawski BSIE 2003

CityVet, CEO & President

#### Additional Education:

- SMU (Southern Methodist University), MBA 2007 – Finance & Strategy
- Certified Six Sigma Black Belt

#### Personal:

- Living in Dallas, TX
- Married to Katie with 3 children (Emma 10, John David 4, Zachary 4)
- Interests include working out, being outdoors, going to the lake and razorback games as well as spending time with family / kid's activities

#### Other:

- Experience in Healthcare, Aerospace and Manufacturing; Private Equity and M&A
- Dallas Business Journal, CEO of the Year 2023



**Julia Carmack BSIE 2008**

Campbells Soup, Sr Mgr/Customer Sales Lead  
Natural Channel

**Additional Education:**

- Certified Six Sigma Green Belt, with the Category Management Association and in the Maker Group Negotiations

**Personal:**

- Living in Cave Springs, AR
- Married to Josh with 2 children (Olivia 6, Jackson 9 mo)
- Interests include hanging out with family and friends, cheering on the Razorbacks – huge sports fan!

**Other:**

- Work experience includes UPS (Air & Hub Planning Specialist), Transportation Insight (Logistics Mgr) & Campbells Soup Co

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**Rafael Merida BSIE 2004**

Tyson Foods, Procurement Director

**Additional Education:**

- Certified Six Sigma Black Belt

**Personal:**

- Living in Fayetteville, AR
- Married to Flavia with 1 child (Emilia)
- Interests include spending time with family, sports fan (Razorbacks, NY Yankees, Real Madrid), live music & theater

**Other:**

- 14 years Tyson Foods, Experience in Global Sourcing & Procurement and Enterprise Asset Management
- Community involvement, Parish Council St. Joseph Catholic Church



## Meet the 2024 AAIE Inductees!

Lindsey Simpson BSIE 2007  
Walmart, Sr Mgr. Assortment Analytics

Additional Education:

- UofA, Masters of Science in Industrial Engineering, 2007
- Harding University, Masters of Art in Teaching

Personal:

- Living in Centerton, AR
- Married to David with 2 children (Aubrey and Olivia)
- Interests include running and participating in half marathons, reading, gardening and spending time with husband & daughters

Other:

- Work experience with JB Hunt, Springdale Public Schools (taught high school mathematics), The Clorox Co and Walmart
- Volunteers at the Humane Society of the Ozarks and Elm Springs Methodist Church (VBS and holiday celebrations)



Dr. Kelly Sullivan BSIE 2006  
UofA, Industrial Engineering Associate Professor

Additional Education:

- UofA M.S. Industrial Engineering 2008
- Univ of Florida Ph.D. Industrial and Systems Eng 2012

Personal:

- Living in Bentonville, AR
- Married to Kim with 3 children (Amelia 7, Avery 5, Ascher 10mo)
- Interests include coaching youth soccer and basketball, service and other involvement at church, spending time outdoors and watching the Razorbacks

Other:

- Conducts research in Network Optimization and Systems Reliability
- Teaches
- Career Award, National Science Foundation, 2018





## AAIE on LinkedIn!

### *JOIN US ON LINKEDIN!*

The academy has a group on Linked In—use the following link to join the discussion on line!

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/arkansas-academy-of-industrial-engineering/?viewAsMember=true>



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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