Scholarship Recipients 2011-2012

Department of Industrial Engineering
On behalf of the Department of Industrial Engineering, I take great pleasure in presenting to you our 2011-2012 departmental scholarship recipients. These students have proven themselves to be excellent students and citizens, and we are proud to have them as part of our program.

For the 2011-2012 academic year, we have awarded $41,500 in scholarships to 22 industrial engineering students. Clearly, this would not be possible without the generous financial support of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering and several other members of our industrial engineering family. The students, faculty and staff of the Department of Industrial Engineering are most thankful for this support.

If you have questions about our scholarship program, please do not hesitate to contact me at (479) 575-6196 or rmeller@uark.edu.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Meller
Hefley Professor of Logistics and Entrepreneurship
Director, Center for Excellence in Logistics and Distribution
Chair, Scholarship Committee
Evin Anderson — Junior, Little Rock, Arkansas
AAIE Bill and Pat Keltner Scholarship $500
AAIE Scholarship in Memory of Vernon McBryde $1000
AAIE Robert and Ellen Etien Scholarship $1000

Evin Anderson is the son of Lesly Anderson and Shari Anderson. He graduated from Mills High School in 2008 in Little Rock and is going to be a senior in the 2011-2012 year. He is performing undergraduate research in logistics and plans to pursue a career in logistics and transportation engineering. Evin is the University of Arkansas Bowling Club Team president and coaches in his own time. He also enjoys intramural sports, movies, music, and traveling. After completing his bachelor’s degree, he is considering pursuing a master’s degree in engineering and a bachelor’s degree in mathematics.

Daisha Booth — Junior, Little Rock, Arkansas
AAIE Palmer and Alice Terrell Scholarship Honoring Rick and Kathy Malstrom $1000

Daisha Booth is a junior industrial engineer. She was born and raised in Little Rock, AR, and is the oldest of three children. After completing three years of study in Fayetteville, Daisha has enjoyed the industrial engineering program, the city of Fayetteville, and living the life of an ultimate Razorback fan. With roughly three semesters left, she has learned the importance of a diligent work ethic, supportive family and colleagues, and is anxious to see what opportunities unfold in the near future.

Othman Boudhoum — Junior, Agadir, Morocco
AAIE Scholarship in Memory of C. L. Cox $500
AAIE Scholarship $1500

Othman is the son of Abdellah Boudhoum and Lalla Nezha Abouelfaraj. He is a junior at the University of Arkansas. He was a valedictorian of Al-Qalam High School in 2008, and is pursing a degree in industrial engineering with a minor in mathematics. In 2010-2011, he served as president of the International Student Organization, one of the largest registered student organizations on campus. In his free time, he likes to play soccer, watch soccer, or just hang out with friends. In summer 2011, Othman is planning to go to Morocco, to enjoy the beach, and be part of a 15-day internship with SONARJES.
Kiah Brewer — Sophomore, Little Rock, Arkansas
AAIE Jim and Annette Hawkins Scholarship $500
AAIE Al and Paula Taylor Scholarship $500

Kiah is the daughter of Keith and Shiela Kelley. She is from North Little Rock, Arkansas. Kiah graduated from Wilbur D. Mills University Studies High School in 2009. She chose industrial engineering as her major because of the problem-solving aspects, which she loves. In her spare time Kiah likes to read, hang out with friends, and listen to music. Kiah is looking forward to what the future holds for her.

Rob Curry II — Sophomore, Pearcy, Arkansas
AAIE Buck and Colleen Johns Scholarship $500
AAIE John English Family Scholarship $500
AAIE Bob and Jo Davidson Scholarship $500

Rob is the son of Mark and Susan Curry. He graduated from Lake Hamilton High School in Pearcy, AR, in the spring of 2009 and is going to be a junior for the 2011-2012 school year. Rob is interested in the field of facility logistics and distribution. He is involved with Campus Crusade for Christ at the University of Arkansas. He also enjoys watching and playing any sports, music, and spending time with family and friends. Upon graduation, Rob is interested in pursuing a master’s degree in industrial engineering.

Danny Dixon — Sophomore, Sherwood, Arkansas
AAIE Hamdy and Karen Taha Scholarship $500
AAIE John and Helen Selig Scholarship $500

Danny is the son of Thelma Dixon. A graduate of Sylvan Hills High School, Danny is currently a sophomore in industrial engineering and is working with Dr. Ron Rardin, in the Center for Innovation in Healthcare Logistics. Danny was elected the PCI Chair for the National Society of Black Engineers during the 2010-2011 school year. He says he chose industrial engineering because he wants to start his own business one day. Danny feels industrial engineering is the ideal major to accomplish his goals because it integrates engineering and business. In his spare time, Danny enjoys spending time with friends, reading and working out.
Emily Evans — Senior, Little Rock, Arkansas
John L. and Lois Imhoff Endowed Scholarship $2500

Emily is the daughter of Jim and Debbie Evans of Little Rock, Arkansas. She graduated from Mount St. Mary’s Academy in 2007, and is pursuing a degree in industrial engineering. Emily currently serves as the Vice President of the Associated Student Government and is an active member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. Emily is also a member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers, and is currently conducting research in the field of engineering economics education. She is planning on attending graduate school after graduation. Emily enjoys spending time with her family and friends, being outside, and learning new things.

Ridvan Gedik — Graduate, Ankara, Turkey
Eric Malstrom Endowed Memorial Scholarship $1000

Ridvan is the son of Serife and Dursun Gedik. He holds a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. His research interests lie in the areas of large-scale optimization and integer programming. Ridvan is currently conducting research on assessing the capacity of radiation therapy facilities in the presence of different operational restrictions. In his free time he enjoys playing soccer, swimming and spending time with friends and family. Ridvan is a member of INFORMS and representative of the Turkish Education Foundation.

Hillary Gould — Senior, Jonesboro, Arkansas
AAIE Ron and Betty Morris Scholarship $2000
AAIE Scholarship $500

Hillary is the daughter of Timothy Gould and Deborah Liles. She grew up in Jonesboro, Arkansas where she graduated as valedictorian from Ridgefield Christian School in 2008. Hillary is a senior at the University of Arkansas in the industrial engineering program and plans to graduate with a BSIE in 2012. In her spare time, Hillary enjoys most music, video games, reading, writing, and spending time with friends and family. One of her favorite quotes is, “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” - Eleanor Roosevelt
Rachel King — Sophomore, Aledo, Texas
Taft, O’Neal, Geels Scholarship $1000

Rachel King is the daughter of Ted and Stacey King. She graduated from Aledo High School in Aledo, Texas. She is currently pursuing an industrial engineering degree at the University of Arkansas. Rachel is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, as well as a future peer mentor in the Freshman Engineering Program. A few of her hobbies include playing guitar, traveling, and reading. She plans to graduate with a BSIE in 2013 and hopes to become an Imagineer for Disney.

Taylor Kitchens — Junior, Hot Springs, Arkansas
AAIE Bill and Margaret Harrison Scholarship $500
AAIE Bob and Mary Ann McKuin Scholarship Honoring Bernice McKuin Lindley $500
AAIE Ron and Betty Morris Scholarship $1000
AAIE Scholarship $1500

Taylor Kitchens is the daughter of Candace and Pete Kitchens. She is a junior at the University of Arkansas and graduated from Hot Springs High School in 2009. She is an active member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers chapter on campus. Currently Taylor is working under the supervision of Dr. Chase Rainwater on a project for the Department of Homeland Security. She is very active in her local church, St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish. In her free time, she also enjoys rock climbing and laying in her hammock and reading a good book.

Rachel Kraus — Sophomore, Allen, Texas
AAIE Jim and Jane Townsend Scholarship $500
AAIE Alice and Palmer Terrell Scholarship $500

Rachel is the daughter of Mary Helen and David Kraus. She is a 2010 graduate of Allen High School in Allen, Texas. Rachel is in her first year of engineering and has not made any specific plans for after graduation. She hopes to use her education to follow her passion for traveling. When she’s not studying or with friends, Rachel loves running, reading, writing and playing the piano.
Sergio Maldonado — Senior, La Paz, Bolivia
AAIE Jim and Pat Hubbard Scholarship $2000
AAIE Ron and Betty Morris Scholarship $1000

Sergio is the son of Sergio Maldonado and Patricia Soria Galvarro. Raised in La Paz, Bolivia, he graduated from German School and moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2007. At the suggestion of his father, he opted to continue his studies in the United States. Currently he is working on research in optimization; however, the area he is most interested in is logistics. Sergio is a member of Tau Beta Pi and Alpha Pi Mu, in his spare time he enjoys sports, playing the guitar and photography. After graduation Sergio would like to gain some experience in the engineering field before returning to Bolivia to take over his family’s business.

Jordon Morris — Senior, Van Buren, Arkansas
AAIE Ron and Betty Morris Scholarship $1000
AAIE Wayne and Bonnie Crandell Scholarship $500
AAIE Bill and Mary Lou Cravens Scholarship $500
Ron and Betty Morris AAIE Scholarship $4000

Jordon is the son of Steve Morris and Mary Beth Green. He graduated from Van Buren High School in 2008, and is pursuing a degree in industrial engineering. Jordon is a justice for the Associated Student Government Judiciary and an active member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. After obtaining his bachelor’s degree, he plans to attend law school. In his free time he enjoys tennis, fishing, and going to the lake with friends and family.

Maxine Phansiri — Senior, Van Buren, Arkansas
AAIE Dana and Christie Sedgass Scholarship Honoring Hamdy Taha $2000

Maxine is the daughter of Andrew and Virakhone Phansiri. She grew up in Van Buren, AR, where she graduated from Van Buren High School in 2008. She plans to graduate with a BSIE in spring of 2012. Maxine is interested in the ergonomics and statistics application of industrial engineering and plans to seek a position in manufacturing after graduation. She is an active member of Phi Sigma Rho Sorority, IIE, Lao American Organization, and the Society of Women in Engineering. Last year Maxine was co-founder of the Lao American Organization on campus. In her free time she enjoys watching movies, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.
Kelli Schlais — Sophomore, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Taft, O’Neal, Geels Scholarship $1000

Kelli is the daughter of Tim and Becky Schlais. She is a sophomore at the University of Arkansas and is a graduate of Stillwater High School in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In high school Kelli interned at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX and knew then that engineering was the career path for her. She is now looking to get a business minor and focus on the business and logistics side of industrial engineering. When Kelli is not studying at school, she loves to watch sports with her family, especially college wrestling and baseball. Kelli is close to her family and thanks them for all their support.

Emily Strickland — Sophomore, Eagle River, Alaska
John Selig Scholarship $1000

Emily is currently completing her sophomore year majoring in industrial engineering. On campus she is a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and a team leader for Students Supporting Multiple Sclerosis Research (SSMSR). Emily moved to Arkansas from Alaska due to the disability of her father to Multiple Sclerosis. She says, “growing up with this disease has molded me into the person I am today. Watching his strength made me stronger and seeing his faith made me believe in the dreams I had for myself.” Emily feels much of her father’s success is directly due to the tools created by engineers. This she says, is the basis for her decision to become an industrial engineer. Emily is deeply grateful for the support of the University of Arkansas and the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering.

Morgan Ulesich — Junior, Willard, Missouri
AAIE Ralph and Andrea Sandage Scholarship $500
AAIE Scholarship $1000

Morgan Ulesich is the daughter of Ginger and LaVern Ulesich. She graduated from Willard High School in Willard, MO in 2009. She will be a junior in the industrial engineering program in fall 2011. She has always enjoyed math and problem solving, so she knew industrial engineering was where she belonged. Outside of studying, Morgan enjoys hanging out with friends, watching movies, and doing anything adventurous. Her favorite thing to do though is watch the Green Bay Packers, and any type of Razorback athletic event.
Hector Vergara — Graduate, Ecuador  
Eric Malstrom Endowed Memorial Scholarship $1500

Hector Vergara is the son of Margarita Arteaga and Hector U. Vergara. In 2002, he received a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Quito, Ecuador. During his senior year, he attended Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon as an exchange student. After receiving his undergraduate degree, he returned to the United States for graduate studies at Oregon State University and in 2005 he received a Master’s of Science in Industrial Engineering. In Ecuador, Hector worked as an industrial engineering instructor at Universidad San Francisco de Quito for two and a half years. This experience encouraged him to pursue a Ph.D. in industrial engineering and he chose to attend the University of Arkansas. His professional goal after completing his Ph.D. is to become a university professor.

Sarah Wood — Junior, North Little Rock, Arkansas  
AAIE Gene and June Staggs Scholarship $500  
AAIE Scholarship $1000

Sarah is the daughter of Sandra Wood of North Little Rock, AR. A graduate of Central Arkansas Christian High School, Sarah is currently pursuing an industrial engineering degree with an emphasis on sustainability. She is excited about beginning research in the area of home healthcare and her upcoming internship opportunities. Sarah is an active member of Alpha Pi Mu, IIE and Student Ambassadors. Every summer Sarah volunteers with Ozark Mission Project where she leads youth in construction projects benefiting the local communities. In her spare time, she likes to workout and spend time outdoors.

Jon Whitmore — Senior, Plano, Texas  
AAIE David and Nancy Foust Scholarship $500  
AAIE Bill and Margaret Harrison Scholarship $500  
AAIE Lowrance and Marilyn Hodge Scholarship $500

Jonathan Whitmore is the son of Marcia and David Whitmore. He attended Plano Senior High School in Plano, Texas. Jon will be a senior during the 2010-2011 school year pursuing an industrial engineering degree as well as a minor in computer science at the University of Arkansas. Jon is the vice president of the University of Arkansas Bowling Club. Jon’s interests lie in pursuing a career in ergonomic design and application of consumer electronics after graduation. In his free time Jon enjoys being around friends and family, playing sports, traveling, and cooking.
Dee Yusuf — Sophomore, Nigeria
AAIE Scholarship in Memory of Steven Tidwell $500
AAIE Dewey and Catherine Freeman Scholarship $500
AAIE Scholarship $1000

Adeola (known as Dee by most), daughter of Jide and Isabella Yusuf, is an international student from Nigeria and is majoring in industrial engineering. She has also decided that it would be beneficial to have a minor in math. Adeola is currently secretary of the African Students Organization for the 2010-2011 academic year and she is also a peer mentor in the Freshman Engineering Program. Her hobbies include reading novels, having fun with friends and family, and listening to music. She is very serious and focused on her work. Her pathway to success includes confidently being herself, always being prepared for hard work, keeping faith, and knowing how to balance work with play.
On behalf of the scholarship recipients and the Department of Industrial Engineering, we would like to extend our most sincere gratitude.

Thank you for your commitment of support to the IE Department and to these scholars, as we strive to prepare this generation of engineers for the competitive global marketplace.