



# The Dodecahedron



## Communications, Business Processes, Innovation to Solve Problems and Creation of Opportunities. Kent says, "IE's nail it!"

Many alumni have distinguished and exciting careers and many have been featured in past editions of the DODEC. In an effort to demonstrate the amazing diversification and versatility of an IE degree at the U of A, this article will feature Kent Burnett, one of our most successful graduates.

Kent completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from University of Arkansas in 1968. He immediately went to work as a systems engineer for IBM in Little Rock. He had to take a two year hiatus for his country while serving in the army before coming back to Little Rock with IBM.

While at IBM, Kent worked with several companies and various industries including liquor stores, medical clinics and several in the retail industry where he evaluated needs, developed strategies and installed computer systems. One of his retail clients was Dillard's a locally owned department store. While assigned to Dillard's as a Systems Engineer he installed very innovative systems such as online ticketing and a POS (Point of Sale) system replacing the cash register while establishing some very important relationships with Dillard's management.

In the early 70's he was transferred to Minneapolis, Minnesota with IBM where he was the manager of the systems engineering unit. He managed the upper Midwest with offices in Minneapolis, St. Louis and Kansas City. He focused on the retail and supermarket industries. Some of his clients included Dayton Hudson Department Stores. Dayton's had a little experimental store in St. Paul that had a big red and white "target" as their logo. He jokingly remarks that he often wonders what became of that little store experiment.

From there he was transferred to Raleigh, North Carolina where he worked in the IBM Retail Industry Staff. He worked on market research for the retail and supermarket industry throughout the country. His group supported the IBM sales and marketing teams with major presentation to large retail customers such as FW Woolworth and Sears among many others.



*Kent Burnett with his wildlife photography*

### Dillard's Calls

In September 1979 he was hired by Dillard's, Inc. and returned to Little Rock where he was very glad to be home once more for good (or so he thought). He began work there as Chief Information Officer. During the next five years, he and Bill Dillard, himself a University of



*With wife Debby at Riddle's Elephant and Wildlife Sanctuary, Quitman, Arkansas*

*(Continued on page 8)*

Fall 2014

### AAIE Officers

Mike Gross  
*President*

Angela Kuli  
*President-Elect*

Ken Gaines  
*Secretary*

Jonathan Fite  
*Treasurer*

Tarek Taha  
*Past President*

### Inside this issue:

From the President .....	2
Scholarship News .....	3
From the Department .....	4
Note from Kim Needy .....	5
A4U .....	6
Global Studies .....	7
Membership .....	10

*“The Industrial Engineering Department is growing and leading the way in so many areas. ...Find a way to become involved.”*

## From the President...

Fellow Academy Members –

It’s a privilege to serve as your AAIE President this year. I never would have imagined as Alan Hope and I were “cramming” for our Dynamics final during my final semester at the University that 30 years later I would be in this position. It is an honor. It brought back a lot of memories when my daughter was attending the U of A and told me that she was taking Statics under Dr. Jong. The Circle of Life.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Ed Pohl as our new Department Head and AAIE is looking forward to working with him to continue to strive to make the department the best in the country. I also want to congratulate Dr. Kim Needy on her promotion to the Dean of Graduate School and International Education. Dr. Needy provided great leadership to the IE Department and it has been a pleasure working with her over the past several years.

The University of Arkansas had a record enrollment of over 26,000 students in 2014 compared to around 12,000 when I enrolled in 1979. The Industrial Engineering Department is also growing and leading the way in so many areas. This offers many challenges and our professors and staff are doing a tremendous job under Dr. Pohl’s leadership.

I encourage you to check out the new informational video on the IE website ([www.ineg.uark.edu/aaie](http://www.ineg.uark.edu/aaie)). It will make you proud.

Your Board of Directors is working hard to provide the leadership to help the IE students. At our summer meeting in Rogers, we spent time reviewing our Strategic Plan and made recommendations

for improvement. We heard reports from each committee chair (Publications, Publicity, Global Studies, A4U, Scholarship, and Membership). Our students are benefiting from scholarships, participating in Global Studies, and growing from our Mentor Programs and Mock Interviews. All of this is made possible by your continued donations and participation. Thank you.



**Mike Gross, BS '84  
President**

I would encourage everyone to find a way to become more involved in AAIE. You may live and work a great distance from Fayetteville but you can still be involved. Look at the committee list and contact me or the department to join one of the committees. This is a great way to re-connect with the U of A and the IE Department.

Also, AAIE’s growth depends on a continued influx of new members. We all know someone that we work with or graduated with that would be a great member. Please send nominations to our Membership Chair, Brian Noland (see his article on page 10).

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me. I would love to hear from you. I look forward to seeing each of you at our annual meeting in April.

**Mike Gross (BSIE '84)  
Md144-77@sbcglobal.net**

**Mark those calendars! 2015 AAIE meetings are on April 24-25**

## Scholarship News



**Bob Etien, BS '66  
Scholarship Chair**

Another school year has started, 2014-15. For me this time of year always brings back memories of good times at the U of A-- Razorback Football, new friends, seemingly endless Sunday afternoon trips up the Pig Trail crammed into the back seat of a friend's car, etc.

However, my first U of A memory predates any of these fun times in the 60's.

I'll always remember the look on my mother's face when I informed her tuition at Arkansas would be \$100 per semester. She quickly reminded me that was exactly double the \$50 we had paid the last two years at Arkansas Tech. "Are you sure you want to be an engineer," she asked? The conversation didn't get any better after I informed her that the \$100 was for unlimited hours, as she immediately asked why I was taking only 18 hours. Why not twenty-five?

### The Challenge

So what does my trip down memory lane have to do with your AAIE Endowed Scholarship Programs? From a personal perspective it reminds me of just a few of the reasons my wife and I support these

programs. Even though the costs of attending the U of A are often lower than those charged by many other top rated industrial engineering schools, they are substantial. It gives me pleasure to inform you that AAIE Endowments have now surpassed \$1,500,000:

Academic	\$855,000
Needs Based	\$325,000
Global Studies	\$395,000

This spring \$100,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving students. Of this total \$63,000 came directly from AAIE Endowments, and an additional \$17,000 was from AAIE members thru private endowments. AAIE members contributed \$80,000 in scholarships. These numbers should make all members proud, and I encourage each of you to visit [www.ineg.uark.edu/aaie](http://www.ineg.uark.edu/aaie) for updates.

So where do we go from here? Why not \$100,000 of AAIE Scholarships? How do we get there? Sustained giving designated specifically for IE scholarships! I'll repeat the challenge made at our last annual meeting. Why not 100% member participation at any level above annual dues? AAIE is making a difference! Let's keep it growing.

### Scholarship Committee

Bryan Billingsly	Sam Chaffin
Kelvin Dedner	Dewey Freeman
Tim McKenzie	Bob Etien

**“AAIE  
endowments  
have now  
surpassed  
\$1,500,000”**

**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

### Did You Know? Tuition and Fees

**Average published tuition and fees for in state students at public four year institutions was \$8,893 in 2013-14. At \$9,498, room and board charges account for more than half of the total charges.**

*Trends in College Pricing 2013*



*“The college is working on releasing a new strategic plan designed to support the University’s goal of becoming a top 50 public research university by 2021”*

## From the Department...

Dear Academy Members,

It is my pleasure to address you for the first time in my new role as Department Head. This past year has been one of transition in the Department of Industrial Engineering. Dr. Kim LaScola Needy, who served as Department Head since 2008, has accepted the position of Dean of the Graduate School and International Education at the University of Arkansas. While we are sad to see Kim leave, we are fortunate that we will continue to work with her in her new role here at the University of Arkansas.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and leadership that Kim provided to the department over the last six years. Under her leadership, the department developed a five year strategic plan that created a shared vision for the department, hired outstanding junior faculty members, saw graduate and undergraduate enrollments grow, saw an increase in the number of national awards for the faculty, and continued to be one of the most visible and active departments in the college. The department is grateful for Kim’s dedicated service and leadership.

While change is difficult in the short term, it presents us with not only new challenges, but new opportunities to think creatively and be innovative. It has been and will continue to be a very busy year for the department. We continue to maintain a vibrant undergraduate program, our MSIE and PhD programs continue to grow in enrollment numbers, and our professional Master of Science in Operations Management remains the largest graduate program on campus.

We are proud to announce the recent creation of the Department of Transportation sponsored center, Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center (MarTREC), under the direction of Dr. Heather Nachtmann. This center received a second installment of funding



**Dr. Ed Pohl**

this fall of \$1.4 Million, for a total of \$2.8 million.

The faculty and staff have been busy making final preparations for our fall ABET accreditation visit. The department has begun a national search to fill the Hefley Professorship in Logistics and Entrepreneurship as well as a search for an Assistant Professor. The college is working on releasing a new strategic plan designed to support the University’s goal of becoming a top 50 public research university by 2021. Following that we will begin work to revise and align our department strategic plan with the college’s plan.

We are excited to welcome to campus our newest faculty member, Dr. Harry Pierson, who joins our faculty as an Assistant Professor. Harry comes to us from The Ohio State University. Harry’s research interests are in process and system design for industrial

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

manufacturing. We are fortunate to be able to welcome back Dr. Greg Parnell who joined our faculty in the fall of 2013 as a Visiting Professor. Greg comes to us after a distinguished military career in the Air Force followed by 15 years of service on the faculty at the United States Military Academy. Greg is one of the nation's leading experts in the area of Decision and Risk Analysis, having served on several National Research Council committees. Greg has stepped in this fall to lead our Operations Management Program.

In closing, I am honored and extremely excited to step into my new role as

department head. I am fortunate to be able to work with an outstanding faculty, dedicated staff, excellent students and an exceptional group of giving and motivated alumni whose support and hard work continue to help us improve our standing as one of the emerging leaders among industrial engineering departments. Please feel free to contact us and stop by for a visit when you are close by.

*Warmly,  
Edward A. Pohl, Ph.D.  
Department Head and  
21st Century Professor  
of Industrial Engineering*

## **GSIE? Is That a New Degree in the Department? A Message from the New Dean of the Graduate School and International Education**

Dear Academy Members,

Greetings from the Graduate School and International Education! There have certainly been a lot of changes since my last DODEC communique. On April 10, 2014 Provost Sharon Gaber asked me to step into the role as Interim Dean of the Graduate School and International Education; and on August 1, I was named the Dean. Stepping away from the Department of Industrial Engineering was not easy because it is like a second home to me. The faculty, staff, students, alumni and AAIE members have grown near and dear to my heart over the past six years since I arrived on campus, and I will always consider it a great fortune to have led this wonderful department with your strong support.

Interestingly, I still get to work with my industrial engineering friends in my new role. For example, the Operations Management Program remains the largest graduate program at the U of A and I look to it for best practices. In addition, one of

my primary areas of focus is on international education which aligns directly with the global studies initiative started by Dr. Imhoff. My industrial engineering skills are put to the test each day as I study processes and determine how to make improvements.



*Dr. Kim Needy*

So, what areas of responsibility are included in the Graduate School and International Education (GSIE)? GSIE consists of the offices of the Dean; Graduate Student Activities; Graduate Recruitment and Student Financial Support; International Recruitment & Graduate and International Admissions; Study Abroad and International Exchange; International Students and Scholars; Sponsored Student

*(Continued on page 11)*

*“Our mission is to support the strategic goals of the U of A to continue as a very high research university...”*

## A4U: Academy Focused on Recruitment, Retention and Readiness of Undergraduate Students Update

The A4U committee has three focus areas:

- Mentor Circles – provide guidance to graduate and undergraduate students on careers and school.
- Mock Interviews for IE students – prepare students for the demands of job interviewing.
- Guest Lecturers – provide a stable of speakers to the IE faculty and student organizations that bring real world, work experiences into the classroom.

A review of each area is provided below.

### Mentor Circles

Invitations were sent to all IE undergraduate and graduate students, AAIE, and the Institute of Industrial Engineer (IIE) organization in Northwest Arkansas in August. Thirty-four students signed up for the Mentor Circle program and twenty-four mentors. Two mentor circles were for graduate students and the other six were for undergraduates. A kick-off mixer was organized by the IE Department on September 20th. Last year we piloted the mentor circle idea successfully with three mentor circles, and this year we are trying to grow and see what we can do. Thanks to all of the members that volunteered to be mentors. Dr. Tish Pohl has been invaluable as our faculty support member and Megan Peters has done a great job as our liaison to the IIE organization. I look forward to reporting great things from this program in the next newsletter.

### Mock Interviews

Mock interviews were held on September 25th, always before the fall STEM Career Fair (this year on October 1). Our usual partners have all signed up to support this initiative: ABF, JB Hunt, and Wal-Mart. You don't have to be a big organization to join in this activity. Anyone that considers themselves a good interviewer is welcome to participate.

Currently, each student has one mock interview. We know it would be better to practice interviewing multiple times and with multiple interviewers. That is the goal going forward, and we will need your help in achieving that goal. In the next newsletter, I'll provide a summary of the number of interviewers and interviewees that participated this year.



**Vance Clement**  
BS '92

### Guest Lecturers

We are organizing a bank of industrial engineering talent that the IE Department can call on to supplement their teachings with real world applications. IE Faculty are sometimes at conferences/meetings and may have need for a substitute. Rather than cancel class, we propose bringing in someone to guest lecture. If you are interested, please email me at [vance.clement@gmail.com](mailto:vance.clement@gmail.com).

It doesn't matter if you have a logistics, finance, medical device or consulting background. What matters is that you are enthusiastic and can add value to what the students are learning in the classroom. You won't be lecturing three or four times a semester, more like once a year/semester.

### Conclusion

I encourage you to pick an activity and to get involved. Each activity only takes two or three days a year at most. I find it hard to find a volunteer activity that fits into my schedule, but these fit the bill easily. We need you and your expertise, so please consider lending a hand.

Vance Clement  
A4U Committee Chair

*“Whether you mentor, interview, or teach, get involved!”*

## Global Experience: Global Studies Taken to Another Level

Global studies has long been a focus for the IE Department, driven first by the Imhoff Global Studies Endowment. Dr. Imhoff's vision has been validated more every year as global companies seek out graduates with international experience. Simultaneously, technology and best practice sharing of information have provided students with additional global experience. While Global Studies continues to be an important part of the Global experience, the challenge came from AAIE membership and the department to expand international programs. Ideas for other programs includes company sponsored interns and/or coops, senior design projects, student exchange programs, global speakers in the classroom and intersession overseas studies.

Over the spring/summer of this year, the IE department partnered with Walmart to test our first Global coop program. Two students one from the IE department, Daysi Guerra (So.) and one student studying International Business, Clair Finke (Sr.) worked in Mexico City supporting Walmart's Engineering Team in Mexico City (Walmex). The program was very successful in both project completion – students completed projects in wage

planning and fresh operations --- as well as developing talent for the future (Clair accepted a job offer). Feedback was very positive from the students highlighting: project management/ engineering, living/ working in another country and, now that they are back at school, a bigger relevance to their studies. Daysi even had the opportunity to present her learnings to other students at a recent Alpha Pi Mu Global Experience event. Coming soon – we will have a video on the AAIE website that gives a testimonial of the program from both Daysi and the business in Mexico. Walmart plans to continue the program next year.



*Ami Spivey  
BS '95*

Over the next month we'll have a video conference with AAIE members from global companies to talk about the pilot and other global opportunities. If you are interested in participating in the committee, its programs, or have ideas, contact me at [ami.spivey@walmart.com](mailto:ami.spivey@walmart.com).

*“Walmart’s pilot program was very successful, both in terms of project completion and developing talent for the future”*

## In Remembrance...

Rhonald (Ron) Morris (BSIE '57) died August 28, at his home in Dallas, TX. He is survived by Betty Morris, his wife of 55 years, two sons, two daughters-in-law, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Ron's family was poor and he realized he had to go to college to be successful in life and escape poverty. He started his career with General Electric in New York, then Texas Instruments, and earned an MBA with honors from SMU in 1966.

Ron was active in many professional, academic, and philanthropic organizations.

He received U of A's Outstanding Alumni Award and was elected to the U of A College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 2012.

Ron and Betty endowed many scholarships at U of A and at community colleges.



To honor Ron, the Board of Directors has authorized a one time, named scholarship in his honor to be awarded at the annual banquet next spring.

## ...Kent Burnett

*(Continued from page 1)*

Arkansas business and Harvard MBA graduate, collaborated and created some extremely innovative and cutting-edge software and computer systems. Among their projects was an online general ledger system. In fact, Dillard business technology is a recognized strategic asset.

Five years later Dillard's acquired Diamond Stores which consisted of three stores in Las Vegas and nine others in Phoenix and the Tucson area. Kent moved his family to Phoenix to become Chairman of the new division of Dillard's and incorporate Diamond Stores into the Dillard's corporate culture. Kent remained in that position for the next 22 years and expanded the division from the original 12 stores in Nevada and Arizona to 60+ stores throughout the upper mid-west including: California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, and Montana. Sales in his region exceeded 1 billion dollars during his tenure. As he had never been a buyer or store manager, he told the newly acquired division three things: that he would have more questions than answers, he would be death on expenses, and he would be quick to laugh. His sense of humor and openness served him and his company well and lead to unprecedented success. He was able to integrate and capitalize on the synergies of the two distinct companies by merging values with effective and efficient results.

### Back to Arkansas

In 2006, Kent moved to Dallas where he ran the southern stores which consisted of 180 stores from Florida to California. Four years later he finally returned to Little Rock as Corporate Senior Vice President with broad responsibilities. He manages their e-commerce and the IT department. Today the CIO reports to Kent. Brant Musgrave, Corporate Vice President of Stores has this to say about Kent, "I think he is very innovative and a visionary. He encourages people to think and gives them freedom to act. Everyone who meets him just loves him." He and his wife Debby love living back home in Arkansas. He enjoys seeing his old friends from his college days

and states, "I am so pleased to be able to contribute to what the College of Engineering and the IE Department is doing. It is very special".

Kent and Debby have always provided financial support and have contributed to the Chancellor's Fund. He currently sits on the College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council. He is a founding member of AAIE and currently serves on the Liaison Committee, an advisory board for the Department of Industrial Engineering.

Kent states, "The IE curriculum is well suited for more than engineering. It is also ideally suited for general business." In his experience he has seen the need for graduates who can communicate, study the business processes, innovate to solve problems and create opportunities. He adds, "IE's nail it!" Currently, he is on a campaign to hire more IE's at Dillard's.

His wife, Debby graduated in 1967 from the U of A with a Bachelors degree in English. Their son, Brian graduated from Arizona State with a business degree and currently works at Acxiom out of Conway.

*"The IE curriculum is well suited for more than engineering. It is also ideally suited for general business."*



*Kent Burnett and Alex Dillard*



## Global Studies: A View from the Expanding World of Kaitlyn Thomas

Kaitlyn Thomas wasn't sure what she wanted to do when she first came to the U of A, but through some influence of an uncle that was an engineer, she gave it a try. Once in the freshman engineering program, Kaitlyn learned about IE and found a match. She became interested in international travel following a 10-day trip to Greece during high school, but while pursuing IE, she heard about the Global Studies Study Abroad program and applied. The two international experiences in London and Prague supported by the program have been a great influence on her view of the world and her U of A-IE education.

When asked to provide some highlights and some interesting experiences during her study abroad program, she provided great material, so we'll let Kaitlyn tell you more about the experiences in her words.

### London

While in London, I took a class called "International Strategic Project Management." We watched videos on examples of good and poor project management, including one about the Millennium Bridge and its initial failures. I also wrote a 14-page research paper on the management of the construction, use, and deconstruction of the 2012 London Olympic stadium, a fascinating subject to research. The stadium was built to hold 80,000 seats but also built to be deconstructed after the Olympics into a smaller stadium seating only 25,000 for soccer matches.

I also took a class called "Necropolis: London and Its Dead." This class focused on historical, archeological, and anecdotal information about the cultural processes involved with burials in London from Pagan to Victorian times, covering topics such as the Black Death and the Great Plague of 1666. I toured five of the oldest cemeteries in London and saw the graves of Karl Marx and William Blake. Even though it sounds creepy, it was without a doubt the most unique and interesting class I've taken.

### London Fun Story

My roommates and I traveled a bit while in London, and one weekend we went to Barcelona. The first night, we arrived late and the only place we found still open and serving food did not understand English. I knew some Spanish, but not enough to read the menu. They just brought us different foods and they were all delicious. However, one plate of meat was a little suspicious. We are 94% sure we ate pig ears.



*Kaitlyn Thomas*

### Prague

In Prague, I took a class called "Business Practices in Central and Eastern Europe." The class examined topics such as foreign direct investment in Central and Eastern European countries and the transitions of these countries from a centrally-planned economy to a market-based economy after communism. My professor lived and worked in the Czech Republic under communist rule, during the transition from communism, and later under democratic rule. The insight she provided was so valuable and unique to my experience. I also had a research project analyzing the business environment in Slovenia and listing the benefits and risks of foreign direct investment in the country. Another interesting experience was a field trip to a Phillip Morris factory located in Kutná Hora, about an hour outside Prague. We toured the factory and saw the production process of cigarettes, from the arrival of the tobacco leaves, to the final packaging and shipping of cigarettes. The tour helped me see firsthand how different production processes flow together to make products.

In the class "Art and Architecture of Prague: The City Throughout Centuries",

*(Continued on page 11)*

*"It was amazing getting to learn all about the art and architecture of such a beautiful city while getting to experience it at the same time"*

*“Many of our members are in fields other than traditional IE fields, such as healthcare, banking, business owners, and other professions.”*

**To nominate new AAIE members, fill out the PDF nomination form available on the AAIE website:**

**<http://aaie.ineg.uark.edu/AAIE/Membership.html>**

**then email to:**

**Karen Standley  
standle@uark.edu**

**or mail to:**

**AAIE  
Dept of  
Industrial Engineering  
4207 Bell  
Engineering Center  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR 72701**

## Membership Committee

I am privileged to serve as the Membership Chair for the upcoming year. I would first like to commend Ken Gaines on his outstanding leadership while serving as our chair the past two years, which was evidenced by the academy inducting a total of 23 new members during his tenure.

Just to provide a little background on myself, I am a native of Fayetteville, AR and graduated in 1981. My father, Dr. Paul Noland, came to Fayetteville in 1951 as a professor in the Animal Science Department. He and my mother, Eunice, became friends with John and Lois Imhoff and the families spent many hours together with camping trips, canoeing and holiday gatherings. One of my neighbors growing up was Dr. Ron Skeith and both he and Dr. Imhoff were very influential in my pursuing a degree in Industrial Engineering for which I will be forever grateful. I recently retired from AT&T after 33 years of service. My wife, Ann and I reside in Little Rock and our children, both graduates of the U of A, live and work in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Currently, there are 18 nominees and if all candidates accept their nomination and are approved by the membership, we will meet or surpass our annual new member goal of 10 for the 6th year in a row. I appreciate all of you that have submitted candidates for membership in the academy and provide them the opportunity to connect with the Industrial Engineering Department in this special way.

One of the most valuable ways to get involved with AAIE is to nominate someone for membership. We all know someone that we graduated with or have worked with that would be a great member. AAIE is one of the strongest academies at the U of A and beyond, so an influx of new members each year has allowed us to continue to assist the IE Department in becoming the best in the country!

Just to refresh everyone’s memory, the basic requirements for membership are:

- University of Arkansas Industrial Engineering graduate
- At least 15 years (2000 or earlier) since earning a degree
- Professional activities that attest to a distinguished record in their career field.
- Genuine interest in supporting the excellence in the U of A Industrial Engineering Department

Many of our members are in fields other than traditional IE fields, such as healthcare, banking, business owners, and other professions.

Each candidate will be reviewed by the Membership Committee and then sent to the Academy Board. After the Academy Board reviews and recommends the nominees, a ballot will be sent to all active members for final acceptance.

If you think of someone who would be a great addition to our organization, please let us know. To nominate a candidate, please fill-out the nomination form (see instructions on left). Click on the Membership tab and then the Nominate a Member link and complete the nomination form with as much information as possible. Nominations should be submitted no later than December 31, 2014.

If you are interested in helping with membership or have questions, please e-mail [bnoland@prodigy.net](mailto:bnoland@prodigy.net) or call 817-980-6538.



**Brian Noland  
BS '81**

**Brian Noland  
Membership Chair**

(Continued from page 9)

our professor took us to multiple art museums, buildings, and structures around the city. It was amazing learning about the art and architecture of such a beautiful city.

### Prague Fun Story

One night, friends from the program went with me to see a movie, already saying we would like to get some buttered popcorn. However, the cashier didn't ask about butter, she asked, "salt or ham and cheese?" My roommate ordered salt before I could speak up. I missed the opportunity to try ham and cheese flavored popcorn, but am glad to know it exists!

### The Biggest Takeaways

Aside from all the practical takeaways, I learned so much about cultural differences and interacting with others. Furthermore, the confidence and sense of independence I

gained, learning how to navigate and live there for six weeks (twice) and make completely new connections with people made these experiences two of the most valuable of my life. Traveling abroad gave me a sense of exploration, both at home and for other countries.

I've learned how big the world is and how there is so much to see anywhere you go. Most of all, however, meeting people from all around the world and the close friends I made through both programs are my biggest takeaways. I now have friends and connections all over the U.S. who I still keep in touch with to this day and have even reunited with in other states.



*"...meeting people from around the world and the close friends I made through both programs are my biggest takeaways"*

## Kim LaScola Needy...

(Continued from page 5)

Programs; and six cross-college interdisciplinary programs including Cell & Molecular Biology, Environmental Dynamics, Microelectronics-Photonics, Public Policy, Space & Planetary Sciences, and our newest program in Statistics & Analytics. GSIE is the dean's office for all graduate students except those in the Graduate School of Business (master's programs in the Walton College of Business) and Law.

Our vision, mission and goals encompass our dedication to the recruitment, admission, retention of graduate students from Arkansas, across the U.S. and the world, as well as service to the U of A. Specifically, our vision is to assist the U of A in excelling in research, teaching, training and service while fostering student and scholar success and enhancing the overall student academic experience. Our mission is to support the strategic goals of the U of A to continue as a

very high research university; recruit, retain and graduate high-caliber students; advocate for students and student success; facilitate intercultural and international experiences to increase global competencies; and assist in the development of international, interdisciplinary and graduate programs.

I am so pleased with the naming of Dr. Ed Pohl as the new department head. I can tell you that the department is in GREAT hands! If you haven't had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Pohl, then you are in for a real treat.

Finally, I have a new office in the recently renovated Ozark Hall 213. When you are on campus, please stop by to say hello. I look forward to continuing to work with you and seeing you at the annual spring banquet if not sooner.

**Warmly,  
Kim Needy**

*"A portion of the mission is to facilitate intercultural and international experiences to increase global competencies"*



*We're on the web [www.ineg.uark.edu/aaie](http://www.ineg.uark.edu/aaie)*

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

234

---

**The Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering (AAIE) was established in 1986 to recognize the achievements of University of Arkansas Industrial Engineering graduates and to provide continuing guidance and support to the Department of Industrial Engineering.**

**The Academy also provides its members with the opportunity to nurture and support the organization that played an important role in their professional growth and development.**

**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.**

**You may contact  
the editor at  
[Mike.Ogle@UNCC.edu](mailto:Mike.Ogle@UNCC.edu)**

**The still rookie year editor would like to thank long-time editor, Donna Young, for producing not just a great series of previous DODECs, but for continuing to contribute excellent front page personal industry profiles.**