



The Dodecahedron



Better Ingredients, Better Engineers: Bryan Hill

At the risk of ripping off the Papa John's pizza chain and their commercials with the title above, it is a many-faceted challenge to get the right students with the right preparation into engineering, nurture them through their studies, then connect them with the companies that rely on the U of A's talent for their future. Make, bake, and deliver the student in four years (without the money back guarantee). It is not always a clear and focused path presented to Bryan Hill (BSIE 2003, MSIE 2007), Assistant Dean for Student Recruitment and Diversity, Honors and International Programs to navigate, but it is the nature of this valuable position in the College of Engineering. His is a position that is dedicated to do whatever is necessary to help students succeed, develop diversity, help the development of the college, provide teacher workshops, and even reach into the K-12 schools to enhance math and science instruction.

Recruiting Began Early as a Student

Bryan served as part of the College of Engineering's student recruiting group while earning his BSIE degree. As many of you may recall, there was a group of student recruiters started by Rick Malstrom that wore red jackets. Then IE's success with that effort led Dean Neil Schmitt to make the effort college-wide around 2005. Bryan said when his group of recruiters started, "the red coats died with us" because it became too difficult to find enough red jackets for the number of students involved in the program. In his day, the memorable experiences were the student trips (particularly to IIE conferences) and getting to know the faculty as a graduate student in IE. An interesting fact is that three of the current IE faculty were his classmates.

Bryan sees the current generation as, "students that want to make a difference in the world, not just in math and science." He sees a strong interest in sustainability, and a greater independence (contrasted with worries about dependent students and their helicopter parents of 5-6 years ago). Students want to find their own way, but want programs in place that help them discover and develop talents. Most students and parents now ask about ROI. The current student profile is also changing with a diversity developed using targeted programs that have been some of his proudest achievements. Since taking on the assistant dean role in 2009, the College's undergraduate enrollment has increased 84.5% (1770 to 3265), the % of undergraduate females has increased from 17.9 to 22.5% (317 to 735) and the % of ethnic minorities has increased from 16.8 to 21.9% (298 to 715).

He has seen IE overcome perceptions of the "imaginary engineer" due to the success of the graduates, the productivity of the faculty, and the number of strong programs and initiatives that began in IE and spread through the college. There are many leadership positions throughout the university that include people with IE backgrounds and connections.



*Bryan Hill,
Assistant Dean for
Student Recruitment
and Diversity, Honors
and International
Programs*

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Spring 2016

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“We were each educated in a culture that taught us to contribute to our profession and inspired us to serve our communities.”

**Mark those calendars!
2016 AAIE
meetings are
on April 8-9**

From the President...

Dear Fellow Academy Members,



**Angela Kuli, BS '92
President**

Wow what a year!

I first would like to thank each of you for your continued support of our Department, the Faculty, Staff, and students!! It all culminates each spring with our annual Academy events. Everyone is gearing up for a wonderful

celebration during our Annual Banquet, Meeting, and Picnic scheduled April 8-9th, in Fayetteville.

This year's banquet will be held at Fayetteville Town Center, right on the Fayetteville town square. Our annual meeting will be held on campus in Bell Engineering Center, bringing it all back to where the work really happens. And of course, please include the annual picnic in your weekend schedule, being held in the Imhoff Student Center and catered by our forever favorite, Catfish Hole.

Be there for the 30th!

This year's annual events are especially distinct in that we are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of our Academy. Although Department Head Bob Emerson was instrumental in the beginning, it was Dr. Rick Malstrom, succeeding Bob in 1987, and former Academy President Larry Stephens along with fourteen charter members who provided the professional leadership that solidified the Academy.

Over the years, our annual banquet has established many traditions, including Red Coats, jazz bands, kazoo bands, chocolate hogs, calling the Hogs, and most recently, our silent auction. Every year one tradition is certain: the induction of fellow alumni that have set themselves apart through accomplishment in their chosen career field. We are proud to be introducing 11 new members at the banquet who will be inducted during the Annual Meeting on Saturday morning. Our annual meeting will

also include the department update from Dr. Pohl, the treasurer's report from Jonathon Fite, committee breakout sessions, and other matters of business.

Make your mark on the next 30!

Our Academy has made significant contributions to the department through our gifts of time, service and donations. We have 6 committees that work diligently to provide solid opportunities for students and to further the goals of our Academy. These committees are: A4U (Academy Focused on Recruitment, Retention, and Readiness of Undergraduates), Global Experience, Membership, Publications, Publicity, and Scholarship. The goals and responsibilities of these committees can be found on our website (aaie.uark.edu). There are many ways to get connected regardless of how near or far you may reside. I hope you will find your place in the great activities of the Academy.

It has been a great year!

This year has seen growth in many of our Academy's activities. There has been marked expansion in many of our core programs. The support we receive from the faculty and staff of our department is phenomenal. Our programs would not occur were it not for the department resources. I give a big thanks and appreciation to our faculty and staff.

Finally, I would be amiss to not give credit where it is due: to your Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairpersons. Listed here in alphabetical order: Mark Brewer, Vance Clement, Jeff Ervin, Bob Etien, Melinda Faubel, Jonathon Fite, Ken Gaines, Mike Gross, Brian Noland, Mike Ogle, and Ami Spivey. Their time, support, and contributions have been stellar this year and I am very grateful and honored to have worked alongside them as President.

Can't wait to see you and celebrate with you in April!

Warmest Regards,
Angela Kuli (BSIE '92)
angela.kuli@ahkcons.com

Scholarship News



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

By the time you read this edition of the DODEC, the 2015-2016 academic year will be winding to an end, and I believe AAIE will have experienced the second consecutive year for exceeding \$100,000 of donations for scholarships.

These levels appeared to be unrealistic just a few short years ago, but you've made it happen.

To those of you who actively participated through donations this year, to those who have donated in the past and to those who are just starting to think about ways to get more involved in the future, Thank You, Thanks to each and every one of you!

Your positive response to the AAIE \$2,000,000 Scholarship Campaign featuring the \$150,000 matching pool has been unprecedented in AAIE history.

Please take a look at the numbers in the table for the last several years to get a picture of what you are accomplishing. What was once a great collection of contributions has grown tremendously stronger because of your generosity and commitment to the students.

Year	Donations	Donors
2010	\$42,000	54
2011	\$31,000	35
2012	\$41,000	47
2013	\$23,000	33
2014	\$42,000	39
2015	\$108,000	65
2016*	\$70,000	40

**Feb YTD*

During this same 2010-2015 time frame undergraduate scholarship awards that are directly supported by your contributions have grown from approximately \$25,000 to in excess of \$65,000 annually.

There is still plenty of time to participate this school year, and it is now easier than ever to make a donation and pay dues. I invite you to go to our web site, AAIE.UARK.edu, click on the "Giving" tab, then select the Scholarship Endowment you would like to support.

Records are made to be celebrated momentarily and then broken by a new performance. Let's all stay involved and make this another record year!

Scholarship Committee

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

"Thanks to each and every one of you that have actively participated through donations this year."

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

OR

Go online at
aaie.uark.edu
Select the
"Giving" tab
And select the
endowment you
would like
to support.



Did You Know? Occupational Outlook for Industrial Engineers

Median pay for Industrial Engineers in 2014 was \$81,490.

United States Department of Labor — Bureau of Labor Statistics
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/industrial-engineers.htm>

From the Department...

Dear Academy Members,

Spring has sprung and the dogwood trees have begun blooming around campus. We also know its springtime because the pace of the academic year moves into high gear. We have been involved in many activities this semester including faculty searches to fill three positions, open house events to host the students in our Freshman Engineering Program (FEP), and preparing for our program review.

Regarding current faculty searches, we have three positions, including an Assistant Professor in analytics, a Professor to be appointed to the 21st Century Research Leadership Chair in the area of analytics, and a Professor to be the John and Mary Lib White Systems Integration Chair. We have hired Dr. Kaveh Bastani from Virginia Tech who will begin as an Assistant Professor in the fall semester. We expect to provide results of the other two searches at the April 9 AAIE business meeting.

The college's Freshman Engineering Program (FEP) spends the academic year educating freshmen about the different disciplines in the college. Each of the eight departments presents to the freshmen class, then we each host open house events to recruit them to our department. In early March FEP has a Decision Day event where the freshmen select their departments. It is always a big event in the college. The event format is modeled like an NFL Draft Day. At the bottom of the page are photos from

this year's event. IE recruited 65 freshmen who will begin with us in the fall term.

The department conducts an annual Liaison Committee review by alumni, academic, and industrial members. The AAIE immediate Past-President, Mike Gross chaired the committee. The seven member team met with faculty, staff, and students on March 9 and 10 to assess the program. We received very positive feedback along with some helpful guidance regarding continuous improvement. We appreciate the valuable contribution of this committee.

AAIE's 30th Anniversary reminds us what a distinguishing factor our Academy is for the department. We are fortunate to have the support and resources provided by AAIE. We are also excited to celebrate many achievements of our alumni which continue to bring positive visibility to the department. Among those during the past year are Larry Stephens (2015 Engineering of the Year by the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers) and Bill Harrison (2015 Andrew T. Boggs Service Award). In addition, David Foust will be inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Fame, David Humphrey will receive the College of



Dr. Ed Pohl

Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award, and our early career alumni award winner is Kevin Oden. All these alums will be recognized on April 9th at the Dean's Alumni Banquet. We hope to see you at the AAIE meetings.

"IE recruited 65 freshmen at this year's Freshman Engineering Program."



Freestyle Swimming Through Engineering: A Conversation with IE Student Athlete Nina Drolc

Nina Drolc first came to the attention of a Razorback swimming coach during matches in Europe while she was still in high school in Velenje, Slovenia. Little did she realize at the time how many more miles she would travel to become a Razorback and become an IE student. Nina competes as a freestyle swimmer, primarily in 50-200 meter individual distances and 200-800 meter relay teams. Any athlete that chooses engineering knows that they have two demanding masters, but Nina enjoys pursuing both.

Nina started in business first, but met a fellow swimmer that was in engineering. She enjoys the problem solving and working with numbers that she saw in engineering. The presentations and orientations provided by the College and IE professors were a big influence on her decision to switch. There are now four total engineers (Chemical, Industrial, and Mechanical) on her swim team due to the influence of Nina and her fellow engineering swimmers. She says, "There are some days we don't sleep," but also added, "we have the second highest GPA" as a team. Her favorite subjects so far are simulation modeling, manufacturing processes, and computer-aided design. She was thankful for faculty and student understanding of swimming's demands.

Moving to the U.S. has of course been a challenge, but Nina said, "Velenje and Fayetteville are similar size towns, both outdoorsy, but Fayetteville has a faster, more scheduled pace than back home." For her, it was, "like going home for vacation."

An interesting adjustment was moving from club teams in Slovenia to a rabid, mascot-loving, Southeastern Conference competitive environment. The fans are great and she enjoys being a Razorback. Her family questioned the Razorback on her face and the wearing of pigs on her clothing, but she is definitely proud to be

representing the Razorbacks and has worked to help her family understand the environment. One of her interesting moments was when she was walking through the Frankfurt, Germany airport with a Razorback logo on her clothes and having someone say, "Go Hogs!" to her.



Nina Drolc

A second adjustment was getting used to the amazing variety of fried foods. She was surprised, "to see how people in the U.S. will fry anything, even Oreos." She was also amazed at the number of restaurants, particularly fast-food. Her favorite food choices are focused more on Mexican and Chinese.

Nina has one year of engineering left and plans to have an internship this summer, followed by a job in the U.S., working with a visa for a year, but hopefully staying longer. She talked about the influence of other students on helping to shape her outlook and advises future athletes coming from other countries to meet new people and try new things. The many students in industrial engineering that have an opportunity to spend time with Nina must find that their world has also become smaller and richer at the same time.

When asked about preparing herself prior to a meet and a race, she said, "I like having my teammates around, joking, listening to music, and relaxing." The moment just before the race is time to take a deep breath, focus on your lane, and not the other girls. Sounds like a good strategy for exams as well.

"The faculty and students have been very understanding of the demands on a student athlete and engineer."



A4U: Recruitment, Retention and Readiness of Undergraduate Students

Most of the IE students graduating this spring are still trying to find that elusive first job and/or negotiate a salary for the first time. AAIE's Mentor Circle mentors are available to pass on their sage advice to the students needing to make these important decisions. Two of the mentors in my mentor circle this year graduated in the past five years. It is awesome that students can get advice from someone that was in their shoes and also get advice from someone that has a bit more mileage on the car (that's me), if you know what I mean!

Mentor Circles



Derek Malstrom
Mentor Circles

Derek Malstrom is running this committee for AAIE and doing a bang-up job. The eight mentor circles formed in the fall on average held two meetings during fall semester. Topics that were discussed in the fall semester were related to job hunting, things to think about

when considering getting a graduate degree, and determining the value of a co-op opportunity or an overseas experience. In the spring semester, the topics of conversation switch to the college/professional life transition, how to get started quickly at work, and what to expect at your first job. We asked students to fill out a survey on the program anonymously. Here are a few of their quotes concerning what they like best:

"Being able to talk to someone who has experienced many of the things that we, as students, are going through. That we are not the only ones that get nervous or have questions."

"They have given some helpful tips in interviewing and the first few months on the job."

"The venue to ask questions that may seem inappropriate to ask a future employer."

Dates for next fall's Mentor Circle Kick-off are set for Saturday, September 17th, 2016. Please put this on your calendar, and continue to support this program.

Mock Interviews

The Mock Interviews team led by Karen Jewell primarily is active in the fall, but she is using this semester to strategize about next year's improvements. The program was bigger and better than ever in 2015. The survey comments for this group were also positive about what they liked most about the program:

"It was a real enough interview to where students could get practice, but casual enough to where I felt that I could ask the employers questions that I have always wanted to ask."

"I loved the panel session following the interviews. It provides a candid opportunity for students to interact with recruiters."

The date for the 2016 Mock Interviews is Thursday, September 22, 2016. If you are interested in participating, please mark this date on your calendar.

Guest Lecturers

AAIE members continued to volunteer to support the Guest Lecturer program, expanding from five to eight Academy members available to teach when a professor needs our assistance.

Vance Clement
A4U Committee Chair



Vance Clement
A4U Chair, BS '92



Karen Jewell
Mock Interviews



"Pass on your sage advice to students needing to make important career decisions."

Exciting Global Studies Opportunities Continue...

Over the past three years, Walmart International has been pleased to provide IE students an opportunity to apply their academic learning to the international business world through an international cooperative education program. This year is no different. In fact, the past success with the global studies program has encouraged us to increase the number of positions and to diversify responsibilities even further.

When we first launched the program, two IE students worked directly with our business in Mexico. Today, we have expanded the program to include four IEs, each with different responsibilities. Maria Camila Ruiz and Edgar Manzanarez are working with our Mexico business while Carolina Quiroga and Aliyah Conley are working in corporate office roles that help align our organizational initiatives.



Aliyah Conley, Maria Camila Ruiz, Edgar Manzanarez and Carolina Quiroga

Maria Camila Ruiz is working on a project that helps improve service levels in our Mexico Sam's Clubs by standardizing procedures that will help us spend more time serving our members. Edgar Manzanarez is working on improving scheduling methods for administrative areas in our stores. He is updating standard procedures and defining workload measurements for each administrative role in four different store formats.

Carolina Quiroga is supporting the implementation of new international real estate technology and processes. In this role, she is part of a global planning team responsible for collaborating with technology teams and real estate professionals across Walmart's

international markets. Aliyah Conley is working with our international technology team to develop a business and technology road-mapping tool. This tool will give our markets visibility to implementation schedules for global systems to ensure we are well-prepared for new capabilities to serve customers.



Ami Spivey
Global Studies, BS '95

We are excited to work with these talented students at Walmart. Our momentum with the program is a genuine testament of the significant mutual benefits for the students and our organization.

To learn more about the global studies program, please

visit the Global Experience tab (aaie.uark.edu/global-studies/) to find examples of how your company can provide Global Experiences for IE students.

Ami Spivey
Chair, Global Experience Committee

"The global studies program has encouraged us to increase the number of positions and diversify responsibilities even further."

...Better Ingredients, Better Engineers: Bryan Hill

(Continued from page 1)

Bryan believes that the level of industry involvement and the role of organizations such as AAIE can make a great difference through its work directly with students in programs like mock interviews, resume workshops, and employer relations panels. Scholarship dollars are always welcome, but giving time and experiences to students is life changing as well. Bryan says, “don’t just think about the IE students, get started in your hometown to work with science, math, and engineering students and teachers.” He says the greatest influence is in grades 4-7.

In the, “if I knew then what I know now department,” Bryan says students now need more real-life experiences, travel and languages. Real life experiences with travel include faculty-led partnerships with other universities, study abroad programs, and internships with international based companies operating in the U.S. In addition, there are many other skills that are difficult to experience in the classroom, like negotiation.

Bryan is rightfully proud of his role in directing the UAtch program, a four-year teacher education program for earning both a degree in science or mathematics and a secondary school teaching license.



Training K-4 Teachers on New Arkansas Standards

He also co-developed the Engineering Career Awareness Program (ECAP) that has greatly increased diversity in engineering. In addition, the Training Arkansas Computer Teachers (TACT) program, with Dale Thompson, prepares high school teachers to teach computer science (Arkansas is the first state in the nation to require that all public high schools offer computer science courses). The ingredients he applies to the student pie become more varied and continue to increase the quality of Arkansas engineers.

Doing whatever is necessary to help students succeed, develop diversity, develop the college, and develop future talented students and teachers.



Group of Incoming Students to the Engineering Career Awareness Program



Profile of an AAIE Scholarship Donor

Who is that typical AAIE Scholarship Donor? This is the second in a series profiling a variety of our donors. Some are relatively new AAIE members, while others have been on board since day one. We may be different and unique in some ways, but we all share strong feelings that our contributions are making a difference by helping students realize their dreams. You help pass on a habit of reaching out to students to bring the next generation up as you provide the opportunity for the students to discover a career in IE. Below is a brief profile, and the second of more to come, of members who support AAIE Endowments. One of a group of more than 175 individuals making donations over the years.

Gene Staggs

BSIE 1971, MSIE 1972, AAIE 1993



Gene Staggs

Gene recalls that when he was in school IE did not have AAIE to support the Department and students. Fortunately, he received a small department scholarship one semester. He also had a co-op position with the Teletype Corporation in Little Rock that provided good experience and helped with expenses. Thanks to Dr. John Imhoff and the IE Department he received

a student teaching assistantship and the associated financial assistance. These are some of the reasons he supports the IE Department and students with his time and scholarship donations. Being a member of AAIE is just “paying forward” what he was fortunate enough to receive as a student.

Gene worked in Baton Rouge and Magnolia for the Ethyl/Albemarle Corporation from 1972 to 2008 in various capacities from Industrial Engineer to Director of Finance. The next five years were spent as Controller and Treasurer of KiOR, Inc. where the company developed a process for converting wood chips and other biomass to gasoline and diesel fuel.

He has served on the AAIE Board of Directors and chaired several committees, including the John Imhoff Global Studies Program. Over the years Gene was a member of the Magnolia School Board and an active board member and President of multiple United Way campaigns.

He and his wife, June, are now retired and live in Fayetteville. They have three children who have all graduated from the U of A. Adriane earned a degree in Interior Design and her sister, Sayward, received her Nursing degree. This past year Stuart, BSIE 2000, was inducted into AAIE.

Gene says “I encourage you all to ‘pay forward’ by getting involved in AAIE activities that support IE students and support our scholarship program. Also, be sure and check to see if your employer has a matching gifts program to add to your scholarship contributions. As a retiree of Albemarle Corporation my company matches my contributions dollar for dollar”.

Bob Etien, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Please consider setting up an automatic donation using a credit card, a new feature that many AAIE donors have adopted.

Or go online at aaie.uark.edu and select the “Giving” tab from the main menu.

“Being a member of AAIE is just paying forward what I was fortunate enough to receive as a student.”

Membership Committee – Eleven Nominees Approved for Induction

“Eleven nominees from a wide variety of backgrounds will be joining AAIE in it’s 31st class.”

AAIE members recently approved eleven nominees for induction in its 31st class as part of its 30th year. This group is a great inductee class that will further contribute to the success of AAIE and the Department. They bring diverse work backgrounds and experience to the academy that reflects on the quality of engineering ability and skill sets the IE Department produces each year. Please meet and welcome each of the following new members at the annual banquet and meeting on April 8th and 9th.

Ken Christian (BSIE 1982) – Ken is a native of Helena, Arkansas and started his career in Tulsa with Rockwell as a Facilities Engineer. He then worked for Arthur Young and Company in Tulsa and St. Louis, performing consulting work. He worked for the City of St. Louis as Special Advisor to the Mayor and for Bio-Energy, Inc. in Gainesville, FL as an Operations Consultant. He is currently at Stellar Management, LLC as Managing Principal assisting non-profit, community development corporations with economic and commercial real estate development. He and wife Sarah (BSE 1982 U of A) reside in St. Louis.

Eddie Collins (BSIE 1982) – Eddie is originally from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He held IE positions with McDonnell Douglas, Olivetti Supplies, Turbon Products USA, DHL Airways, Inc., and Turbine Airfoil Design. He then joined the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and U.S. Department of Commerce. He founded the Blacks in Government (BIG) Harrisburg, PA chapter and currently serves as President for We The People, a multi-racial advocacy and support group and serves as CEO of Journeyman Advancement (JA) LLC in Harrisburg, providing Alternative Rehabilitation Services for both men and women. Eddie received his MBA from the U of A in 1983. He resides with his family in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Dye (BSIE 2001) – A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, he has worked for the Franklin Electrofluid Company as Factory Automation Sales Engineer and for

Harrison Energy Partners (Trane) as an Energy Management Sales Engineer, receiving several awards. He currently works for Farmlink, Inc., an Agricultural Technology Company, serving as Vice-President – Sales. He has an MBA from the U of A in 2015. He and his family reside in Kansas City, Missouri.



Brian Noland
BS '81

Jean Rountree Fite (BSIE 2001) – Jean is originally from Little Rock. She worked for Dillard’s as Distribution Center Engineer, Senior IE, and in Supply Chain Analytics. She had responsibility for analyzing supply chain networks to assess and optimize distribution networks, transportation and inventory strategies and store sales trends. Jean currently works for The Container Store in Coppell, TX in Logistics Analytics. She will be the second member of her family inducted, following her husband, Jonathon Fite (inducted 2012). Jean and Jonathon and their family reside in Denton, Texas.

Donald Garrett (BSIE 1985) – Donald’s hometown is Forrest City, Arkansas. He has held Engineering and Consultant positions with the Defense Logistics Agency, Schneider Logistics, Meritus Consulting Services, QVC, and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Donald currently serves as Field Operations Industrial Engineer with the United States Postal Service at the Jackson Processing and Distribution Center in Jackson, Mississippi and is Owner/Consultant for Trailblazer Consulting Services in Glen Allen, Virginia. He and his family reside in Jackson, Mississippi.

Kathy Malstrom (Honorary Inductee) – Kathy is a native of Indiana. She attended Indiana University, earning a BSE in 1969 and MSE in 1972. Kathy began in Elementary Education in Indianapolis, then

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

worked as the Academic Counselor for Elementary Education at Iowa State. Kathy and Rick Malstrom moved to Fayetteville in 1987 when he became Chair of IE. She then worked in real estate and as the Academic Counselor and Teacher Certification Officer for the U of A until she retired in 2013. Kathy enthusiastically supported AAIE and hosted many functions in their home. She joins her son Derek (inducted 2015) and former Department Head, Dr. Rick Malstrom as members of AAIE. Kathy resides in Fayetteville.

Dr. Kim LaScola Needy (Honorary Inductee) – Dr. Needy is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. She has BSIE (1984) and MSIE (1987) degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. Her Ph.D. in IE is from Wichita State in 1993. She worked for PPG as a Programmer Analyst and Program Manager and Boeing in Wichita, KS as a Lead Systems Analyst. Kim’s academic career began in 1993 at the University of Pittsburgh before moving to the U of A in 2008 as Chair of IE. She currently serves as Dean, Graduate School and International Education. She is immediate Past President of IIE. Kim is currently chairing the Chancellor’s Commission on Women. Dr. Needy and family reside in Fayetteville.

Trey Shofner (BSIE 2000) – Trey is a native of Elkins, Arkansas. He held a position with LaBarge Electronics as a Project Engineer before moving to Marshalltown Company in Fayetteville to be a Project Engineer and currently serves as Manager of Manufacturing Engineering. Trey has obtained Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt and Blackbelt Certification. He operates a beef cattle farm near Fayetteville where Trey and family reside.

Nancy Sloan (MSOR 1999) – Nancy’s hometown is West Memphis, AR. She received her BA in Education from Arkansas Tech University before she obtained her MSOR. Nancy worked in the Fayetteville Public School System as an Elementary Music teacher before beginning work for the U of A IE Department. She

assisted in the OM off-campus graduate program as the Associate Director. Nancy then worked in The Logistics Institute in accounting, event planning, and research projects. She received several awards including Industrial Engineering Administrative Staff Member of the Year from AAIE in 2010. Nancy is retired and lives in Fayetteville with her family.

Dr. Lisa Thomas (MSIE 1993 – PhD 2013) – Dr. Thomas is a native of Hot Springs. She began her work career with Arkansas Best Corporation as a Customer PC Systems Analyst before joining UPS as an IE Supervisor and Information Services Supervisor. Lisa then worked for Harbor Oaks Golf Club and Restaurant in Pine Bluff. She returned to the U of A to obtain her PhD, receiving the Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award. She currently works for Fortna, Inc. as a Research Associate with interests in warehouse design, facility logistics and supply chain sustainability. Dr. Thomas and her husband Greg (BA-Communications U of A) reside in Fayetteville with their family.

Rita Gail Willcoxon (BSIE 1982) – Rita’s early years were in Kentucky, then Fort Smith. She obtained her MS in IE Management from the University of Oklahoma and she worked for the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center. Rita also worked for Defense Contracts Administrative Service, Harris Corporation, in Palm Bay, Florida. Rita’s career with NASA at Kennedy Space Center spanned numerous positions. She was Acting Director, Spaceport Engineering and Technology and Director of Launch Vehicle Processing, where, as executive manager of Space Shuttle Processing, she was responsible for preparation and launching of 21 Space Shuttle flights. She also worked for GE as Global Engineering Leader before retiring in 2015. She and her family reside in Melbourne, FL.

“They bring diverse work backgrounds and experience to the academy that reflects on the quality of engineering ability and skill sets the IE Department produces each year.”

We're on the web: aaie.uark.edu



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

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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**

The Editor would like to thank Tamara Ellenbecker for her final review to make this a quality newsletter that you all will value and for making sure it gets into your hands through every media method possible.