



American Society for Engineering Education Illinois-Indiana Section Newsletter

Illinois Urbana-Champaign Hosts Virtual 2021 Section Conference

Check your email in the coming weeks for information about April conference and call for papers. Jenny Amos, Teaching Associate Professor, Bioengineering, IUC, is the conference chair.

2020 IL-IN Section Conference Awards

Despite the cancellation of the 2020 ASEE IL-IN Section Conference at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in March 2020, there were several award recipients.



Above, from left:

Collin McMillan, University of Notre Dame, Outstanding Teaching Award

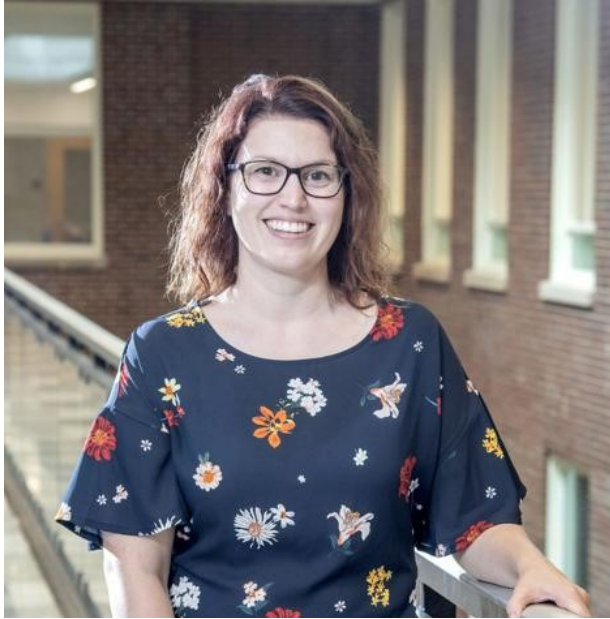
Pat S. Fox and Charlie McIntyre, IUPUI, Outstanding Service Award for preparing the 2020 Section conference and dealing with its cancellation

Left, Miiri Kotche, University of Illinois at Chicago, Outstanding Campus Representative Award

Look Inside

- Meet new board members
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Meet Our New ASEE IL-IN Officers: Jenny Amos and Benjamin McPheron



Dr. Jenny Amos

Teaching Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Benjamin McPheron

Chair, Physical Sciences and Engineering, Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering, Anderson University



Q: Talk about your professional background (education, research, and academic positions)

JA: My background is a bit of a meandering path, but it led me to a great place! Both of my degrees are in Chemical Engineering, but with an emphasis on applying engineering principles to cell and developmental biology and modeling. I joined the Bioengineering Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2009 to teach design as well as help develop the newly formed undergraduate program. I also had the pleasure of helping to form Carle Illinois College of Medicine, a first of its kind engineering integrated medical curriculum.

BM: I earned my BSEE in Electrical Engineering from Ohio Northern University, and my Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University, University Park. My research focus for my Ph.D. was in Control Systems, but my current research interests include Control Systems, Mechatronic Systems, and Engineering Education. I am currently an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Chair of the Department of Physical Sciences & Engineering at Anderson University in Anderson, IN. Prior to that I was an Assistant Professor of Engineering at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI.

Q: How did you first get involved with ASEE and, specifically, ASEE IL-IN?

JA: I have been attending ASEE for many years to learn about how to improve my own teaching in biomedical engineering for many years. While ASEE national is a great place to connect with colleagues at different campuses for my discipline, the regional conference provides a venue to form local collaborations. At the regional conference, I am looking to find ideas from colleagues outside of my discipline and also new collaborators for grants and projects.

BM: My initial introduction to ASEE was through colleagues at Roger Williams University (ASEE-Northeast), where I participated in the section conference all four years I was there. I also have published and presented at the ASEE National conference several times. When I moved to Indiana, I wanted to get involved as a volunteer with my professional societies (IEEE and ASEE), and attended the 2019 ASEE IL-IN Section Conference. When the opportunity arose to serve, I jumped on board.

Q: What have you accomplished so far in your new position on the ASEE IL-IN board and what future plans do you have?

JA: As the Awards Chair, I have the pleasure of reading about our wonderful candidates for teacher of the year and representative of the year as well as other awards. It is fun getting to know about my colleagues. This coming year, I am organizing the regional conference, hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and look forward to coordinating the event with networking sessions and social events to further bring our region together.

BM: I am currently the webmaster and Future Conference Chair. So far I have revised and rebuilt significant portions of the section website, and I hope to host an excellent section conference at Anderson University in 2022. I also look forward to continuing to volunteer in whatever capacity the section needs. **(Continued on page 3)**



**Get Involved
with ASEE
IL-IN!**

Volunteer to
be a campus
representative
for your institu-
tion or become
a section of-
ficer.

To learn more,
contact

Charlie
McIntyre:
chmcin-
ty@iupui.edu

Welcome from the ASEE IL-IN Section Chair

All,

I hope this message finds you, your family, and your friends safe and healthy. Much has happened since last spring. For those of you in academia, a new school year is underway and the challenges are significant. For those of you in the industry sector, the same holds true. I am somewhat insulated from those professional impacts since I retired from IUPUI in June. My timing was impeccable. I am still active in several organizations, including ASEE which I certainly enjoy.

We have updated our Section website thanks to the efforts of our webmaster Ben McPherson at Anderson University. Check it out at ... <https://sites.asee.org/ilin/> The website is still a work-in-progress and you can assist us. If you have any comments or suggestions for the website, please send them to Ben at ... bdmcpheron@anderson.edu

The 2021 IL-IN Section Conference will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on April 16 & 17. Jenny Amos, our current Awards Chair, is serving as the Conference Program Chair. Currently, the plan is to go live, as in on site. However, there are many variables that come into play and we will adapt, as necessary. Keep an eye out for a message from Jenny concerning the call for abstracts for papers, posters, and workshops.

Nominations are now open for our "odd-year" Section officer elections, namely, the Section Treasurer and the Section Awards Chair. The duties and responsibilities of these positions are located on the Section website under Bylaws. Please send all nominations to me ... chmcinty@iupui.edu

In conclusion, a big shout out to Joanne Lax for this latest edition of our Section Newsletter. I believe our membership genuinely appreciates your dedication of time and effort.

Respectfully,

Charlie McIntyre, Chair

ASEE Illinois-Indiana Section



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Q: Can you share a fun fact about yourself with the readers?

JA: I love to run and I am trying to run in every state. I run 5K, 10K, and half marathon distances.

BM: I quite enjoy board games and currently own around 130 different games.

Q: Is there anything else you want the readers to know?

JA: looking forward to seeing everyone at the IL-IN regional ASEE conference.

BM: I greatly look forward to getting to know more members of the section, and to see how we can collaborate and grow together as educators and researchers.

2020-2021 ASEE IL-IN Contacts			
Name	Position	Institution	Email
Charles McIntyre	Chair	IUPUI	chmcinty@iupui.edu
Patricia Fox	Chair-Elect, Treasurer	IUPUI	psfox@iupui.edu
Gary Steffen	Section Representative	Purdue Fort Wayne	steffen@pfw.edu
James Hanson	Secretary	Rose-Hulman	hanson@rose-hulman.edu
Jenny Amos	Awards Chair	U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	jamos@illinois.edu
Benjamin McPheron	Webmaster, Archivist	Anderson University	bdmcpheron@anderson.edu
Joanne Lax	Newsletter Editor	Purdue W. Lafayette	jlax@purdue.edu

Message from the Zone II Chair

I'm John Brocato, your new ASEE Zone II Chair for 2020-2021!

My academic background is in engineering communication, and, in my previous position at Mississippi State University (MSU), I helped establish one of the earliest embedded engineering-communication programs in the country. This program teaches discipline-specific writing and presenting to every engineering undergraduate at strategic points in their careers, including freshman intro courses, senior capstone design, and a required technical-writing course.

In August 2019, I joined the School of Chemical, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Georgia (UGA) as a Technical Communication Lecturer. Although UGA has long offered engineering degrees, the UGA College of Engineering is only about eight years old, so I saw this move as an opportunity to get in on the ground floor, so to speak. Thus far, I've developed two communication-intensive courses for undergraduate and graduate students alike. I'm most proud of the undergraduate course; called The Bioengineering Professional Persona, this course seeks to help students understand the sociocultural context of their chosen profession with an emphasis on effective communication and analyses of ethics case studies, including Henrietta Lacks, the bioengineering perspective on pandemics, and the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster.

I joined ASEE in 2004 and served as MSU's Campus Representative for 15 years. I've served in many leadership roles for the Southeastern Section (including the current Proceedings Editor) and, at the national level, the Liberal Education/Engineering and Society Division (LEES). I became an ASEE Fellow in 2018 and was lucky enough to be elected Zone II Chair the next year. In this role, I represent the Southeastern, Illinois-Indiana, and North-Central Sections and serve as your direct liaison with the ASEE Board of Directors. I view this role primarily as one of listening to what the Zone II sections want, need, and expect from ASEE national and then doing all I can to help them meet these needs.



I look forward to meeting and working with you over the next two years and attending your section meetings (virtual or otherwise) as well as your Executive Board meetings as needed. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me – I am at your service!

John B.

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ASEE IL-IN Section Conference proceedings for 2018-2020 can be found at

<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/aseeil-insectionconference/>

Earlier proceedings are still available at the ASEE IL-IN website:

<http://ilin.asee.org/>