



IN THIS ISSUE

PG. 2- Executive Update

PG. 3- Alumni Banquet

PG. 4- Celebrating Our Seniors

**PG. 5- Introduce a Girl to
Engineering Day**

PG. 6- Ask the Ambassadors

ENGINEERING AMBASSADORS

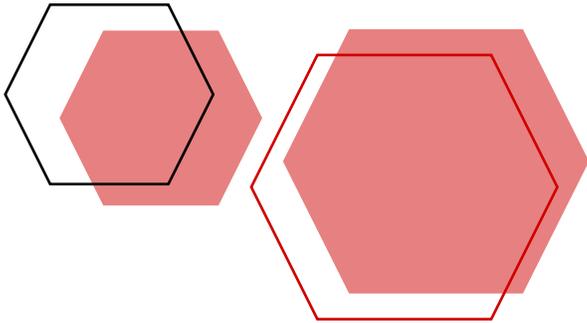
SPRING 2020

Welcome to the Engineering Ambassadors Network! This semester, our ambassadors have impacted over 2,000 students (until March 14), teaching them about science, math, engineering & much more. Over 200 hours total were spent giving presentations, running booths, and promoting engineering and the University of Nebraska College of Engineering.

EXECUTIVE UPDATE



Mikayla Rosenthal
Engineering Ambassador President
2019-2020



We began the semester with a workshop in which our members gained valuable information from Karen Stelling and Dr. Timothy Wei, professors in the Mechanical Engineering Department, on what it means to be a leader and a member of a team. Members were challenged to use our time in ambassadors as a “lab” to experiment with and develop leadership techniques that work for us as individuals. Our ambassadors participated in an escape room early in the semester for some fun team bonding. We escaped LiCastro’s Lair with 18 minutes left!

This semester we released a promotional video, which can be found on our website, highlighting the passions and hobbies of our members and how we bring those together for one common goal of promoting STEM careers. We also caught up with ambassadors who have graduated through our banquet celebrating 5 years! We were able to gain insight from our alumni on how their experiences as an ambassador have helped them in their careers and jobs. However, this semester has been nothing like we have ever experienced before. With the outbreak of COVID-19, we were unable to continue our mission of visiting schools to educate and change the conversation our community is having on engineering. Our ambassadors still wanted to continue outreach and found ways to continue sharing our passion for engineering. On Friday each week, we present one of our presentations and explain a hands-on activity that can be completed at home by viewers. Our first session was successful, engaging around 45 homes within our community! Therefore, these unusual circumstances have shown the tremendous dedication of our ambassadors as well as the incredible support from our community and desire for STEM outreach.



Finally, we recently elected our new executive team. I am confident and excited to step down from my position knowing that Ambassadors is in good hands. This team is a group of talented, driven individuals who exemplify our mission desire for outreach within STEM. I look forward seeing where this new team takes our organization in the next year as well as the growth and development of these individuals as leaders.



Pictured (left to right):
Top Row – Katie Schwarz (alumni), Ian Ghanavati, Mason Gish (alumni), Jena Wilson (alumni), Rachael Wagner (alumni), Samantha Corey, Jacob Conway, Alex Sukup, Sally Wei (advisor)

Bottom Row – Taylor Seeley (alumni), Evan Garber (alumni), Alicia Curti (alumni), Abigail Haworth, Mikayla Rosenthal, Isabelle Koehler, Josiah Kolar, Aaron Norlinger

ALL ABOUT - THE ALUMNI BANQUET

STAYING CONNECTED AS AN ORGANIZATION

On Saturday, March 14th, the Engineering Ambassadors hosted an alumni banquet to celebrate our five-year anniversary. Seven alumni were present, including Katie Schwarz, Evan Garber, Taylor Seeley, Alicia Curti, Mason Gish, Jena Wilson, and Rachael Wagner. Nine current Ambassadors were also in attendance. The banquet consisted of an icebreaker, dinner, speeches by the Engineering Ambassadors advisor Sally Wei and president Mikayla Rosenthal, and an advice panel by the alumni.

The Engineering Ambassadors Network has been active at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since 2015. Since its founding, the chapter has grown and gone through many changes, but has always pursued the same mission of engineering outreach and student leadership development. Students in the organization work closely with one another and meet on a weekly basis, and many develop strong relationships. This has led to the formation of close ties between every graduating class of Ambassadors, so that alumni were eager to return to connect with old friends and to meet and guide new Ambassadors.

Ambassadors and alumni sat in groups at tables decorated with activity supplies and UNL-branded giveaway items, and a slideshow featuring images of Ambassadors from different years was continuously displayed. Following a short icebreaker, a dinner of pasta and chicken parmesan was served, along with a much-anticipated sheet cake decorated with the EAN logo. After this, Sally Wei and Mikayla Rosenthal delivered speeches welcoming the alumni and celebrating the organization's achievements. Finally, a panel composed of the alumni answered questions from current Ambassadors about topics ranging from their experiences in the organization to future career advice. All students and alumni who attended enjoyed getting to see past members and hear about the impact EAN has had on their lives.



CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

Graduating Seniors of 2020

“What are your plans after graduation? What’s one thing you’ll miss about being an Ambassador?”



Alex Sukup, Vice President

“After graduation, I plan on working in Lincoln at Huffman Engineering, Inc. I will miss interacting with kids that get so excited about the activities and topics we teach to them.”



Brianna Smith, Secretary

“After I graduate, I plan on attending Northwestern University to study prosthetics and orthotics. I’ll miss getting to help kiddos learn about how cool engineering is and helping them grow.”



Jami Turnquist, Treasurer

“After graduating, I’m moving out to work in Merck’s new drug substance conjugate manufacturing facility in Elkton, VA! I’m really going to miss promoting STEM and being involved in the community. I’m hoping I can find a new way to do that in my career!”

INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY

NEBRASKA'S INNOVATION CAMPUS

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is a nationally recognized day where girls across the United States are encouraged to explore their admiration and affinity for STEM related fields. The Engineering Ambassadors Network at UNL holds an annual event on Nebraska's Innovation Campus open to young girls from across the state. January 25, 2020, with 401 attendees, marked our third successful year. The event is conference-style, consisting of a guest speaker and numerous breakout sessions. This year's guest speaker, Lancaster Engineer Pamela Dingman, was able to provide a firsthand account of being a woman in engineering as one of Nebraska's first female owners of an engineering firm.

Our breakout sessions consisted of multiple presentations and activities hosted by our ambassadors, to simulate the outreach we do at individual schools but on a much larger scale. These sessions included educational material on the construction of prosthetics, where girls between the ages of 7 and 12 were given the opportunity to construct their own mini prosthetic devices and test them for effectiveness. **The breakout sessions carried students (and their parents) through the engineering design process on a simple, but informational, level.** Through a tangible engineering experience, the feasibility of becoming a future engineer is made clearer to those in attendance, and hopefully it provides them with the basis for a lifelong love of the sciences.

The event additionally consisted of diverse interactive booths that gave attendees a less structured taste of the engineering world. **At the EAN booth, young girls were able to experience the marvels of electricity through the creation of a graphite circuit that played music, in addition to constructing their own parachutes based on principles of aerodynamics.**

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is about showing young girls that Engineering is not something for which only boys possess an aptitude. Often, boys are exposed to their abilities as engineers and scientists at a young age while girls are guided towards finding interests that are traditionally feminine. This early exposure is critical to decisions made later in life when picking a career; by creating a space for young girls comparable to that which is presented to young boys, we reset the trajectories of their lives. Engineering Ambassador's faculty advisor and event originator, Sally Wei, puts it similarly, **"I think the most important thing about the event is letting girls know that engineering is for them and they are needed and capable – it's not just for males. It's a helping profession, exciting, and full of opportunities – it's about empowering them and letting them know they can do it!"** Over the years this event has grown exponentially to include collaboration from members of the community, bringing in more parents and their eager daughters. We hope to see a continued growth of the community's interest in widening the field of engineering to include more and more girls and women. Next year's Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is set for January 23, 2021.



ASK THE AMBASSADORS

CURRENT AMBASSADORS 2019-2020

What is your favorite Engineering Ambassadors event?

So far, my favorite event as an ambassador was going to Hastings for a few school visits over Fall Break. They were my first school visits, and I had to learn two presentations, which was a bit nerve wracking; however, it went really well! Once we got there and started presenting in front of about 70 fifth graders, I became a lot more comfortable, and the students seemed to have a lot of fun! My later visits that day went even better, and I left that day feeling excited to go on more visits in the future.

What made you choose a future career in engineering?

When I was in middle/high school, I always did well in my math and science classes. I also found many of the higher - level courses, such as chemistry and calculus, fascinating and wanted to pursue them further. I decided upon engineering at first because it seemed like a good career and one where I could continue learning about how the world works around me. Since then, I have also found that engineering is a major that enables me to have a huge impact in shaping the world around me and constantly allows me to apply my knowledge in more difficult problems.

Why is it important to teach students about engineering at a young age?

Through Engineering Ambassadors I've been able to make many new and amazing friends. I've been given the opportunity to collaborate with my peers in a constructive and affirming environment while learning a variety of presentation and teaching skills. I've learned that engineering isn't just about the formulas and the calculations, but about the world we work every day to make better. I've been given the opportunity to share this wonderment with the field to a younger generation.



Jacob Conway
Civil Engineering



Ian Ghanavati
Biological Systems Engineering



Noha Algahimi
Chemical Engineering
