



From the Founding Editor

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Special Issues have always been an important focus of Advances. As one of my last projects as editor-in-chief, I arranged for three special issues on topics that I felt were highly relevant to engineering educators. The first of these – “Overcoming Challenges to Infusing Ethics into the Engineering Curricula” was guest edited by Rosalyn Berne, Sarah Pfatteicher and Sharon Jones and published in October 2020. The second – “Worldwide Leading Innovative Engineering Education Programs” was guest edited by Rebecca Bates, Amitava ‘Babi’ Mitra and Jessica Townsend and published in August 2021. This issue on “Programs that Make an Impact” has been carefully guest edited by Khanjan Mehta.

Khanjan provides his rationale for this set of seven papers that document a spectrum of impactful programs. Khanjan was very clear as to the types of papers he wanted to publish – they needed to be having an impact on a particular underserved or underdeveloped community and they had to be sustainable. We did things a bit different. Khanjan sent out a call for papers. From a large set of abstracts that he received, he culled them down to 13 invited papers, from which after a long review process, the seven published here emerged.

Khanjan in his guest editor’s piece provides a brief overview of each. He also provides his insight from his experience running major programs at first Penn State and now at Lehigh on the questions one must address in designing and implementing such programs. An engineering educator with thoughts of creating an impactful, sustainable program would be well advised to first review Khanjan’s set of questions and then carefully read the seven papers in this issue. It is a valuable resource for not only engineering educators, but any educator who wants to create a sustainable, innovative program that makes an impact on a less-developed part of the world.