



FALL 2021

From the Founding Editor

LARRY SHUMAN

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

In the spring 2018, I came across the *Global State-of-the-Art of Engineering Education*, a most insightful report by Ruth Graham that, as the guest editors explain, was commissioned by MIT. Ruth identified sets of innovative and emerging innovative engineering programs around the world – 15 programs in all, in addition to the NEET Program being developed at MIT. These programs were identified by 50 “thought leaders” who Ruth interviewed. I read the report with enthusiasm. It described a number of exciting innovations being introduced by engineering educators both in the U.S. and internationally.

Fast forward a few weeks to the 2018 ASEE Conference. I was invited to a lunch to discuss a special issue on the implementation of ethics across the engineering curriculum. (See the October 2020 issue of *Advances*.) At lunch, I met (or remet) Becky Bates. Becky described a very innovative program – Iron Range Engineering, involving Minnesota State University, Mankato with Mesabi Range College and Itasca Community College, using the problem based learning methodology pioneered at Aalborg University. I quickly made the connection – the program that Becky was describing, was one of the programs that Ruth had highlighted.

The idea of a “Special Issue” was not only emerging, it was screaming at me. Becky was agreeable, and suggested we contact Ruth. Ruth was also agreeable, but pointed out that the study was commissioned by MIT and it was there project. She wasn’t sure what the plans were, but suggested I contact Babi Mitra and Ed Crawley at MIT for their participation. They, in fact, had similar thoughts and agreed that *AEE* would be a good venue for introducing these programs. Working with Babi, Ed and Becky, we were able to develop a process to solicit papers from each of the identified programs plus the NEET Program that Babi and Ed were introducing at MIT. Babi brought in Jessica Townsend from Olin (one of the emerging innovators) as an additional guest editor.

The project kicked off at a workshop for the innovative programs in April 2019. Two years later we had papers from all but two of the programs, plus an additional paper by Bill Oakes and colleagues describing how the innovative, and now well-established EPICS program had been integrated not only within Purdue, but also Arizona State, Charles Stuart University and Itasca Community College (Iron Range Engineering).



Many thanks go to Babi, Jessica and Becky for their very hard work and perseverance in seeing this project through to completion. We hope you will learn from these 15 papers; I certainly did in reading the multiple revisions. We hope it will also inspire you to read Ruth's report where you will learn more about these programs and how they were identified.

REFERENCE

Graham, R. H. (2018). *The global state of the art in engineering education*. Cambridge, MA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology; <https://www.rhgraham.org/resources/Global-state-of-the-art-in-engineering-education—March-2018.pdf>