Engineering Advancement TRUST

Donor Report 2021-2022

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Engineering
ENGINEERING.USASK.CA

Students in a USask Engineering lab in November 2021

Myron Stadnyk

Lesley McGilp

Thank you for the HONOUR TO SERVE

It has been a privilege serving as chair of the Engineering Advancement Trust for the past three years, working with you, our alumni, to ensure our College of Engineering students have exceptional learning experiences.

As you know, supporting the EAT means maintaining a connection to the college and having a direct impact on aspiring engineers. The hands-on experience students receive on EAT-funded equipment is a distinct advantage when they begin their careers.

Importantly, the EAT's mission goes beyond keeping labs well-equipped. We have worked to build genuine and effective relationships with the college's students and its recent grads. These connections have been the foundation of the EAT since its inception and are what keeps it vibrant and relevant.

It was an honour to be part of the talented and dedicated EAT team: the board of trustees, Dean Suzanne Kresta, and USask Engineering's donor relations staff. A special thank you to the students who lent their time as campaign volunteers.

Your support of the EAT is invaluable – thank you. Because of you, the future of the EAT is bright.

Myron Stadnyk
Past Chair, Engineering Advancement Trust

Proud to give back TO OUR COLLEGE

I received a terrific education at the College of Engineering and felt very well-prepared when I began my career. Because I so valued my experience at the college, I am grateful for the opportunity to give back as chair of the Engineering Advancement Trust (EAT).

There's something gratifying about bringing together the gifts of our recent grads and of those engineers whose careers have spanned decades, so that collectively we are helping to provide the best educational experience possible for USask Engineering students.

One of the special things about the EAT is that the gifts don't have to be large to be part of a shared effort that makes a tangible difference each year. Every contribution matters.

Thank you for your support of the EAT. Together, we are ensuring USask Engineering students will have the same opportunities we had - what a great way to give back.

Lesley McGilp
Chair, Engineering Advancement Trust

Your impact: $475,116 RAISED

480 gifts from 359 donors,
representing USask Engineering grad classes from 1945 through 2018

95%	4%	1%
alumni	organizations	friends of the college

The EAT thanks Thomas and Laura Smith for the generous gift entrusted to the Engineering Advancement Trust through their wills. It is a gift of a lifetime that will impact students for generations to come.

Keeping the EAT LEGACY ALIVE

The ***Engineering Advancement Trust*** is led by alumni volunteers who ensure our proud legacy continues. Thanks to each of you who contributed gifts of time and talent during the 2021-22 period.

EAT Trustees 2021-22

Myron Stadnyk, Chair (BE'85 Mechanical)
Ian Campbell (BE'80 Civil)
Heather Isidoro (BE'00 Geological)
Rod Karius (BE'76 Civil)
Lesley McGilp (BE'99 Mechanical)
Bert Munro (BE'90 Civil)
Karen Nielsen (BE'89 Electrical)
Russ Renneberg (BE'76 Civil)
Jason Skehar (BE'94 Mechanical)
Al Schreiner, Honourary Lifetime Trustee (BE'63 Mechanical)

Aumni Campaign Volunteers

Ana	Botana	(MSc'21 Chemical)
Ian	Campbell	(BE'80 Civil)
Alex	Campbell	(BE'67, MSc'69 Chemical)
Farzad	Dehghan	(MSc'21 Biomedical)
Kevin	Fieldan	(BE'95 Mechanical)
Rod	Karius	(BE'76 Civil)
Patrick	Kolla	(BE'12 Mechanical)
Aaron	Lund	(BE'21 Chemical)
Stephanie	Lipoth	(BE'20 Environmental)
John	Niedermaier	(BE'63 Agricultural)
Abedayo	Oke	(MSc'21 Biological)
Jude	Okolie	(PhD'21 Chemical)
Stephen	Owuamanam	(MSc'19 Mechanical)
Russ	Renneberg	(BE'76 Civil)
Myron	Stadnyk	(BE'85 Mechanical)
Bob	Steele	(BE'70 Electrical)

Student Campaign Volunteers

Mohsen	Asadi Bagloee	Civil Engineering
Attoungbre Guy Renaud	Attioua	Electrical Engineering
Emily	Bradshaw	Mechanical Engineering
Kasey	Burgess	Environmental Engineering
Adil	Chatha	Computer Engineering
Chigozie	Enyinnaya-Okidi	Mechanical Engineering
Libby	Epoch	Environmental Engineering
Deserae	Goodhand	Chemical Engineering
Fiona	Kasian	Chemical Engineering
Richelle	Kent	Environmental Engineering
Mason	Kraushar	Mechanical Engineering
Johnny	Kwon	Chemical Engineering
Kirsten	Neville	Mechanical Engineering
Paige	Perras	Chemical Engineering
Hadi	Ramin	Mechanical Engineering
Louisa	Selby	Chemical Engineering
Jawaz	Sheikh Mukhair	Chemical Engineering

EAT takes steps to connect
WITH STUDENTS

Every day, students in the College of Engineering are following in the footsteps of many great alumni. The metaphor comes to life with the hundreds of red footprints – emblazoned with EAT – that are found on the hallway floors throughout the college. They mark paths to equipment and lab enhancements funded by the Engineering Advancement Trust (EAT).

Despite the footprints, engineering students are often surprised to learn about the community of alumni who are making a difference in the college through their support of the EAT.

To boost awareness, the EAT has been investing in events where students and alumni come together for networking and mentorship. It's a way to help students learn about the alumni community they will soon join and gives them a front-row seat to see the benefits of being an active alumni volunteer.

As students returned to campus in fall 2021, the EAT was proud to support three events for students and alumni, building awareness of the EAT and fostering connections within our community.

Hard Hat Ceremony

At the Hard Hat Ceremony, the EAT celebrated second-year students for completing their first year and moving into their discipline of choice. A branded hard hat gift was given to every student as they were welcomed by an alumni representative from their discipline.

"It was a proud moment getting my hard hat, it felt like I was a part of a greater community. This ceremony was a reminder that all my efforts mean something and that one day I get to become part of a team who will work to develop the world!"

-Second-year USask Engineering student

2021 Hard Hat Ceremony

Graduate Student Conference and 3 Minute Thesis Competition

The EAT enabled the Engineering Graduate Community Council to invite all alumni to the Engineering Graduate Research Conference and its 3 Minute Thesis competition. This alumni audience raised the stakes for presenters, brought exposure to the valuable work of graduate students and facilitated new relationships between graduate students and alumni.

Organizers and faculty at the 2021 Engineering Graduate Research Conference

"Thank you for your generous support. We could not have provided these opportunities for engineering graduate students to strive for excellence and interact with their peers and community without the EAT."

-USask Engineering graduate student

USask Engineering Convocation Tea

At our Convocation Tea, the EAT welcomed our newest alumni family members to the community that awaits them beyond USask hallways.

"It was good to see that many alumni are still connected to the college even long after they've finished their academic career here. It reassured me that once you're in the college, you're in it for life."

-2021 USask Engineering graduate

Dean Kresta and grad Kaitlin Olmsted at the 2022 Convocation Tea

Kasey Burgess

Volunteering for EAT campaign a way
to say thank-you

There's nothing like practical experience to reinforce classroom learning.

Fourth-year engineering student Kasey Burgess says this became clear when students were forced to study online at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You can really see why it is so important as engineers that we get the practical experience," says Burgess, who's studying environmental engineering.

"We learn the theory and we learn the equations, but when we actually apply it in the lab with the equipment, I know for sure that helps us understand the concepts. We didn't have that when we studied online."

For the past two years, Burgess, who is president of the Saskatoon Engineering Student Society, has volunteered as a student caller, contacting alumni and asking for their support of the EAT's fall campaign.

"I've used some of the facilities and the equipment that the EAT has supplied and volunteering is a good way to give back, a way of saying thank you."

RE-ENGINEERED *thanks to the EAT*

With support from the Engineering Advancement Trust (EAT), USask Engineering redeveloped how it delivered first-year engineering. EAT's involvement was a natural fit since the new program – dubbed RE-ENGINEERED – enhances both learning and student experience for first-years. It launched in September 2021; these are some highlights.

Restructured course delivery

Students no longer take five or six classes that last the whole semester. Timetables are now more modular with additional course content strategically integrated throughout the semester, so students are able to immediately apply their knowledge in different courses.

The list of new topics in the program is extensive and ranges from computer programming and electrical circuits to occupational health and safety and an Indigenous Cultural Contextualization unit.

The Indigenous unit was taught by Dean Suzanne Kresta and included presentations from Indigenous engineers and community members, as well as local engineers who have worked with Indigenous communities. Students also studied Indigenous technology and design, which culminated in student volunteers setting up the college's new tipi for the first time.

"This was just an amazing honour to be a part of, and the students really enjoyed it," says Joel Frey, first-year instructor and one of the faculty members who led development of RE-ENGINEERED.

First-years also have roughly the same daily schedule Monday through Friday, with classes split up by a common lunch hour that allows for community-building activities like faculty-student soccer scrimmages.

Enhanced academic supports

Study Squads are one of the most popular features of RE-ENGINEERED. At the beginning of each semester, first-years are assigned to a group of about a dozen students and they are required to work on certain assignments together.

"COVID really messed up our ability to socialize normally and students said they really appreciated having those study squads and people that they had to reach out to and get to know," Frey says.

Reports one student: "I definitely think a lot of people don't go into first-year university with a whole lot of connections and I think they did a great job putting a lot of kids into a group that they can really connect with and learn with."

End-of-day tutorial sessions were also offered throughout the week. "We know the students who did take advantage of them found them extremely helpful," says Frey. "We've got really good teaching assistants and the sessions were well-organized so that if there was an assignment due that night, that was the topic students could get help with that day."

A meaningful way of measuring what students know

Determining what students know and whether they're ready to move on to higher-level classes is a large part of teaching and learning. The RE-ENGINEERED team evaluates students using a method called competency-based assessment (CBA).

"The idea is we are looking for the most recent, the most complete, and the most convincing evidence that students can do the things we need them to do before we let them move on," Frey says.

Usually, grades are based on how well students do on assignments, quizzes, mid-terms and finals. With CBA, courses are organized around learning outcomes – what students need to be able to do to be successful in later courses and in the engineering profession.

The most basic material (facts, simple definitions) is labelled Type A, basic integrative problems are Type B material and Type C material is the most advanced work. Students needed to pass all Type A assessments and have an average of 70 percent on the Type B materials to pass; passing grades on Type C material are not required, but doing well does boost a student's grade.

No finals?! Here's what students did instead

December: Discipline Experience

Instead of final exams, students chose their top five disciplines from the eight offered at USask and spent a full day in each department, meeting faculty and learning more about the program. Departments appreciated the opportunity to pitch their discipline directly to the students.

"The energy that all the different departmental faculty and staff brought to this was outstanding," says Frey.

April: Discipline Bridge Course

As the school year closed, students spent three weeks immersed in their chosen discipline, working on design projects to build both excitement for the discipline and a foundation of knowledge for the rest of their degree. Projects ranged from designing an adjustable solar panel mount in mechanical engineering to chemical and biological engineering students working for a client, the Lions Speedskating Club, which needed help with an ice cracking problem at its outdoor oval.

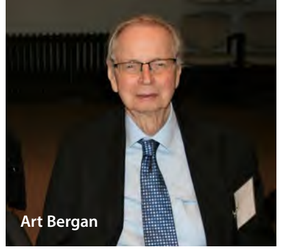
Kudos to the 2021-2022 RE-ENGINEERED instructional team: Whitney Curtis, Joel Frey, Shaobo Huang, Glyn Kennell, Suzanne Kresta, Sean Maw, Zoe Mao, Debora Rolfes, Randi Strunk and Sandra Terry

First-year engineering students headed for the engineering physics program ended their school year with a Discipline Bridge Course centred around model rocketry.

Photo by Peter Baran

The Engineering Advancement Trust
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

The Engineering Advancement Trust Alumni Service Award recognizes volunteers whose generosity of spirit had an immeasurable impact on our USask Engineering alumni community.



Art Bergan

Art Bergan (BE '61, MSc '64, PhD '72 Civil)

Professor Emeritus Art Bergan was an inaugural member of the Engineering Advancement Trust board in 1978. For decades, he quietly contributed his time, energy and financial support to advance the College of Engineering.

A passionate champion of the college, Art was a dedicated mentor to students, alumni, faculty and staff alike. His countless acts of humble generosity are most deserving of recognition.

Russ Renneberg (BE '76 Civil)

Russ Renneberg has demonstrated long-standing dedication to the EAT, serving more than 20 years on the board of trustees, including two years as chair. Russ was a tireless and passionate supporter of the college who regularly built connections between it and his peers so they could join him in his work to make it a stronger institution.

Russ recently exhibited his personal leadership and commitment to the EAT with a generous multi-year pledge to which alumni trustees added their own gifts, creating the EAT Trustee Matching Gift.

Russ Renneberg

Bruce Sparling (BE '83, MSc '85 Civil)

Bruce Sparling has played a vital role in the continued success of the Engineering Advancement Trust as an alumnus, professor and Associate Dean Academic of the College of Engineering.

Bruce remained a constant during a decade of leadership transitions at the college, providing guidance and insight into the needs of students and faculty, ensuring the EAT's gifts were strategically invested so students could achieve key learning outcomes. His leadership and conscientious service undoubtedly enhanced the impact of EAT funds.

EAT Chair Myron Stadnyk (left), Bruce Sparling, Dean Suzanne Kresta

The Engineering Advancement Trust Legacy Fund provides a new way for you to support the EAT that will impact generations of aspiring USask Engineers.

Your commitment, YOUR LEGACY

The EAT Legacy Fund invites planned gifts, such as bequests and gifts in your will, that will reflect your deep commitment to USask Engineering and its students.

Gifts are placed in an endowment fund, where they are invested to provide interest in perpetuity to the EAT Capital Equipment Fund for the benefit of USask Engineering students.

Why consider the EAT Legacy Fund?

- You find it gratifying to support capital, tangible assets that enhance student labs and learning environments.
- You see value in innovative teaching that helps students build their skills and knowledge
- You want to support undergraduate students across all years and disciplines.
- You believe it's valuable to create positive student experiences and create connections between students and alumni.
- You would like your gift invested in perpetuity; interest will accumulate and grow to exceed the value of the original gift in approximately 20 years.

Karen Nielsen

"Our new Legacy Fund is truly a way to give a gift that will keep on giving. On behalf of my family, I am proud to participate and be part of the alumni family that is committed to ensuring our college continues to educate engineers that our world needs! My experience at USask was exceptional and this is a great way to show my gratitude and appreciation so that others for generations to come have the same quality of education that we all did."

- EAT Trustee Karen Nielsen

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