

# HISTORY OF ISE

1860

1870

1880

1890

Engineers drawing, ca. 1900

Transportation Building without north wing, ca. 1912

This timeline is a work in progress. Much assistance was provided by College of Engineering archival specialist Bethany Anderson, and Jerry Dobrovolny's *A History of the Department of General Engineering*. We have found no similar document for Industrial Engineering. Please email corrections and additions to William Gillespie at [gillespi@illinois.edu](mailto:gillespi@illinois.edu), so that we may continue to assemble a more complete history of ISE.

1862

Abraham Lincoln signs Morrill Act establishing 37 public land-grant institutions

1885

Illinois Industrial University renamed University of Illinois

1867

Illinois Industrial University, as it was first called, opens

Engineering curriculum founded

1887

Illinois admits first African-American student

General engineering drawing curriculum founded—the roots of ISE

1868

James Newton Matthews becomes the University's first student

1893

Graduate school and extension program established

James David Phillips first professor tasked to coordinate general engineering drawing curriculum

1870

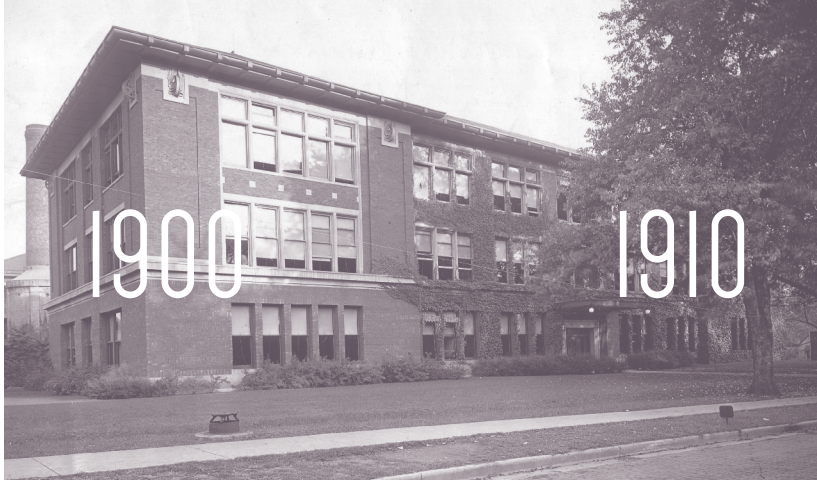
Instructional program in engineering created with four departments: Mechanical Science and Art, Civil Engineering, Mining Engineering and Metallurgy, and Architecture and Fine Arts. Stillman Williams Robinson, Illinois' first professor and later dean of Engineering, designs an innovative engineering curriculum that includes both science-based lectures and experimental laboratory practice.

Trustees allow women to attend

1894

Engineering Hall completed



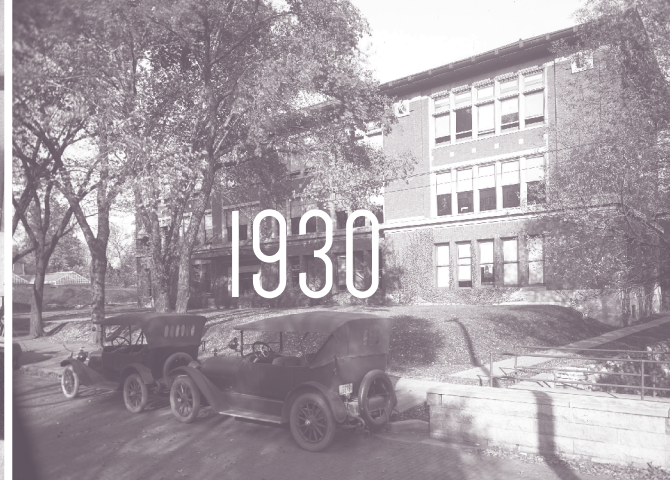


1900

1910



1920



1930

Transportation Building after 1921 with north wing

Transportation Building (view of interior hallway)

Transportation Building, ca. 1918

1900

Illinois graduates its first African-American student

1903

First Engineering Experiment Station in America established at Illinois, it's first experiments are an investigation of reinforced concrete

1904

General Engineering Drawing Department requested

1908

Assistant Dean Fred Duane Crawshaw in charge of general engineering drawing curriculum, vesting responsibility for this program in the Office of the Associate Dean

1910

Harry W. Miller placed in charge of general engineering drawing curriculum; in 1912 he publishes two textbooks: *Mechanical Drafting* and *Descriptive Geometry*

1912

First half of Transportation Building completed in 4 months for \$86,000; third floor dedicated to General Engineering Drawing; building houses Department of Railway Engineering—railway motifs can still be found in exterior and banister designs, notably winged locomotive wheels on upper exterior corners

1917

Harvey H. Jordan becomes head of general engineering drawing curriculum

1921

Transportation Building finished, the total cost was \$168,000  
General Engineering Drawing becomes a department

1924

First College of Engineering Parade

1920

First Engineering Open House





1940 1950

Department Head Jerry S. Dobrovolny



1960

J.E. Pearson and photomultiplier, ca. 1963



1970 1980

Professor M.H. Pleck and graduate student D.D. Burn test new printer, 1974



1946

Grace Wilson becomes first female engineering instructor, becoming a full professor in 1972

1950

Mechanical Engineering building opens

1952

Industrial Engineering is established as a BS program

1960

Industrial Engineering merges with Mechanical Science and Engineering to become MechSE/IE

1961

Design sequence introduced into GE curriculum

1971

Ford Foundation grant runs out; Senior Engineering Project continues as a corporate-sponsored endeavor. ABET will eventually recommend that all engineering curricula adopt such a capstone senior design project, and institutions nationwide emulate it.

1981

First MSGE students graduate.

Fourth floor of Transportation Building converted to computer labs

1949

Secondary field options activated on a petition basis; initial options were management, marketing, technical writing, and mining—numerous others would follow, notably law and accounting

Randolph P. Hoelscher becomes department head

1953

Department renamed Department of General Engineering

1959

Randolph P. Hoelscher retires; university decides to continue Department of General Engineering after publishing a study entitled the *Luke Report*

Jerry S. Dobrovolny becomes department head

1966

Ford Foundation grant creates industry collaborations that would become the Senior Engineering Project, then GE 242.

1977

Illinois Board of Higher Education approves Master of Science Degree in General Engineering (MSGE)

1968

Michael Pleck introduces CAD in GE 103

1969

Inspired by a visit to San Antonio, Dobrovolny inspires a student-led project to beautify the polluted Boneyard Creek, which the City of Champaign had planned to pave over. The fruits of this 100-year project can be enjoyed today.

1982

University considers terminating IE for budgetary reasons and is flooded by letters of protest from many esteemed sources, including Republic Steel, Anheuser-Busch, Eastman Kodak, General Dynamics, Illinois Power, United Airlines, International Business Machines, Ford Motor Company, United States Steel, along with other University of Illinois departments, including Accountancy and Civil Engineering





1990



2000



2010

Thomas Conry, GE Department Head, 1987

Professor Deborah Thurston's research group, 1990

Professor R.S. Sreenivas, 1993

1985

First supercomputer installed at Illinois

1993

Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering moves out, leaving General Engineering the only tenant of Transportation Building

2001

Research Park opens

2013

Rakesh Nagi becomes head of ISE

1986

Mark Spong introduces a course on robotics

1994

Grainger Library, the largest engineering library in the United States, opens

2006

Industrial Engineering and General Engineering merge to become IESE, later renamed ISE

2014

\$250,000 of changes to Transportation Building approved...and many other exciting changes detailed in this issue!

1987

Thomas F. Conry becomes department head

Henrique Reis buids Nondestructive Testing and Evaluation Research Laboratory

1998

Mechatronics Lab established by Professors Tsao and Spong with grant from John Deere

First two Systems and Entrepreneurial Engineering Ph.D.s granted

2007

Jong-Shi Pang becomes department head  
Operations Research Lab opens

2008

Senior Engineering Project Lab undergoes \$1.1 million renovation

2009

Master of Science in Financial Engineering approved