Elevating Ideas Since 1944

August 2020
New Graduate Student Welcome

Grainger College of Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Aerospace Engineering
Jonathan B. Freund (he/...)  
10th AE Department Head  
Donald Biggar Willett Professor  

BS, MS, PhD from Stanford University  
3 years at University of California, Los Angeles  
2001 Assistant Professor  
2004 Associate Professor  
2006 Joined AE 33 percent  
2010 Professor  
2020 Department Head  

Grainger College of Engineering  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
Aerospace Engineering  
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FACULTY
- 23 faculty members (+1 August / +3 January)
- 12 affiliate faculty members
- 11 adjunct faculty
- 6 active emeritus faculty
- 50+ current research grants

GRADUATES
- $70,000 starting salary with a BS
- 4,694 alumni worldwide

STUDENTS
- 32 average ACT score of incoming freshmen
- 518 undergraduate students
- 167 graduate students
- 9 registered student organizations

FUNDING AND FACILITIES
- $8.9 million research expenditures
- 25+ laboratories and research centers
- 10 interdisciplinary research centers
- 3,800 sq. ft. new educational labs (coming 2020)

RANKINGS
- 9th ranked undergraduate program in the nation
- 7th ranked graduate program in the nation
It’s all about the people. Reach out to us.
New Faculty Hires

Negar Mehr
Ph.D. 2020 from UC Berkeley
Autonomous Vehicles
Mixed-traffic networks

Siegfried Eggl
Ph.D. 2013 from University of Vienna
Start January 2021
Astrodynamics
Planetary defense

Plus: 2 more confirmed appointment:
1. Additive manufacturing & materials
2. Space systems & orbital mechanics

joining January 2021
Facility improvements

- $75M Campus Instructional Facility.
- $41M Lu Mechanical Engineering Building.
- $33.5M CEE modernization effort.
- $2.5M Transportation Building improvements (more possible through state’s deferred-maintenance funding).
- $8.6M Talbot Lab expansion
**Talbot Expansion** – shared with NPRE

Construction began March 2019

$8.66 million

Composite manufacturing lab

Nanosatellite facility will enhance CubeSat program
Diversity Fosters Excellence

- You belong.
- They belong.
- Everyone serious about learning and advancing Aerospace Engineering belongs and can contribute.

Aerospace Graduate Student Advisory Committee: https://gsac.ae.illinois.edu

Office for Access & Equity: https://oae.illinois.edu

Grainger College of Engineering Institute for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA): https://idea.illinois.edu

Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: https://diversity.illinois.edu

AE Head Q&A: http://www.ae.illinois.edu/news/q-diversity
In Closing…

• Congratulations and welcome

• Make the most of your graduate studies at Illinois. These will be challenging, but exciting years for you.

• Work hard but also grow: take advantage of all the university and C-U community offers.

• Get involved in the Aerospace Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC).