DONOR HONOR ROLL 2013–2014

impact

John H. Anderson
DEAR FRIENDS,

Your generous support of scholarships, faculty, and capital projects continues to transform the lives of our students. Thank you.

As many of you are aware, President John Anderson has begun his final year at the helm of IIT. Thanks to his strategic vision and leadership over the last seven years, IIT is positioned to become the globally recognized university that it deserves to be.

Early in his tenure, John recognized the significance of alumni engagement. He logged many miles attending alumni events nationally and around the world. Never one to stand behind a podium, he participated in those events right alongside our alumni—donning a hard hat for a construction tour of Freedom Tower in NYC; climbing into a fighter jet at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in California; or offering career advice to a group of young alumni.

John and his wife, Pat, also have made generous personal commitments to the university through Fueling Innovation: The Campaign for IIT. This $250 million campaign has raised more than $177 million (as of September 15, 2014), reflecting the confidence that you have in John’s vision for the university.

While much has been accomplished, John’s top priority in this final year is the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship, which he views as key to IIT’s future. (See page 22 for more details on the Kaplan Institute.) We invite you to partner with us on this transformative project that will redefine how future innovators and entrepreneurs are educated.

John’s international renown raised IIT’s visibility, and his impactful leadership has set the university on a course to success. And so, we celebrate this extraordinary leader—a visionary, a philanthropist, a dedicated advocate for donors, and an inspiration to students and alumni.

It is with much gratitude that we dedicate this publication to President Anderson and his profound impact on philanthropy at IIT.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hughes
Vice President, Institutional Advancement
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Culture of Excellence ................................................. 2
Seeds of Entrepreneurship ........................................... 5
Holding Her Own .......................................................... 6
Art of Science .............................................................. 9
Building Pathways to IIT ............................................... 10
Gift of Education ......................................................... 13
Grips, Groups, and Great Design ................................. 15
Donor Honor Roll 2013–2014 ........................................ 16
An Investment in Generation Innovation ....................... 22

THIS PUBLICATION IS DEDICATED TO PRESIDENT JOHN L. ANDERSON AND HIS PROFOUND IMPACT ON PHILANTHROPY AT IIT.
University Regents Craig Duchossois, chief executive officer of The Duchossois Group; John Rowe, chairman emeritus of Exelon; and Ralph Wanger, founder of Acorn Fund and a respected money manager, know what it takes to be leaders. Of the characteristics that define a good leader, the trio agrees that one stands out—a commitment to continuous excellence. Building this culture of excellence at IIT has been the hallmark of President John Anderson’s tenure at the helm of the university, they say.

Known for their camaraderie and sense of humor, the regents became thoughtful and reflective when speaking about Anderson. “John is a superb example of academic leadership, setting the university on a course that brought fiscal stability, academic renown, and an improved campus experience,” says Rowe. Anderson nurtured innovation and excellence across the board, the regents say, and he accomplished this by bringing in the best people and getting buy-in from principal stakeholders. “He took the time to recruit the best faculty, call donors, engage with alumni, and sit down with students. He is humble, a great listener, and knew to enlist help from the best,” Duchossois adds.

The regents lauded an announcement from Anderson and his wife, Pat, to make a significant personal gift to IIT, as an example of what they agree is his leadership-by-example philosophy. The president’s commitment made an impression on these philanthropists, whose continuing investments in IIT match the support they provide to their own alma maters and their numerous philanthropic interests. Duchossois, Rowe, and Wanger have each made substantial gifts to IIT supporting scholarships, endowed chairs, and research. “If you write a check to MIT or Harvard, you will get a nice thank you letter,” says Wanger. “If you write a check to IIT, your money is not just nice, it is crucial. And you will have a lot of fun watching the impact of your gift.”

Speaking of the role Anderson has had on the future of IIT, the regents concur that his leadership has enhanced IIT’s reputation, energized faculty and students, and positioned the university on an upward trajectory, one behind which alumni and donors can rally. “He has built a strong foundation of people and financial security that will catapult the university into its next phase of growth and academic excellence,” says Duchossois.
On his farm outside Galena, Ill., Madhavan Nayar (M.S. IE ’68) is meticulously restoring 850 acres of land back to its indigenous habitat—planting oaks, walnuts, poplars, evergreens, and native prairie. “I like growing things,” he says. “Planting something, watching it grow, and nurturing it gives me joy.” He embraced this philosophy when founding Unitech Systems (renamed Infogix, Inc.) in 1982 with his own $500 as capital. Decades later, the company—a pioneer in information integrity software—has evolved into a multi-million dollar global leader in its field. “I wanted to build something that lasted. So many years later, Infogix’s first customer is still with the company. That is rewarding,” he says.

Nayar’s evolution from engineer to programmer to entrepreneur started at IIT. In 1966, Nayar was a young graduate student from India looking for a part-time job. A friend told him of an opening in the computer center on campus. It led to his first encounter with a computer—an expensive IBM Mainframe that terrified him. “I didn’t even know how to turn it on, but they paid me $1.60 an hour, so I stayed,” he recalls. “IIT was the place that launched my interest in software and my career as a high-tech entrepreneur.” Over the years, Nayar stayed in touch with IIT through the Alumni Association. A few meetings with President John Anderson and a tour of Main Campus convinced Nayar of the president’s vision for an innovation center. Nayar and his wife, Ruth, made one of the earliest gifts to this initiative, now the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship. “I wanted to demonstrate my interest in and commitment to this project,” he says. “Having IIT’s brand aligned with innovation has tremendous potential. The Kaplan Institute will be not just a building, but the nucleus of innovation at IIT.”

Nayar, a member of the IIT Board of Trustees and chair of the IIT School of Applied Technology Board of Overseers, commends Anderson for recognizing the importance of outreach to international alumni. “Many of these successful alumni got their start at IIT. The university still has a lot to offer to them, and they can make a real difference at IIT,” he says.
At the age of 26, Sherrie Littlejohn (M.S. CS ’82) was supervising a team of 13 technology professionals at Bell Laboratories. IIT’s computer science program prepared the Louisiana native for the technical aspects of the job, but—as one of Bell Laboratories’ youngest technical managers and one of the first three African-American females—she had much to prove. “One of the things I attribute to my success is having mentors who encouraged me to speak and find my voice,” says Littlejohn of her early years in the workforce. “For women in the technology arena, you need to have confidence in who you are and be willing to push the envelope. I was naturally a shy and quiet person. I gained trust when I had the courage to stand up for myself.”

Today, 30 years later, Littlejohn influences hundreds of IT professionals as executive vice president and head of enterprise architecture and IT strategy for Wells Fargo. Despite a demanding career, she readily accepted a position on the IIT Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2011, followed by her election to IIT’s Board of Trustees in 2012. “What attracts me to any board is really being able to impact young people,” she says. “In my opinion, one critical characteristic of strong boards is the ability to deliver strong business development and secure funding for the needs of its customer. For IIT, this is our students, faculty, and staff.” As a trustee, Littlejohn is active on the Fueling Innovation Major Gifts Committee, which inspired her to evaluate her own giving to IIT and “up the ante” through philanthropy. In 2013, she established the Sherrie B. Littlejohn Scholarship Fund and Sherrie B. Littlejohn Computer Science Fund to attract diverse talent to her former academic department. “I’ve met IIT students, and I feel, hear, and sense their energy and passion for what they want to do. I am encouraged and confident they will do great things as grounded, technically strong future leaders,” she says.

Littlejohn is impressed by the changes she’s seen at her alma mater under President John Anderson. “John has had a phenomenal impact on the school,” she says. “He brought that energy—that courage to make a difference—back to IIT.”
Surrounded by art in the 106-year-old restored barn that he calls home, Robert E. Frey (CHEM ’65), thoughtfully selected one of his prized sculptures, “Entropic Reaction,” (Phillip Levine, 1980), to donate to the lobby of the new Robert A. Pritzker Research Center at IIT. “To the scientific mind, this piece represents the concept of evolving toward equilibrium,” says Frey. “The five bronze sculptures are decreasing in size but moving toward a greater state of being. But to the average observer, it simply shows that IIT is moving in the right direction.”

Frey’s views on most things, from art to real estate, are colored by his natural aptitude for science. At his Seattle-based financial management company, Lakeside Advisors, Inc., he continuously finds ways to help his clients’ portfolios by using visualization, something his instructors at IIT often did to bring life to complicated formulas and equations. “I’ve always liked finance, and I found that like chemistry, mathematical relationships can live in your mind,” says Frey.

After teaching financial planning courses and helping numerous people launch their own businesses, Frey wanted to give to the university. “IIT always made sure I was financially equipped. Those scholarships and the money I made working for different professors made all the difference,” he says, thinking back on his own experiences as a scholarship student.

In 1986, he made his first gift to the IIT Capital Campaign Fund. He then redirected his focus to scholarships, the chemistry department, and most recently, the Life Sciences building, where he studied 50 years ago. “The university holds a dear spot in my heart, and the chemistry department took care of me,” says Frey.

President John Anderson has traveled extensively to spread the word about the need to restore iconic Main Campus buildings as part of Fuelling Innovation: The Campaign for IIT. One of them, the Life Sciences building, is undergoing a major renovation to be transformed into the Robert A. Pritzker Research Center. Frey heard Anderson’s call to action and responded with a generous pledge for a chemistry suite in the Pritzker Center—a vital facility for IIT College of Science. “I was happy to contribute to my alma mater and current students. I envision the space to be a practical, yet beautiful place for students to collaborate.”

Robert E. Frey (CHEM ’65)
Angela Ng’s (CE ’11) journey to become a civil engineer started with a small detour. A full-tuition scholarship offer and the reputation of IIT’s renowned architecture program brought her to the university. But after a few classes in architecture, she realized that her true interests were “less creative, more technical—in building and construction,” so she switched to civil engineering.

Ng is a civil engineer working on large-scale interstate and expressway projects—those ubiquitous roadways that connect people and places across the world. Like her work projects, she sees herself as a connector, linking IIT to other young alumni. “I sound like a broken record amongst my friends, but talking about IIT and getting them to attend events fosters that connection after graduation,” says Ng, who sends mass emails to her classmates every year rallying them to attend Homecoming. She recently joined the Young Alumni Council, where she hopes to encourage her peers to attend events, mentor students, and provide networking opportunities.

Ng is the youngest member of IIT Visionaries, a select group of donors who support the university with gifts of $1,000 or more annually. She tells us that she saved up for a year to make her first gift. “I wanted to give back so a student could benefit just as I benefitted from someone else’s generosity. I was grateful and happy to be a part of IIT and to have known all the wonderful people who made an impression on me.”

She counts President John Anderson among those people, having met him through her role as president of the student-run Union Board. What she recalls about her interactions with him was the effort he made to connect with the students—remembering their names, acknowledging their voices, and building bridges between students and university leadership. “I saw him on the CTA train once, and he remembered me,” she recalls. “He recognized the work we did as student leaders. That made my time here at IIT really special.”

Inspired by the many people who made a difference in her life as a student, this dedicated alumna continues to find avenues for IIT alumni to re-connect and give back to their alma mater.
Growing up in a household of educators, Edward Flom (CHE ’54) knew that education was a top priority. Flom’s father was the superintendent of schools in Aledo, Ill., and his mother a schoolteacher. “It was expected that my sister and I would get an education and excel at it,” he recalls.

A generous scholarship brought Flom to IIT, where he pledged Phi Kappa Sigma and opted to live in the fraternity house. “Most of my long-term friendships resulted from living in that house,” he says. “I served two terms each as president and treasurer of the fraternity, and it was a great learning experience.” He also took on leadership roles in the Illinois Tech Student Association and a much-coveted role as chair of the Black Knight group, a “secret” student group that advised John T. Rattalata, then president of IIT. “My Black Knight committee proposed and started the very first evaluation of faculty by students,” he says with a chuckle.

Flom credits his 40-year career at Amoco to his IIT education, graduating with a chemical engineering degree and a minor in finance. Grateful for the scholarship that put him on a path to success, Flom and his wife, Beryl, established the Ed and Beryl Flom Endowed Scholarship Fund through their estate. This legacy gift made the Floms members of the Frank W. Gunsaulus Society and—combined with their numerous gifts over the past decades—elevated their giving level to member status in the Philip Danforth Armour Society, which recognizes IIT’s most generous donors. “Beryl and I feel it is important to give others the same opportunity that was given to me. IIT is part of our family, and this gift of education will be part of our legacy,” he says.

Over the last 60 years, this devoted alumnus has stayed connected to the university, advising his fraternity and encouraging alumni to get involved. From enthusiastically supporting President John Anderson and his vision for the future of the university, “I am excited about the new Kaplan Institute and the role it will play connecting IIT to companies,” he says. “President Anderson has done a great job. I want to thank him for growing our student body and enhancing IIT’s reputation worldwide.”

(For more information about the Gunsaulus and Armour Societies, please turn to page 17.)
Concentrate on the task, not the tool.
That was the focus for Betsey and Sam Farber as they created the OXO Good Grips brand. Sam had recently retired from Copco—a cookware company he founded—and the couple was renting a house in Provence, France. Frustrated by the ordinary kitchen tools left in a vacation house, Betsey recalls that her husband was inspired to “un-retire” when he had an idea for a signature line of kitchen tools—tools that were beautiful in design but hand-friendly, allowing users to focus on the task.

The rest is kitchenware history. Good Grips, which debuted in 1990, spawned a worldwide design revolution in kitchen products, and Sam—who already had made design history with his famous Copco tea kettle wars before—had yet another hit.

Sam once told Architectural Record: “Innovation is only meaningful when it enhances the human experience... in the final analysis, it’s about the user.”

A Harvard-educated, serial design entrepreneur, Sam found that the human-centered design thinking approach at IIT Institute of Design (ID) closely mirrored his own. He joined the school’s Board of Overseers, gave generously to student fellowships, and soon became a passionate advocate of the ID philosophy. Betsey, an architect, shared her husband’s passion for design. Today, she carries on his commitment to ID by encouraging others to give to the Sam Farber Fellowship, established in his memory after his death in 2013. The endowed fellowship provides financial assistance to students who want to use design to improve lives. Longtime friends of the Farbers including Davin Stowell, co-founder of Smart Design; Tom Slaughter of the Goldsmith Foundation; and Carole and Gordon Segal, founders of Crate and Barrel, embraced the idea and honored Sam’s memory with generous gifts to establish the fellowship.

The endowment will help create a cohort of Farber Fellows working in design, creating innovative products and better experiences for consumers. This is precisely the kind of human-centered design that Sam valued and practiced. His legacy of innovation that improves lives will become a permanent part of the ID story and provide an inspiring example for the dreamers, makers, and doers of tomorrow.

“INNOVATION IS ONLY MEANINGFUL WHEN IT ENHANCES THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE... IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT’S ABOUT THE USER.”

—SAM FARBER
The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship is one of the most exciting new concepts in Chicago’s tech ecosystem— bringing together innovative thinking, emerging technologies, and entrepreneurial spirit to produce products, processes, and roadmaps that will reshape the way we think, live, learn, and play. This planned 100,000-square-foot new academic building on Main Campus is President John Anderson’s top priority, and he views it as key to positioning the university for continued success.

Ed Kaplan (ME ’65)—co-founder of Zebra Technologies, generous donor, and longtime member of the IIT Board of Trustees—and his wife, Carol, made a $10 million challenge gift to establish the institute. “The most important thing about what Carol and I are doing is that it is for the students,” says Kaplan. “No single university in the United States has a program that will be as robust as ours. Our graduates will acquire a capability to innovate that is far superior to any other technical university.”

**AN INVESTMENT IN GENERATION INNOVATION**

Kaplan and Anderson, along with IIT Provost Alan Cramb, led a team of trustees who collectively authored a set of outcomes for this landmark institute, envisioning its impact on our students. These outcomes are:

- Creative students who wish to innovate in STEM fields will be attracted to IIT.
- All IIT undergraduates will acquire a superior capability to innovate and all will have the opportunity to participate in an entrepreneurial activity. Our graduates will be in demand because of their educational experience in the Kaplan Institute.
- Relationships and collaborations with external organizations will be developed to broaden interactions and leverage resources in order to accelerate innovation and enable entrepreneurial activities.
- Innovative ideas will result in new enterprise formation.

The Kaplans will match dollar for dollar, up to $10 million, all eligible gifts to the Kaplan Innovation Challenge. With $22.1 million* of the $40 million project cost raised, this challenge provides donors with an opportunity to double the impact of their gifts by taking advantage of the Kaplans’ generosity before the $10 million limit has been reached.

*as of October 1, 2014; includes $10 million challenge gift from the Kaplans

Ed Kaplan (ME ’65) and his wife, Carol.