



impact PASSION



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



DEAR FRIENDS:

Thank you for your generosity!

This publication celebrates the impact that you have had on the students, faculty, research, and campus of Illinois Institute of Technology. This year's issue focuses on what drives IIT's success: passion. When ignited by a rigorous academic experience, passion can fuel innovation.

We see passion in our donors, who have the vision to support scientific and technological breakthroughs made possible by the IIT educational experience. That drive is reflected in our students, faculty, and alumni who learn from each other and go on to start major companies, redesign iconic brands, and invent life-changing technologies such as the cell phone.

Our alumni created innovative processes and products that touch our lives today, and they are inspirations for IIT students to work toward a better tomorrow. Your gifts to the university ensure that today's students have the faculty and resources to do so. In essence, your contribution is an investment in solutions and the lives of the people who devise them.

We hope you'll take a moment to view the donor honor roll included in the magazine to see the names of those who supported IIT with gifts of \$100 or more in the last fiscal year. When you come across your name, we hope you are proud to be part of this community.

On behalf of President John L. Anderson and the IIT administration, I thank you for prioritizing the university in your philanthropic decisions. We are grateful for all you have done and continue to do.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hughes
Vice President, Institutional Advancement
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Denis Weil (DSGN '01)



CHANGE AGENT

An IIT alumnus is leading the overhaul of an iconic global company's customer experience, so it's only fitting that the word "innovation" is in his job description.

Denis Weil (DSGN '01) is creating new retailing concepts for McDonald's Corporation in his role as vice president of concept and design in the Innovation Group. He credits his IIT Institute of Design (ID) education for his ability to undertake this \$2.4 billion modernization.

Weil, who was born and raised in Switzerland, interrupted his international career in brand management and innovation at age 38 because he wanted to pursue his passion for design. His experience at the Institute of Design helped him lead remarkable changes at this uniquely American—yet global—company.

Weil's approach is familiar to any Institute of Design alumnus: by observing users, he and his team can identify needs that users haven't verbalized.

"If you just think linearly, you will not get there. Everything is interconnected," he says. For example, menu boards, landscaping, and table placement are just a few design factors that affect a customer's experience. Weil and his team consider all of them, taking an interdisciplinary approach to unite behaviors, technologies, and physical elements to improve McDonald's.

Because of the success Weil's IIT education has provided, he eagerly hires IIT alumni and made a generous commitment to give back to his alma mater—which he hopes inspires others to do the same. To this end, a portion of his gift will go towards ID's efforts to get reconnected with its alumni; the larger portion of his gift will allow ID to explore how design can benefit Chicago's nonprofit community.

"My success is driven by what I learned at ID. As my success has continued to grow, I have continued to give more," Weil says.



Ellen Jordan Reidy (PSYC '79, M.B.A. '81)

SERVANT LEADER

Ellen Jordan Reidy's (PSYC '79, M.B.A. '81) extensive involvement at IIT is the result of four words that guide her life: "How can I help?"

It's a phrase she learned from her mother, Dr. Ellen M. Jordan, who founded a school for young adults with special needs. This philosophy is the cornerstone of Jordan Reidy's service at her alma mater: as a member of the IIT Board of Trustees and its facilities, advancement, and executive committees; on the Alumni Awards Committee; and as the newest member of the Philip Danforth Armour Society, which honors those who have given gifts of \$1 million or more to support the university's mission.

Jordan Reidy is the founder and president of America's Food Technologies, a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise that develops and manufactures beverages for the foodservice and coffee industries. Her attitude of service extends to her profession; she has served on numerous industry boards, including one dedicated to improving the quality of coffee and the lives of people who produce it.

She first became involved as an alumna 20 years ago when her mentor, Professor and Dean Emeritus M. Zia Hassan (M.S. IE '58, Ph.D. '65), asked her to join the IIT Stuart School of Business Board of Overseers. She credits Hassan for her success; he designed the process flow layout for both of her manufacturing plants. So when plans were made to establish a chair in Hassan's honor, Jordan Reidy was the first to step forward with a gift.

Now that she has spearheaded new innovations in the beverage industry, she turns to IIT when she needs to recruit employees who have the passion to further improve processes and products. "I am ever-inspired and humbled by our incredible alumni. I have come to know people who are extraordinary in their fields, and yet they're also the most approachable," she says.



Paul Schutt (PHYS '55)

SCIENCE ADVOCATE

Paul Schutt (PHYS '55) traces his professional success in nuclear fuel manufacturing to the interactions he had with his professors at IIT.

"It was an outstanding educational experience. When I went to graduate school, I was very prepared," he says. "The teachers were attentive, and a personalized education was always available at IIT because of the small classes.

"I have had a wonderful career. I've started several companies and grown many, and I can say I've produced at least 2,000 new jobs. All my efforts were very science related, so I wanted to do the best I could for physics at IIT."

To ensure that today's students have the same opportunity he had to learn from the best faculty members in their fields, Schutt and his wife,

Suzi, endowed the College of Science and Letters' first donor-funded endowed chair. John F. Zasadzinski, professor of physics, was invested with the chair in spring 2012, and the Schutts attended the ceremony with their 19 children and grandchildren.

The couple showed their family where they met as students, when Suzi was studying nursing at the nearby Michael Reese Hospital. The Schutts, who also visited IIT for Paul's 50th reunion, have seen the campus improve dramatically since Paul graduated. They are proud of their involvement with the university and how this endowed chair in physics is helping to fuel innovation through science education.

"I was always impressed with IIT's growth and modernization, and that's what you would hope to see. You can't stay stagnant, and certainly IIT has not," Schutt says.



Victoria King Meyer (CHE '90)

ALUMNI CONNECTOR

Victoria King Meyer (CHE '90) wanted more—more opportunities, more experiences, and more successes. After briefly attending community college, she remembered the campus she used to pass by on visits to her grandmother's house in Bridgeport and decided it was time to give IIT a try.

"I knew IIT had the focus on engineering that I needed, but I was surprised at how easy it was to integrate myself into campus and all it had to offer," she says. Meyer credits her fellow students, small class sizes, leadership opportunities, and close relationships with faculty for making a difference in her campus experience. Her student experience was rich and served as a head start on her successful professional life.

"As an IIT student, I was able to gravitate towards the things that interested me," she says. Those experiences at IIT laid the foundation for her to give back. Meyer made her first gift to IIT just two short years after graduation and has continued her support over the last two decades.

"It is my obligation to give back to IIT. My experience provided me with tremendous growth opportunities," she says.

Meyer's support isn't measured only in dollars; she has made it her priority to see IIT succeed through her volunteer efforts, as well. In order to engage Houston-area alumni with their alma mater, Meyer, a commercial development manager at Shell Chemicals, recently hosted an alumni reception at Shell and hopes the event will spark other Houston-area alumni events.

As a Shell executive, member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and mother of four daughters under the age of nine, Meyer has learned to prioritize her time to make the greatest impact. By working to involve her fellow alumni with their alma mater, she is fueling alumni pride through her time, energy, and passion for IIT.

Harold Singleton III (CHE '83)



PHILANTHROPIC CATALYST

When Harold Singleton III (CHE '83) left Lane Tech High School in Chicago in 1979 for IIT, he didn't realize how transformative his years at the university would be. After he struggled to find the funds to live on campus during his freshman year, an act of kindness from a near stranger helped him feel at ease with his decision. His new roommate, Arndell Ricks, whom he first met just one week earlier during orientation week, paid for his books so he could attend class. "I missed the first week of school because I didn't have books; his generosity was one of the biggest moments of my IIT experience," Singleton says.

Kindnesses such as these helped Singleton to create lifelong bonds and friendships with his fellow students. "IIT was my extended family—we ate together, we studied together, we played basketball together, we played cards together, we pledged our fraternity together. There was a great sense of community that helped us all succeed under difficult circumstances."

Thanks in part to a supportive network of fellow alumni, Singleton became re-involved with the university more than 25 years after he graduated in order to honor the man who helped bring him to IIT. Nate Thomas, IIT's past director of minority affairs and one of Singleton's mentors, passionately recruited African-American students to the university in the 1970s and 1980s. In 2009, IIT's African-American Alumni Association sponsored the Nate Thomas Tribute event, and Singleton attended. That event reignited his passion for the university.

Now an executive in the investment business, Singleton, a member of the IIT Board of Trustees, endowed a scholarship earlier this year in the names of his parents to support Chicago Public Schools students and public school students in several major cities who want to get a coveted engineering education at IIT.

"My parents instilled the value of an education into my belief system; therefore, I want to offer assistance to students who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend IIT and attain this invaluable education," Singleton says.



Marty Cooper (EE '50, M.S. '57) and Arlene Harris

LIFELONG INNOVATORS

Marty Cooper (EE '50, M.S. '57) could not have made it at IIT without a little help from the United States Navy. A future electrical engineer, it was a Naval Reserves Officer Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship that made it possible for him to study at IIT. As a Chicago native who wanted to attend IIT since grammar school, that scholarship made all the difference.

"It made my college dream come true," he says. "I had an extraordinary experience going to school at IIT. The thought of others sharing that same experience has motivated me to continue my relationship with IIT during the 50-odd years since I graduated," he says.

Ever a man of his word, Cooper—along with his wife and business partner, Arlene Harris—is making that dream come true for other college hopefuls. Along with their previous gifts to benefit university scholarships, the couple recently made provisions for the university in their wills, becoming members of the Frank Wakely Gunsaulus Society, IIT's planned giving society.

An "adopted" IIT graduate, Harris feels a strong connection to IIT, both through Cooper and her personal passion for the education that IIT provides. "We both have a passion for education, especially the kind of education you find at IIT," she says. Cooper and Harris have designated their bequest as an unrestricted gift, which will allow the university to attribute the funds to the area that needs the most support.

Internationally regarded as the "father of the cellular phone," Cooper has been advancing technology for more than six decades. He continues to contribute to wireless technology in his efforts to improve the efficiency of radio spectrum use. With their work on developing new products and services as well as advocating for technology improvements that help predict, prevent, and monitor a person's health, he and Harris will continue to fuel innovation for many decades to come.

For more information about IIT's Gunsaulus Society, see page 34.



Joel Krauss (MATH '71) and Alan "Bud" Wendorf (ME '71)

Q & A

with your campaign co-chairs

IIT has been fueling innovation for nearly 125 years. Look around and you can see it in the products developed by our students, faculty, and alumni. You can see the process of innovation unfolding in our classrooms, our laboratories, our centers, and our institutes. Talk to our graduates and you'll begin to understand that passion drives IIT people to go beyond—and make a mark on the world.

Fueling Innovation: The Campaign for IIT is our way of ensuring the merit of this mark on the world. As we seek to raise the funds that will support new IIT initiatives, leading the charge are members of the Board of Trustees Alan "Bud" Wendorf (ME '71) and Joel Krauss (MATH '71), co-chairs of the Campaign for IIT. Read on as they discuss our plan to look forward and go beyond.

As campaign co-chairs, what do you hope to achieve through the campaign?

Both [laughing]: \$250 million!

JK: I hope we can better engage our 60,000-plus alumni to better allow us to work together to create great opportunities for today's IIT graduates. IIT is experiencing a renaissance, and the facts prove it. Don't take our word for it—check it out yourself.

BW: We're also focused on fundraising; reaching our financial goal is extremely important. In addition to achieving our tangible goal, we will be better positioned to both connect with the next generation of IIT students and strengthen the university's impact in key areas in the future.

Why is "Fueling Innovation" the right name for this campaign?

BW: Because that's exactly what we're doing. This campaign will provide the power that IIT needs to transform the future.

JK: The motivation behind every single one of our goals is to provide the opportunity to change the future.

What is the most important campaign fact that you want our alumni and friends to know?

JK: I want to stress the fact that we need everyone's support. We want everyone to consider IIT and do what they can. Every donation helps—any amount. Beyond the

dollar value, alumni engagement and participation are just as important. Attending alumni events, finding talented applicants, assisting with job placement at your business, being the voice of IIT where you live—it all helps!

BW: The goals of the campaign follow the goals of the university. We have always been a renowned university that strives to provide a distinctive education based on innovation and excellence. The campaign will simply expand and heighten those ideals.

How will you know the campaign was successful?

BW: A successful campaign will create an opportunity to elevate the wonderful things that are happening at IIT and allow more of them to happen. Increased alumni participation, renewed alumni pride, and the addition of the Innovation Center will all be markers of our success.

JK: The Innovation Center will be huge for us—but it's not so much parallel "constructing" a new building on campus as it is growing a true center for innovation that will develop students, integrate with industry, and solve really hard problems. The center—which will nurture new innovation and new innovators—will make us successful.

Insert the campaign into your own lives. Bud, as an avid automobile enthusiast, relate the campaign to a car.

BW: IIT's campaign would be a late-1970s-model Porsche 917-30 Can-Am, one of the most powerful race cars ever

designed. The car was driven by a powerful, turbo-charged engine that used exhaust gases to boost engine power, so when you slammed down the accelerator there was a slight lag while you waited for the turbo-charge. Right now, we're slamming down the campaign's accelerator; once we go public, we'll spool up the turbo-charger in the engine and deliver a tremendous amount of horsepower to see us through. Once we get the momentum and we're no longer building up to the public launch, we're going to have an explosion of unstoppable speed behind us.

Your turn, Joel. How do you relate the campaign to your favorite hobby, cycling?

JK: Although bicycles are simple machines, they were and are an innovation. Beyond the machine, they're all about the success of the people on them. I think of the campaign as a long climb up a mountain. We've already covered the initial climb—it's been steep. . .but not too steep. Up ahead it gets steeper. We need to stay focused and keep climbing—even if it's gradual—without stopping. We need "team riders" to make it up the rest of this climb, and that's where we need everyone who reads this magazine. Together we can get to the top, enjoy the view, and have fun coasting down the other side.

For more information about *Fueling Innovation: The Campaign for IIT*, visit fuelinginnovation.iit.edu.



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