DEAR FRIENDS:

Thank you for your generosity!

Each year, the Office of Institutional Advancement at IIT publishes Impact magazine as a way to thank donors like you. In this issue of Impact we explore and applaud philanthropic leadership at IIT. We feature stories about our student leaders, alumni leaders, and civic leaders who are driving us forward in the beginning stages of a new comprehensive campaign. This is the story of how philanthropy helps our university grow and who is behind it all. It is a story about people like you.

Our university is reliant upon volunteers and donors who take leadership roles. And we thrive because of this leadership—from our faculty and staff, students and alumni, and the civic community. Whether it is our students, who learn to be leaders and continue to be for the rest of their lives as alumni, or our civic leaders, faculty, and staff who see the potential of IIT and want to be involved, IIT has built a culture of leadership.

We hope you enjoy Impact magazine and that you take note of our special tribute to Bob Pritzker and Bob Galvin, two of IIT’s most beloved and generous leaders, who devoted themselves to the betterment of our university. We ask that you also spend a moment to view the donor honor roll printed on the latter pages. This list recognizes all the leaders who supported IIT with a gift of $100 or more in the last fiscal year. We also recognize special donors who have given for 25 consecutive years!

On behalf of President John Anderson and the IIT administration, I thank you for prioritizing Illinois Institute of Technology in your philanthropic decisions. We look forward to being with you for another year of success at IIT.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hughes
Vice President, Institutional Advancement
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As the daughter of an academic, Elnaz Moshfeghian (CS 4th year) moved often when she was a kid as her father sought new opportunities to teach and conduct research. But the difficulties that came with being the “new kid” throughout her childhood developed in her a quiet strength that would grow in concert with her experience at IIT.

An IIT scholarship convinced Moshfeghian’s family of Oklahoma State University graduates that she should move away to Chicago. She spent her first year at IIT getting excellent grades—earning a 4.0 grade point average in her first semester—but still feeling like an outsider. Instead of settling for a productive yet quiet existence at IIT, Moshfeghian decided to force herself to meet new people and become involved with the university.

She made friends and volunteered her time, participating in Alternative Spring Break and student government.

In the end, though, it was the scholarship she received that gave her the confidence to stand out and prove she had earned the support of her donors, Ed and Renee Ross.

“I get a scholarship is such a deal. I make you work harder knowing it was a gift from a stranger and that it could easily be given to someone else,” Moshfeghian says. She explains that the risks she took to become a leader came from remembering she was at IIT because someone else—her donors—had helped her do it. “If you’re on scholarship,” she says, “you have to study, live, and lead like you really mean it.”

Moshfeghian found that becoming Student Government Association president felt natural. She feels comfortable trying new things and taking on more responsibilities, saying the ability to multi-task is the key. “I dare myself every day to test my limits,” she says.

Moshfeghian was a winner of IIT’s Richard A. Babcock Leadership Award and Clinton E. Stryker Distinguished Service Award, which proves that seeing great things from her isn’t just a possibility—it is a given. When asked about her next dream for IIT, she says, “A new recreation center!”

“We like how this ambitious IIT student leader thinks.”

—I DARE MYSELF EVERY DAY TO TEST MY LIMITS.

—Elnaz

STUDENT LEADER
DEDICATED LEADERS

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law alumni employed at SmithAmundsen, LLC know what it means to be dedicated to their alma mater. Through both philanthropic leadership and volunteerism, the group is committed to making Chicago-Kent a national leader in legal education. Many Chicago-Kent alumni are part of the law firm, and they stay involved with the school by serving as adjunct faculty, judging trial competitions, reviewing resumes, and serving on committees that focus on career strategies, strategic planning, and preparing lawyers. But it’s their involvement as a group that makes all the difference.

“As a group, this is our opportunity to give back to a school that helped give us our careers,” says Larry Schechtman (LAW ’83), partner. “We continue to have relationships with faculty. I appreciate going back and seeing that the same people who taught me are still teaching students today, making them into leaders just like they did with me.”

Although the firm has a longtime record of giving to Chicago-Kent, the formal partnership between SmithAmundsen and the school began five years ago. The idea for a partnership stemmed from Glen Amundsen (LAW ’80), chairman and chief executive officer, and Schechtman. “When we were looking to partner, we considered all the law schools and chose Chicago-Kent,” Schechtman says. “We set up the philanthropic side of the formal program with two main parts: the SmithAmundsen Excellence in Legal Writing Award and the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team, both honoring the ideals of SmithAmundsen’s diversity initiatives.”

Amundsen adds, “We have a calling to help build the profession and encourage young people who aspire to be trial lawyers. The firm’s work with Chicago-Kent’s trial teams and legal writing program is a natural growth of that effort to support the development of talented young lawyers who someday will do what we do.”

“Chicago-Kent students are committed to achieving greatness, which means I am constantly learning, refining my own trial skills, and forcing myself to be on top of my game,” says Margaret Firnstein (LAW ’99). “Who wouldn’t want to have the honor of being associated with young minds like that?”

IIT Impact
Calamos and his wife, Mae, gave $10 million to IIT, the largest alumni donation to the new campaign, through the John P. Calamos Foundation. Their gift will be used in part to establish two endowed chairs: one to provide support for the dean of the Stuart School of Business and the other to support a professor in philosophy in the College of Science and Letters. Schutt and his wife, Suzi, established an endowed fund for a chair in science, which established the first chair in the College of Science and Letters. Their $1.5 million gift will ensure support for a chair in physics, chemistry, biology, or mathematics.

For Schutt, it was about giving back to a university that provided an unparalleled undergraduate experience. “I was solid in math and the basics, so going to grad school was a cinch,” he says.

University Regent Craig Duchossois and his wife, Janet, want that same experience for today’s IIT students. That’s why they created the Duchossois Leadership Professors Program, which supports faculty who are uniquely suited to serve as mentors. “It is not enough to have faculty who are leaders in their fields. We need faculty who can influence today’s students to become tomorrow’s innovators,” Duchossois says.

Creating a chaired position can be a group effort, too. In fall 2011, an investiture was held for Chicago-Kent College of Law’s first Ralph Brill Chair, named in honor of the longtime professor. Brill’s reputation prompted alumni to come together and commemorate his work by raising funds to attract influential law scholars. “I want to admit it provided a feeling I wish everyone could experience. All of these people were willing to donate because they felt I had helped them,” Brill says.

“Endowed chairs allow us to attract and retain a world-class faculty, which helps us recruit a competitive body of students and ensures a rich education,” says Chicago-Kent Dean Harold Krent.

The university is more than halfway toward its goal to establish 20 new endowed chairs in the leadership phase of Fueling Innovation. The Campaign for IIT. The generosity of alumni and friends created 12 such positions so far. Endowed chairs allow the university to attract and retain the best faculty in their fields, which, in turn, drives talented students.

“When we endowed chairs at IIT, we solicited faculty who have made significant contributions and who have reached the pinnacle of excellence in their fields,” says Alan Gries, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “Those scholars increase the stature of our University and affect the visiblity of their presence in education and research.”

Generosity from individuals, families, and corporations makes endowed chairs possible. Recent examples include generous gifts from new Philip Diehl Class of 1953 members John P. Calamos, Sr. (BCON ’63, M.B.A. ’70) and Paul Schutt (PHYS ’55).

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Whether it’s a “million dollar sermon” or a modest gift that arrives year after year, leadership in philanthropy is the livelihood of Illinois Institute of Technology. Michael Wayte (ME ’61) believes in the university’s mission and is making it his own mission to ensure that IIT continues to provide a distinctive education well into the future.

A loyal donor since his graduation in 1961, Wayte is confident that reliability will put IIT ahead of the game.

“It’s like anything else that depends upon money to operate—consistency and reliability make planning a lot easier,” he says. “It removes the question of how a program or activity is going to be funded and affords a sense of security. Consistent gifts to IIT allow everyone involved to expand their horizons and do more—for the student body, for the institution, and for the community.”

As a faithful contributor to scholarship and priority funds, Wayte strives to put his buck where it will have the most bang. “Since there’s no fund called ‘Here’s Where We Need Your Money the Most,’ I try to donate to the broadest areas and trust that the people in Institutional Advancement will put my gift to good use,” he says.

Last year, Wayte celebrated his 50th reunion and volunteered with the 2011 Golden Society Reunion planning committee, giving him the opportunity to take his leadership to the next level. The former basketball player, baseball player, student politician, and Delta Tau Delta brother regularly spreads the good word of philanthropy with fellow alumni. “I feel a certain kinship to this place. I think anyone who’s graduated from IIT should have an interest in furthering the success and recognition of this school,” he said. “People just need to be reminded.”

“I FEEL A CERTAIN KINSHIP TO THIS PLACE.”
—Michael
As part of the 2011 Homecoming festivities, the Student Gift Committee celebrated the dedication of the 2011 Student Gift to fund the undergraduate reserve textbook collection at Paul V. Galvin Library.

In just the second year of the committee’s existence, it collected more than $10,000, including gifts from more than 300 IIT students and the generous support of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, volunteers, and IT staff.

Thanks to the 2011 Student Gift Committee chairs, Stacy Morton (ARCH ’11), Goldey Khanna (CHE ’11), and Trey Hurst (ARCH ’11), IIT students have emerged as philanthropic leaders on campus. “Students can’t afford large gifts, and this was an opportunity for us to give back in our own way and to inspire other students to do so, as well,” says Morton. The campaign was created in 2010 to build a tradition of giving among IIT students. Each year, the campaign allows students the opportunity to have ownership of a special project of their choice.

Morton and Khanna knew they wanted to run a grassroots effort and make the campaign both informational and engaging. They attended several student and campus events to ask for support from their fellow students and to explain how their gifts would make a difference. According to Khanna, “We wanted to make the campaign very interactive. It was harder but worth it.” Morton says that without teamwork and joint effort they may not have made the goal.

When asked what advice they would give future gift committees, both agree that the key is to be ambitious and fund something to create a long-lasting legacy with the students.
For Jason Tenenbaum (AE ’07), a recent IIT graduate and Leadership Academy alumnae, IIT offered an opportunity for him to thrive and get involved inside and outside the classroom during college. Thanks to the generosity of donors Al and Lila Self, Tenenbaum and current IIT students like him are able to do just that.

In 2005, Al and Lila Self, members of the Philip Danforth Armour Society, endowed IIT’s Leadership Academy program, ensuring past, present, and future students the opportunity to discover their inner leaders. Over the years, the Leadership Academy has provided the foundation on which students can build strong leadership and communication skills to take their IIT education from the classroom to real-world environments. “My experience laid a strong foundation for the skills I am now using in the working world. It is amazing how much I’ve achieved when I reflect back on the list of goals I made my sophomore year at IIT,” says Tenenbaum.

According to Bruce Fisher, the program’s director, these qualities are instilled in participants by nurturing values, creating solutions, crafting visions, and providing inspiration. These essential steps allow students to develop their own personal style, accountability, and success.

Fisher isn’t the only person the Selfs have inspired. Fellow Armour Society member and IIT University Regent Craig Duchossois, with his wife, Janet, also made a gift to IIT to support leadership development and mentorship. “Al’s example of dedication to leadership at IIT has fostered a new generation of innovators who will help lead this university to new heights and undoubtedly change our world,” says Duchossois. “I see Al and Lila as pacesetters in leadership development, and I wanted to give back in a way that complemented their passion.”
On a late summer afternoon, groups of high school students huddle around desks in Engineering 1 Building on Main Campus. Their fists are full of balsa wood and pencils, and they’re discussing design.

“Wait, are you thinking about how you’re putting it there?” Shantae Howell asks classmate Aidan Sadowski.

“Hot glue everything!” Sadowski responds.

The two are collaborating to make the strongest model bridge possible. In less than 25 minutes, their project will be tested by the weight of as many books as possible—and they’re in it to win.

Howell and Sadowski are among the Chicago-area high school students attending Boeing Scholars Academy, one of IIT’s summer programs to encourage leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, known as STEM+ fields.

The academy prepares students for the academic areas crucial to the future of our nation’s success. Edward Ross (ME ’43) and his wife, Renee, have strengthened this effort through their generous expendable gifts to fund students interested in STEM+ fields. Other generous donors gathered this past summer on U.S. Cellular Field, home of the Chicago White Sox, to play ball in support of IIT’s 2011 Henry Heald Award recipient, John A. Canning, Jr. Their effort raised more than $550,000 for IIT’s STEM+ scholarships. Collectively, alumni and friends are leading the way in developing programming for talented high school and incoming undergraduate students.

The Boeing program is in its first year, and it builds on the excellence of the Exelon Summer Institute, which helps incoming first-year IIT students get a taste of college life while preparing them for a rigorous curriculum in STEM+ fields. The annual Exelon Summer Institute has garnered success as participants go on to teach new students within the program. Donors who support these programs help the university reach more talented students earlier in their academic careers—high school students like Anthony Jackson, who is fascinated by urban agricultural systems.

“I like to work with my hands, and I’m learning from the people around me,” says Jackson, who worked toward making a sustainable urban garden this summer.

By providing an exceptional experience for students such as Jackson, IIT’s philanthropists are supporting an innovative future.
“E to the X, D, X-D-Y! Secant, tangent, co-sine, sine! Three point one four one five nine!”

John Olin’s (ME ’61) voice rang loudly at the 2011 Golden Society Reunion as he began to recite the “IIT Hawk Cheer” to a round of applause. As he continued, others in the room joined in.

“Pi I, cube root three! Rock ’em, sock ’em, IIT!”

The committee chair for the reunion, Olin has a passion for IIT and a history of being generous with his time. He has found that the best way for him to give back to his alma mater is by encouraging others to join him in volunteer leadership support. Instilling a similar sense of leadership in his fellow alumni is a priority close to Olin’s heart.

“I always say, ‘IIT was very good to me. Was IIT very good to you?’ And almost every time, they’ll say ‘Yes,’” he says. “That’s the best approach Olin has found to persuade others to share their IIT stories with him—and his first step in engaging them with IIT. “There’s no better way to convince someone to volunteer their time than by reminding them just how much IIT meant to them as students,” he says. “I love sharing my own IIT stories and personal experiences with others. I find that people will then tell me their stories because part of theirs is mine, too. That’s just how IIT is.”

More than anything, Olin wants to give back to the university that gave so much to him. “IIT was very important to me, and I will never forget the time I spent there,” he says. “I earned my doctorate from another university, but I never felt the kinship there like I did at IIT.” A scholarship recipient himself, he is building the Olin legacy at IIT between his volunteer leadership and philanthropic support. His family supports the John & Jane Olin Scholarship, awarded to an undergraduate in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, with the hope of ensuring an exceptional college experience for future generations.

“As you get older, there’s that sense of wanting to give back,” Olin says. “We’re so fortunate that we have so many opportunities in this country, and I believe you have to pay it forward. It’s a part of life, part of being human.”
And they were teammates. They had enormous respect for each other and were active members of a mutual admiration society. When they asked me to become president in 1990, they knew that the university was facing an existential challenge. Undergraduate enrollment had declined steadily during the 1980s, and the university was in a downward spiral.

The three of us met and talked frequently. One day I was sitting with Bob Pritzker, looking at projections that showed the university soon would be flirting with insolvency. Bob looked at the projections and said, “Don’t worry about that, we’re not broke yet.” Bob’s creative energy was contagious. We spent time analyzing whether the university could redefine itself as an all-graduate institution, but ultimately we could not make such a model work. We analyzed dramatic downsizing options, but none seemed to lead to a healthy institution. We considered merging with other institutions—and indeed had some serious discussions to that end—but nothing made economic sense.

We needed a better idea, and to get it, Bob Galvin convened a nationally distinguished group to help us chart a path to a brighter future. Thus was born the National Commission for IIT.

The National Commission worked hard—both Bobs attended the many meetings throughout the year. The commission recommended many things, but the most important was the creation of an interprofessional education program “to meet the needs of twenty-first century professionals worldwide.” All involved knew that this would require a major effort on the part of the faculty over an extended period of time. In the 18 years since the National Commission made its recommendations, the university faculty has developed an exceptional interprofessional program.

However, that is getting ahead of ourselves. There was no world-class interprofessional program the day after the commission issued its report, and nothing in the report changed our financial trajectory. And that is where the generous spirit of the Bobs came into the picture.

Our discussions focused on what could be accomplished in the very short term, and we eventually zeroed in on creating a scholarship program to attract some of the very best students to IIT. This program, which they agreed to fund on an experimental basis, was tested in fall 1995. The Camras Scholars Program was a smashing success. We attracted a group of about 25 exceptional students.

With that success the Bobs issued their now-famous challenge to the IIT family. They promised to donate $120 million if friends and supporters matched it. It was a declaration that both Bobs had confidence that IIT had a bright future.

The rest, as they say, is history. The match was accomplished. Funds were made available to support scholarships, research, and construction of The McCormick Tribune Campus Center, all of which energized the life of the campus. The Bobs’ passionate commitment to IIT was transformative. It is a legacy we all honor.

In Remembrance

WHAT A TEAM!

Bob Pritzker (IE ’46) and Bob Galvin. Our university was so blessed to have these two extraordinary men who were passionately committed to the institution. Their fascination with science and engineering enabled them to see the special importance of IIT. Their corporate leadership experience enabled them to provide guidance during critical times. And their generous spirits led them to provide what was then one of the largest gifts in the history of philanthropy.