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June 1, 2008–May 31, 2009

illinois institute of technology

impact
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generosity! This publication celebrates the impact you have had on the students, faculty, research, and campus of Illinois Institute of Technology.

This year, we reflect on the many generations of IIT alumni and friends. While each group has changed the campus in its own way, what remains constant is the tradition our donors keep of sharing their talent and resources with the generations who come after them. Since the very first donations were given to found the university, our donors have always taken great care to make meaningful investments in our institution, in our students. We are proud to showcase the impact of Generations of Giving at IIT throughout the pages of this magazine.

Whether you are an alumna who attended classes here or a friend who has volunteered your time and resources, you are one of thousands who has contributed to a century of growth and change at IIT. Even in the past year, when our nation experienced the worst economic downfalls in decades, our donors remained steadfast. I am proud to report that giving levels in the 2008–09 fiscal year exceeded levels in the previous year. Your consistent dedication has made a profound impact on the university, resulting in $120 million in philanthropy in the last five years.

I invite you to read our Obligations of Stewardship statement on page 44 of this publication detailing our commitment to you, the donor. As we continue to earn your trust and support, we want you to know how important you are to us.

Betsy Hughes
Vice President
Institutional Advancement

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The legacy of philanthropy began with two very sizable gifts—one to found Armour Institute and one to found Lewis Institute—the two colleges that merged in 1940 to create IIT. Many have heard the story of what has become known as the Million Dollar Sermon, when the Reverend Frank Gunsaulus delivered a message from his South Side pulpit in 1890. During that time, higher education was often reserved for the elite, and Rev. Gunsaulus said that with a million dollars, he would build a school where students of all backgrounds could prepare for meaningful roles in a changing industrial society.

It was a common sermon topic at the time—"What I Would Do If I Had a Million Dollars"—but the response to the reverend’s sermon that day was extraordinary. Philip Danforth Armour, Chicago meat-packer and business tycoon, was so inspired by the sermon that he pledged to give $1 million (the equivalent of $24 million today) to make Gunsaulus’ vision a reality. Armour Institute opened in 1893, offering professional courses in engineering, chemistry, architecture, and library science. At Philip Armour’s request, Rev. Gunsaulus served as the institute’s first president.

Lewis Institute also got its start due to the benevolence of a single person who wished to improve the lives of many others through education. Allen C. Lewis, an 1870s newcomer to Chicago, was an astute entrepreneur with a retail business and a sizeable fortune from railroad investments and post-Chicago Fire real estate ventures. At his death in 1877, Lewis left his $535,000 estate in the hands of self-appointed trustees with instruction to wait until the estate reached $800,000 and then use the money to found a school for both men and women that would “enable them to gain a livelihood.” For reasons not yet clear, the trustees delayed the opening of the school until 1896—at which point the Lewis fortune was worth $1.6 million (the equivalent of $41 million today). Lewis Institute offered courses in engineering, sciences, technology, home economics, and other domestic arts.

After surviving the Great Depression, Lewis and Armour institutes merged in 1940 to become IIT. By this year, two generations of Lewis and Armour alumni were at the middle, at the threshold of their power of giving, renewing families, serving their professions, and performing civic activities. Several of these alumni began making generous contributions to their “adopted” alma mater. E. F. Schuminke, various members of the Armour family had been contributing additional sums of money to Philip Armour’s original million dollars, and Armour’s descendents are still giving today.

Like Armour and Lewis and the early graduates of Armour and Lewis Institutes, many generations of donors since have dedicated their philanthropy to IIT. In fact, in just a century’s time, IIT has been fortunate to count 64 families who have made gifts of $1 million or more to the university, according to Betsy Hughes, IIT’s vice president for development.

Two Dedicated Donors Leave a Legacy of Philanthropy at IIT

There is no period in Illinois Institute of Technology’s history that is untouched by philanthropy. Throughout the generations, alumni and friends have made possible the university’s internationally recognized education and research.

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It is unusual that a university of our size can count this many families who have given—and continue to give—at such an extraordinary level.

Like Armour and Lewis who started the tradition of giving transformational gifts, these families have advanced the university in monumental ways. “They represent a diversity of passion and commitment with their gifts to IIT,” says Hughes. “Some have been moved to support faculty by investing in research or endowed chairs; some have literally built the campus by supporting building projects; and others have created endowments that will fund tuition for many generations of future students.” To honor this legacy of philanthropy, IIT created the Philip Danforth Armour Society in 2006 to recognize donors, who—like the society’s namesake—have given $1 million or more to the university.

The Armour Society is our way to recognize the philanthropic families who give transformational gifts of $1 million or more in support of the university’s mission. In the 2008–09 year, the Armour Society welcomed three new families:

Louis and Dorothea Schult have been posthumously included in the Armour Society for an estate gift. Louis A. Schult, who studied engineering at Armour Institute in the late 1930s, passed away in December 2007, but his generous spirit lives on at IIT. His estate has established four endowed scholarships and will enrich programs across campus.

Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern, who established the Kern Family Foundation in 1996, became Armour Society members with their gift to fund the Kern Innovation and Entrepreneurship Academy at IIT, a program designed to assist undergraduate engineering students in bringing their ideas to market. Their gift supports the powerful partnership of engineering and business, a cornerstone of many programs at IIT.

Bud Wendorf (ME ‘71) and his wife, Suzanne, and their family became Armour Society members when they established the Wendorf Endowed Scholarship. The Wendorf Family Fund will provide assistance to students entering IIT through the Collera Scholarship Program, an initiative that offers talented but economically challenged graduates of Chicago Public Schools a tuition-free education at IIT. In addition to contributing the Wendorfs’ gift of scholarship support, Bud serves on the IIT Board of Trustees.
IIT’s Greatest Generation

SHOWS LOYALTY AND DEDICATION TO SOCIETY AND ALMA MATER

It’s a title that many are too humble to use, but the Greatest Generation alumni of IIT have always lived up to the name. Whether in their careers, families, communities, or service to society, those who graduated from IIT during the tumultuous decade of the 1940s are exceptionally steadfast in their commitment and generosity to the university.

Defined by Tom Brokaw in his 1998 book of the same name, the term refers to Americans born in the 1920s who experienced the Great Depression during childhood and World War II in their early adult years. Hardship was something they knew well.

At the time, college education was still a rarity for many Americans. But for those who managed to attend IIT during the war, college was not just a destination, but also a destiny. Most had first-generation American parents who had not attended college and looked to their children to succeed. And succeed they did, often juggling education with full-time work, military service, and family.

After graduation, they went on to bring new energy and talent to their professions in the postwar years, many playing a role in historic inventions or advances in American society.

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What is your reaction to being called “The Greatest Generation?”

Frank Crossley: I recited from Tom Brokaw’s book, and I still recall that we were very diligent, hardworking, and trustworthy. This is mostly due to the difficulties of our childhoods. Our parents were forced to build character.

Henry Koci: Tom Brokaw was right. A lot of us were born in immigrant families, so many of us came here with a purpose and a vision. Our parents and grandparents taught these values to us.

Irv Burg: We were raised to be very responsible, but Brokaw may have been a little over-enthusiastic with that label. I read Tom Brokaw’s book, and I have said for years that there is no one generation that has been better for this country than the one that I am in. We have no choice but to work hard.

What did the war affect your IIT experience?

Mark Finfer: I had a draft deferment due to school, but I couldn’t resist enlisting. My brother and all my friends were in, and I joined the army.

How did the war affect your IIT experience?

Robert Boydston: I even got the GI Bill. Many of my peers were older when we graduated because we served in the war first, and then attended college. The war’s impact on many of us is to take advantage of the GI Bill, to think.

Cliff Doubeck: About 90 percent of the students in my classes at IIT from 1946-49 were ex-G.I.s. We were all anxious to get through school and make up for the three years that we were behind due to the war. Many of us had the exact same experience.

How did the war affect your IIT experience?

Jean Michels Sharpe: I wanted to go, too. I had a draft deferment due to school, but I couldn’t resist enlisting. My brother and all my friends were in, and I joined the army.
Hard, so captains would accept crewmembers of any race wherever they were. I worked for Argonne National Labs in 1949. I was a technical help in the research lab, and I had to travel a lot for my job. The travel was very interesting because I got to see different parts of the country. I worked on projects related to nuclear energy, and I had the opportunity to work with many different scientists and engineers.

I was excited about the potential of nuclear energy. I met Szilard a couple of times, but I didn’t get to know him very well. I was told that he was a very influential figure in the development of the atomic bomb, and I was interested in learning more about his work.

I was involved in the Manhattan Project, which was a top-secret project that was working on the development of the atomic bomb. I was assigned to work with Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard on the Manhattan Project. It was top-secret, and we weren’t told what we were working on until the very end.

I worked at the Electric Factory, and another eight weeks and every eight weeks was different. Even if the ship was integrated, when I arrived in a U.S. city, the segregations laws or de facto segregation practices were still very present on land.

The military experience helped our generation develop a group identity and a bond. We knew that we were part of something bigger than ourselves.

The trade unions were very strong during the time I was alive, and I remember the strikes and labor disputes that were common at the time. I was involved in a strike at the Electric Factory, and I had to work overtime to get the job done. It was not an easy time, but I was proud to be part of the workers’ movement.

I was interested in the potential of nuclear energy, and I was excited about the opportunity to work on projects related to it. I was also interested in the development of atomic power, and I thought that it could be a potential source of energy for the future. I was interested in the potential of nuclear energy, and I was excited about the opportunity to work on projects related to it. I was also interested in the development of atomic power, and I thought that it could be a potential source of energy for the future.
Levee: After the Manhattan Project, I left to work in coal-fired electric-generating stations everywhere. I also worked on the first nuclear submarine project on land for engine pollution. In the 1970s, when lower emissions became a priority, I worked on using friction to allow you to sample variables online. Before, people had to register temperature manually. I got to work with some IBM when the technology was just developing to allow you to sample variables online. Before, people had to register temperature manually.

Boydston: My chemical engineering degree provided an enjoyable career. I worked for General Motors and Ford in Detroit and designed many engines for heavy-duty trucks, which were still in use until the '90s. In the '80s, when lower emissions became a priority, I worked on using friction to allow you to sample variables online.

Sharpe: After college, I went to help with the war effort, in large teaming at a university, but soon enough there was a surplus of meteorologists. So I joined the Weather Bureau Corps, which I remained in my community knew of architects in those days. Dentists, lawyers, and pharmacists were numerous. But poor immigrants didn't need architects. Right after my degree, I was in the development of the EBR nuclear reactor, which was the first to generate electricity, I was awarded the Guggenheim Prize in 1958. In was the highlight of my technical life. I came out of real, those times, far enough to visit... Levee: With the Manhattan Project, I felt that we saved a million lives. I still think it was the right thing to do.

Boydston: I won the prize for the Monsanto Challenge in 1950 for control of chemical reactions.

Creasy: I determined what I was very smart, I wanted to be an engineer. I knew I would love to break through many barriers, and I'm sure you say that I did.

Koch: For my role in the development of hydrogen for commercial energy use. The world needs to focus on clean energy. I may not come up with a solution at 92 years of age, but I keep trying.

Crossley: I tutor children in math. I enjoy keeping my mind going.

Levee: I'd never been in the center of a war zone. More recently, I have focused on helping them understand the difficult world we live in. Less formally, I have endowed a scholarship in my name. My brother, Erwin, also earned a mechanical engineering degree from IIT. I'm honored to represent him at IIT. My contribution is small compared to others who have given so much, but I'm happy to contribute to IIT.


Koci: I have endowed a scholarship in my brother's and my name. My brother, Ervin, also earned a mechanical engineering degree from IIT. I'm honored to represent him at IIT. My contribution is small compared to others who have given so much, but I'm happy to contribute to IIT.

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Ellen Jordan Reidy (PSYC '79, M.B.A. '81) came back home to the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) as a student, and left the university as a member of the IIT Board of Trustees, the Board of Overseers for Stuart School of Business, and his work on many initiatives for University Technology Park. “IIT gave me an education. It is a great engineering school, and my company hires engineers,” he explains. “To all of those alumni from my generation, I urge you to come to campus during an IPRO Day to experience the excitement and see the very best of an IIT education on display. Come see what is going on. Come see the transformation. Most importantly, come back home.”

Engineer a Better IIT
James R. Gagnard (EE '69, M.B.A. '81)

When Gagnard finished a master’s degree in undergraduate engineering at IIT, the campus was not yet the vibrant scene it is today. “Very few students would have described the social experience as a highlight,” he says. Jordan Reidy, Alumnae, IIT, still describes the “perfect environment” for her, setting a path for a lifetime of accomplishments and involvement. “I did not expect to be personally mentoring students—they are reimagining the educational experience of IIT students and keeping the alumni spirit alive and well on campus.”

Come Back Home
Ellis Jordan Reidy (PSYC '79, M.B.A. '81)

When Jordan Reidy was an undergraduate engineering at IIT, she was focused on getting good grades because she knew her appreciation for her alma mater. “On my own career had benefitted from IIT,” she recalls. “He offered me the opportunity to join the Alumni Association board, where she served as a president, before becoming a member of the IIT Board of Trustees, serving on the Academic Affairs committee, and the Board of Governors for the IIT. Jordan Reidy concludes, “IIT gave me an education. It is a great engineering school, and my company hires engineers. I urge you to come back home.”

Alumni should ask themselves what do I know and what do I have to contribute?” – James R. Gagnard

Gagnard continues, “Students need to figure out what is the best match for their skills, try it, and learn.” The same applies to his wishes for his fellow IIT alumni, who might be considering going back to the university. “Being involved at IIT has allowed me to make new connections and expand my network. Alumni should ask themselves what do I know and what do I have to contribute?”

Gagnard concludes, “Find what you are passionate about. It’s your future.”
IIT Leadership Sees Great Potential in Endowed Chairs

My wife, Jeanne, and I have been fortunate enough to sponsor two endowed chairs at IIT: the John and Jeanne Rowe Endowed Chair in the College of Architecture in support of Dean Donna Robertson, and the other, which will fund a professor in energy efficiency studies at IIT’s Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research. We are proud to include our son, Bill, as a fellow contributor to this chair.

We have chosen to endow chairs because a great university requires great teachers. At the simplest level, universities are about students and teachers. They are places where students learn from professors who spend their professional lives mastering different and difficult disciplines. Really good professors bring really good students; they attract research funds; they bring eminence to a university; and they create the kind of alumni who contribute in their turn to a university. Endowed chairs are a vital tool in attracting great professors.

At IIT, President Anderson’s strategic plan emphasizes strengthening Armour College of Engineering, continuing to build the other colleges, and improving our fiscal picture. Speaking as the chair of the Board of Trustees, I am, of course, concerned with achieving these goals, and I know that building a larger portfolio of endowed chairs will help us hit the mark. I am proud I could give my personal support to this effort. But speaking as more than the chair of the board—speaking as an ardent supporter of this university—I am enthusiastic that investing in these faculty members will enrich the experiences of generations of students.

— John Rowe
Chair of the IIT Board of Trustees
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Exelon Corporation

Endowed Chairs

BEGIN A SEAT:

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An endowed chair is one of the greatest honors we have in academia. I am deeply grateful to Carol and Ed Kaplan and honored to be invested with the Carol and Ed Kaplan Armour College Dean of Engineering Chair. Not only is it an honor to be recognized, but it is an honor to join the leadership team at IIT, where we have renewed our commitment to elevating engineering to international stature. As dean of the Armour College of Engineering, I am enthusiastic about raising our visibility, advancing our research, attracting the best students and faculty, and equipping our research labs with the tools we need to realize our goals.

My research in biomedical engineering is focused on using fundamental tools of engineering to better understand human disease, aid early diagnosis, and develop novel and improved therapies. Engineering can help us understand diseases at the cellular and genetic level, and also help us regenerate what disease has ravaged. Ultimately, this endowed chair will bolster my research as I continue to explore major diseases, including atherosclerosis and osteoporosis, and develop new forms of medical imaging, which I hope will lead to significant improvement in health care research.

The ripple effects of this funding benefit the entire university. After research yields promising results, a faculty member can often leverage the initial seed fund into major new programs that lead to millions of future research dollars for the university. For example, the Motorola Endowed Chair has spawned a new direction in data science that has expanded our research center’s scope in ways that were not possible before. This is where the endowed chair funds come in, to support the kind of research that is not just critical, but also significant. The endowed chair funds bring the kind of flexibility that is not available from other sources.

When I learned that I would be invested with an endowed chair, I was thrilled and honored. At the investiture ceremony last spring, my entire family—brother, sister, and niece—were able to share in the honor, a moment I will always remember and cherish.

To learn more, visit MIRC’s website at www.mirc.iit.edu.
IIT President John Anderson was present to celebrate what he called the “architectural structure” of Main Campus. “The library is a magnificent space that is not just a place for books, but also a place for people,” he said at the event. “It’s a place where ideas come into existence because of people who see the library as a key to their intellectual and community, and people who fought for three generations of break-thru through outstanding contributions.”

In 1983, Robert Galvin, then chair of the IIT Board of Trustees, dedicated Galvin Library to his father, the building’s namesake. “There’s something about a library that’s incredibly special,” said Galvin, now a university regent, who was present to show his support at the dedication ceremony. “Although my father was not a scholar, he was a man of remarkable intelligence, and I find it wonderful that this institution is a perpetuator of such intelligence. I don’t think my father ever imagined that anyone would ever bestow him with such a recognition.”

Gifts to libraries have become critical in the last 15 years as the Internet has transformed the way libraries work. For example, 90 percent of Galvin Library’s collections budget is spent on digital material. But despite the digitizing of much of the collection, students still want very much to visit and study in the library space. “Every day we are reminded of the Galvin family’s commitment to this university,” says Christopher Stewart, dean of libraries. He adds that it is common for upwards of 1,000 students per day (roughly the equivalent of 40 percent of the undergraduate student population) to make use of Galvin Library during busy times of the semester.

IIT has committed to many ongoing changes at the library in order to keep up with this growing demand for its resources. One major change has been the development of the group study suite, located on the library’s first floor. A quiet retreat for students seeking private group-study areas, the suite is comprised of several enclosed rooms, equipped with technology, and perfect for group projects and meetings.

“We have the same issues as other institutions do,” Stewart says. “We’re here today, one generation later, because of Bob Galvin. My dad would be thrilled to be here to help us celebrate and support these wonderful students.” As a 1936 graduate of IIT, Bob Schmidt has seen the campus change in many ways over the years, but his support has never wavered. With his wife, Violet, Bob has steered involved and made great contributions to IIT. Their gift to the library was one more way that the Schmidt family has helped secure the future of the institution they’ve loved for many years.

In the current academic community, scholarship and research are paramount to success. Through advocacy, generosity, and philanthropic support, IIT is fostering a continued commitment and deep appreciation of the library’s role in the future of the university.

“For the LOVE of the Library”

The Heart of Main Campus Inspires Support from Families and Friends

A symbol of scholastic rigor and educational integrity, Paul V. Galvin Library resides at the very heart of academia at IIT. This fall, friends and donors gathered to celebrate the library at the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the group study suite funded by Violet and Robert (ME ’36) Schmidt and the Cherry family.

In this academic community, scholarship and research are paramount to success. Through advocacy, generosity, and philanthropic support, IIT is fostering a continued commitment and deep appreciation of the library’s role in the future of the university.

“IIT is an academic community where teaching and research are paramount to success,” Stewart says. “These spaces epitomize the team-based collaborative learning that has become a benchmark of an IIT education.”
Community of IIT Donors Help Students Weather the Economic Storm

Every generation experiences an economic hardship at one point or another, but it can be easy to be an incoming college student during a steep-economic decline. As the crisis in the credit and stock markets continues to affect the stability of the economy, higher education faces new challenges.

Strained endowments have limited financial aid at universities around the country, and many parents are left in the position to make up the difference. In times like these, it comes as no surprise that many hardworking students are forced to transfer to more inexpensive institutions, drop courses, or delay enrollment altogether. Yet, through all the uncertainties of the last year, IIT’s filtering community of donors has stepped forward to make sure IIT students receive the support they need.

Elenithosis "Tim" and Eftathia "Effie" Stojka are one immediate reason to become involved in the university’s cause and quickly stepped in to help by beginning the process of naming a scholarship for IIT students. "Effie and Tim believe that science and technology are the keys to our country’s growth, and we want to support students who need help in acquiring the knowledge." In addition to the fast financial support, Tim, who serves as CEO of Fast Heat, Inc., also gives his time to help IIT connected to the community. One way to be less donor oriented is by working with a group of IIT trustees to bring the Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO) to campus. An international nonprofit network comprised of corporate presidents from around the world, YPO prizes itself on its commitment to diversity and education. Displeasing the opinions of many IIT donors through tough times, Tim is confident the YPO network will create visibility and prosperity for the university. "YPO wants to continue educating more qualified engineers and scientists. The more students we can educate, the more self help it, other YPO members like myself and the world," he said.

Effie is also fortunate to have long-standing support from many corporations and foundations that maintain their investment in students regardless of the economic downturn. For example, the McCormick Foundation, philanthropists that have always been about helping others to succeed, regardless of the challenges at hand. Fifty years ago, the McCormick Foundation has provided $10 million to be awarded to students who need help in acquiring that knowledge.

By funding Collens Scholarships at IIT, the McCormick Foundation has provided support to students who are graduates of Chicago Public Schools and come from income families who may not be able to afford the tuition at IIT, twice in the brightness or economic decline. Acknowledging that student need increases in these difficult economic climates, the McCormick Foundation’s quick response has illuminated the impact the foundation continues to have on not just the university, but also the city of Chicago and beyond. The Exelon Corporation has also stepped in to help by beginning the Exelon Summer Institute at IIT. Having just concluded its second year, the month-long program reaches incoming first-year students on excelling in math, chemistry, and physics and teaches time management skills. Exelon also contributes in workshops and activities that allow them to experience their intended academic majors. Many IIT students work part time in full time jobs to help support their education and need extra boost with their study and time-management skills.

With more than 300 employees and retirees who are IIT alumni, Exelon values its partnership with this university and shares its mission focus on math and science education. Along with their commen to programs that encourage diversity in the math and science fields, Exelon also supports programs that help prepare tomorrow’s science and technology leaders to take their first steps in higher education.

In there is any silver lining to this challenging moment in history, it is this: as the world continues to wait for an economic turnaround, IIT’s community of donors continues to build a better university, ensuring a bright future for many generations of students to come.