

## New Provost Aims High for IIT

In December 2007, a committee of faculty, students, and staff led by outgoing IIT College of Science and Letters Dean F. R. “Buck” McMorris began a lengthy, nationwide search for a new IIT provost. From a pool of “exceptionally strong” candidates, according to McMorris, the stand-out was Alan Cramb.

Cramb’s background helps explain why. Originally from Scotland, and still with a rich brogue, he came to the United States to attend graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received his Ph.D. in 1979. After several years conducting and managing research within the steel industry, he went on to head the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, where he was also a professor and co-director of the Center for Iron and Steelmaking Research.

Most recently, Cramb was dean of the School of Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, responsible for current and future directions in research and education.

During his tenure the university’s rankings improved, significant new programs were initiated, research expenditures increased from \$33 million to \$85 million, and both undergraduate and graduate enrollments increased. Cramb has also served as president of two esteemed associations, the Iron and Steel Society and the Association of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers.

As a transplant from Troy, N.Y., to Chicago’s Lincoln Park, how is he spending his non-IIT time? “These days, sleeping,” he says, laughing, and as well as helping his family adjust to life in the city. For his wife, Anna, who is from northwest Indiana, moving to Chicago was like coming home. But his daughters, 10-year-old Natalie and 12-year-old Liana, are trying to get used to city noises. “We used to live in the suburbs,” he says, “where the loudest night noises were the sounds of cicadas.” Also trying to adjust: the family’s two Labs, Karma and Luna.

Cramb is thoughtful when discussing both his family and his

new position at IIT. He believes, as does the search committee, that his experiences have broadened his understanding of different organizational cultures. “I have an appreciation of how important culture is, how much it contributes to a university,” he says. He also believes in getting input from all areas of the university, and talks frequently to faculty, staff, and students.

Here he provides insight into his own plans and goals for IIT.

### What brought you to IIT?

It’s a great university with a great future. It was a terrific opportunity for me to join President John Anderson in moving the university forward. And I was very impressed with the initiatives that had been started in engineering and science, and in the other schools.

### What are some examples?

The Pritzker Institute of Biomedical Science and Engineering; the level of excellence in the Institute of Design; an important focus on energy and the beginning of the Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research; the development of the architecture program, and the growing enrollment there. We have a very interesting law school, and our business program is growing. When you also see a strong Institute of Psychology, and you understand that everything can work together, it is easy to envision a great future. We are small and agile—we can do some things that others institutes can’t.

### Have there been any surprises?

I was surprised at how involved the student body is in the university. They’re working to make sure IIT is a good experience for all students who come here. They’re involved with issues that affect humanity. They’re interested in helping others as well as the university. It is a tremendous strength of the university.

### What do you see for the university long term?

This is a university that can really define itself in new ways that were not possible in the past. A combination of undergraduate depth with professional-level sophistication can result in a new type of graduate—one that is a technical leader who is culturally and globally sophisticated, and a great communicator with a significant knowledge of a broad spectrum of issues, from law to design. In addition, we will focus on doctoral research and increasing our research profile. We will use this foundation to become the top technology-focused university in Chicago and a leading university in the U.S. I’m a great believer that the team defines what you can achieve. We have a very strong team of faculty, staff, and students. There are, of course, challenges. Financial challenges are tough to handle because of the economy, of course. But we have a clear plan and a road map, and we will weather this economic downturn. And we’ll continue to move forward.

—Linda Packer



Photo: Michael Goss

### Hamid Arastoopour

Hamid Arastoopour (M.S. GE '75, Ph.D. '78), Henry R. Linden Professor of Energy, was named as the first director of the Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research at IIT. Arastoopour will coordinate education and research efforts related to energy and sustainability among a variety of constituents as well as help raise the university's visibility in these two areas.

### Felice Batlan

Felice Batlan, assistant professor of law in IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, was named co-director of Chicago-Kent's Institute for Law and Humanities. A faculty member since 2006, Batlan serves in her new role with Sheldon H. Nahmod, Distinguished Professor of Law and institute founder.

### Ralph L. Brill

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law established an endowed chair honoring Professor Ralph L. Brill, a member of the faculty since 1961, who founded both the law school's groundbreaking legal research and writing program and its award-winning moot court program.

### Hyun-Soon "Joy" Chong

Hyun-Soon "Joy" Chong, assistant professor of chemistry in IIT College of Science and Letters, has filed a United States provisional patent application for a series of bimodal synthetic ligands for use in various targeted therapeutic and diagnostic techniques used to treat cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

### Susan Conger-Austin Judith Lederman

The Fulbright Program recognized two IIT faculty members with awards for work done over summer 2008. Susan Conger-Austin, assistant professor of architecture, received a Fulbright Specialist Grant to teach at Mayor University in Santiago, Chile. Judith Lederman, director of teacher education and senior instructor in the IIT College of Science and Letters Department of Mathematics and Science Education, received a 2008 Fulbright Fellowship for research done in South Africa.

### Jai Prakash

Jai Prakash, acting chair of the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, and professor of chemical engineering, received the 2009 Energy Technology Division Research Award from the Electrochemical Society for his work in alternative energy sources. The award was established in 1992 to encourage excellence in energy-related research.

## IIT Makes Roaming Professor Appointment

**Werner Sobek** has joined IIT College of Architecture as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe Studio Professor.

A renowned architect and engineer, Sobek has been a faculty member at the University of Stuttgart since 1994, and is head of the Institute for Lightweight Structures and Conceptual Design. He founded the consultancies Werner Sobek Stuttgart and also Werner Sobek Design, with offices in Stuttgart, Frankfurt, New York, Moscow, Cairo, and Dubai. Sobek is active in many professional organizations, including the Academic Council of HafenCity University in Hamburg, Germany, where he serves as president.

Sobek is considered a "roaming professor," dividing his academic time between IIT and the University of Stuttgart.



With its roots in sabbaticals and visiting academic appointments, the concept of roaming professorship takes a forward-looking approach to education

that only a few universities worldwide have begun to adopt. Sobek brings to his IIT students a rich background in teaching and research at the international level while strengthening his career through his association with a well-regarded American architecture institution.



## Bright Lights, Small City

People are on the move. Humankind is in the midst of the largest migration in history, as every week some 1.25 million rural inhabitants swarm to urban environments around the world. Many of these transplants are streaming into existing metropolises, though others are moving to newly designed cities, generally in search of greater opportunity and the amenities of modern life.

Harry Mallgrave, associate professor of architecture at IIT and director of the International Center for Sustainable New Cities, hopes to address the daunting challenges posed by this new urbanization. Creating new cities that work and retooling older cities whose aging infrastructure is groaning under the weight of exploding population require a new perspective.

As Mallgrave, author of the 2008 book *Architectural Theory: An Anthology from 1871 to 2005*, explains, such efforts have traditionally fallen under the domain of architecture or planning schools, a paradigm he believes no longer works. Instead, he has worked to establish an aggressive, multidisciplinary center—the first of its kind—to attack the problem of citywide sustainability and livability. Landscape design, economic policy, environmental management, sociology, economics, and law all contribute to the vision of tomorrow's cities.

Sustainability is far easier to achieve in a city built from scratch. These new cities tend to be smaller, more manageable centers, where an emphasis is placed on situating the essentials of life—schools, parks, hospitals, shopping—within convenient walking distance in each neighborhood. Removing a single element, such as automobiles, from the urban plan allows for a radically different kind of city. While the fundamental idea, known as the new urbanism, has been kicking around in architecture circles for 20 years, the crisis state of many cities today, coupled with a mounting energy crunch, has brought unprecedented urgency to the issue.

China provides an ideal living laboratory for the new sustainable city. Mallgrave recently assembled a collaborative, multidisciplinary team from Tongji University in Shanghai, the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, and IIT's Armour College of Engineering and College of Architecture. The project entailed the design of two new cities near Shanghai on Chongming, an island situated at the mouth of the Yangtze River. The two-semester project brought together IIT students with their Chinese counterparts and faculty to design one compact and one linear city. Following the team's field research and initial schematic designs, the studio advanced its work into spring 2008 with a special seminar consisting of five architects, five engineers, and five students from the University of Chicago.

Mallgrave points to the particular challenges facing China in terms of sustainability: "China is still a Communist state with massive bureaucracy. You've got one department pushing green energy, and you've got another pushing for an automobile for every person in China, and they're two diametrically opposed goals."

Compact cities, more heavily reliant on efficient mass transit, reduce inner-city congestion, pollution, and carbon emission. Localizing the food source is another dramatic means of cutting pollution and huge transportation costs. Mallgrave is particularly excited about vertical farming, a new technique in which pesticide- and herbicide-free food is grown in high rise buildings under infrared light: "You can grow crops three or four times a year instead of a single harvest, and you can grow absolutely clean and healthy food."

Europe, meanwhile, is facing its own problems of urban sprawl. Mallgrave is hoping next year to finalize a collaboration with the University of Venice and three to five other universities for a new sustainable city in Italy. He stresses that new global initiatives will require that students be thoroughly prepared for the challenges of rapidly evolving cityscapes: "We continue to teach architecture as it was five years ago. We should be putting a lot more emphasis on how it will be in five years."

— Richard Harth

### MORE ONLINE

A definition of sustainable cities: [www.rec.org/REC/Programs/Sustainablecities/What.html](http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/Sustainablecities/What.html)  
 Urbanization and sustainable transportation: [http://earthtrends.wri.org/features/view\\_feature.php?fid=54&theme=4](http://earthtrends.wri.org/features/view_feature.php?fid=54&theme=4)  
 IIT International Center for Sustainable New Cities: [www.icsnc.iit.edu](http://www.icsnc.iit.edu)

Rendering of a Chongming Island city by IIT China Studio students

