



Photo: J. B. Spector

facultyFAQ

A Voice for IIT

Greg Pulliam, Professor of Professional and Technical Communication, Director of English as a Second Language, Associate Chair of the Department of Humanities, and Faculty Advisor to Tech News

With responsibilities throughout the spectrum of IIT's communications programs, Greg Pulliam has been helping develop writers and communicators at IIT since 1993. The recipient of the 2004 Excellence in Teaching Award, Pulliam worked alongside Glenn Broadhead, director of the technical communication program, to lead the effort to create a new major—Journalism of Technology, Science, and Business—which began in the 2005–06 academic year.

What prompted you to develop this new major?

For a number of years, people have been talking about how students graduating from journalism schools don't know enough about the subjects they're writing about. By supporting a niche market, we're teaching journalists who have the skills to write about technology. Our professional and technical communication graduates were already getting jobs in the journalism field—for example, at the *Chicago Sun-Times* and as a spokesperson for the City of Chicago—so we knew we could shape a program to teach journalism on a broader basis. I don't know of another program like this in the country.

What will the coursework entail?

We have added new core courses that all journalism schools offer and paired those with intensive coursework in math, science, and business. IIT is a perfect laboratory for these students.

Your media experience has been widespread. Could you describe your work outside the classroom?

At 16, I started working in radio and did that off and on until I moved to Chicago in 1993, in total about 12 years. Then while I was in graduate school, I was an emcee and manager of a comedy club in Columbia, Mo. I also spent one year at both a PBS TV affiliate and an independent commercial TV station in Memphis and played on the road with a cover band for one-and-a-half years, six nights a week.

And now you are called into service at IIT's commencement ceremonies. How did you become the name reader?

My colleague, Jack Snapper, drafted me about six or seven years ago. I'm trained in linguistics, so I'm good with the phonetic alphabet. I get the students' name cards a couple weeks before graduation so I can practice; I separate the names into segments so I can see only two or three syllables at a time. Every time before I announce them I am a bundle of nerves, just like when I was in radio and TV, but I just channel those nerves into energy.

www.iit.edu/departments/humanities/undergrad/jtsb.html

Chicago-Kent Professor Earns National Honor

Joan E. Steinman, Chicago-Kent College of Law Distinguished Professor, was the recipient of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers' 2005

Howard B. Eisenberg Prize, which celebrates the publication of high-quality articles in the field of appellate practice and procedure.

Steinman is the second recipient of the prize, which originated in 2003–04.

Steinman received the prize for her article, "Irregulars: The Appellate Rights of Persons Who Are Not Full-Fledged Parties," published in the winter 2005 *Georgia Law Review*.

"The award helps raise the esteem in which Chicago-Kent and IIT generally are held by other legal scholars, lawyers, parties in the court system, students, prospective faculty members, prospective students, and the public at large," says Steinman.

A member of the Chicago-Kent faculty since 1977, Steinman teaches courses in civil procedure, complex litigation, and appellate courts. She has authored several articles on aspects of appellate jurisdiction, the removal of cases from state to federal court, supplemental jurisdiction, class actions and case consolidations, and other procedural issues. Steinman has ongoing responsibility with the treatise *Federal Practice and Procedure* and is a co-author of the forthcoming course book, *Appellate Courts: Structures, Functions, Processes, and Personnel* (2006).
www.kentlaw.edu





Professor Keith McKee [foreground] accepts a gift in honor of his induction into IIT's Sawyer Society. Also pictured are [left to right] Terry Straus, Robert A. Pritzker, and Lew Collens.

IIT Philanthropists Honored at Sawyer Society Induction

This winter, 33 IIT employees were inducted as inaugural members of the Sawyer Society, which recognizes current, former, and retired IIT faculty and staff who have contributed \$25,000 or more to the university. The Sawyer Society was established in memory of the late Fay Sawyer, professor emeritus of philosophy, who gave IIT \$2 million to help perpetuate the university's philosophy program.

President Lew Collens, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert A. Pritzker (IE '46), Provost Allan Myerson, and Sawyer's daughter, Terry Straus, were special guests at the event, which was hosted by Ralph Barnett, professor of mechanical engineering, and Dolores Barnett.

"Faculty and staff in the IIT community care deeply about the university, and the Sawyer Society is a heartfelt 'thank you' to those who contribute not only

their time and talent, but also financial resources," says Betsy Hughes, vice president for institutional advancement. "These wonderful donors and friends expand their personal and professional influence into countless other important areas at IIT."

Inaugural members honored: Said Al-Hallaj, Robert F. Anderson, Hamid Arastoopour, Robert Arzbaeher, Ralph Barnett, Charles Bauer, Lew Collens, Richard Conviser, George Danforth, Dirk Denison, Rollin Dix, John Dygdon, Robert Filler, Jay Fisher, Sidney Guralnick, M. Zia Hassan, Serope Kalpakjian, Harold Krent, Chow Lam, Henry Linden, Nancy Marder, Keith McKee, Timothy Morrison, Allan Myerson, Hassan Nagib, Henry Perritt, Dennis Roberson, J. Robert Selman, Mohammad Shahidehpour, Mary Anne Smith, Michael Spak, Candace Wark, and Darsh Wasan.

Susan Feinberg, Lewis Department of Humanities

Susan Feinberg will be honored with the annual Jay R. Gould Award for Excellence in Teaching Technical Communication. The award, presented in May 2006 by the Society for Technical Communication—an 18,000-member international organization—recognizes sustained excellence in post-secondary education and mentorship in the field. Feinberg is the director of IIT's Usability Testing and Evaluation Center, which assesses and evaluates various products and systems, thereby leading to improved design and usability.
www.utec.iit.edu

Ophir Frieder, Department of Computer Science

This January, Ophir Frieder was among 34 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

members named as fellows of ACM. Frieder was honored for his work on search systems for distributed data. He is director of IIT's Information Retrieval Laboratory and is researching innovative methods in data mining. ACM is an 80,000-member organization of information technology professionals. Other 2006 recipients include representatives from industry giants such as Intel and AT&T Labs as well as faculty from Stanford University, Georgia Tech, and Carnegie Mellon, among other top universities.
www.ir.iit.edu

Vincent Turitto, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Chair of the BME department and Director of the Pritzker Institute of Biomedical Science and Engineering, Vincent Turitto was named to the inaugural class of fellows of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) last September. Turitto

was honored for his work in hemodynamics. Formed in 1968, BMES recognizes its fellows for demonstrable achievements in their field.
www.iit.edu/~biomed

Darsh Wasan, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

Last December, Darsh Wasan, vice president for international affairs and Motorola Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering, received an honorary professorship from Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT), one of China's top universities. BIT's chancellor presented the award at a special luncheon at IIT. Wasan has been a member of IIT's faculty since 1964.
www.iit.edu/departments/oia/index.html

faculty honors & awards