



GLOBAL  
ALUMNI GATHERING

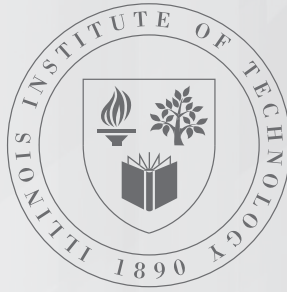
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**2014**

Our Imprint on Innovation

September 19–20





## **Welcome!**

IIT will be internationally recognized...these are the opening words of the university's vision statement. Your association with IIT is making this vision a reality.

We want to thank you for participating in this gathering. The topics covered during the panel presentations—energy, intellectual property, and innovation—are areas where IIT has developed a niche. The entire program for the next two days is presented in an open forum that fosters collaboration, networking, and learning.

Global competition continues to increase thus placing a premium on innovation and educating students in innovative thinking. IIT students, faculty, and alumni have had a profound impact on technology and new ideas that have advanced society during our 125-year history. Today, we continue to produce graduates with the skills, creativity, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurial spirit to redefine how we work, play, communicate, and improve our health.

As we celebrate our imprint on innovation, past and present, and network with others who are defining the future, we hope this gathering will empower you with new ideas, new professional relationships, and a closer bond with fellow alumni. We hope you are inspired by the collective knowledge and creativity of Illinois Tech graduates at this gathering and return home resolved to become more involved with the university and the IIT Alumni Association.

John L. Anderson  
IIT President

Raj Rajaram (LAW '91)  
Alumni Association Board of Directors,  
Event Chairman

# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- **Noon–1:30 p.m.**  
**Lunch and Keynote Address**  
Hermann Hall—Ballroom  
*Welcome: John Anderson, President, IIT*  
*Keynote Address: Alan “Bud” Wendorf (ME ’71), Chairman, IIT Board of Trustees*  
**Sponsored by: gkkworks and Praful Kulkarni (M.S. ARCH ’76)**
- **2–3:30 p.m.**  
**Panel presentations**  
Hermann Hall—Expo  
*Speakers: Hazem Dawani (CPE ’01), James McMahon (MET ’81), Jeremy Noe (LAW ’00), Pinakin Patel (M.S. CHE ’77), CJ Warner (M.B.A. ’87)*  
**Sponsored by: Atul Thakkar (M.S. EE ’71)**
- **3:45–4:30 p.m.**  
**50 Years at Illinois Institute of Technology**  
Hermann Hall—Expo  
*Darsh Wasan, Distinguished Professor, Motorola Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering, and Vice President for International Affairs, IIT*
- **4:30–5:45 p.m.**  
**Main Campus walking tour**  
Meet at Hermann Hall inside southeast entrance, near Talon’s.
- **6:30–9:30 p.m.**  
**Reception and dinner on Main Campus**  
Hermann Hall—Ballroom  
*Speaker: John Anderson, President, IIT*  
*Dinner will feature entertainment by students from various countries and Wasan as emcee.*  
**Sponsored by: Madhavan Nayar (M.S. IE ’68)**

# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- **8:30–10 a.m.**

- **Breakfast, Keynote Address and CEO Roundtable**

University Technology Park

*Keynote Address: Chris Kennedy, Chairman, Joseph P. Kennedy Enterprises*

*“Research universities as economic engines and their importance to the future of our state”*

*CEO Roundtable Speakers: Praful Kulkarni (M.S. ARCH '76), Dhongchai Lamsam (M.S. IE '70), Atul Thakkar (M.S. EE '71)*

***Sponsored by: SLK Software and Parth Amin (BA '85)***

- **10–11:30 a.m.**

- **Tour of Tech Park, Idea Shop, and IPRO**

University Technology Park

- **11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.**

- **IIT Homecoming activities or Chicago sightseeing**

- **6:30–10 p.m.**

- **Dinner cruise on Lake Michigan**

*Shuttle bus will depart from the south side of The McCormick Tribune Campus Center promptly at 5:30 p.m.*

# **Keynote Address: Christopher G. Kennedy**

## **CHAIRMAN, JOSEPH P. KENNEDY ENTERPRISES**

Christopher G. Kennedy is chairman of Joseph P. Kennedy Enterprises, Inc., which is the investment firm of the Kennedy Family. As chairman, Kennedy is responsible for the development of the Kennedy Family's real estate holdings in Chicago known as Wolf Point. He is also the founder and chairman of Top Box Foods, a non-profit, hunger-relief organization that addresses societal issues of hunger through the delivery of high-quality and affordable meats, fruits, vegetables, and other food products throughout the city of Chicago.

In August 2009, Governor Pat Quinn appointed Kennedy to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Kennedy was elected chairman of the board by his fellow trustees at the first board meeting. He was re-elected as chairman in January 2014 for his fifth consecutive term. The University of Illinois has nearly 78,000 students and the largest alumni community in the world. The university has the second-highest enrollment of international students of all colleges and universities in the United States.

Kennedy is on the Audit and Governance Committees for Ariel Investments Mutual Fund, overseeing more than \$3 billion in assets. Kennedy also serves on the Compensation Committee and is chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee of Interface, Inc., a floor covering company with more than \$1 billion in annual sales. He is a member of the Executive Committee for and chairs the Finance Committee for The Chicago Community Trust, which has assets totaling \$1.5 billion.

He is co-chair of the Cook County Sustainability Advisory Council. The council works with the county to put forward solutions and resources for sustainability programs. Kennedy is also a member

of the Green Ribbon Committee. The committee evaluates performance of the Chicago Climate Action Plan against its goals and recommends revisions, adjustments, and improvements accordingly.

Kennedy is treasurer of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, which works to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through funding, educational programming, and by increasing public awareness of intellectual disabilities. He is also a member of the Global Advisory Board for Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Kennedy was the president of Merchandise Mart Properties Inc. (MMPI) from October 2000 until July 2011 and began his career there in 1990. As president of MMPI, he managed the world-famous Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Under his leadership, MMPI managed ten million square feet of space, including 350 West Mart Center/Chicago Apparel Center, Design Centers in Boston and Washington, D.C., and tradeshow facilities across North America. During Kennedy's presidency, MMPI was one of the largest tradeshow producers in the United States, bringing nearly four million buyers to more than 15,000 sellers annually with over 300 shows across 12 different industries.

Kennedy earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Boston College and a master's in management from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management of Northwestern University. He is the son of Robert and Ethel Kennedy and is the eighth of their eleven children. He and his wife, Sheila Berner Kennedy, have four children, Katherine, Christopher Jr., Sarah, and Clare, and reside in suburban Chicago.



# **Keynote Address:** **Alan W. "Bud" Wendorf (ME '71)**

**RETIRED CHAIRMAN, CEO, SARGENT & LUNDY  
CHAIRMAN, IIT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Alan W. "Bud" Wendorf is the fourth alumnus to serve as chairman of the IIT Board of Trustees. A veteran executive of the power industry, he retired in 2013 from a 41-year career at Illinois-based Sargent & Lundy after serving nearly a decade as its chairman and chief executive officer. Wendorf is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a member of Pi Kappa Phi and the National Society of Professional Engineers, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Nuclear Energy Institute and Construction Industry Roundtable.

Wendorf joined the IIT Board of Trustees in 2008 and is immediate past co-chair of *Fueling Innovation: The Campaign for IIT*. He also served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2007 until 2013 and has a passion for reconnecting IIT alumni worldwide.

An active alumnus, Wendorf and his wife, Suzanne, support IIT through leadership and philanthropy. They established the Alan and Suzanne Wendorf Endowed Scholarship to help fund the Collens Scholars Program, which provides IIT scholarships to graduates of Chicago Public Schools from disadvantaged backgrounds. Wendorf also gives generously to engineering education and the Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program. He was recognized in 2011 with the Collens Merit Award for his dedication and involvement in the programs he supports at IIT. The Wendorfs are members of the Philip Danforth Armour Society, which recognizes the university's most generous benefactors.

Wendorf and his wife have two children and three grandchildren. They reside in Wheaton, Ill.



# **John Abramic (CHE '97, LAW '01)**

## **PARTNER, STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP**

John Abramic, partner in Steptoe's Chicago office, focuses his practice on intellectual property litigation. He has represented clients as lead or co-lead counsel in numerous intellectual property lawsuits in federal district courts throughout the United States. Abramic has particular experience handling matters in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, including Hatch-Waxman litigation.

Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) magazine recognized Mr. Abramic in its 2014 edition of the "IAM Patent 100" for patent litigation, and he has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by Illinois Super Lawyers. The Law Bulletin Publishing Company named Abramic as among "40 Illinois Attorneys under 40 to Watch" in 2012, and noted that he "was commended by his clients and peers for his deep knowledge of the medical device and pharmaceutical industries, his confidence and reliability during trial, and his skill as a litigator, as well as for his leadership qualities and innovative thinking."

In addition to his depth of experience in the medical device and pharmaceutical industries, Abramic litigates matters across a variety of fields, including chemicals, electronics, mechanical equipment, and computer software.

Abramic also counsels clients on intellectual property licensing, acquisition, and risk assessment. He has provided opinions on patent validity and infringement and has conducted intellectual property due diligence in a diverse field of technologies.

Abramic is an active member of the pro bono program for the Northern District of Illinois Trial Bar and has served as pro bono counsel for the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. He is a recipient of the prestigious "Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service" from the judges of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

# **Hazem Dawani (CPE '01)**

**CO-FOUNDER, CEO, OPTIONSCITY SOFTWARE, INC.**

Hazem Dawani co-founded OptionsCity Software in 2006 and serves as CEO. With offices in Chicago, New York, and London, he oversees the continuous expansion of the company while maintaining its focus on bringing technological advancement and innovation to the financial industry. In 2008, Dawani and the firm's co-founders launched Metro, an end-to-end electronic market making and trading solution. Dawani led the efforts to grow the company's client base and expanded operations to connect to 17 global derivatives exchanges. In 2011, OptionsCity continued its innovation and introduced Freeway, a multi-asset, micro-second execution automated trading platform and winner of the 2012 Chicago Innovation Awards.

Prior to spearheading OptionsCity, Dawani was a director in the software department at Chicago Trading Company and worked at SSI as a software engineer building real-time embedded systems solutions. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology and was a scholar in the IIT Leadership Academy. Dawani was named in the *Crain's Chicago Business* "40 under 40" list and was selected for the IIT Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

# **Praful Kulkarni (M.S. ARCH '76)**

## **FOUNDER AND CEO, gkkworks**

In 1991, Praful Kulkarni founded gkkworks to pursue his dream of becoming a “master builder.” To accomplish this, he opted to do something almost unheard of in the modern world of architecture: establish an integrated division devoted to construction management and general construction services. In time, gkkworks became a model company providing integrated services and customized solutions to better serve the building industry. Kulkarni provides distinct vision to the firm’s philosophy, responsibility, and dedication to clients’ needs and goals. He is an active member of the national board for the Design-Build Institute of America. He serves on numerous boards and is the proud recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for his excellence and success in innovation, financial performance, and his personal commitment to his business, clients, and the communities they serve.

Kulkarni is a registered architect and holds a degree in architecture from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur. He also holds a Master of Architecture degree from Illinois Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University.

# **Dhongchai Lamsam (M.S. IE '70)**

## **CEO, LOXLEY PUBLIC CO. LTD.**

Dhongchai Lamsam has been managing director of Ekpavee Company Limited since 1990 and Loxley International Company Limited since 1981. Lamsam has been the president and member of the executive board at Loxley Public Company Limited since 1983 and also serves as its managing director and member of the executive board. He serves as chairman of Loxley Broadcast and Media Co. Ltd. and Oriental Post Co. Ltd. He has been chairman of Oriental Post Company Limited since 1998 and Asia Security Management Company Limited since 2006. He served as chairman and director of TT&T Public Co. Ltd from 2001 to June 1, 2006.

Lamsam serves as director of Loxley Public Co. Ltd., Thai Furnishing Fabrics Co. Ltd., Saxon (Thailand) Ltd., and AsPac Oil (Thailand) Ltd. He serves as a director of BlueScope Steel (Thailand) Limited and Blue Scope Lysaght (Thailand) Limited. He has been a director of Loxley GTECH Technology Company Limited since 2003, Loxley Wireless Company Limited since 2001, Law Enforcement Technology Solutions Co. Ltd. since 2000, Poonsap Communication Company limited since 1999, Jago Company Limited since 1996, Data Mining Company Limited since 1995, Loxley Property Development Company Limited since 1989, BP-Castrol (Thailand) Limited since 1994, Loxley Trading Company Limited since 1977, and Zin Suapah Company Limited since 1972. He completed the director accreditation program from Thai Institute of Directors Association.

Lamsam holds a Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree in chemical technology from Chulalongkorn University and a Master of Science degree in industrial engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology.

# **James McMahon (ME '81)**

## **QUALITY SYSTEMS MANAGER, ABBOTT VASCULAR**

James McMahon is the quality systems manager for Abbott Vascular, and has been with the firm since 1986 when the division was known as Advanced Cardiovascular Systems, Inc. Since that time, he has held various positions in manufacturing engineering, extrusion, quality, and regulatory compliance working at Abbott's facilities in California, Belgium, and Ireland. He holds patents for medical guide wires and endovascular stents.

McMahon received his bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1981. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees in material science and engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was the top-scoring swimmer for the Scarlet Hawks in his freshman and senior years at IIT.

McMahon is an adjunct faculty member for the University of Redlands, where he teaches statistics, management science, and operations management. He has served on his local Board of Directors of the American Red Cross and the United Way. He currently serves on the board as treasurer for Manzanita Ranch (a charity providing therapeutic horseback riding for veterans and cancer patients).

He and his wife, Mary, live in Temecula, Calif., with their two children.

# **Jeremy Noe (LAW '00)**

## **PARTNER, MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP**

Jeremy Noe is a partner with McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP. Noe's practice spans all aspects of patent litigation, patent licensing and negotiations, due diligence investigations relating to intellectual property, freedom-to-operate studies, opinion preparation, portfolio management, and client counseling. He has extensive litigation experience at both the trial and appellate level, and his technology experience involves a broad range of life sciences technologies, including pharmaceutical compounds and formulations, drug delivery systems, medical devices, and biotechnology, as well as a broad range of process engineering and manufacturing technologies. In his patent practice, Noe also leverages a deep understanding of cosmetic chemistry and consumer product formulation, acquired during his fifteen-year R&D career in consumer product development prior to embarking on his legal career. Among many academic distinctions, Noe was valedictorian of the IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law Class of 2000. His professional distinctions include periodic recognitions by Illinois Super Lawyers.

# **Pinakin Patel (M.S. '77)**

## **DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND SPECIAL SYSTEMS AT FUELCELL ENERGY**

Pinakin Patel has been actively engaged in the development of all types of fuel cells for over three decades. His technical innovations include development of internal reforming fuel cell technology, advance separation technology for hydrogen co-production and solid state compressor for hydrogen. He led collaborative research and development efforts with many reputed international companies such as Sanyo and Mitsubishi in Japan, Haldor Topsoe and Elkraft Power Co. in Denmark, and Global thermal Electric in Canada, with a cumulative value exceeding \$300 million. He led the design team for the first 2 MW fuel cell power plant for demonstration at Santa Clara, Calif. Patel is currently the director of special systems and research at FCE focusing on advance technology development for co-production of green hydrogen and clean power from municipal waste-water. Patel holds 15 U.S. patents and has authored over 100 publications and seminar presentations in the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and India.



# **Atul Thakkar (M.S. EE '71)**

## **CEO, ATTRONICA**

Atul Thakkar serves as chief executive officer of Attronica. Based on the principles of social responsibility and moral management, about which he is very passionate, Thakkar founded Attronica in September of 1983. He has grown the company from a small business of five employees to 70+ employees, two locations, and revenues exceeding \$62 million.

Thakkar oversees corporate finances, new business expansions, and company initiatives. Prior to founding Attronica, he served in various financial, sales, marketing, and technology executive management positions, including general manager at Tri-Electronics and assistant vice president for marketing at American Satellite Corporation.

Thakkar holds a Bachelor of Technology degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, India; a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), Chicago; and a Master of Business Administration degree from Loyola University, Chicago.

# **CJ Warner (M.B.A. '87)**

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGY & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, TESORO CORPORATION  
CHAIRMAN, SAPPHIRE ENERGY**

Cynthia (CJ) Warner is the chairman of the board of Sapphire Energy and has also recently joined Tesoro Corporation in 2014 as executive vice president, strategy and business development. Tesoro, a Fortune 100 company, is one of the largest independent refiners and marketers of petroleum products in the United States. Warner brings more than 30 years of experience in the energy, refining, and transportation industries. Most recently, Warner served as president, chairman, and CEO of Sapphire Energy, a leading algae technology company. At Sapphire Energy, Warner led the company's ongoing technology development and transition into commercial-scale biomass production and renewable crude oil production. She also played an integral role in securing government financing, Sapphire Energy's series C investment funding, and the successful design, construction, startup, and operation of the world leading Integrated Algal Biorefinery (IABR).

A chemical engineer by training and one of the very few senior women in the oil and gas industry, Warner has served as an executive with energy industry giants British Petroleum, Amoco Oil Company, and UOP. She is currently a member of the National Petroleum Council and a non-executive director at IDEX corporation (Lake Forest, Ill.).

Prior to joining Sapphire, she served as group vice president, global refining for BP where she was instrumental in creating a high-functioning international refining business and turning around BP's U.S. refining business. During her 10-year career with BP, she held numerous leadership roles including overseeing refining operations in five continents and developing long-term technology strategies for low carbon and sustainable fuels. Warner led the groundbreaking cooperative effort with the U.S. EPA to shape a framework for clean air improvements.

Warner has a degree in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University and an M.B.A. from Illinois Institute of Technology.

# **Darsh T. Wasan, Ph.D.**

**DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, IIT  
MOTOROLA CHAIR PROFESSOR OF CHEMICAL  
ENGINEERING, IIT  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, IIT**


Darsh Wasan leads the university's international initiative, serving as IIT's chief ambassador. Dr. Wasan is a member of the United States National Academy of Engineering and the Indian National Academy of Engineering. Since joining the IIT faculty in 1964, he has made wide-ranging contributions. In 1988, he founded an innovative national center for research and education in food safety (now called the Institute for Food Safety and Health), which became a model for cooperation among academe, industry, and government. In 1997, he initiated delivery of cutting-edge master's programs to India via distance learning. Dr. Wasan has established offices in India, Europe, China, and Korea and forged relationships with universities around the world. In his 49 years at IIT, he has also held nearly every leadership post, including department chair, dean of engineering, vice president for research and technology, provost, and senior vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Wasan came to the U.S. from India as an undergraduate. He earned his B.S. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1960) and his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley (1965). He has coauthored more than 400 publications, including the textbook *Interfacial Transport Processes and Rheology* with David Edwards (Ph.D. 1987) and Howard Brenner, and holds 10 patents. He has supervised and mentored 60 doctoral students, 65 M.S. students, and 15 postdoctoral fellows. His numerous awards include the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner's Special Citation, the American Chemical Society National Award in Colloid and Surface Chemistry, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Alpha Chi Sigma Award for Fundamental and Applied Research, the American Society for Engineering Education Chemical Engineering Division Lectureship Award, the Western Electric Fund Award for excellence in instruction of engineering students, and the IIT Excellence in Teaching Award. He is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*. Dr. Wasan and his wife, Usha, have two sons, Ajay and Kern, and two grandsons, Arjun and Ashwin.


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