

# **I. Introduction**

## **A. The University**

Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) is an independent, non-sectarian, co-educational, and urban university emphasizing education for the professions, research, and scholarship. The university offers programs in engineering, science, architecture, law, business, psychology, and design, and is a member of the Association of Independent Technological Universities. With its contract research arm, IIT Research Institute (IITRI), IIT is a major center of applied science and engineering research. IIT has five campuses in the Chicago area: the Main Campus on Chicago's mid-South Side; the Downtown Campus in Chicago's West Loop; the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus in west suburban Wheaton; the Moffett Campus in south suburban Bedford Park, where the National Center for Food Safety and Technology is located; and the Institute of Design (ID) at 350 N. LaSalle St., in Chicago. In the 1950s, the university's Main Campus was designed by master architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and has been designated one of the 200 most architecturally significant sites in the United States. The opening in 2003 of a new campus center designed by Rem Koolhaas and a dormitory by renowned architect Helmut Jahn has broadened and enhanced the architectural significance of the Main Campus.

## **B. History**

In 1890, when advanced education was often reserved for society's elite, Chicago minister Frank Gunsaulus delivered what came to be known as the "Million Dollar Sermon." From the pulpit of his South Side church—near the site IIT now occupies—Gunsaulus said that with a million dollars he could build a school where students of all backgrounds could prepare for meaningful roles in a changing society. Industrialist Philip Danforth Armour heard Gunsaulus' sermon and came to share his vision. He agreed to finance the endeavor with the stipulation that Gunsaulus become the first president of Armour Institute.

When Armour opened in 1893 it offered professional courses in engineering, chemistry, architecture, and library science. Armour Research Institute, the predecessor to IITRI, was formed in 1936 as the university's not-for-profit research arm. It applied science and technology to solve problems for industry and government.

IIT was created in 1940 by the merger of Armour Institute with Lewis Institute, a West Side Chicago college that offered liberal arts as well as science and engineering courses. In 1949 the Institute of Design merged with IIT, thereby bringing to the university the teachings of ID's founder, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, whose work altered the history of photography, film, and typography.

In 1969 IIT became one of the few technology-based universities with a law school when Chicago-Kent College of Law, founded in 1888, became part of the university. Stuart School of Business was added in 1969, funded by a gift from the estate of Lewis Institute alumnus and Chicago financier Harold Leonard Stuart. The Midwest College of Engineering, founded in 1967, joined the university in 1986 to form the nucleus of what is now the Rice Campus in Wheaton. A gift of buildings by CPC International in south suburban Bedford Park in 1988 made possible the IIT Moffett Campus. The Downtown Campus, a 10-story building at 565 W. Adams St. in Chicago's West Loop, opened in January 1992, and is home to the law school, some programs of the business school, as well as the master's degree program in public administration.

In early 1998 the Institute of Design moved from the Main Campus to the building then known as the Steelcase Building in Chicago's River North section, a step designed to help ID expand its continuing and executive education programs and to bolster graduate enrollment. In 2002 a majority of the assets of IITRI were sold to Alion Science and Technology Corporation, a for-profit company whose sole shareholder is an Employee Stock Ownership Plan formed and owned by former employees of IITRI. IITRI, consisting primarily of its Life Sciences Operation, continues as an independent not-for-profit corporation controlled by the university.

In November 1996, longtime trustees Robert A. Pritzker and Robert W. Galvin offered the university a record-breaking \$120 million challenge grant, launching the five-year IIT Challenge, a campaign that helped to spur IIT's revitalization and to assure its leadership in higher education for decades to come. The funds were used to provide scholarships for outstanding students, to facilitate faculty development, and to support and upgrade university facilities, including construction of the new McCormick Tribune Campus Center designed by Dutch architect and Pritzker Prize awardee Rem Koolhaas, and a new residence hall designed by the internationally renowned Helmut Jahn.

### **C. A Record of Accomplishment**

Even more impressive than the physical growth of the university over its first century is the remarkable record of accomplishment by its students, faculty, and alumni. Lee DeForest, "Father of the Radio," conducted his first long-distance broadcasts from the roof of Main Building while on the Armour faculty. Jazz great Benny Goodman and journalist Dorothy Thompson distinguished themselves after studying at Lewis. S. I. Hayakawa, world-renowned expert in semantics, taught at IIT and wrote the best-selling book, *Language in Action*, while on the faculty. Nobel Laureate Herbert Simon wrote his groundbreaking book, *Administrative Behavior*, while professor and department chair of political science at IIT from 1942–1947. The only known recording from the 1940s of survivors displaced by Germany in World War II was obtained in 1946 via wireless recording by psychology professor David P. Boder. Chicago-Kent graduate Richard Ogilvie capped a distinguished career with election to the office of governor of Illinois. IIT architects and engineers have literally shaped the Chicago skyline, helping to design and construct such landmark buildings as the Sears Tower, the John Hancock Building, McCormick Place, Lake Point Tower, Marina City, River City, and Water Tower Place.

More recently, IIT alumnus Martin Cooper led the team that pioneered cellular telephone technology at Motorola, Inc. Students from the Institute of Design have won the Osaka Biennial Design Competition's prestigious Grand Prize twice, besting international student, faculty, and professional teams of designers. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush awarded research professor and alumnus Marvin Camras the National Medal of Technology, the highest honor bestowed by the President for technological achievement. Camras held more than 500 patents and was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame as the "Father of Magnetic Recording." The Camras scholarships launched by IIT in 1996 to attract the best and brightest high school students to careers in engineering are named in his honor.