

INI ALUMNI CELEBRATE AND GIVE BACK

By Ann Lyon Ritchie

Over 200 guests celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Information Networking Institute (INI) on April 17, during Spring Carnival Weekend. At a welcoming luncheon, alumni and current students mingled, and afterwards a panel of alumni fielded questions about the career paths they took after graduation. As everyone shared experiences and advice, the event revealed itself as a way for alumni to give back to the university.

“Interacting with students was interesting and wistful. It made me realize that no matter how things might have changed in the last decade, with social networking playing a significant role in forming the perceptions students have of academia and industry, they are still anxious of what the future will bring and they seek advice from seniors,” said Katerina Lamprou (INI, 2003), a senior account manager at Microsoft Hellas.

“I learned that some [alumni] took a totally different route in their careers and switched from technology to banking. Others built on the technology background gained from the INI and went into industry research, while others climbed the ladder in their careers and became managers. Still others decided to start their own businesses,” said Innocent Habiyaremye (INI, 2010), a recent graduate.

Later on in the cool, spring afternoon, two INI-organized panel discussions heated up inside the University Center. Marvin Sirbu, founder of the INI, moderated the first panel on the evolution of technology from telecommunications to mobility. Sirbu retold the story of how the INI was founded based on a partnership between the university and Bellcore to create an interdisciplinary master’s program that balanced the strengths of technology, policy and business management. The INI has since grown to offer five degree programs in information networking, information security and information technology.

Pradeep K. Khosla, dean of CIT, moderated the second panel discussion on privacy and security trends, such as the loss of anonymity and the collection of data on individuals about everything from their purchasing habits to their health care. Alumni Matt Kaar (INI, 2006), senior information security engineer at MITRE, and Roman Danyliw (INI, 2000), technical director of cyber threat and vulnerability analysis at CERT, sat on the panel alongside several faculty members.

“It was so great to have some of the leading Carnegie Mellon researchers in one room: Professors Alessandro Acquisti, Adrian Perrig, Lorrie Cranor and Priya Narasimhan and Dean Khosla,” said Habiyaremye about the panel discussions. “Hearing these talents speak and spontaneously answer questions gave me a glimpse of the technologies of tomorrow, what will drive the market and what will keep researchers awake at night.”



Fitting of an anniversary celebration, the daylong event concluded with a bagpiper, a cocktail reception and an alumni dinner at the Carnegie Museum of Art.





LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Buggy, the perfect union of engineering and athleticism, is one of Carnegie Mellon's most celebrated traditions. This year CIT kicked off the races with a breakfast to welcome alumni returning to campus for Carnival.

On April 16, a beautiful sunny morning, alumni, faculty and staff mingled in the Tung Au Lab in Porter Hall, which sits along the Buggy course, making it a perfect location for catching a race and enjoying omelets and French toast.

CIT wanted to host an early morning reception to "welcome all alumni back to campus and especially honor alumni from class years ending in Os and 5s who were celebrating their reunion," says Kelly McQuoid, CIT's director of Outreach and Special Projects. Starting in 2010, all reunions have been moved to Spring Carnival instead of Homecoming. This move was made in an effort to bring more alumni back to campus since the weather is much nicer in Pittsburgh in April and because the programming at Spring Carnival is family-friendly. It seems that decision was a success as nearly 300 alumni registered for the CIT Buggy Breakfast.

Homecoming Weekend, which will be November 5 and 6, 2010, will still provide many venues for alumni to engage with old friends. In addition to the annual Alumni Awards, the university will offer informational programming and even opportunities to sit in on some classes. Of course CIT will host a reception, so you can hear from the Dean what our students and faculty have been up to with regards to education and our world-class research.

Mark your calendars to visit campus this November, and it's not too early to start planning a trip to Pittsburgh for **Carnival 2011**.

For more information on **Homecoming 2010**, on the Web visit: www.cmu.edu/homecoming



BARBARA BUCK

Good Advice for All

“It is important to remember that the road ahead is paved with relationships, and your core values will help you nourish those relationships throughout your career and life.”

When Barbara Buck (BS ChemE, '73) addressed CIT's Class of 2010, she thought she was sharing advice suitable for young adults embarking on new careers. But what the soft-spoken executive actually did was impart long-wrought knowledge that could benefit everyone.

Barbara Buck is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Phoenix-based company Climax Molybdenum. (Molybdenum, which annually garners more than \$1-2 billion in domestic sales, is an additive used in steel and catalyst production.) For more than 30 years, Buck has honed her technical, management and sales skills to drive business growth for major chemical and metals companies.

As busy as Buck is — she manages teams around the globe and travels frequently — she felt compelled to return to her alma mater. “I love Carnegie Mellon, and I literally wanted to share with the students some of the things I learned in my career to help them transition from the college world to the professional world,” says Buck, adding “this is part of my strategy to give back to the College.”

Reflecting over “the less-traditional path” her professional life has taken, Buck offered the new grads preemptive advice on how to handle matters that will inevitably arise in their careers. Her first recommendation is to “see adversity as opportunity.” Many times throughout her career she faced obstacles that were technically or personally challenging. When Buck graduated in 1973, there were few women engineers in the corporate world. “I had to establish my credibility in an environment that was not always welcoming. The keys to my success were confidence in my technical abilities due to the strong foundation that came from Carnegie Mellon and the persistence and support of key managers who were willing to give me a chance to excel on specific projects. Adversity made me work harder, and it strengthened my commitment to my career,” says Buck. She urged the graduates to cultivate skills that will help them manage adversity and find a path that is personally worthwhile.

Aligning with this notion is Buck's other piece of advice: “take time now at the onset of your career to define your core values.” These guiding principles serve as a compass and allow people to maintain their personal integrity as they make their way through life. “This is especially critical today when so many of the values seem to be confused,” says Buck. She explains that in the business world, when it comes to ethics, you need to clarify your core values before you encounter a difficult situation, because once you're into the situation you must act, and there's no time to reflect. “There have been plenty of times in my career where I had to make very serious ethical decisions. And being absolutely clear about my core values was a critical element in those decisions.”

Buck believes that defining core values is a personal matter; however, she suggested a few that align with the lessons learned at Carnegie Mellon: intellectual honesty, hard work, curiosity, respect and value of the dignity of the human person and creation, respect and love for your family and self, community service, leave things better than when you arrived, and find time to enjoy this beautiful world.

“It is important to remember that the road ahead is paved with relationships, and your core values will help you nourish those relationships throughout your career and life,” she says. “The greatest mistake you can make is thinking that you can do it all by yourself. You can't and it's a lot less fun trying to do it alone.”

