

# TechNews

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## President Cramb inaugurated in campus ceremony

**Kori Bowns**  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since IIT's formation in 1937 after the merge of the Armour Institute and the Lewis Institute, Illinois Institute of Technology has seen nine presidents in total, including IIT's newest president, President Alan Cramb, who was officially inaugurated into the position on Friday, September 18 in a ceremony held in the Hermann Hall Auditorium.

In May of 2014, former President John Anderson announced to the university community that he would be resigning from his position effective August 1, 2015. After this announcement, Bud Wendorf, IIT's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, assembled a diverse selection committee with the goal of selecting IIT's next president. In October of 2015, it was announced that the selection committee unanimously selected Alan Cramb, then the Provost of the university, to follow Anderson and become the ninth president of IIT. Cramb assumed the role of president of Illinois Institute of Technology beginning in August; Friday's inauguration ceremony served as an official celebration of his new position and his goals as president.

The ceremony began with a procession into Herman Hall Auditorium, where

many members of the university community were already waiting. Members of the procession included university faculty, delegates from other universities, university administrators, members of IIT's Board of Trustees, and former IIT Presidents Meyer Feldberg, Lewis Collens, and John Anderson. Those entering the auditorium were dressed in the same formal caps and gowns worn at graduation ceremonies, and the processional lines were led by bagpipe players as they entered.

The event began with opening remarks from Wendorf as well as speeches from Student Government Association President Rahul Wadhvani and Faculty Council Chair Joseph Orgel. Following these speeches, former President Collens spoke briefly and introduced a video made for Cramb's inauguration titled "A Leader for Every Season." The video featured information about the progress and improvements made to the university under each previous president as well as included several positive testimonials from students, staff, and faculty regarding Cramb's fit into the role of president at IIT. After the conclusion of the video, former President Anderson introduced the keynote speaker for the inauguration event, Indira Samarasekera.

Samarasekera, President Emeri-

tus of the University of Alberta, spoke of her 30-year friendship with President Cramb. "I have deeply admired his mind and his heart, his great capacity for inspiring others, and his extraordinary dedication to excellence and the advancement of knowledge," said Samarasekera. She also expressed her great gratitude for being chosen to introduce President Cramb at his inauguration. Samarasekera lightheartedly compared Cramb's challenges in his new position to that of someone managing a graveyard; she referenced a quote by Woodrow Wilson: "Trying to change a college curriculum is like trying to relocate a cemetery; you don't know how many friends the dead have until you try to move them."

Samarasekera also called to attention the many improvements made to the university while Cramb served as Provost. "His tenure as Provost at IIT was inspirational and marked by a significant growth of the undergraduate student body, the opening of two new schools in the areas of applied technology and human sciences, attracting top talent, and improving the university's financial position." She also spoke about Cramb's research and work in his field of metallurgy.

After many speeches from those who have personally worked with President

Cramb, many had a similar message; they admired Cramb for his willingness to listen, his dedication and his clear vision.

Following the keynote address, President Cramb was officially inaugurated and presented with the Presidential Chain of Office. In Cramb's inaugural address, he outlined four key goals for his presidency: ensuring the success of IIT graduates by focusing on the total student experience, elevating IIT's visibility and reputation, building a community supportive of our goals, and growing. President Cramb closed by thanking those in attendance and asking the IIT community to envision their goals for the university in the future and seeking their assistance. "It is our time to fulfill the dreams that others have had for this university, it is our time to live up to our potential, and it is our time to come together as a community. It is our time, and it begins right now," said Cramb.

After the inauguration ceremony came to a close, a reception took place in other parts of Hermann Hall. Student organizations showcased their work, refreshments were served, and members of the IIT community had a chance to speak with President Cramb.



Photos by Kori Bowns