

Innoventor CEO Named University of Illinois Alumni Association 2008 Constituent Leadership Winner

The University of Illinois Alumni Association has awarded Kent Schien, CEO of Innoventor, Inc. the 2008 Constituent Leadership Award.

Schien, a 1981 graduate with a mechanical engineering degree from the School of Engineering, has been active on the School's Mechanical and Industrial Board of Directors since 1997. He serves as the President of the alumni board for the new department.

The Constituent Leadership Award recognizes alumni for service at the college or department level.

Schien worked to effectively consolidate the Mechanical and Industrial Department with the Theoretical Applied Mechanics Department. According to Hseyin Sehitoglu, Head of the new Mechanical Science and Engineering Department, "Combining the former TAM and MIE departments into one powerful department has given us the critical mass and flexibility we need to build on our traditional strengths, while evolving in new directions including energy, bio and nanosciences." He added that Schien's leadership and dedication on behalf of the department has been tremendous.

"It was a political challenge to converge these two departments," says Schien. "Our goal was to not lose any of the 250 board members that served the two departments...we retained 249 of them so I feel we were very successful," he added.

Innoventor was started in 1996 by Schien in the basement of his home. It has grown to a 90 engineer company that has taken over the former Ludwig Aeolian Piano facility in Earth City. It is a progressive, entrepreneurial design/build engineering firm diversified in five major industries. Its core competency is leveraging cross-industry experience and cutting edge technology to provide innovative solutions for its customers.