Ilene Busch-Vishniac named next President of the University of Saskatchewan

Ilene Busch-Vishniac will take office as the ninth President of the University of Saskatchewan on 1 July 2012. She is currently provost and vice-president academic at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Dr. Busch-Vishniac studied piano at the Eastman School of Music while taking classes at the University of Rochester but soon realized the performing arts were not for her. A freshman class called physics of music piqued her interest in acoustics so she switched to physics and mathematics for her undergraduate degrees.

She earned masters and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before joining the Acoustics Research Department of Bell Laboratories. In 1981, Busch-Vishniac moved to the mechanical engineering faculty at the University of Texas. Then in 1998, she joined Johns Hopkins University as professor and dean until 2007 when she accepted the position at McMaster University.

Dr. Busch-Vishniac’s research is focused on acoustics, particularly noise control and transduction. More recently, she turned her attention to characterizing and controlling noise in hospitals. Busch-Vishniac has published extensively and holds nine U.S. patents on electromechanical sensors. She has also done extensive research on how best to educate people in engineering. Her innovative work has earned her an impressive list of prestigious awards for both teaching and research including an NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award (1985), Curtis McGraw Research Award of the American Society for Engineering Education (1994), the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) R. Bruce Lindsay Award (1997), Achievement Award of the Society of Women Engineers, (1997), and the ASA Silver Medal in Engineering Acoustics (2001).

Ilene Busch-Vishniac is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and has served in several leadership positions in ASA including Member of Executive Council (1988-91), Vice President (1996-97), and President (2003-04).

Prof. Jens Blauert Receives Lifetime Achievement Award From EAA

Prof. Jens Blauert, distinguished visiting Professor of the RPI Graduate Program in Architectural Acoustics, has been awarded Lifetime Achievement Award from the European Acoustics Association.

Professor Blauert studied communication engineering at the RWTH Aachen University, where he received a Doctor-of-Engineering degree in 1969. In 1973, he delivered an inaugural dissertation to the Technical University of Berlin (habilitation), and in 1994 he was awarded an honorary degree (Dr. Tech.) by the University of Aalborg, Denmark. In 1974 he became chair professor at the Ruhr-University of Bochum where he founded the Institute of Communication Acoustics (IKA) and headed it until 2003. Subsequently, he was assigned emeritus professor. He has been visiting professor in various countries worldwide.

He is the author/coauthor of more than 160 papers and monographs, supervisor of 52 successful PhD projects and has been awarded several patents. He has received several reputable scientific medals and awards. His major scientific fields of interest are spatial hearing, binaural technology,