



**Ronald (Ron) J. Smith, Ph.D.**  
**Vice Chair, Campaign Leadership Council**

After graduating from Gettysburg College (Magna Cum Laude) as a Physics Major in 1972, Ron attended the University of Minnesota where he obtained his M.S. in 1975 and Ph.D. in 1977, both in Physics.

In January 1978, Ron joined a small relatively unknown company in California called Intel. He was hired as the company's first full time Device Physicist. On his first project he was part of the silicon process technology development team which developed the fabrication process on which Static RAM memory was developed for mainframe computers but also on which the 8086/88 microprocessor used in the first IBM Personal Computer was developed and fabricated. He then went on to become the project manager for the development of the silicon process technology on which the 80286 microprocessor was developed and fabricated. This processor was used in the industry standard setting IBM PC-AT from which several "clones" and new companies (e.g. Compaq (now part of HP), Dell, etc) were started. Simultaneously, Ron was also project manager for a program using lasers to program redundant elements for correct defective bits in SRAM memories, for which he holds a key patent. Ron then became the project manager for Intel's first high performance CMOS (pronounced "Sea-Moss", stands for Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) process technology. This technology enabled the development of the high performance and low power 80386 microprocessor and peripheral circuits, which enabled the introduction of the world's first laptop computers. Ron became the Department Manager for all of Intel's Silicon Process development for logic products.

In 1986, Ron volunteered for a new assignment as the liaison manager of a joint technology exchange and development relationship with IBM in Vermont. On returning to California from this assignment Ron moved into the business side of Intel ultimately becoming the General Manager of Intel's Programmable Logic Device Operation in 1989. In 1991 he was promoted to run Intel's PC chipset Division where he pioneered the development and industry standardization of PCI, which increased the performance and capability of all Input/Output interfaces to PCs and remains a standard capability in PCs and servers today. Ron and his team also developed and drove the industry standard USB as part of their chipsets. USB is not only used on all PCs today but has proliferated to a whole host of other uses. Ron was promoted to Vice President in 1995 and grew the chipset business into a multi-billion dollar business.

As a result of this success, Ron was named to Intel's executive staff in 1996 and put in charge of Intel's Computing Enhancement Group consisting of microcontrollers and Flash memories, in addition to the Chipset Division. Ron subsequently refocused this group on several new key initiatives, most notably in the exploding cellular phone industry. Cell phones not only became the largest market for Flash memories but Ron's group also invested in and worked with Research-in-Motion (RIM) to produce the world's first Smart Phone which was based on Intel's microcontrollers/processors and Flash memory. When RIM added cellular service, their device became the famous "Blackberry" product. Subsequently Ron's group developed the "X-Scale processor" which captured the majority of the market for Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), early precursors of today's Smart Phones. Ron retired from Intel in 2004. Ron was a Senior Vice President and a member of Intel's executive staff/management committee when he retired.

From 1999-2004 Ron served as an alternate board director for the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), the US Semiconductor industry's trade association. In his role, Ron chaired the SIA's technology strategy committee which produced the roadmap for future semiconductor technology, oversaw the SIA's multi-hundred million dollar Focus Center Research Program at major US research universities, and worked with the Presidential Science Advisor and the Congressional Science committee members to promote government spending on basic university research in the physical sciences and engineering.

Since retiring from Intel Ron has served on several company boards including IDT (an analog and digital semiconductor co.), Arcsoft (a provider of multimedia imaging software), and RagingWire Data Centers (a provider of data center services). He has engaged in Angel investing and consulting and served for an interim period as Chairman and CEO of a solar energy startup company. Since 2006, Ron is a member of the Board of Trustees of Gettysburg College where he held the inaugural chair of the Information Technology Committee and has served on the Finance, Audit, Campaign Steering, Development/Parent Relations, and Executive Committees. Ron currently serves on the Executive Compensation, Governance/Nominating, and Academic Affairs Committees.

In addition to his interest in Science, Technology and Business, Ron has a keen interest in Sports, American History, Economics, Philosophy and Music. Within the past 4 years Ron has completed over 100 college courses in these and other subjects. One of his proudest accomplishments was training for and completing an Ironman Triathlon on his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday followed by a 4 hour Marathon five months later. Ron and his wife Diane have two children. Their son Justin is a 2006 Summa Cum Laude B.S. graduate of UC San Diego and received a Ph.D. in Genetics from Stanford where he is currently a postdoctoral research fellow, while daughter Robyn is a 2011 Highest Honors B.S. graduate of UC Davis who recently completed her M.S. in Ecology from Utah State.