



COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Established in 2004, this award recognizes an alumnus or alumna who has distinguished himself/herself as a leader in the computer science and engineering profession through professional contributions, public service, and personal accomplishments. Nominations are made by faculty, alumni, and other supporters of the department. The winner is selected by the department chairperson and advisory committee.



Vandy Johnson, BS '82,
Computer Science

Vandy Johnson is vice president of global IT infrastructure operations and support at Medtronic, a leader in medical technology based in Plymouth, Minnesota. He is responsible for leading the development, implementation, and support of a global IT infrastructure that supports and sustains the company's business strategy. Last year, Vandy's global infrastructure team won the SNW / *Computerworld* award for

Best Practices in Virtualization and Cloud Computing and Nemertes Research PilotHouse innovation awards in three categories: Best Overall IT Innovator, Best Innovator for Sustainable Data Center and Best Innovator for WAN/ ACS/ Branch Office. Also in 2009, Medtronic IT was named one of *Computerworld's* 100 best places to work and was cited as a member of the *InformationWeek 500*.

Vandy earned his BS degree in computer science from Michigan State University in 1982. During his time at MSU, he worked as a programmer analyst for the state of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources. Upon graduation, he joined General Mills, where he held numerous roles of increasing responsibility in IT, most recently as the senior director of information systems operations. In this role, he was responsible for worldwide IT infrastructure and system operations, including voice and data networks, security, enterprise data, computer operations, and technical services. In other roles at General Mills, he was responsible for company-wide SAP implementation; led corporate IT

system development; was on the startup team for a new General Mills business—home delivery of restaurant-quality food; and led General Mills syndicated market research, International IT, and IT infrastructure and operations. After more than 25 years at General Mills, he left to become vice president of global IT infrastructure at Medtronic.

He is a life member of the MSU Alumni Association and a member of the MSU Jonathan L. Snyder Society. He currently serves on the Michigan State University College of Engineering Alumni Association Board; the MSU Department of Computer Science and Engineering Strategic Partners Council; the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Business, Executive Advisory Board on Curriculum; and the Minnesota State University-Moorhead Computer Science & Information Systems Advisory Board. He also serves on advisory councils for Microsoft, Dell, and IBM. He is a senior member of the Association for Computing Machinery as well as a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the computer society of the IEEE, and the communications society of the IEEE. He was a member of the review team for the IEEE Guide to the Software Engineering Body of Knowledge. He is also a Certified Data Processor (CDP), a Certified Systems Professional (CSP), and a Certified Computing Professional (CCP).

Vandy and his wife, DeAnne, a senior IT manager for General Mills, have two children—Skip and Summer. They reside in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Past Recipients

2004 Kevin J. Ohl (BS '78)

2005 Julie Louis-Benaglio (BS '79)

2006 James R. Von Ehr II (BS '72)

2007 Honda Shing (MS '88, PhD '92)

2008 Moti Kishin Jiandani (MS '81)

2009 Martha L. Gray (BS '78)

