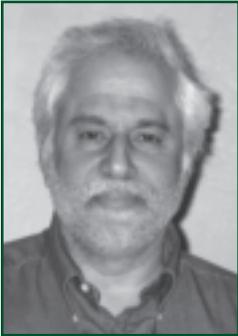




COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Established in 2004, this award recognizes an alumnus 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.



Moti Kishin Jiandani,
MS '81, Computer Science

Moti Jiandani has had an impressive career in information technology, founding two successful companies. Moti's first company, founded in 1991, was Sierra Atlantic, which provided engineering services to high technology clients such as 3Com, Oracle, Cisco, and Synopsys. In 1998, he founded and served as president and CEO of SwitchOn Networks.

They began by providing engineering services to clients such as 3Com, Nortel, MMC Networks, and Cisco, then successfully transitioned the company on two parallel tracks: from a services company to a product company, and from a software company to a fabless semiconductor company. Under his leadership, the company pioneered the concept of high-speed content processing coprocessors. They provided standard semiconductor and software components to the emerging market of content and policy-based networking, which enable applications such as QoS, Load Balancing, URL Switching, and VPN Firewalling at wirespeed exceeding OC-48 speeds. The company's patented technology enabled them to build devices that are scalable in both performance and the number of policies they support. SwitchOn was acquired by PMC-Sierra in 2000 for \$450 million, providing a 28-fold return to investors and shareholders in a short 10 months.

In 2001, Moti became president and CEO of Kuoka Networks in Sunnyvale, California. In an 18-month period, he built the team from 7 to 110 and brought a complex software intensive and 14-slot chassis-based modular system to the alpha testing phase at a cost of less than \$17 million. However, in an uncertain market following the attacks on 9/11, the board of directors shut down the company as a result of its inability to raise its second round of financing.

Moti earned a BS in electrical engineering at the University of Bombay in India (1978), then earned his master's at MSU. After graduation, Moti worked for ten years in software development and marketing for several California companies, including Integrated Solutions and Intel Corporation, before starting his own companies. His wife, Soni, is co-founder and vice president of marketing at Nuova Systems in San Jose, California. She has spent more than 21 years as a technology executive with information technology startups as well as established industry leaders such as Cisco Systems, where she served as VP/GM prior to founding Nuova. She is known for successfully taking new technologies to market and helping companies achieve high levels of market acceptance.

Moti and Soni live with their teenaged sons, Farid and Kabir, in Saratoga, California. Moti's father lives with them. For now Moti is a full-time husband, father, and son. He "keeps his hand in" by providing guidance and counsel to his friends and select companies on starting new high-tech ventures in Silicon Valley. He also makes investments in commercial real estate. He is contemplating imparting some of the knowledge and training he has acquired to others in a more formal setting.

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)

