

Illinois TECHnicolor Homecoming debuts on campus this week

Shreya Jha
TECHNEWS WRITER

Guess what's happening at Illinois Tech from September 15 to September 20? It has been predicted that Scarlet Fever will hit every single person on IIT grounds this week, because Homecoming Week is back to take the center stage at Illinois Tech. The programmers for the event, Maria Warren and Merridith Tedsten engaged in a discussion with Tech-News to provide their takes on the event.

The current theme for the Homecoming Week, Illinois TECHnicolor, was chosen in deliberation. Each day of this week will be "based on a theme with multiple ideas which provide for an entertaining backdrop," said Merridith Tedsten. The interests of all sections were taken into consideration while deciding on a theme; the week focuses not only on the current students at the university, but also on the alumni of the institution. The reputation of Illinois Institute of Technology as a university must also be kept in mind while planning an event which will be attended by non-IIT members and potential students as well. A week around potatoes (the most-commonly suggested Homecoming theme according to a poll on social media) would have been

questionable from the perspective of the current graduates of Illinois Tech, who on returning to their alma mater would find it covered in potatoes. "The theme of IITPotato would not have been approved by the Student Activity Fund (SAF) for funding," said Merridith Tedsten. It was therefore not viable to create an entire week around potatoes. "We appreciate feedback and look forward to getting multiple viewpoints, but we required a more pragmatic theme," said Merridith Tedsten.

So why TECHnicolor, you ask again? For the reasons given below. The Talon Challenge is an interactive way to get students involved with Homecoming Week. Not only will people have fun promoting the event, but also an opportunity to walk away with prizes. Students are competing in groups to earn points while promoting the Homecoming Week and Carnival. Inspired by 'The Amazing Race,' the competition has been given a positive response by the students.

Students also get a chance to engage in an epic battle of laser tag with their mortal enemies this Monday. Registration before the event is not required. Therefore, those interested have been advised to make a run for the MTCC South Lawn at 9:00 p.m. on Monday night.

Soccer under the Lights is an event where students, including those not on an athletic team, get a chance to play soccer on Stuart Field under the lights. Students do have to sign up beforehand, but this will be an enjoyable experience even for those who will be playing for the first time. "IIT is not a very athletic school, so we want to get more people involved in Homecoming," said Merridith Tedsten. It's also because everyone has dreamt of soccer under the lights. So you basically get to act like a superstar on the soccer field. The games begin on September 17 at 9:00 P.M. and end on September 18 at 10:00 P.M.

The committee is also holding a student-alumni mixer on Friday at 5:30 P.M. after IIT Explore. It will give the alumni a chance to realize the extent to which both academic and extracurricular programs have developed and how their successors have been doing at IIT. It also provides students with an opportunity to interact with experienced professionals. "Homecoming Week will unite IIT alumni and current faculty, staff, and students for a full week of events including reunion socials, athletic games, a speaker series and an alumni reception," said Maria Warren. Friday also calls for the Raju Speaker Series where esteemed

Professor Fred Oswald will speak on 'Using Big Data in Personnel Selection.' Students will be required to register before the event for the lecture series.

Our Soccer Scarlet Hawks also plan to beat the other teams this Friday, while the annual Homecoming Alumni Baseball Game will be held the following day at the Ed Glancy Field.

Illinois Tech will also see the return of its old Scarlet Hawks for the Athletics reception on Friday and Saturday. Additional "affinity events" will also be held on Sunday. Although Illinois Tech does not follow the traditional definition of Homecoming with a football game and a semi-formal dance, there will be a Homecoming Dance where everyone will be expected to move to the music and show off their school spirit along with their unparalleled dance moves. The week will be rounded off with the Homecoming Carnival at the end, which will be the highlight as usual with its obstacle courses, a rock-climbing wall, photo booths and whatnot. Other things worth mentioning are Human Foosball, free Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream, and a Petting Zoo. Can there be any more reasons to not miss the Homecoming Week this year?

Goldman Sachs visits campus

Vijai Baskar
COPY EDITOR

Goldman Sachs Technology, the leading global investment banking, securities, and investment management firm, was on campus last week for the Career fair which happened on Tuesday, September 9. They were present at the career fair, with many other companies talking to students about the opportunities at their company and how to apply to be selected as an employee.

They held a Tech Talk hosted by IEEE IIT in the MTCC auditorium the following evening, which saw a lot of aspiring students attend and get to know what it takes and what it means,

to be a part of Goldman Sachs.

The human resource manager spoke about the Technology division of his company at a glance, giving the numbers of their applications, engineers, servers, and other vital pieces that form Goldman Sachs as a whole. He also spoke about the various tools that engineers at their firm use to develop applications and also the number of lines of code that each application contains.

Goldman Sachs has a number of industry partnerships in the financial sector, R & D Initiatives and commercial sector, which makes them a huge name in the industry. He also mentioned the company's strategic areas of focus, a

few being mobile strategy, big data, operational excellence, and efficiency and application platforms.

GS Connect is Goldman Sachs' proprietary social networking platform with a business context, it lets global staff across 44 offices and 19,000 live users connect with over two million messages per week producing 35,000 pieces of content on the network.

Anita Nandakumar, Vice President of Information Security at Goldman Sachs—is an alumni of IIT. Anita started off at Goldman Sachs as a summer intern. She was then offered a permanent job at the company after college. She spoke about the technology risks the com-

pany may face and the importance of having to take care of these risks to maintain the industry. She then gave a brief overview of life and work at Goldman Sachs, and the benefits one gets from being a GS employee.

Tushar Nair, former student of Computer Engineering at IIT, now an employee of Goldman Sachs Technology spoke about the projects that interns within the company work on and the things a summer intern can learn through the program. He also asserted that the best way to get a full time offer at the company was to join them as an intern and then continue to work at their firm after finishing your degree.

Krishna Lunch cancellation sparks confusion

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Krishna Lunch is a meal that many students have seen on campus. In the recent past, there was a hot vegetarian meal served for \$5 from the lobbies of both Stuart Building and Seigel Hall each day; the meal was hosted by Vedic Vision Society, a student organization on campus. Recently, however, this meal has disappeared from campus, leaving many students confused and concerned.

Early on the morning of Thursday, September 11, members of the Vedic Vision Society's email list received an email stating that Krishna Lunch had been discontinued at the discretion of the IIT Provost. The email expressed that the organization apologized for the short notice and inconvenience and also expressed that the organization itself was still exploring reasons why their daily event was cancelled.

After reaching out to discover more about the situation, Avelo Roy, a student representative of the organization, provided some background regarding Krishna Lunch. "One of the objectives of Vedic Vision Society is to expand

awareness about Karma-free living, and Krishna Lunch is one of the means to our goal. Krishna Lunch started in the fall of 2012," said Roy.

Roy added that the president of Vedic Vision Society had received a call from the IIT Office of Student Affairs late afternoon on Wednesday saying that Krishna Lunch was to be stopped immediately with little explanation.

Provost Alan Cramb responded to the situation after being contacted for comment. He states that he did not cancel their activity but did inquire as to what the vendors of Krishna Lunch were doing when he saw them serving food in a building on campus. He adds that university and city guidelines have regulations on food being sold on campus.

He says that the information he learned after speaking to Krishna Lunch representatives led to an understanding that the sale of Krishna Lunch was not fully approved according to these guidelines. He also states that he was not directly involved with how Vedic Vision Society was informed of the cancellation of Krishna Lunch.

Roy later added that Vedic Vision Society met with Katherine Stetz. IIT's Dean of Students. Roy said, "Stetz mentioned that it was her

decision to stop Krishna Lunch on campus as IIT has a non-competition agreement with Sodexo and she thinks that Krishna Lunch is competition."

The statements given by other administrators on campus add more to the story that hasn't been provided by representatives of Vedic Vision Society. Both Ryan Miller, Associate Vice Provost for Campus Life, and Jeanne Hartig, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, have other information to add.

Miller says that there were also city health code concerns brought up regarding Krishna Lunch. He mentioned that Chicago health regulations for food service are very strict, and some may not be met by the current setup to serve Krishna Lunch.

Jeanne Hartig reiterated this in response to student unrest expressed on social media. "City health guidelines, as well as university guidelines, do not allow groups that are not approved by the city and who are not approved food vendors for IIT to sell food on university property."

After providing references to Chicago health code requirements, she added, "organi-

zations cannot just 'set up shop' anywhere in Chicago and sell food on a regular basis." Representatives from Vedic Vision Society provided a copy of a food license that the vendors of Krishna Lunch possess to operate a retail food establishment, but it has not yet been seen whether this document meets all of the regulations that have been cited, nor does it show established permission for Krishna Lunch to operate on campus.

The story is still evolving with new information this week as students sign petitions asking to bring back Krishna Lunch and members of Vedic Vision Society meet with staff and administrators on campus. Vedic Vision Society also hosted a public meeting on Monday night for supporters of Krishna Lunch and those interested in helping bring it back to campus.

Roy has some closing remarks regarding the situation. "We have mixed feelings," said Roy. "We are disappointed to have to pause Krishna Lunch but we are extremely grateful to the more than 250 supporters who have filled out the petition to bring back Krishna Lunch. This pushes us to do our best to somehow provide Krishna Lunch to the IIT community while meeting the requirements set by the university."

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