IEEE participates in events in and around Chicago

Vijai Baskar
COPY EDITOR

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers at IIT (IEEE@IIT) have an array of events planned for the Fall 2014 semester which will largely benefit the student community of IIT.

IEEEXtreme is a 24-hour coding competition where you are given a set of coding problems to solve. Teams from various parts of the globe compete in a one-day contest to solve complex programming problems. The worldwide winning three-person team gets a trip to an IEEE event anywhere in the world! To make things interesting, the Chicago Section is putting up a $1,500 prize to the team that wins in Chicago.

Last year, there were 2000 teams around the world, with seven from Chicago. IIT students hope to make a good showing this year. Teams can consist of three IEEE National student members. IIT, being a local competition site, will host teams from our college and will also provide food and refreshments during the competition. Information about the competition is on the IEEE website at www.ieee.org/xtreme. Stay tuned for further details,

including the proctor. Registration closed on Monday, October 6.

If you are interested in solving complex problems in a workplace filled with innovation and change, Goldman Sachs is hiring within Technology for 2015 Summer Analysts. There are some exciting things happening in the Technology Division at Goldman Sachs like "Collaborative Engineering Expo for 2014 Summer Analysts". Goldman Sachs is looking specifically for undergraduate juniors graduating in December 2015 or May 2016. If you are interested in interviewing on campus for summer analyst roles, email mallory.leib@gs.com with your resume.

Internships at Intel are another opportunity for students at IIT. Intel has a broad range of BS, MS and PhD opportunities in technical disciplines such as Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, and Materials Science.

Intel offers multiple programs that allow for trying out a variety of roles, gaining a wide range of experience, and exploring multiple opportunities. Visit Intel's Student Center and check out what's in store for you.

Also, make sure you don't miss your chance to chat with Intel's hiring teams at a local campus near you. Visit their recruiting events calendar today to find out when they'll be in your neck of the woods. If they are not able to visit your particular school, don't worry, you will still have an opportunity to connect with them virtually. Watch for virtual events to be posted soon. Make a difference at intel.com/jobs

The IEEE Hack Chicago Challenge 2014 (HCC'14) is an upcoming online hackathon event that focuses on developing apps that provide a service that is friendly, convenient, and will enhance services for Chicago and the Chicagoland area. The goal of this event is to encourage the development of creative applications to engage and serve Chicagoland's diverse community, while using data from the City of Chicago's data portal. Participants can create a mobile or web-based application which enriches the activities of Chicago residents, businesses and visitors. This event is open to all individuals or teams, who will compete for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in three contest divisions namely, Youth (ages 13-17), Collegiate (18 or over, and enrolled as university students), and Professional. Submissions are due by October 15, 2014.

Award ceremony for winners will be on November 6, 2014 at the IEEE Chicago Section Symposium & Exhibition hosted by Motorola Solutions in Schaumburg. HCC'14 is hosted by the Chicago Section as a proud participant of a worldwide initiative of the IEEE Computer Society STC on e-Government in support of globalization. Sponsors include Google, Midwest Real Estate Data, Server Central, Innov8tec, Stratus Concepts, Motorola Mobility, Angel Hack, and Illinois Science & Technology Coalition. Registration is free. Sign up and details at tinyurl.com/ieeehcc14.

Northwestern University's IEEE Student Branch is sponsoring WildHacks, another hackathon event. On the weekend of November 22-23, more than 400 of the most talented student developers are going to gather together to build things like mobile apps, websites, and hardware devices to show off their skills. The section is also organizing speakers and tours, trying to include as many members as possible. This event currently needs branch mentors, sponsors and speakers. If you have any questions or would like to help, please send an email to robert.burke@ieee.org or robert.burke@culligan.com.

3D printers arrive in Galvin Library

Shriram Anbalagan
TECHNEWS WRITER

If you were to walk by the group study suite on the first floor of our very own Galvin Library, you would see the newly set up "Exploration Space" which houses two 3D printers meant exclusively for IIT students. They can be used to print anything from anime figurines to a working model of an engine. It would be hard to miss the brightly colored AirWolf artistically sculpting a model of the Willis Tower, the timing carriage moving over the printer bed from one side to another.

Upon speaking to Pattie Piotrowski, Assistant Dean of Public Services, the motivation behind the project became clear. She says that the idea to make 3D printing an accessible service for students is twofold. Firstly, numerous students have been finding it hard to print their models for coursework (primarily architecture and material science majors) at the 3D printer over at the Idea Shop, which at times involved a long waiting period. Secondly, the whole idea of acquiring a printer at the library was the brainchild of the Dean of IIT Libraries,

Sharon Bostick, who has been considering this project for quite some time now. Peer libraries have been providing opportunities for students to explore and learn, such as North Carolina State University's Hunt Library and others. Piotrowski, while observing that IIT has always been a breeding ground for technology, said, "IIT students are very unique," being both creative and technology-minded.
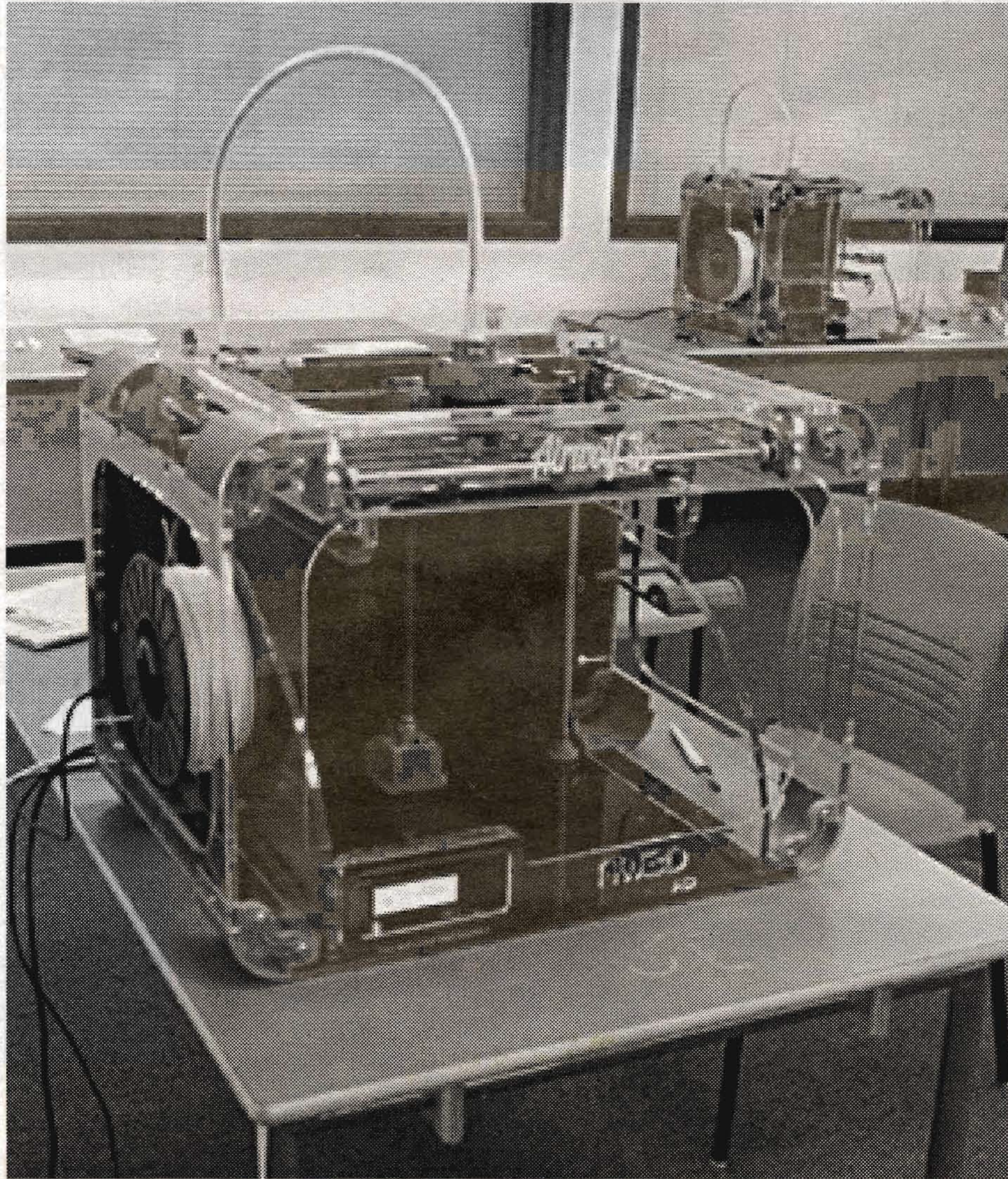
In recent times, the library has evolved to more than just a place for books and studying. It is a union of creativity and learning in all aspects, with the Exploration Space being proof of this. Piotrowski said, "We believe that the library continues to be an innovative space, and it's both experimental and experiential." She says that our students deserve the right to be creative in any form of learning, be it studying on their own, as a group in one of the library's group study suites or getting creative in any way they choose. The library recognizes that IIT students are creative and inventive, irrespective of their majors. The Exploration Space is meant to foster creativity and develop learning with play, which has always appealed to the millennial generation.

We can expect to see a lot more technological equipment in the Exploration Space and the library environment in general. The library is looking into acquiring state-of-the-art gadgets like Google Glass, GoPro cameras, Arduino Robotics kits and media editing software. These would propel hands-on learning and give IIT students a chance to be as creative as possible. The number of projects is unlimited and exploring and inventing will be every student's favorite thing to do in the library. However, buying all the gadgets with the allocated budget will be a task. Budget management is always a tricky thing but once the decision is made, library staff tries to find the money.

The 3D printers have been operational for a little over two weeks now. They work on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students can submit print jobs by going online and submitting print requests in the required format. An email with an estimated cost is then sent to the student, but the charges for printing are very nominal and are meant only to recover the cost of the filament. The current printing cost is ten cents for one gram, which

would mean roughly $5 to $10 for most small objects like models or phone cases. Softwares such as MatterControl and NetFabb are used to modify the files and eventually print them. The printers are currently operational Monday to Saturday. In the future, it is expected that a specialist will be available to help students out with designing customized models on a consultation and appointment basis.

Apart from the 3D printers, the Exploration Space also has badge/button makers which students can use for any purpose they see fit. Student organizations can make the most out of this for their school events and campaigning. Recently, a student organization made badges for the "Paint IIT Pink" campaign and other clubs can make use of this nominally priced service. 3D printing and badge/button making are intended for personal purposes and for fundraising as a student group, but should not be used for commercial purposes. More information can be found on the guide for 3D printing at http://guides.library.iit.edu/3DPrinter.

Photos by Shriram Anbalagan