

# TechNews

Student newspaper of the Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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## President, Provost Forum addresses student concerns

**Kori Bowns**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The semesterly President and Provost Forum is a tradition at IIT that provides students the opportunity to ask any questions they have regarding university policy to the top two university administrators, President John Anderson and Provost Alan Cramb. Organized by the Illinois Tech Student Government Association (SGA), this semester's President and Provost Forum was hosted over the lunch hour on Thursday, October 30 in the Hermann Hall Expo. Tables with varieties of free sandwiches and sides lined the edges of the expo, and 200 chairs were lined up in front of a stage for the event, of which about three quarters were filled through the duration of the event.

The event began with a few opening remarks from Akinade Adelele, SGA President. He thanked those in attendance and explained the purpose of the event. "This event gives the students of IIT some face-to-face time with the top leaders at the university. It's an excellent opportunity for you to ask questions about the university's future and any of the things that you think about as a student at this university," Adelele also introduced the moderator for the event, Gabriel Connors, an SGA Senator from the Lewis College of Human Sciences.

The president and provost began to hear questions that had been collected by SGA through an online form prior to the event. The first question was regarding the ever-popular topic of tuition increases at the university. It asked whether the university would consider a locked-in tuition rate instead of having tuition increase each year for every student.

"Tuition increases annually because expenses increase annually, and because of this, we need to increase tuition," said Anderson. In regard to locking in a tuition rate that never goes up and stays the same for all of a student's years at the university, President Anderson offered some insight. "This has been tried at several universities and it's usually been a very negative experiment. One reason is that, when parents compare the cost of education between schools, they forget that the tuition is locked in; we initially have to have a raised tuition cost for a locked-in rate, and they compare it to another school's tuition that will increase annually." Provost Cramb also added that IIT's sticker price is not usually a true reflection of the price to students, as many students receive a lot of aid. He also explained that the tuition increases are tiered; continuing students face lower increases than incoming students.

The next question, also submitted prior to the event, asked what the outlook was for the graduate student programs at IIT. Provost Cramb responded to the question, explaining that the university looks to stabilize the number of graduate students to around 5,000 students, keeping the enrollment very close to where it is now. "Our goal is to grow the undergraduate population by another thousand students over the next five years. We'd like to see this campus become 50 percent undergraduate and 50 percent graduate students."

The next question expressed that the university needs to put more funding into athletics at IIT in order to attract more students to the university and asked what the university's plans were for increasing funding for athletics. President Anderson stated the importance of varsity, intermural, and recreational athletics.

He said, "We're not talking about very large increases in funding for athletics currently. All of the student fees paid for athletics from the past five years have gone to infrastructure improvements for athletics." He also added that the university is looking to hire a new full-time director of intermurals. Anderson then passed the question to Provost Cramb, who will be succeeding Anderson as president of the university in August 2015. Cramb added that the university will continue to support the idea of the scholar-athlete, where we have exceptional students who also participate in athletics as opposed to having specific athletic scholarships for athletes. He also shifted the focus of the conversation to the overall extracurricular experience at IIT and said, "The university will spend more on student life, and athletics are a part of student life. I wouldn't separate the two. There are many parts of student life, the experience outside of the classroom, that are very important to the development of our students."

Provost Cramb's transition into the presidential role at IIT was the subject of the next question. President Anderson said, "Provost Cramb and I have worked together for almost seven years at IIT. Like any two individuals, we don't agree on everything, but we do agree on most things, and we form partnerships and strategies together. The provost was in charge of the strategic plan that we just finished last year. The transition, I think, will be very smooth. I applaud the board of trustees for selecting the provost to be the next president because I know that he has a vision and commitment to the university, which is very important."

Cramb added, "I'm fully behind our vision for the future. We're going to become a much better-known university. We're going to

focus on the accomplishments of our graduates and our faculty. I think, from the student's perspective, they will see no hiccups."

After all of the previously-submitted questions had been asked, the floor was open for attendees at the event to ask any questions. After no response, Connors suggested that the president and provost take some time to talk about the Kaplan Innovation Center, the new building to be built on campus in the near future.

President Anderson says that the Kaplan Center will be located in Morton Park north of Hermann hall three years from now, and it will be the first new academic building on campus since Stuart Building was built in 1968. "Undergraduate students will take two semesters of courses there because all of the IPROs will be taught in this building. The Idea Shop will be moved there, The Institute of Design will be moved there from downtown, we will have Leadership Academy and Entrepreneurship Academy here, and we will have adjunct faculty come in from businesses that will do residencies here. This building will be a place where you will be inspired to apply what you've learned," said Anderson. He adds that construction on the building intends to break ground in 2016 and finish the building by 2017.

A follow-up question came from an audience member asking what will happen to the old building where the Idea Shop is currently located. Cramb says that the plan is to completely move classes out of the Tech Business Center on campus, adding that the Kaplan Innovation Center will be a 24-hour building where students will be able to work on projects related to their courses as well as personal projects.

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Photo by Kevin Zheng



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# Raising awareness to promote peace between nations

**Samaneh Ahmadi**

TECHNEWS WRITER

A memorial to the 521 Palestinian children and one Israeli child killed during Israel's "Operation Protective Edge" this summer was brought to the IIT's campus in the form of pinwheels in the field north of Galvin Library. This tribute to the children will be accompanied by a call to end the eight-year siege of Gaza as an important step towards a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

In this project, 522 black pinwheels were placed in the ground. The name of a child killed in the conflict will be attached to a pinwheel.

The pinwheels will memorialize the 521 Palestinian and one Israeli child killed during Operation Defensive Edge in July and August of this year. The purpose of the named pinwheels is to bring home that these children are not statistics, but are individuals who have had their lives cut tragically short.

During this attack, more than 2,000 Palestinians were killed, including the 521 children represented by these pinwheels. Seventy-two percent of the casualties were confirmed by the United Nations to be civilians. This does not include the more than 300 individuals whose bodies have not yet been identified, nor those whose deaths have not been reported.

Five civilians in Israel, including one child, were also killed.

Children have been exceptionally damaged by this summer's attack on Gaza as 60 percent of the population is under the age of 18. In addition to the 521 Palestinian children killed and 3,000 more wounded, 58 hospitals and over 216 schools were damaged or completely destroyed. As many as 360 factories were also damaged, and most farms and agricultural land were destroyed. As a result of 51 days of relentless bombing, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) estimates that hundreds of thousands of Gazan children are in need of psychosocial support.

More than 10,000 Palestinians were injured, many of whom will suffer permanent

disabilities as a result and many more are likely to die from their injuries as medical treatment and equipment are scarce. Nearly 500,000 Palestinians living under siege in Gaza were displaced from their homes with no safe place to go. Over 16,000 homes, hospitals, businesses, schools, and places of worship were destroyed. Large numbers of Palestinians will remain without permanent shelter, adequate food, adequate running water, and regular electricity for months to come.

Eight out of ten of Gaza's 900,000 children are dependent on humanitarian aid and the UN estimates 373,000 will require direct and specialized psychological support while all 900,000 will need basic psychosocial support on top of assistance with food, shelter and other medical needs. A minimum of 142 Palestinian families lost three or more members in a single Israeli attack.

Significantly, Congressman Danny Davis has called for an end to the siege of Gaza in a letter to the Chicago Sun-Times:

"The cease-fire between the Israeli and Palestinian forces seems to be holding . . . for the time being. That is a very good thing, but it is clear that the cease-fire itself is not a blueprint for a sustainable peace. If there is to be a sustainable peace, and there must be one, then the process must move forward, in the first place by the parties themselves. The more time passes, the more likely that hostilities will re-emerge.

There are so many tragedies and horrors in this conflict that it is difficult to single out one or even two or three for urgent attention; nevertheless, it is impossible to ignore the fact that this conflict is so costly, so painful, so inhumane for civilians, for non-combatants. The rocket fire, the shelling, the bombs and missiles have stopped for now, but for the people of Gaza, 50 percent of whom are under the age of 18, 70 percent of whom are women and children and 80 percent of whom live below the poverty line according to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, daily life conditions are intolerable due, in the first place, to the ongoing blockade.

There is an urgent need to lift the blockade, to restore free movement of people and goods to and from Gaza through Israel, Egypt and the sea. As a part of the cease-fire Israel did, in fact, agree to an opening of the Gaza crossings and an expansion of the fishing zone.

This is the right thing to do for urgent humanitarian reasons, but it is also a critical step in moving the peace talks forward. The blockade only feeds and encourages the movement of goods and people via tunnels and other means dominated by military forces while suppressing the growth of normal civilian institutions and activity so critical to democracy and sustainability. The international community can play an important role in facilitating the transparent, expedited, movement of goods and people.

The crushing blockade of Gaza has lasted more than seven years. Now would be a good time, the right time, to end the blockade."

The U.S. government provides Israel with more than \$3 billion in military funding annually. Additional funding and weapons were sent to Israel to support "Operation Protective Edge."

U.S. and international law require that human rights abuses be investigated and acted upon. This means supporting international human rights investigations into what happened in Gaza and then taking steps to hold those responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes accountable.

For more information, visit The American Friends Service Committee: afsc.org/gaza, The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation: endtheoccupation.org, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights: mezan.org/en, The Boycott National Committee: bdsmovement.net, #Gaza Names: freedom4palestine.org, Humanize Palestine: humanizepalestine.com, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: ochaopt.org.

This project has also been implemented at the University of Chicago campus and First United Church of Oak Park as well as at other college campuses.



Photos by Samaneh Ahmadi

## CAMPUS

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# Doctor Who at IIT Halloween Lounge Party

**Kristal Copeland**

COPY EDITOR

Did you notice the spooky gathering at the MSV Lounge on Halloween? Doctor Who at IIT (DWIIT) hosted a showing of Midnight, as well as Silence of the Library and Forest of the Dead. They brought Jelly Babies and Candy Corn, as well as some homemade treats; they even brought some Halloween decorations. Many people showed up, some who loved Doctor Who already, and a few who hadn't seen the episodes we were showing. There was much discussion and attempts to tie theories in, with current episodes.

During Midnight, there were shouts of "You stupid people!" and "Can't you see what's going on!?" Plenty of angry comments from the viewers, achieving exactly the reactions expected from the audience by such an episode.

There was even a small amount of scientific debate about how the Midnight entity could have come into existence, with Superman jokes running amok. During the Silence and Forest episodes, there was fright at the mysterious Vashta Nerada entity, and curiosity from first-time viewers of River Song. Sleeping that night might have been difficult for anyone, especially if they were already afraid of the dark, on this All Hallows' Eve.

Quite a lot of people came in costume, most of whom received a high-five from an executive board member dressed as a TARDIS (Time and Relative Dimensions in Space.) So many people showed up and were still there after the official end of the party that they continued with Blink, The Empty Child and the Doctor Dances. The board was ecstatic with the amount of people that showed up and also plan to have many more events in the lounge to attract

attention from the hidden "Whovians" among the Illinois Institute of Technology population.

Doctor Who at IIT is a fairly new organization on campus, and has done many events on campus celebrating topics and holidays such as Halloween and LGBTQ month. In the spirit of Doctor Who, the members try their hardest to spread the message of equality and love, and also host tea time discussions and friendly debates. They plan to continue this into next semester and well into the future.

If you are interested in being notified of these events, you can email to doctorwho@iit@gmail.com and ask to be put on the mailing list. You can also follow Whovian Friend and join the Doctor Who At IIT and Beyond group on Facebook.

DWIIT would like to recognize the man in the Playboy Bunny costume, who got a small prize from the executive staff.



# EWB-IIT attends National Conference

**Cara Karter**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

A delegation of eight students from the Illinois Tech chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) attended the EWB-USA National Conference from October 31 to November 2 in Reston, VA. Over 500 student and professional members attended networking receptions, a keynote, and six breakout sessions throughout the weekend. The topic of the small group sessions covered community development, technical applications, impact analysis, leadership and careers, chapter and project organization, and discussion-based global dialogues. Cara Karter, a Junior studying Social and Economic Development Policy and the EWB-IIT Director of Projects, facilitated one of the global dialogue sessions entitled "How

do we develop and maintain communication with community partners?" and discussed strategies for more effective communication.

Since November 2012, EWB-IIT has been working on a vehicular bridge project in San Claudio, Nicaragua, so it is unsurprising that when asked about the most valuable session he attended, Junior Civil Engineering student and project technical lead, Deion DeBose said, "The professional insight of people who are experienced in the field was really beneficial for me as I move forward with project design - the bridge design session was especially helpful." DeBose and Tommy Mai, a sophomore student of chemical engineering, spoke about the progress of the chapter's program in San Claudio, Nicaragua during a poster presentation Saturday evening.

In addition to poster presentations,

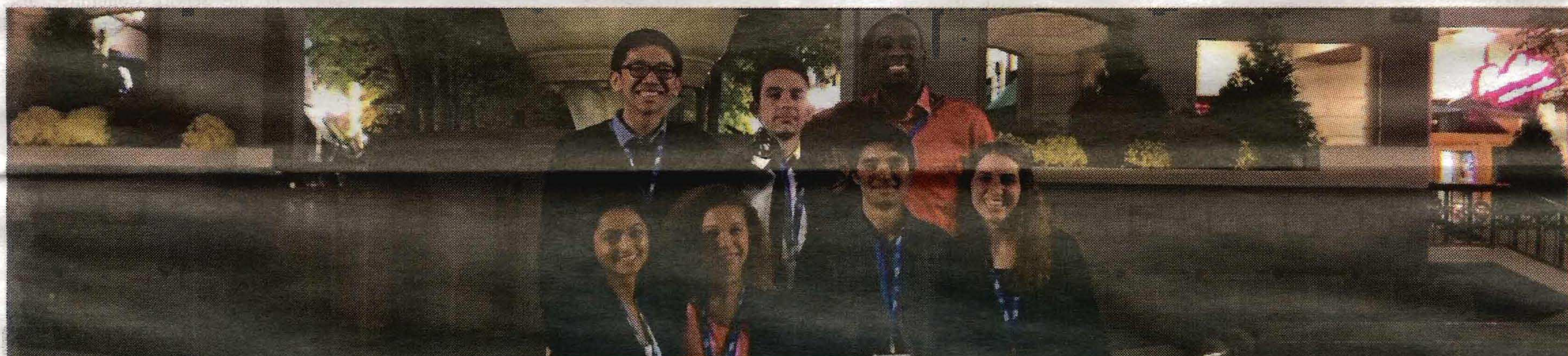
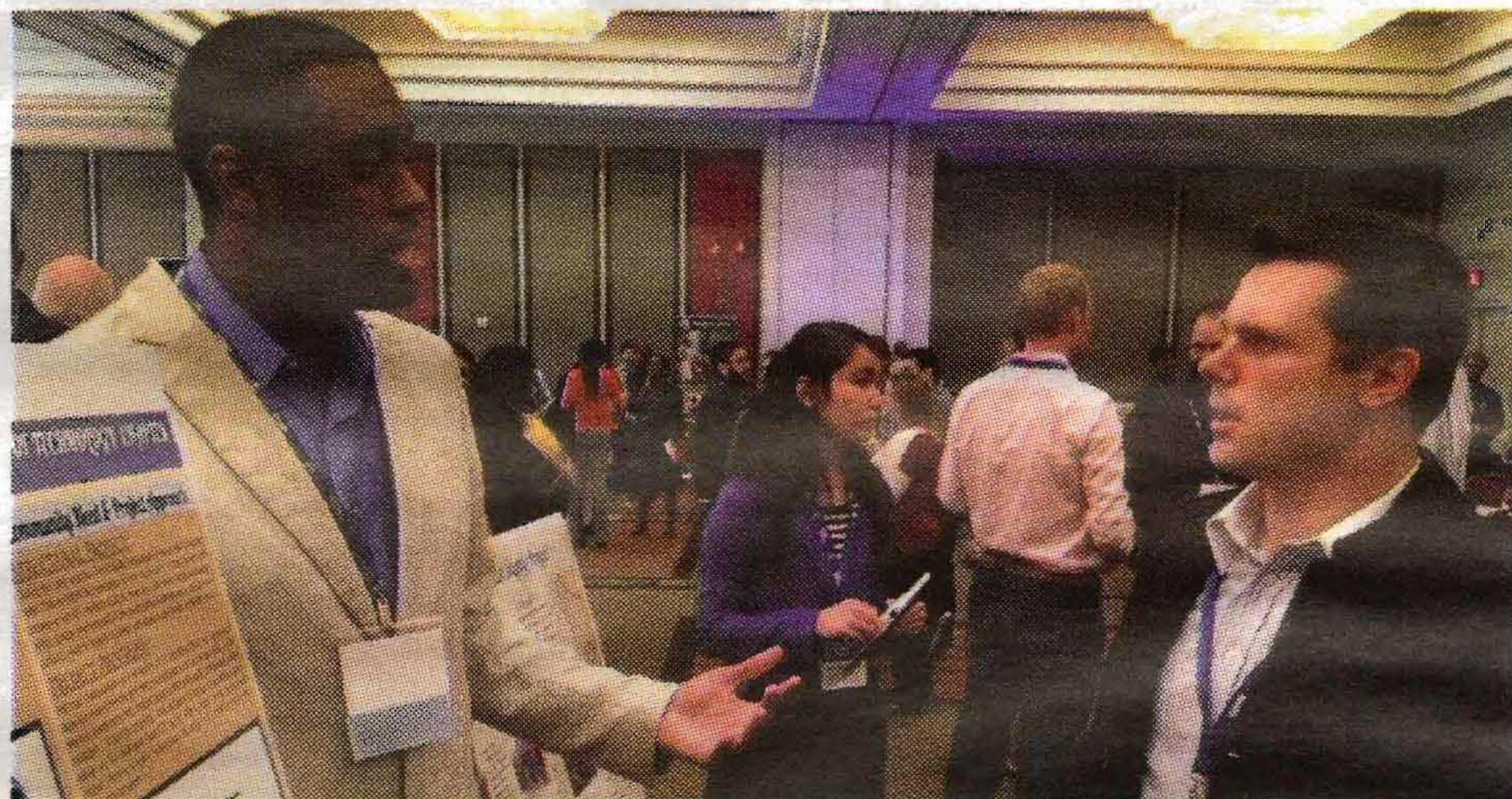
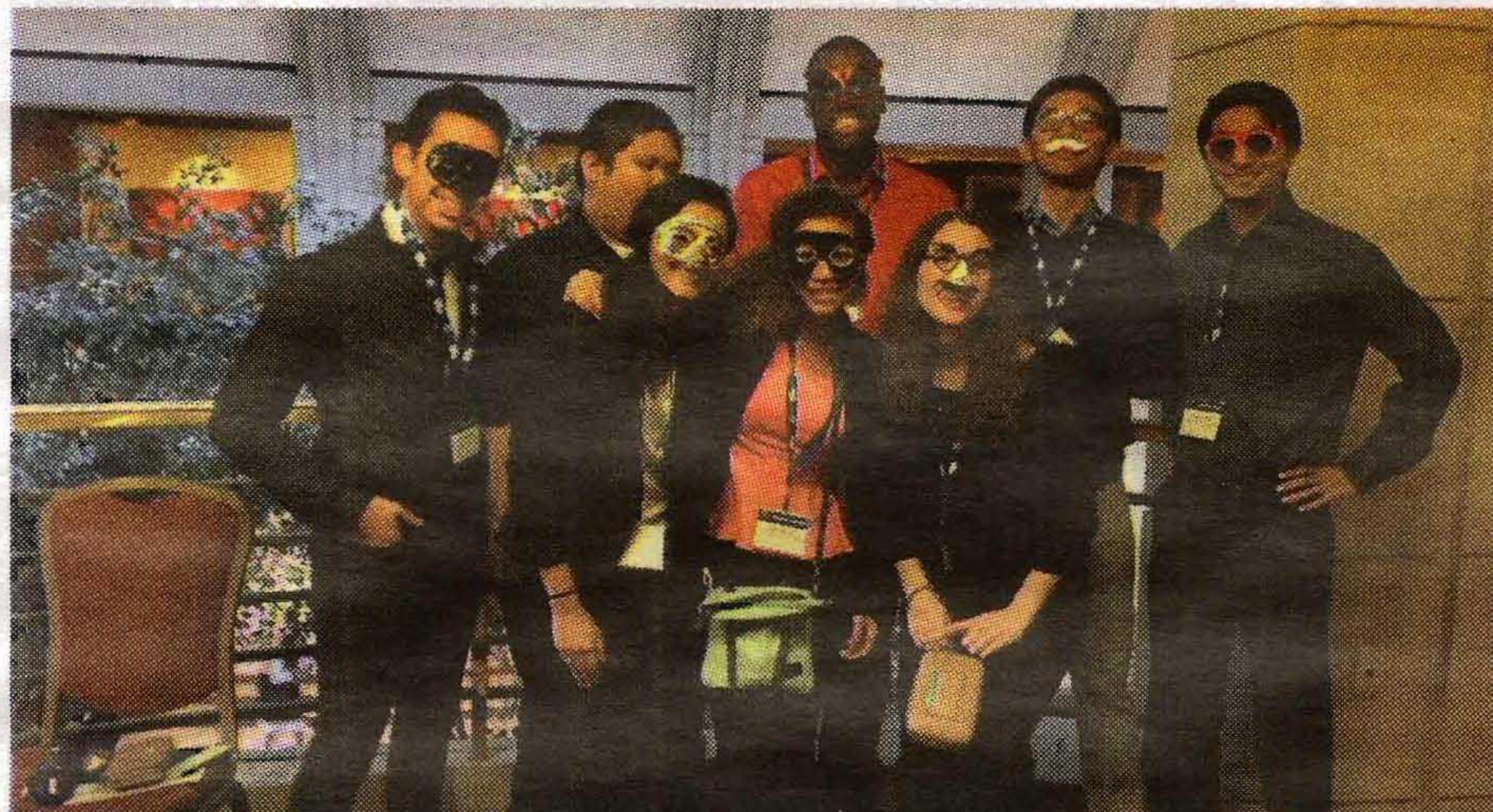
receptions, and small group sessions, the conference also featured a keynote presentation by Stephen B. Sobhani, Vice-President of Sesame Workshop - the non-profit organization behind Sesame Street. Sobhani spoke passionately about Sesame Street's efforts to contribute to United Nations Development Goals - specifically in the area of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). Sesame Street is addressing the topic of WASH through a new puppet character named Raya. Raya is being piloted in Bangladesh and has been used to teach children about the importance of washing their hands after using latrines, and drinking clean, treated water rather than water from a dirty source. Sobhani discussed an appreciation for the community-driven model of EWB-USA's development projects and related it to the culturally sensitive, country-specific Sesame

Street broadcasts.

An important aspect of EWB-USA conferences is networking. Chapter President, Nina Townley, architectural engineering junior, enjoyed the opportunity to learn "how to spread the word about our organization to corporations and professionals by utilizing social media and public relations campaigns and how to more effectively fundraise for our projects and chapter activities" from other chapters.

Conferences are a great way to learn new technical tools, chapter management strategies, and to develop as a young professional. Engineers Without Borders - IIT is extremely thankful for the opportunity to represent Illinois Tech at conferences and events.

To find out more about our chapter or our projects visit [iitewb.org](http://iitewb.org) or email [president@iitewb.org](mailto:president@iitewb.org).



Photos courtesy of Cara Karter

## Dr. Mary Doria Russell to appear at Interfaith Panel, Book Signing

**Shireen Gul**  
COPY EDITOR

The Office of Spiritual Life and Service Learning at Illinois Tech is hosting an interfaith panel on Thursday, November 6. The event will feature the appearance of Dr. Mary Doria Russell, Interfaith Panel and Book Signing—Let's Talk about Science and Religion; they will welcome Dr. Mary Doria Russell to campus for a very special appearance and book signing. The panel includes, His Grace Nityananda Pran Das, Dr. Andrew Howard, Dr. Sabeel Ahmad, Mr. Lal Singh, and Rev. Angie Buchanan.

Dr. Russell will talk about her work, specifically about her award-winning novel "The Sparrow," and will also answer the big questions of science and religion. Dr. Russell; Lynne Meyer, Director of Spiritual Life and Service Learning; Mr. Lal Singh, IIT alumnus and Christopher White, Vice-Provost for Academic affairs, will moderate an interfaith panel that further explores these big questions.

Amazon writes about Dr. Russell, "She has been called one of the most versatile writers in contemporary American literature. Her novels are critically acclaimed, commercial successes." Her novels are studied in literature, theology

and history courses in colleges and universities across the United States. Amazon says about the book, "The Sparrow is her debut novel and is considered a classic of speculative fiction, combining elements of First Contact science fiction and a tense courtroom drama."

People have really appreciated her novel. Entertainment Weekly wrote about this book, "Important novels leave deep cracks in our beliefs, our prejudices, and our blinders. The Sparrow is one of them," whereas, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel wrote about it, "The soul-searching nature of the story of 'The Sparrow,' combined with Russell's incredible grasp of

narrative structure and control of character development, make this novel an experience not to be missed."

The event is free, but The Office of Spiritual Life and Service Learning will really appreciate it if you will RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/TheSparrowIIT>.

After the panel, everyone is invited to join them in the MTCC Welcome Center, where Dr. Russell will be signing copies of her books, "The Sparrow" and "Children of God." Both the books are available for purchase in IIT's bookstore, so make sure you get your copy beforehand and personally get it signed by Dr. Russell.

## Mr. Hawk competition returns to campus

**Andreea Beca**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

The 2nd annual Mr. and Ms. Hawk competition will be hosted from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2014. The event will take place at The Bog in the lower level of Hermann Hall. For the first time, both male and female students of IIT will be invited to showcase their great talents and raw ability in the talent show and the "Minute to Win It" competitions. After several weeks of intense voting and hundreds of nominations, just the cream of the crop remains: the six top nominated

guys, and the six top nominated girls. Only two of these proud and accomplished contestants can claim victory. Who will be crowned this year's Mr. and Ms. Hawk? Who will become the student faces of IIT? It will all be decided by the votes of fellow students. The community's voice will be heard.

This friendly, spirited competition was first conceived as part of an IPRO project, Hawk Pride, which is dedicated to bringing more pride and a greater sense of closeness to the community of IIT. With such a tough educational focus and so much emphasis on purely academic skills and challenges, it can often

be easy to overlook what else the community has to offer. IIT is not just a space where one can gain knowledge and skill in a technical field. It is also a place where one can become a well-rounded human being, encounter new friends and cultures, and engender a broader understanding of humanity's context in the world. This is the view put forth by the Hawk Pride IPRO.

The competition is about the winners, Mr. and Ms. Hawk, but it is also about everyone present—all the competitors, the entire audience. This event is here to gather people and restore the feeling of a tight-knit commu-

nity, perhaps bring together those who would never meet otherwise, and unite everyone in a celebration of IIT school spirit and the many great talents of the student body. With enough support, this event could become a yearly IIT tradition anticipated months in advance.

People are kindly asked to bring a small donation of canned food if at all possible. These donations will benefit the rest of the community and help the warmth spread beyond campus in the upcoming winter months.



# President, Provost Forum addresses student concerns

(Continued from Page 1)

Anderson had some additional information to share and said, "The space the idea shop and IPROs occupy now is not a building that we own; we rent the space for \$600,000 a year. With the new building, we'll be saving money on that rental. We also rent space for the Institute of Design downtown, and rent is \$1.2 million a year." He says this new building will allow us to move out of both of the rented spaces into our own building to save money on rented space.

In addition to speaking about plans for the new building on campus, Anderson also talked about current renovations in Engineering 1 and upcoming renovations in the Life Sciences building. He stressed that the university cares about new buildings as well as modernizing current buildings.

Another question came from an audience member regarding a clerical error that Financial Aid made that resulted in her needing to pay more than she was initially billed for. President Anderson says that mistakes inevitably do happen, but the university does their best to correct them. "One thing that has happened at the university that has helped us improve more than anything else is the Student Speak Survey. There's always room for im-

provement and we always need your feedback," he said.

The next question came from an audience member who is a tutor at the Academic Resource Center; she asked if the ARC will be expanded from the small space that it currently occupies. Provost Cramb says that he has spoken to Chris White, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, regarding the situation and that White had expressed the space might need to be expanded.

Another question came from an audience member; he expressed that, when he meets with employment recruiters from various companies, they say that IIT isn't a university that many companies pay a lot of attention to. He asked whether there was a plan for IIT increase its awareness among employers. President Anderson says the primary problem is that we are a small institution. He assures students that the problem isn't the quality of graduates, but the quantity. He added that the university is always working to bring more companies to career fairs.

Student housing was the next topic of discussion. A student from the audience asked if there were any plans to improve infrastructure in residential buildings. Anderson

said, "We have continuously put physical infrastructure improvements into housing. Dean Stetz and her staff work hard with our facilities staff to make sure things improve. We're looking into a possible opportunities to renovate Bailey and Cunningham Halls, which would provide us with 300 more beds for students."

A related question was posed by a member of the audience. The asked whether there was a plan to build any new residential buildings on campus, especially considering that the university plans to increase undergraduate enrollment. Provost Cramb says the university is looking first to reopen the uninhabited buildings on campus and fix rooms in residential buildings that are empty because of maintenance problems.

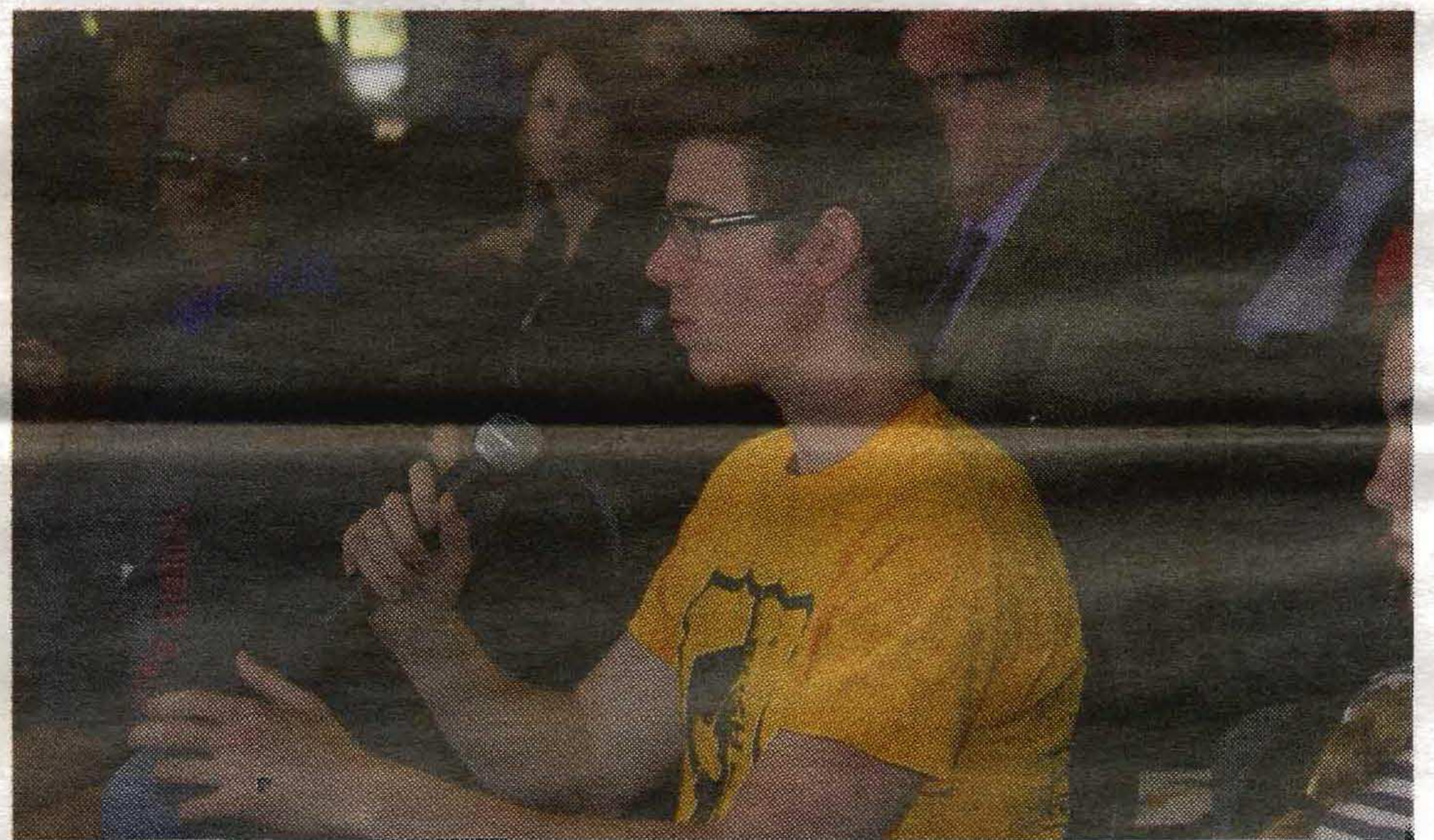
As time started to run short for the event, Connors asked the president and provost if they had any additional items they wanted to discuss. President Anderson brought awareness to the 125th anniversary of the university in 2015 that will be a cause for celebration on campus. Provost Cramb again reiterated that it is important to do is to develop student life on campus and raise participation in activities outside of the classroom.

A few final questions were consid-

ered as the event began to come to a close. First, a question from audience asked why there are so few opportunities at career fairs for international students. Anderson says the situation is generally out of IIT's hands; the recruiters need to make the decision to hire international students. Cramb added, "We have a job to do to let our employers know that our students are employable. Once our companies understand that there is a low barrier to hiring international students, it will work out better." He also says that job placement statistics for domestic and international students are pretty similar; international students at IIT are able to find jobs after college.

The final question came from a student in the audience and asked if there are any future plans to improve wireless internet on campus. Provost Cramb assures students that the university does have plans to improve wireless. The university is working to address problems related to network capacity as quickly and as best they can.

After the question, the event was over. Aderle closed by thanking President Anderson, Provost Cramb, and all of the students, staff, and faculty in attendance.





# Essential Listen: Slint's "Spiderland"

**Reno Waswil**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

For this installment of Essential Listen, I offer Slint's 1991 landmark second album "Spiderland." Recently re-issued, this album has gotten a lot of additional media attention over the past few months, and rightfully so as it was largely overlooked at the time of its original release and yet has come to be a regular on many a "List of Greatest Albums."

Stylistically, it is like nothing that had come before it. It can be said to be similar to contemporary hardcore punk and alternative bands of that time like The Pixies or Fugazi, but it has such a transcendental and stunning quality to it that it can only be compared to an art rock band like The Velvet Underground's strong emphasis on creating something, though inspired by past music, more for the ultimate goal of uniqueness, strongly influenced by deeply held artistic ideals.

As one of the most recognized examples of early math rock, it can be best compared to a complex mixture between groups the Big Black and King Crimson, which, if you don't know either of them, King Crimson being figure-heads of largely jazz influenced progressive rock of the 1960s and 1970s and Big Black being an experimental- or post-punk band started in the early 80s that focused mostly on writing songs whose lyrics and general attitude were angst and aggression driven and tested cultural boundaries and whose music was analogously both terrifyingly isolating and profoundly inspired.

The first track, "Breadcrumb Trails" begins a motif of lyrical storytelling with subdued narration accompanied by a repetitive rhythm of hushed guitar riffs, followed by dramatic, whaling and unsteady guitars with screamed lyrics that become more metaphorical rather than narrative. The guitar riff style very interesting/unusual if you are not use to this sort of music with a structure very similar to the song "The Gift" by here-to-fore mentioned The Velvet Underground: an eight-

minute short story told with background music.

Next is the track "Nosferatu man," characterized by darker, more forceful, and more determined whining, incoherent guitar riffs, with more symbolic lyrics said more pas-



Image courtesy of touchandgorecords.com

sionately. The chorus riffs continue the power, keeping a lasting determination and containing a dimension looming danger that reflects well on the lyrics.

"Don, Amen," opening subtly and engagingly with the line, "Don stepped outside," continuing the storytelling of the first

track only this time, in third person, with less aggressive guitar riffs in background until chorus, which comes on slowly, and this time, storytelling doesn't stop, but gets more robust. This music goes from riffing to increasingly vigorous strumming and the vocals in a

typical music with less Math Rock influence and a constant 8/4 tempo you can tap your foot to and lyrics actually sung rather than spoken. A more comforting rather than ominous song is created, which can best be described as an absolutely perfect song to be featured in a film score or soundtrack.

The next song "For dinner..." is an instrumental piece which fluctuates quite randomly, getting barely audible to immediately louder, then softer. As if bipolar, the music sometimes loudens to its goal, and other times, the guitar struggles to rise and ends up falling back down again. A song characterized by strumming of a type slow, artistic, interesting, and most importantly, unique but also not particularly skill intensive. All the emotion that is displayed on this track is implicit, but it still manages to convey it well, and though definitely more in the punk rock aesthetic, the music resembles progressive rock done by bands such as King Crimson or Soft Machine quite well.

The final track "Good Morning Captain" proceeds to tear down the kinder tones of the past two songs returning to an emphasis on passion with both lyrics and music sharing an unsympathetic, mocking feeling. This song's style seems to be an amalgamation of the past styles with a riff and strum mixture and a chorus fully overdrive and powerful lyrical storytelling, but perhaps darker and more violent. The story is, similar to "Don, Amen," personal and emotional, but much more tragic; one can tell that something is finally happening; all that looming danger is finally being realized. The final lyrics the probably the most striking part of an already gripping album: Whispered lines such as "I'm sorry" and "I'll make it up to you," followed by screaming of the phrase "I'll miss you," backed by the heaviest chorus yet, before the album simply ends on that exacerbated tone, leaving the listener to feel like they have had a truly moving experience.

## "Strandline" premieres at A Red Orchid Theatre

**August Lysy**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

A Red Orchid Theatre opened its 2014-2015 season this week with a U.S. World Premier of "Strandline," by Abbie Spallen. The story takes place in Northern Ireland, where, on the night of her stepdaughter's wedding, Mairin's husband drowns. Unfortunately, this intriguing beginning only unravels into story as convolutedly polluted as the environment which Mairin passionately defends, rendering the production an incoherent disappointment despite its actresses' fine acting.

Although the play opens on Triona's wedding night, the play continues until one month later, when Mairin is preparing to hold a memorial for the deceased. At Mairin's request, those who witnessed her husband's

drowning – Eileen, Clodagh, and Triona, stay the night; although the reason for this request is never clarified, since they are apparently not her "friends." In fact, they are and remain exceptionally indifferent to her and her sorrow throughout the play – including Triona, who displays a shocking lack of feeling for her father's death.

What actually transpires over the course of the evening is hard to relate concisely – which reflects its loose and over-complicated storytelling. As many of the themes echo Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People" – environmental concern, small-town small-mindedness, moral integrity –, it is not unlikely that this was an influence upon Ms. Spallen. However, any "moral drama" Ms. Spallen may have sought to devise is defeated by her predominant attention to the more emotive themes of

friendship, death, and grief, which she fails to weave into the moral theme of the plot, rendering thematic threads dangling in the audience's mind.

Moreover, while the play is described as turning "a sharp eye on small-town social and economic realities," those realities fail to sink to an emotional depth for the audience because their history is never played out before us but rather merely given in tedious, expository dialogue. This ultimately weakens the dramatic effect of Mairin's moral decline when she chooses her "public image" over her environmental advocacy (making her the foil to Ibsen's Dr. Stockmann, who remains upright in the face of social ostracism).

Fortunately, the actresses' performances made the production interesting to watch. Kristen Fitzgerald, who plays Mairin,

is able to captivate just by the way she listens engagingly to the other actors. Natalie West, who plays Eileen, does an incredible job embodying the idiosyncratic movements and speech of her dumpy, alcoholic character. Additionally, Dado, who plays Clodagh, does a nice job of owning her character's language, which seemed difficult to me because her monologues were largely insubstantial (and too long).

If the skill and work invested in the design and acting were more reflected in the script, this might have been a compelling play. However, as it is, the dramatic impact of the story is diminished by the writing's loose storytelling.

"Strandline" plays through December 7 at "A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells St."

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# Hawks Gone Dancin'

**Nathan McMahon**

SPORTS EDITOR

The Scarlet Hawks—Illinois Tech men's soccer team—have punched their ticket to the big dance after a 3-1 win over Moody Bible Institute. Illinois Tech have earned their first ever appearance to the USCAA National Tournament hosted by West Virginia Tech, where they will face Concordia-Alabama in the opening round match on Thursday, November 6.

The deciding match against Moody Bible College was a demonstration on exactly why Illinois Tech has received the number 5 seed in the national tournament. The Hawks have had a plethora of scoring options all season, with Tyler Haag putting on a show in the first half of the match. The scoring opened when Nathan McMahon provided a well-weighted chip to meet Haag as he was streaking past the

back line, who then cleverly beat the keeper on the dribble and touched it in. Only 6 minutes later, Haag was at it again as his persistence and determination to pressurize the defense, paid off. He picked a defender's pocket and drove a shot through the legs of the keeper from an impossible angle.

Illinois Tech was not done in the first half, with the final goal coming only 3 minutes later in the 39th minute. A strong sequence of possession by the Hawks found Ricardo Gonzalez wide on the left side where he swung in a perfect ball that found Hugo Hernandez for a first time shot into the bottom corner.

Moody Bible got what proved to be just a consolation goal in the second half, scored by Jacob Persson and went home empty handed on the day. The match proved a quality exercise for the Scarlet Hawks with the competition level coming close to the intensity of the national tournament.

Advertise in

**TechNews**contact [business@technewsiit.com](mailto:business@technewsiit.com)**Thursday, November 6**

**Men's Soccer**  
vs. Concordia College  
@ Charleston, WV  
11 a.m.

**Friday, November 7**

**Cross Country**  
USCAA Nationals  
@ Syracuse, NY

**Swimming and Diving**  
vs. North Central College  
6 p.m. CST

**Men's Soccer**

@ Charleston, WV  
11 a.m.

**Saturday, November 8**

**Swimming and Diving**  
vs. Illinois Wesleyan  
1 p.m.

**Swimming and Diving**  
vs. Carthage College  
1 p.m.

**Men's Soccer**  
@ Charleston, WV  
3 p.m.

**Saturday, November 15**

**Swimming and Diving**  
vs. Coe College  
1 p.m.

**Men's Basketball**  
@ Milwaukee Engineering  
3:15 p.m.

**Sunday, November 16**

**Women's Basketball**  
vs. Olivet  
1 p.m.

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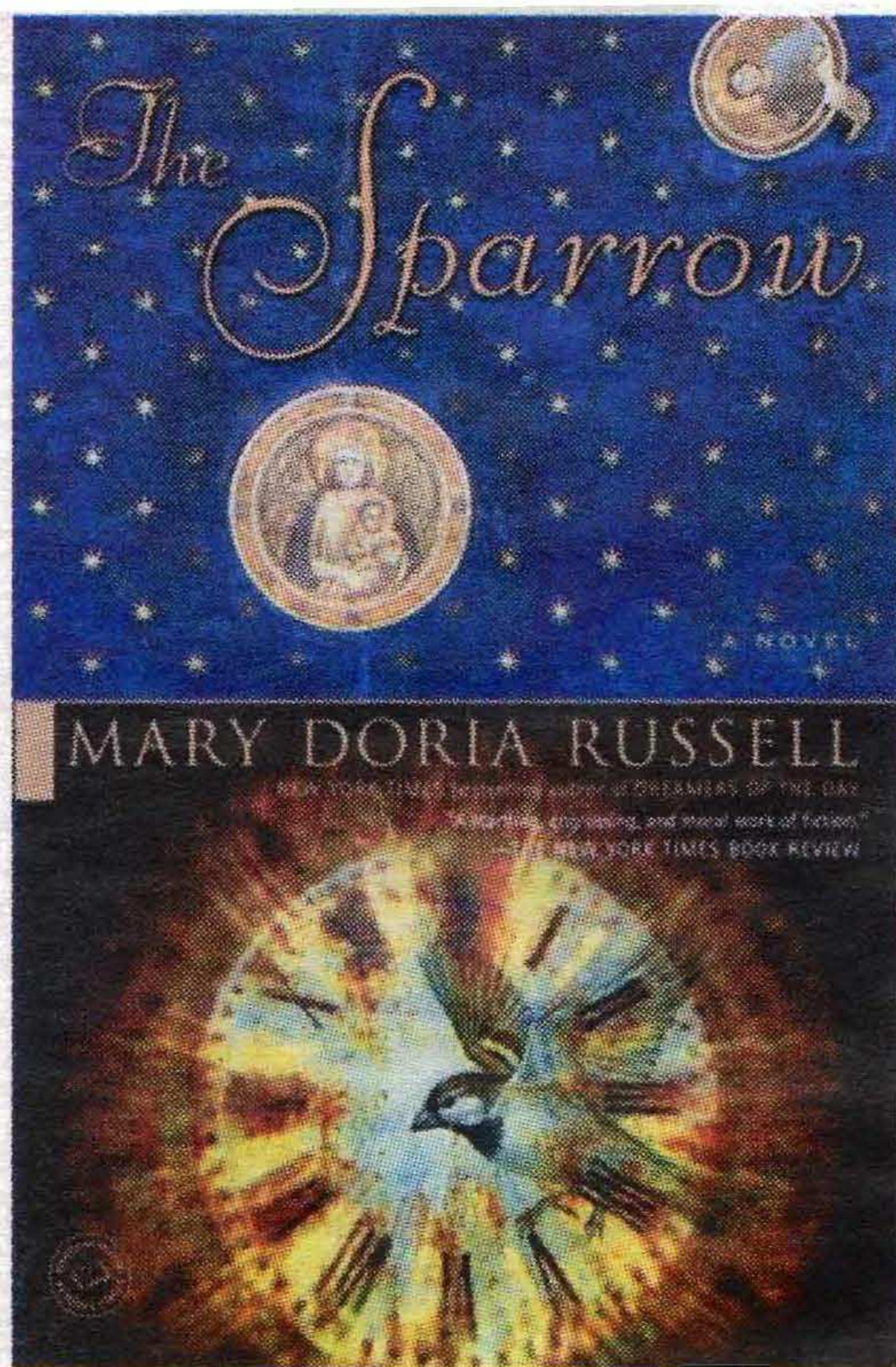
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# Join us for an interfaith panel with Dr. Russel on Thursday, Nov. 6, in the MTCC Auditorium @ 3:30 pm

Immediately following the event, everyone is welcome to join us in the MTCC Welcome Center for an informal reception and book signing. People are invited to bring their copies of *The Sparrow* and/or its sequel, *Children of God*, for Dr. Russell to sign. Copies are available for purchase at the bookstore, and will be also be available for purchase at the reception.

**Sign up now for the Campus Life Excellence Awards! Nominations now being accepted on HawkLink!**

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**Illinois Institute of Technology**  
**Blood Drive**  
 Tuesday, November 4th  
 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
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To schedule an appointment, or for more information please e-mail Service Learning at [service@iit.edu](mailto:service@iit.edu)  
 Appointment preferred;  
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**Photo I.D. Required**



**Don't forget: Spring registration beings on Monday!**

Visit <http://www.iit.edu/registrar/> for more information.

**Thank you to our partners for LGBT History Month programming!**

Trisha Conley and the Department of Psychology, Marie Hicks & the Humanities Department, Vanya Yorgova and 33rd Street Productions, Ashley Molin and the Student Health and Wellness Center, Zofie Mandelski, John Ramirez, Tabitha Anderson and DWIIT, Charlie Lindquist and the Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Tanya DePass and the International Center, & Jamie Eastling



**Apply to be a Spring SOAR (Orientation) Leader!**

**Applications are due November 9!**