

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,

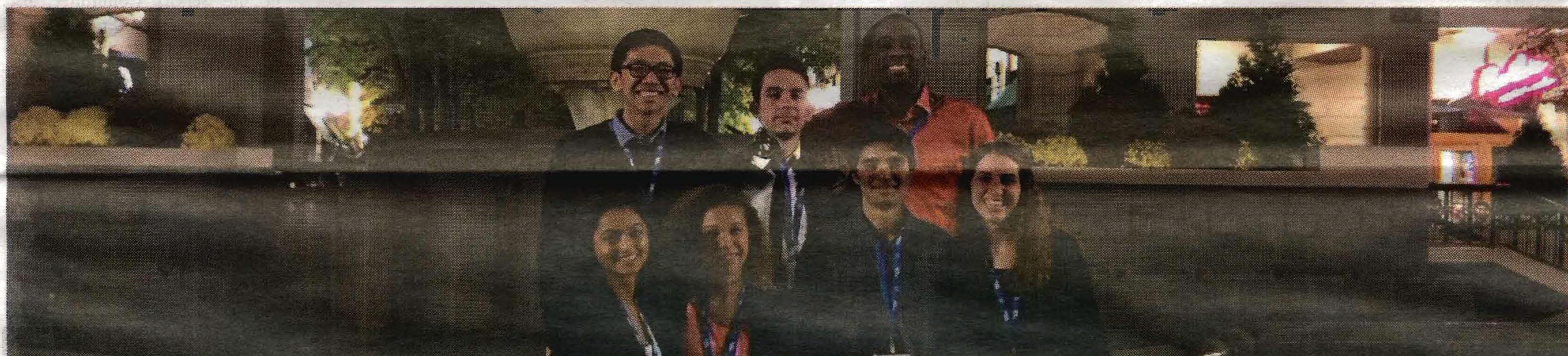
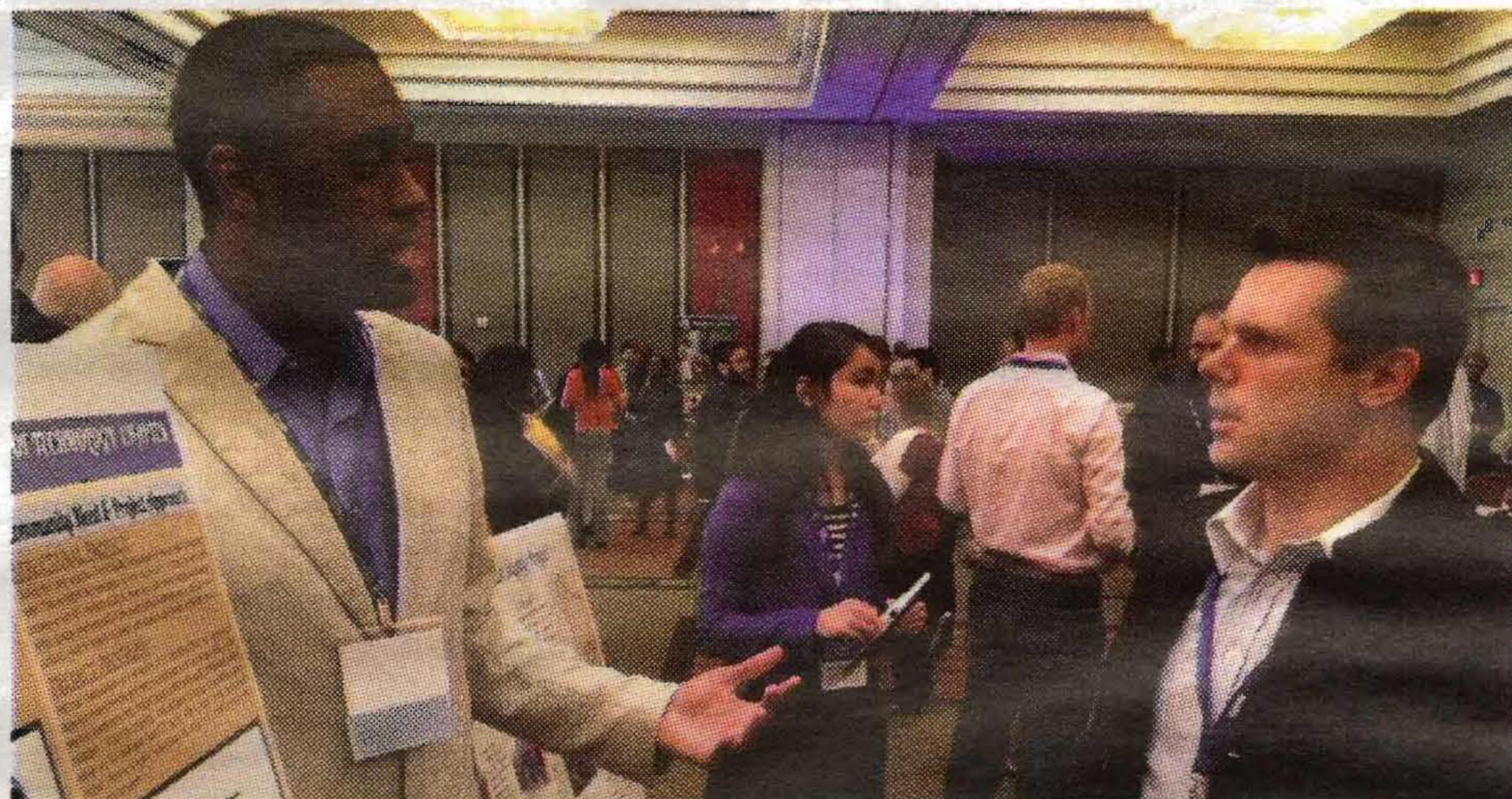
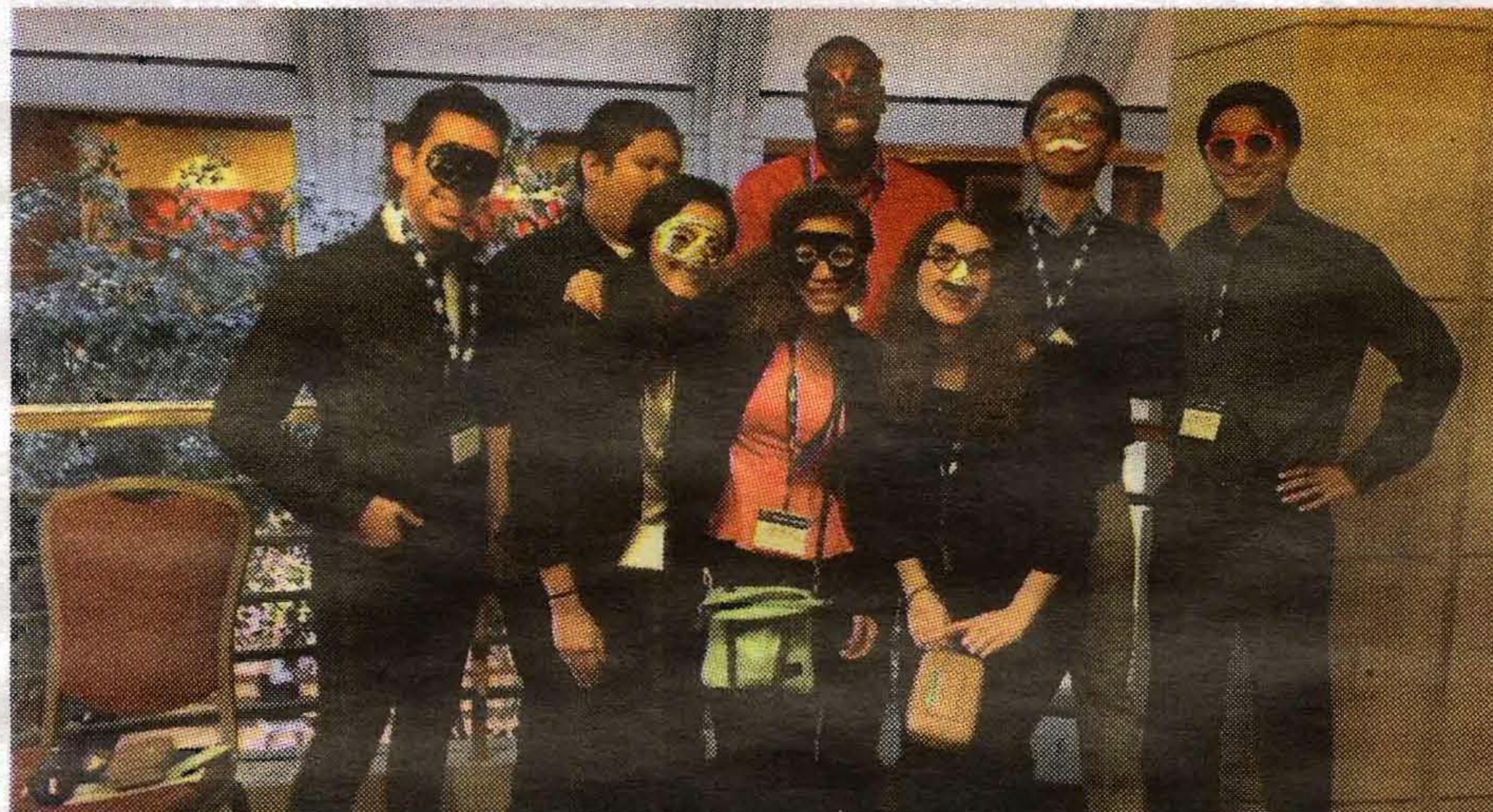
receptions, and small group sessions, the conference also featured a keynote presentation by Stephen B. Sobhani, Vice-President of Sesame Workshop - the non-profit organization behind Sesame Street. Sobhani spoke passionately about Sesame Street's efforts to contribute to United Nation's Development 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 or email 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.