OPINION
How can attending conventions
help students?

Page 2

CAMPUS
A Cappella's spring concert was a hit!

Page 3

A&E
Learn about new technology
unveiled at the National Association
of Broadcasters Show.

Page 5

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Creativity cultivates at IIT UFarm

Andreea Beca
TECHNEWS WRITER

When people think of farming, they often visualize mundane and repetitive physical labor: scattering seeds over the ground, putting plants in soil, watering. This is the mental image that many of the urban populace has of agriculture. Farming, it would seem, is a dull affair, requiring no innovation and providing no true satisfaction outside of a few vegetables for the table. The UFarm is here to challenge all that.

IIT's UFarm, located on the Greek Quad, is a place unknown to most IIT students. Even those who have seen it in passing typically have little knowledge of what it is and the position it holds in the university system. The privileged few who have had the opportunity to get informed and become involved have found a whole other realm, rich with the promise of intellectually satisfying activity.

The UFarm is a sphere wholly separate from the typical IIT experience, yet also a reinforcement of the university's core values. Students swamped with the mental burdens of exhausting homework, projects, laboratory assignments, exams, and all the hustle and bustle of the high-tech world can disconnect, even for the briefest moment, with their hands in the rich composted soil of the garden. Repeating the same motions as their ancestors have for thousands of years, they can recharge as they breathe in the fresh outdoor air among the growing flowers and vegetables. There is so much more to agriculture than just this bucolic image.

Careful thought has been put into every bed of soil, every plant in the ground. An optimized list of crops had to be planned for each season, balancing the capacity for growth in the conditions of the UFarm, the demand for the produce, and the aesthetic aspect on the field. The entire garden surface was also designed to appeal the eye. Then, not only the necessary seeds and seedlings, but also the soil, the containers, the growing lights, the watering devices, the tools, and all the little details that go into the procedure of growing had to be ordered and organized. Furthermore, the maintenance of the garden is no simple task either. Compost must be delivered to and spread on the beds. Both the plants on-site and the seedlings being raised indoors in the UFarm's seed-starting laboratory must be watered thoroughly each day, and the plants growing outdoors and in the sun-heated hoop house must be watered twice to keep the soil moist. The site must be cleaned, and garbage must be removed as it accumulates. Information about hoop house conditions and crop production must be kept, archived, and displayed in a user-friendly format. There is also much potential for technological development to give this ancient profession an edge in the modern world. Everything from sensors to data applications can be implemented in the future by some of IIT's most knowledgeable, tech-savvy students.

Most importantly, this vast quantity of work has to be coordinated by a team. This year, with its cold, harsh beginning and its sudden, almost instantaneous leap into spring, has provided many challenges, but the tight collaboration between the students managing the garden has helped the UFarm grow and prosper beyond expectations. From the new seed lab developed in the winter to expand the UFarm's growing season, to the biodegradable newspaper pots created to transplant delicate seedlings, to the flowers grown for the campus beautification initiative, the UFarm has been full of innovation. This spring has provided a valuable learning experience to all those involved, and a preparation for the real-life challenges that are best learned outside the classroom. IIT's mission is to produce citizens of the world who are not only academically rigorous but also ready for every other facet of professional life, and for the deep interpersonal relationships that come with meaningful careers.
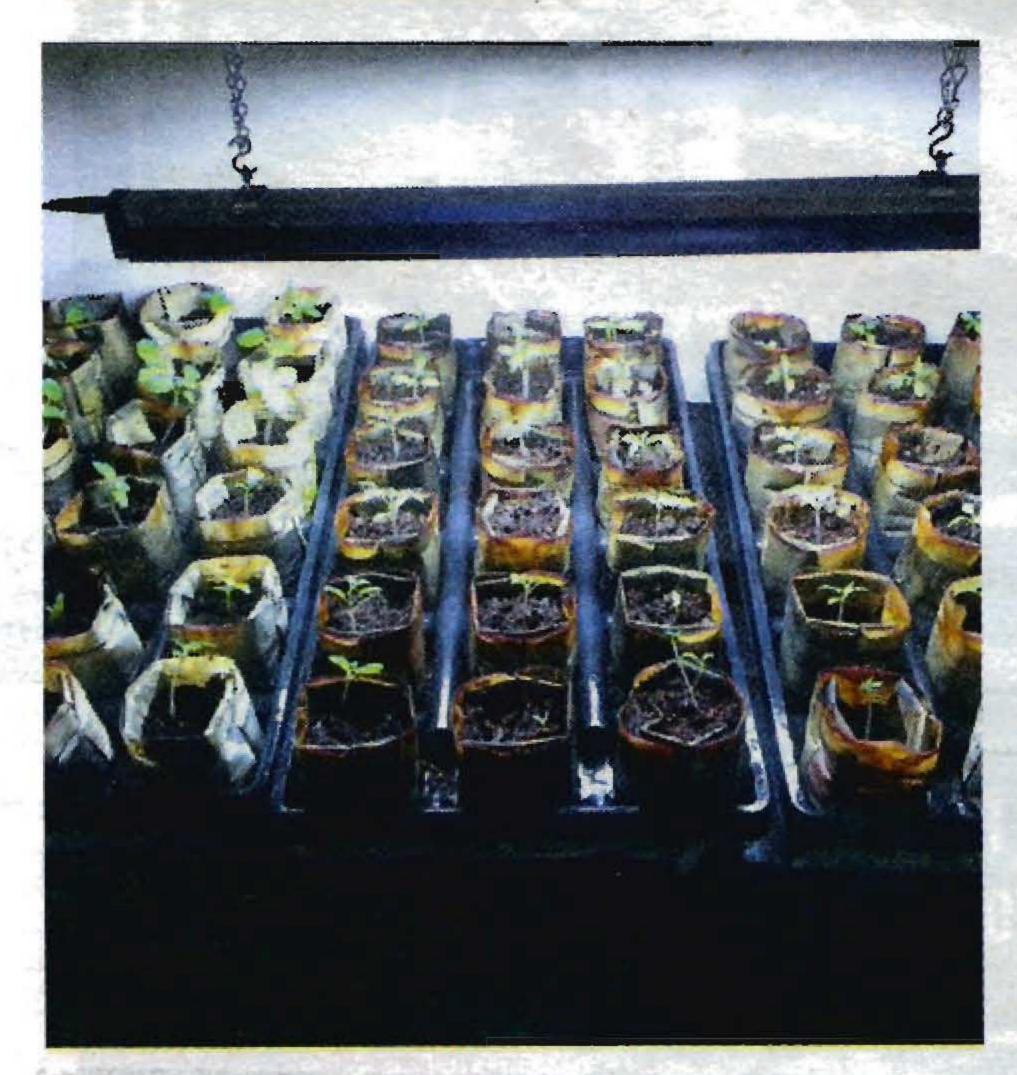
IIT's UFarm is not just another garden. It is also a cornerstone of the community, a muse for future farmers and a playground for the thinkers of tomorrow. It is meant to inspire new generations to rethink their food system, the urban landscape, and their precious time at IIT.

To get involved, contact Neil Griffin, the head of the UFarm student organization, at ngriffi2@hawk.iit.edu. The organization is on HawkLink and will soon have an active YouTube channel featuring educational videos on how to get started with urban farming.
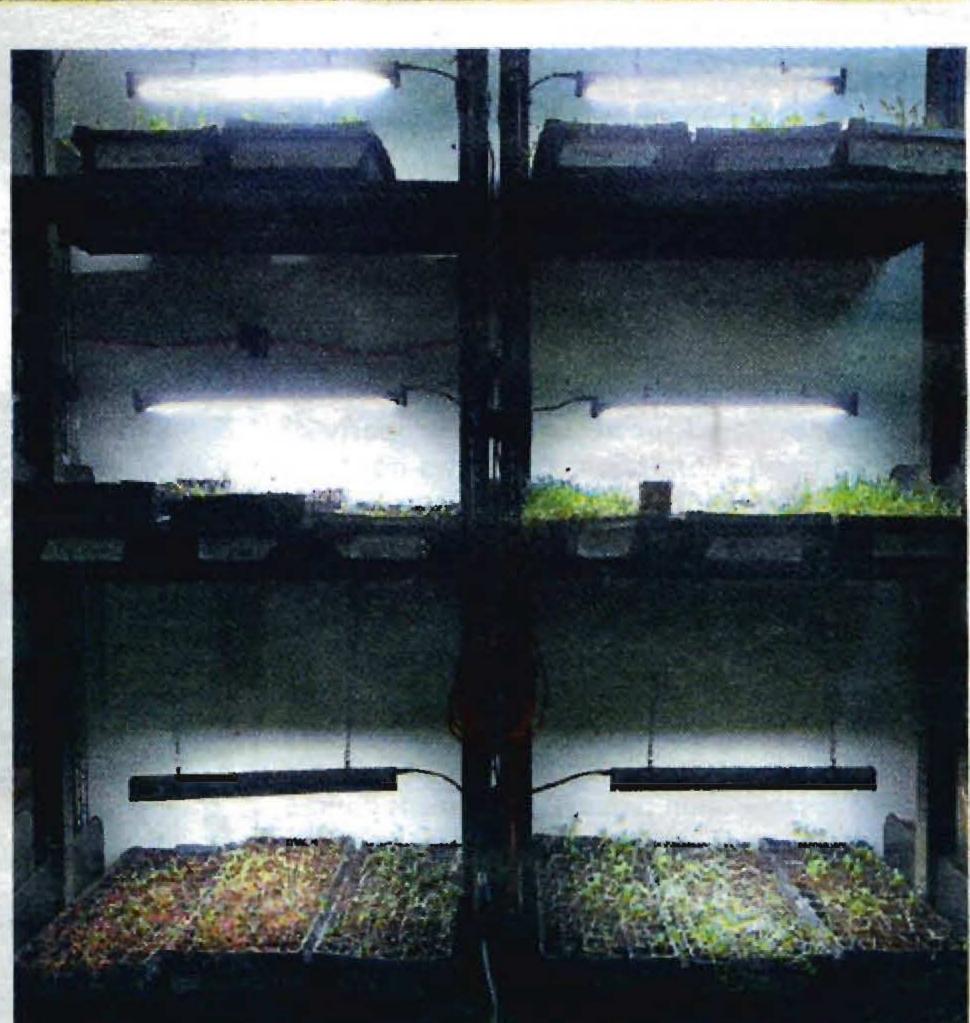
There is always room for new members. There are also plenty of volunteering opportunities, as well as community garden beds available to lease out to students, staff, and any other interested people. There is even a UFarm IPRO that allows for more in-depth involvement, not just in the UFarm itself, but in many other urban agriculture projects on and around campus.

So remember, the next time your head is swimming with all the academic stress in your life, whether you just want to get your hands dirty or you're looking for an alternative creative and intellectual outlet, a friendly farm is waiting for you!

Photos courtesy of Andreea Beca

Chi-Fi, other conventions provide valuable experiences to students

Kristal Copeland
IT MANAGER

Chi-Fi is a nonprofit science fiction convention that takes place in Chicago; it has happened twice, and I have volunteered both times. This year, Chi-Fi's first full weekend occurred from March 19-22. Chi-Fi had many guests, including Skepchicks, Gigi Edgley (Chiana in Farscape), Jon St. John (Duke Nukem), and Philo Barnhart (Disney animator). While there, I met the electro-swing artist known as Vourteque. Vourteque is a DJ, a producer, a remix artist, a ringmaster, a musician, and even a carny. I saw the Gothsicles, one of my favorite nerdy bands, who make songs such as "My Guy Died" and "The Konami Code," and the members of Time Crash, a Trock band (Yes, Doctor Who rock is a genre). They were in the exhibitor hall, along with the Ice Cream Team, a company that provides characters and games for parties.

This con had quite a few panels on its sixth floor and parts of the seventh, and I Play Games was hosting video games on the seventh floor. There was a panel about what it's like to be an animator from one of the animators of the Animaniacs, and there were several discussion panels, including one about how scientists should team up with people in theatre to better explain their fields. There was a show called MacSith, a variant of MacBeth melded with Star Wars, held by Edge of Orion. There were even burlesque shows. The wonderful Claira Bell—among others—preformed as characters like Speed Racer, a female Robin (Batman), and Darth Vader.

Many students, especially in the STEM fields, do not go to conventions. Even though they generally enjoy the subject, it is difficult for them to interact with large groups of people. Some even still do not see the benefit in attending conventions. In order to get over stage fright, many people, including myself, become actors and actresses. In order to get over my fear of large crowds of people, I attended an anime convention more than nine years ago. Attending conventions is a great way to meet amazing people who—and here is the best part—also want to meet you. Attending conventions can help people who might otherwise never gain a valuable and highly desired skill for a potential employer.

While there were many great panels at Chi-Fi, my favorite part of this volunteer experience was actually the parties. I love to meet new people, and I believe that conventions are even a good networking opportunity for people who are interested in certain subjects to find people working in the fields in which they would like to work. In fact, my internship stems from a chance meeting at a convention earlier in the year. The parties at Chi-Fi generally had specific themes. Party themes included a skeptics party, a pirate party, a steampunk party, and many more.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed the experience. I met a large amount of amazing people, got to have wonderful conversations, and even got to see a friend of mine preform in a play having no prior notice of her involvement. I got to talk about science and technology, theatre, mythology, and even information security. Chi-Fi was an amazing convention and I plan to help them as much as I can every year.

A Cappella Concert packs Keating

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since their founding in 2007, IIT's student A cappella groups have been presenting concerts each semester to show off their hard work and talent to friends, fellow IIT students, and their families. The Spring 2015 A Cappella Concert took place Friday, April 17, 2015. Due to construction on the ceiling of Hermann Hall's auditorium, the concert was moved from its originally-scheduled location in the Hermann Hall Auditorium to the south court of Keating Sports Center.

"Mash-ups" was the theme of this semester's concert, with each of the groups performing mashup arrangements of popular tunes along with a few other songs. A Cappella President Peter Zurowski opened the event by thanking those in attendance, noting that the Spring concert was the most well-attended he has seen during his time with the organization.

The first group to perform was IIT A Cappella's Crown Joules, an all-male group directed by Alexander Mitchell. The group performed their own rendition of four songs: Mark James' "Hooked on a Feeling," Freddie Mercury's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," and their own version of Pentatonix's Daft Punk mashup, featuring an impressive solo performance by Zurowski.

Next to perform were The X-Chromotones, A Cappella's all-female group directed by Amy Czarkowski, who performed five songs. "Why Do You Let Me Stay Here? 'Cuz You're a Sexy Bitch," a mashup of two songs by She & Him and David Guetta, was their first song, featuring solo performances by Veronica Castorena, Faiza Lalani, and Christina Castillo. Kaylynn Barker was the group's soloist in The X-Chromotones' next song, "You Make My Dreams Come True," originally performed by Hall & Oats. The group then performed a remix of R. Kelly's "Ignition," originally arranged by The Ragtime Gals. "Blackbird," the classic Beatles song, was then performed with solos by Sarah Williams, Nicolette Lewis, and Jennifer Korleski. To wrap up the Chromotones' set, David Bowie and Queen's "Under Pressure" was performed featuring solos from Czarkowski and Emma Ghariani.

The last group to perform was IIT A Cappella's coed group, The Techtonics, directed by Christian Perez. They performed four songs during the concert, starting with Matsiyahu's "One Day," featuring a solo by Carlos Bustamente. Another Beatles' hit, "Here Comes the Sun," was then performed with a solo performance by Charlie Sommers. The Techtonics' mashup song was called "Stay Next to Me," a combination of two hit songs by Sam Smith and Emile Sande, featuring two powerful performances by Dana Buetow and Anne Crotteau. The Techtonics turned up the energy to conclude their set with Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," featuring a solo performance by Khadija Nesbitt that got the crowd pumped.

At the conclusion of the concert, all three groups took the stage for a group song; the final song of the evening, "All About That Super Bass," was a mashup of two immensely popular songs by Meghan Trainor and Nicki Minaj. The final performance of the night featured several soloists, including Karlene Gibbs, Buetow, Collin Dunn, and Castillo.

X-Chromotones Director Czarkowski reflects positively on the event. She thanks Al Mitchell, who worked on the audio in Keating to help the A Cappella groups be heard over intramural sports happening on the north court of upper level. She says the change of venue did provide some challenges to the group, but worked out all right in the end. "We were trying to decide between IIT Tower and Keating for the concert, and the main reason we chose Keating was because it could fit way more people. I'm glad we chose it too, since so many people showed up that we had to get out extra folding chairs. We've been getting more popular since A Cappella began at IIT," said Czarkowski.
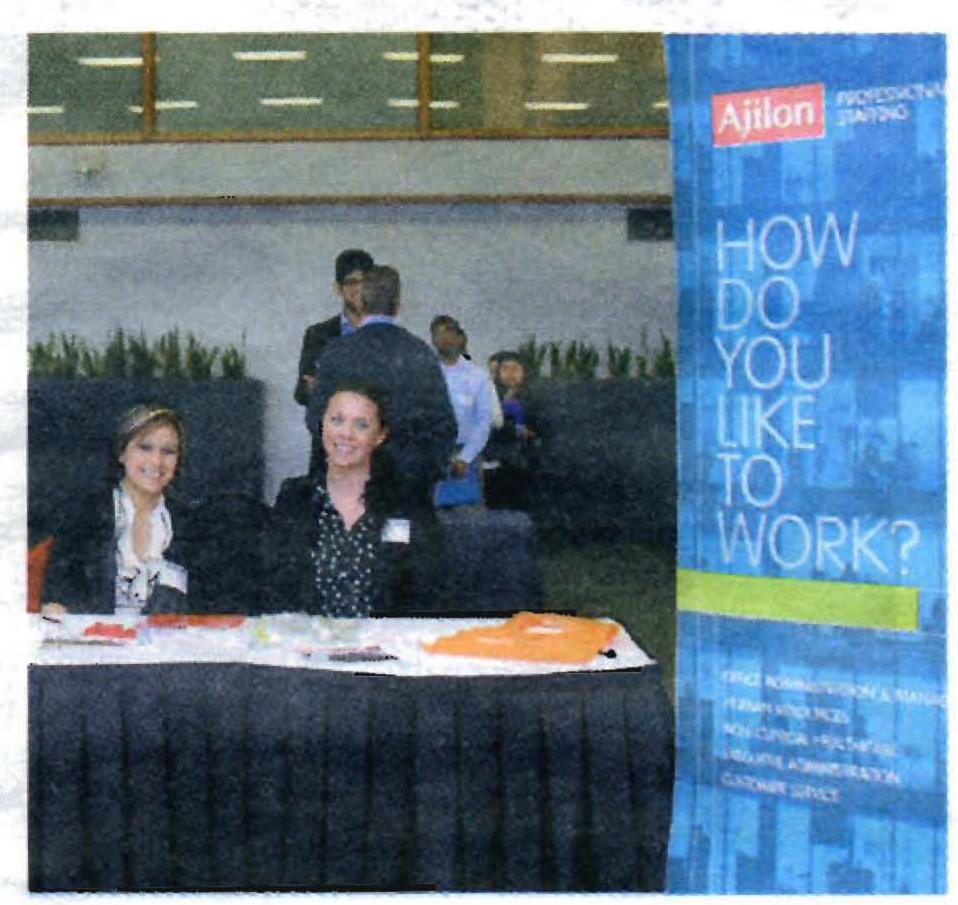

Photos by Kori Bowns

Companies recruit at Supply Chain and Manufacturing Career Fair

Photos by Katy Banks

Greek Week competitions come to a close

Photos by Katy Banks

National Association of Broadcasters Show displays new technology

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

The National Association of Broadcasters Show (NAB) is not the most captivating or flashiest conference for your average Joe. The Consumer Electronics Show and Electronic Entertainment Expo are more likely to grab headlines with items that consumers can expect to see in their own homes and offices. The over 100,000 attendees at NAB 2015 this year aren't waiting around for nothing. NAB shows off the latest and greatest technologies that help bring the amazing content you've come to expect to life.

There has been a growing focus on 4K and UHD screens in the consumer market, but to make content that looks great and is easily editable, you need to shoot in higher quality as well. There are several new sensors that have been unveiled that make shooting in 6K and 4K not just possible, but completely reasonable. One new company that has been taking the arena by storm is RED. They only focus on only high-end resolution cameras with the somewhat unique ability to upgrade via modules. Founded in 2005, the company has a militaristic style and has been making dramatic improvements to their line of cameras since their inception. Their new 6K RED Weapon is an upgrade to their latest camera, the RED Dragon. The upgrade moves around several components such as IO, cooling, and mic placement to increase performance. RED also showed off their new 8K sensor which will be released later in the year and be the next upgrade path option for RED users.

Professionals and "Prosumers" alike will be able to take advantage of less expensive, more entry-level technologies. If 8K is too much for you, Blackmagic is releasing their new URSA Mini which supports either the older 4K or their brand new 4.6K sensor. There are tons of specs which are hard to appreciate without being a photographer. Starting at a mere $2,999, the URSA Mini offers a phenomenal price-to-performance ratio compared to RED's over $50,000 complete set ups. The URSA Mini is ready to go right out of the box and is a strong recommendation from this writer if IIT ever gets its student studio project together.

One of the more exciting spaces for development is that of drones. DJI showed off their new Phantom 3 drone with a live demo. The Chinese company is capturing large swathes of market share for their reliable and incredibly easy-to-use drones. The Phantom 3 introduces "Vision Positioning Technology" sensors which help make the plane more autonomous including automated landing functions. The DJI Phantom 3 starts at $999 and is now more accurate when flying indoors and low to the ground. The Phantom 3 is able to work at ranges of up to two kilometers. What's interesting is DJI is forgoing the commonly-seen GoPro mounts and instead supplies you with its own up-to 4K camera. This is a shame because Phantom users won't be able to take advantage of the new Blackmagic Micro. The Micro Cinema camera offers many features only interesting to prosumers such as rolling and global shutters and 13 stops of dynamic range. The tiny camera comes in 1080p and 4K flavors, prefect for whether your focus is on getting raw video to edit later or producing perfect content for broadcast. NAB has tons of interesting new toys to look at, and tons more you'd never be able to afford. It's good to know that the content creators of the world getting rapidly advancing technology to make better and better content for us to enjoy.

SUDOKU

Puzzle 1 (top left)

```
. . . | . . . | . . 3
. 6 . | 9 8 5 | 7 . .
. . 1 | . 6 . | . 9 .
------+-------+------
7 . 6 | . . . | . . 2
. 3 . | 7 . 2 | . 9 .
5 . . | . . . | 4 . 8
------+-------+------
. . 2 | . 9 . | 6 . .
. . 4 | 1 3 7 | . 2 .
3 . . | . . . | . . .
```

Puzzle 2 (top right)

```
. . . | . 6 . | . . 5
8 7 2 | 9 . 5 | . . .
. . . | 8 3 . | . . .
------+-------+------
5 8 . | . 2 . | . . 6
. 3 . | 7 . . | 2 . .
2 . . | 8 . . | 5 . 9
------+-------+------
. . . | 5 1 . | . . .
. . 3 | . 7 9 | 6 . 8
4 . . | 9 . . | . . .
```

Puzzle 3 (bottom left)

```
. . . | . . . | . . 7
2 . . | . 9 . | . . 8
. 9 2 | 7 . . | 5 . .
------+-------+------
4 . . | 8 5 1 | . . .
8 . . | 4 . . | . . 9
. 3 9 | 2 . . | . . 6
------+-------+------
. 4 . | 1 7 8 | . . .
7 . 8 | . . . | . . 3
6 . . | . . . | . . .
```

Puzzle 4 (bottom right)

```
1 . . | 8 3 4 | . . .
. 7 . | 1 . . | . . 5
. . . | . 2 . | . . 1
------+-------+------
. 9 . | . 2 . | . . .
7 . 1 | 5 . . | 4 8 9
. . . | 9 . . | 4 . .
------+-------+------
8 . 6 | . . . | . . .
5 . . | . 2 . | 1 . .
. . 4 | 3 9 . | . . 7
```

数独

The word Sudoku, above, is actually the abbreviation of "Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru," meaning "the digits must be single" or "the digits are limited to one occurrence."

Chelsea takes a step closer to championship

Karan Jeet Singh
TECHNEWS WRITER

The confirmation of championship comes even closer as Chelsea took out Manchester United in a thrilling contest. Manchester United's run of six straight wins came to an end with a very strange opening half an hour into the match, where wave after wave of Manchester United's attack seemed to be crushing Chelsea, but there was nothing strange about Eden Hazard's sublime quality as he picked up an amazing back heel pass from Oscar as he ran past the defenders and slotted it slightly away from de Gea right into the near post. This takes Chelsea 10 points clear of Arsenal, who they face this Sunday. Now they need just two more wins and they will confirm their Premier League title. Chelsea beat Manchester United

1-0.

In other news across Premier League, with just one point behind Liverpool, it was a very important match for Southampton as they went head-to-head against Stoke City, and they got down to business immediately. Southampton opened the scoring as Schneiderlin tapped in the ball from just one yard out as the ball stumbled to his feet from the corner kick, but it was the last goal of the day for Southampton. Nzonzi tried to put one in from outside the box, which bounced off the woodwork onto the feet of Diouf who reacted quickly and shot home, giving Stoke the crucial equalizer they needed. Then it was the substitute Charlie Adams who came to the rescue. Just two weeks after he scored a 55-yard goal against Chelsea, Charlie Adams scored a volley from 10 yards out and took Stoke to a well-deserved win. Stoke City

defeated Southampton 2-1.

Leicester were looking for a third straight premier league victory for the first time since 2008, hoping to earn the crucial points in their attempt to climb out of the relegation zone. Although the striker pulled up a calf injury during warm-up, his replacement Ulloa came answering, as he took Leicester a goal up within the first 15 minutes, and with just one minute to go, King doubled the lead as he tapped in a free kick which ricocheted off the keeper. Leicester City beat Swansea 2-0.

Everton looked to up their unbeaten run to five matches as they hosted Burnley. Everton started well, as the in-form Lennon was able to secure a penalty early on in the game, but without their usual penalty taker, Everton had to send in Barkley, who missed the spot kick as the keeper was able to guess correctly where it

would go. Burnley continued to live dangerously and they were made to pay as Mirallas scored the first and only goal of the night. Even though Burnley went a man down in first half, Everton was not able to capitalize on it-in the second half. Everton - 1, Burnley FC - 0.

With four consecutive wins for Crystal and West Brom carrying three losses from the last few weeks, West Brom went in as the underdogs in this match. Morrison scored a free header in the second minute of the match and that decided the whole flow of the game. Although none of the team scored for another 52 minutes, they both slaughtered each other with attack after attack, but it was the long-ranged effort by Gardner who shot from outside the box right into the top left corner which meant West Brom earned the three points. Crystal Palace - 0, West Brom Albion - 2.

UEFA goes into overdrive

Karan Jeet Singh
TECHNEWS WRITER

It was the first leg of UEFA Champions League quarter finals, with Atletico and Real, Juventus and Monaco, Paris SG and Barcelona, Porto and Bayern going head-to-head against each other.

Atletico hosted their local rivals and held them to a goalless draw, making it nine matches in a row where Real Madrid hasn't been able to beat them in 90 minutes. The match began with Real Madrid showing total dominance over the field as they produced chance after chance, and defended so well that Atléti could only take two shots on goal, as compared to seven of Real, but a little bit of change in tactic by Atletico in second half totally changed the flow of the game. Atletico started off the second half with more aggression, which was visible in their defense as well as attack; Juanfran, the left back, started to join the attack, and suddenly Atleti had more attacking options

than they had in first half. This translated into suppression of Real Madrid's possession which led to some exciting counter attacking football in second half. With Real Madrid's eight shots on target, the draw can only be attributed to Atléti's goalkeeper Jan Oblak who stood the test of firepower that was Real Madrid. The match ended Atletico Madrid - 0, Real Madrid - 0.

Juventus hosted Monaco as they edge past them in a narrow victory. Both teams had few key players from the midfield missing and that's where it all came down, it was a 90 minute battle of midfield. The first half was a very nervous one, with both teams getting fair amount of chances that neither of them were able to capitalize on, both teams got really close to the goal but missed their chances as some shots flew off target and the others were just too easy for the keeper. Juventus started the second half on a high note and it was the telling pass from Andrea Pirlo towards the striker which caused Carvalho to concede a foul inside the penalty box, Morata was just about to control

the ball and shoot it to the goal, when Carvalho clipped his heels and conceded a penalty. Vidal, being in exquisite form, took the perfect spot kick right into the top corner leaving no chance for the keeper to be able to stop it, scoring the only goal of the entertaining contest which now makes Juventus go in with a slender lead into the second leg of quarter finals. Juventus - 1, Monaco - 0.

Paris SG was torn apart by Barcelona, and by the looks of it, it seems like PSG will be heading out of the champions league quarter final fourth year running. Neymar tore the PSG defense in the first half as he slipped behind the defense line, making way for Messi to send a clear weighted pass to him, which was cornered off skillfully by him, but it was Suarez in the second half who grinded the meat. David Luiz was nutmegged twice, both times by Suarez, who went on to score two wonderful goals taking his competition total to six goals in six matches. Although a late shot by Van Der Wiel, which was deflected into the Barcelona net, took

the gloss off the win, but it wasn't enough to bring down the giant that was Barcelona. Paris SG - 1 Barcelona - 3.

The Portuguese side hosted the German giants in a thrilling contest which was every bit surprising as it gets. Bayern started off without Ribery and Robben, their two key strikers, and they paid their price. Jackson Martinez earned a penalty in first minute of the match, which Quaresma took with much ease, and soon afterwards, he made way again, taking his tally to two goals as he rushed the defense line forcing them to lose the possession, which he drove past the keeper, giving them a two goal lead within first 10 minutes of the match. Although, Bayern managed to get a goal in before first half, but poor defensive show in second half meant one more chance for Martinez, one on one with keeper. He took no chances, went past him, and he slotted it right into the bottom corner, restoring Porto's two goal lead again. FC Porto - 3, Bayern Munich - 1.

IIT SCARLET HAWKS UPDATE

Tuesday, April 21 Baseball vs. Rockford 3 p.m.	**Thursday, April 23** Women's Lacrosse vs. Concordia 7 p.m.	**Sunday, April 26** Women's Lacrosse vs. Dallas 11 a.m.
Wednesday, April 22 Baseball @ Edgewood 4 p.m.	**Saturday, April 25** Baseball vs. Finlandia 11 a.m.	**Baseball** vs. Finlandia 1 p.m.
Baseball @ Edgewood 6 p.m.	**Baseball** vs. Finlandia 1 p.m.	**Tuesday, April 28** Baseball @ Dominican 6 p.m.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF WOMEN AREN'T WELCOME ONLINE?

Video screening and discussion

Tuesday, April 21 | 12:50-1:40 p.m. | Wishnick 117

Dr. Carly Kocurek will show a short video, "**Gamers vs. Tropes vs. Women in Video Games**" and lead a discussion about online safety and inclusion for women. Attendees are invited to participate in the discussion and consider their own online experiences. This event is open to students, faculty, and staff.

Lunch will be provided.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sponsored by Gender and Sexuality Services | Questions? Email | campus.life@iit.edu

I ❤ PRETZEL DAY!

Join Campus Life for National Pretzel Day on Monday, April 27, from 11 am—3 pm in the Office of Camps Life Suite!

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