

TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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SPORTS 7

Career Services make job search easier

Shriram Anbalagan
COPY EDITOR

With the advent of the hiring period, the résumé season is definitely in. In this fierce coagulation of employers and students, there are many key elements that help define this relationship even better. One such factor in our very own school is Career Services, and the newly-positioned Career Development Coach. One can see Career Services staff pushing the social media boundaries and reaching out to students on Facebook and Twitter. With photos of fellow students receiving career guidance and complementary books becoming the norm this spring, David Wilson Work is the man to go if you want to review your professional documents before venturing into employer land. In this exclusive interview excerpt, we capture his thought process and how his organization is pushing the boundaries on the career front.

First of all, a little background on Work and the arsenal he brings to the table. He is currently a résumé coach and is on the panel of the Job Search Counselors at Career Services. His core competency is English writing and reviewing resumes. He marks them up and corrects errors and provides plenty of suggestions. He basically red-lines the documents and drafts that students bring. He was once a peer tutor at the Harold Washington College and now has refined this to a more efficient and refined capacity as a full-time counselor. One can reach out to him and book an appointment by logging on the Jobs4hawks portal and booking a time slot for a resume review session under the calendar tab.

He is available on campus at various places ranging from Crown Hall and Galvin Library to MSV. His rough timings are around 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can also send him an email at wwork@iit.edu. One can only wonder if a more befitting email address can be found in correlation with what he does. He says that a big part of the process is awareness. He jokingly states that social media and now traditional media—starting with this article—are used in that process. He added, “We want you to know that we have counselors available. You could see me with an appointment or e-mail or meet the counselors at Hermann Hall.”

Upon asking how the review sessions are being received by the student community, he said that he is booked solid for two weeks now and that is a successful experiment so far. The next question shot at him was about the primary goal of Career Services as a whole. He had this to say: “Our main goal is to offer extension services that are going to increase accessibility of career services to our students across the board and alumni. We want students to be aware of what they have available in terms of career services and also informational resources such as Galvin Library.” Research librarians are often not utilized by the students and one can prove to be of great help with industry and business position search. The primary message from Career Services is that academic skills are applicable to job searching. It is a new experience for Mr. Work as well in terms of writing and coaching.

There are few graduates who do come back to get help with their resumes and career guidance. Upon being asked to illustrate the importance of Gerald Doyle, the Vice Provost, Work says, “It’s all about delivering better value for the degree, and another big piece is branching career service into campus culture through different disciplines and departments. That’s really a key thing Gerry is pushing.” The study bubble is a concept that Work stirred up in the interview. It’s merely a term for old concepts. These days, the course loads are so heavy and rigorous that students often don’t have the opportunity to look ahead of what they are doing academically and think of their careers professionally. “We want to foster that awareness across the board,” Work adds.

As the interview touched on various topics, another familiar one sprung up across the table, passion. According to Work, although there are a variety of reasons to be educated and earn a degree, namely cultural and societal reasons, the number one reason people want a degree is to get a job and increase their earning power. He went on to say, “You want an IIT degree to have a competitive value in the educational marketplace, and on the career services frontier you want to do a good job educating the students about the options they have available while they are still in enrolled so that they are enrolled and ready to go ideally as soon as they graduate.”

The next question was about a key member of this movement, Gerald Doyle, who has been pushing this on social media. Work considers Doyle a broad and forward thinker whose methods and thinking are very much up to recent times. The people in his office are very active and well coordinated according to him. “Everything we do is centered around serving the students better,” he said. Where Doyle comes in is coming up with new ideas and new programs for getting things done.

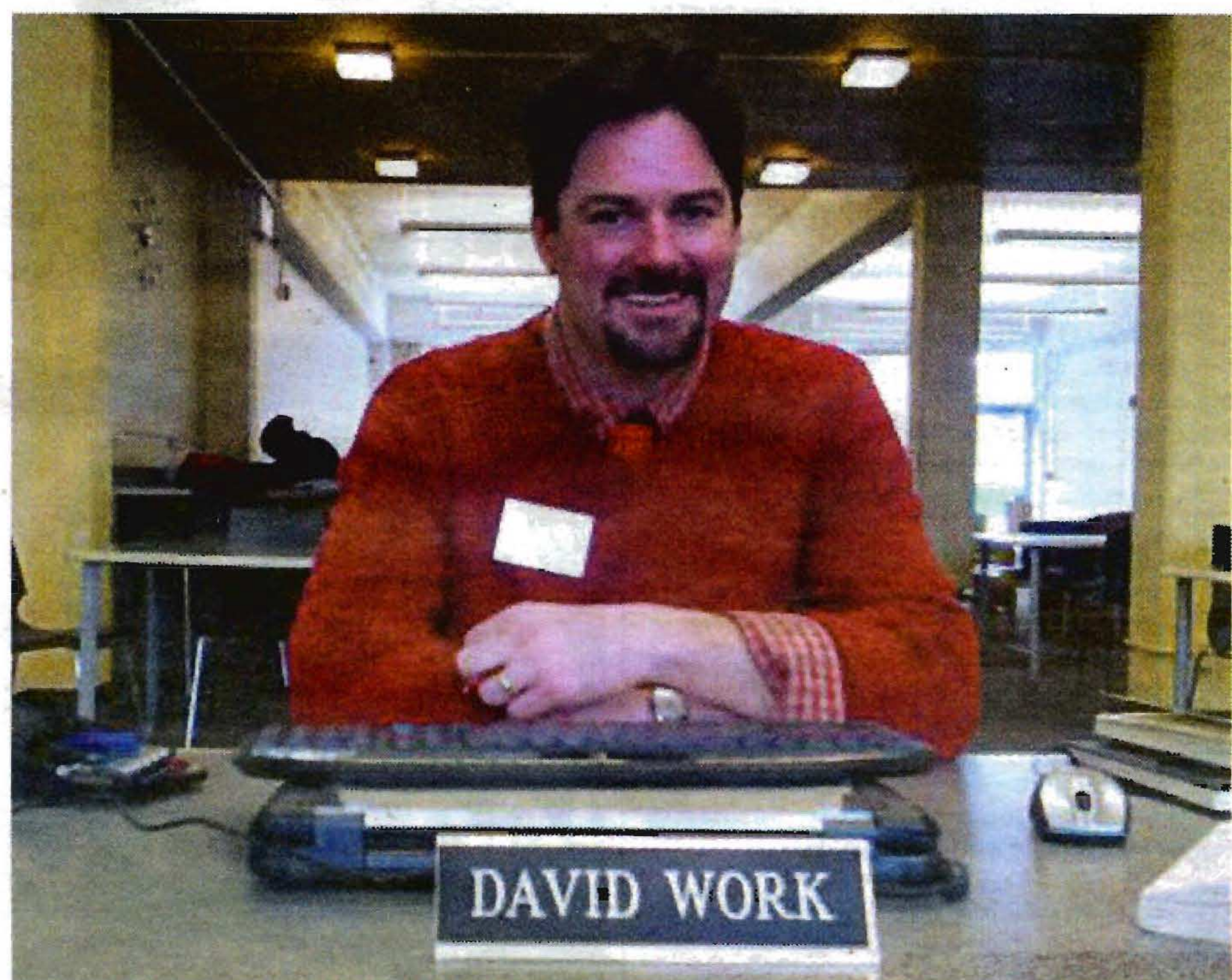
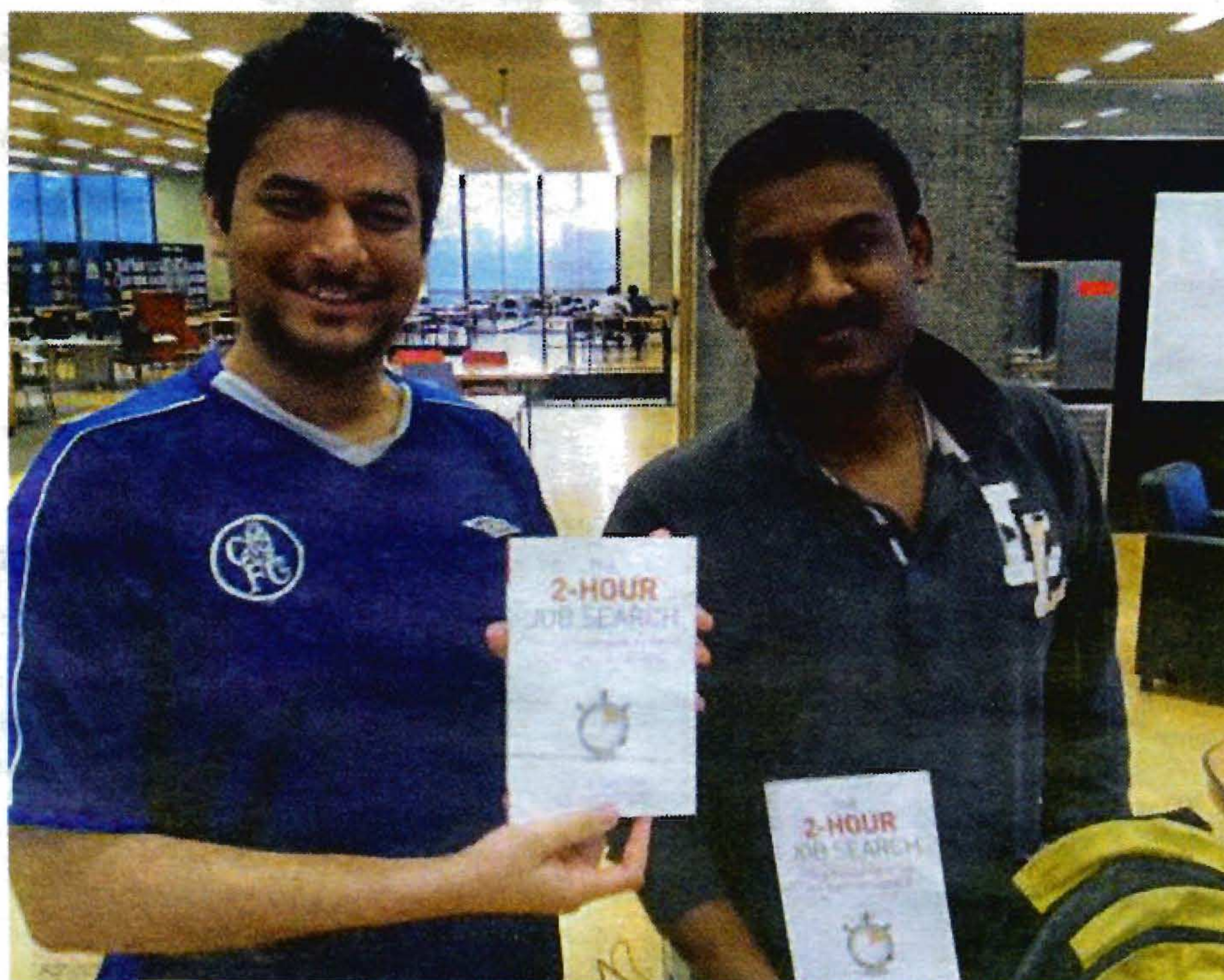
He pushes the ethos and assembles a team based on the notion that we put students first. “Students first! Students first! Students first! That’s essentially the mantra we work with. Although it sounds like the official motto for all IIT staff, in the Office of Student Access, Success, and Diversity Initiatives (SASDI) and Career Services live it,” he added. Secondly, the Career Services extension is in line with the success section of SASDI. Ensuring that students succeed when they graduate is key in the same way that SASDI has taken various initiatives. They key goal of this organization was previously to get more students into IIT, and currently their goal is ensure that the students of IIT leave successfully into the job market. “We already have a really robust input pipeline and now we want an equally good output pipeline,” is what Work had to say when asked about the workings of the organization.

The success shouldn’t necessarily mean a Fordist economy, but making students options more accessible and clear. For students graduating this May, Work had some sound advice, and this advice was two-fold. His first piece of advice is to book an appointment with Career Services and come see the counselors in a one-on-one session. “Either myself or one of the conventional CMC counselors would be happy to help out,” he exclaimed excitedly. His second piece of advice lies around the book “The Two Hour Job Search.” This book is being handed out to students graduating this May and is a ton of useful information and tips. The book is full of sound advice for job-seekers because clears out conventional clutter and targets. Not only is it full of pointers, but it is so comprehensive and detailed that you need nothing else. It provides you with a protocol to work with and it comes with specific instructions, so you can’t go wrong, and you don’t

have to rely on someone or something else to complement the reading. The book primarily aims at teaching how to get an interview using the internet.

Students are better off reading the book before applying for jobs online and sending résumés into the void. It also teaches you to foster connections with people. Networking is a key skill the book imparts and that is something most people overlook in a social and professional realm. It’s more of a buzzword and cliché these days, so it’s ignored, but it’s actually critical. “It’s actually neologism for what humans have done since the stone age, exchange greetings, socialize, share strengths and competencies and overcome difficulties together,” says Work. The challenge for an IIT student at times is that sometimes we forget the human part of the equation. One must never forget that we learn and do so much in our jobs and internships for the purpose of helping other people, to make this world a better place, and in order to do that we need to meet other people. We need to talk to them and befriend them.

Part of the college experience is refinement of that process, learning how to alter your modes of dress, speech, and action in order to achieve this goal. David goes on to say, “Learning the art of diplomacy is required, and I think diplomacy is getting people to do what you want them to because they want to do it. Which is so much easier if they like you and have their interests aligned with yours.” The final part of the conversation lingered around the next step from here for Career Services. As per Mr. Work and his colleagues’ vision, the next step is to identify best practices and scaling them up, so that the whole student body can be served. This would offer a richer experience to every student at IIT. The markup practice, which has been active for a long time now, currently does quick reviews for a large number of students, but the goal in the near future would be to do a more tailored service on a larger scale. We have a student body of around 6000 people, and roughly a third are taking advantage of Career Services as a feature.



Photos courtesy of David Work

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New Velocity presents annual dance showcase

Shriram Anbalagan
COPY EDITOR

IIT's dance group New Velocity showcased their annual dance performance on Friday, April 3, 2015. The show was an hour-long series of dances featuring a wide range of genres from hip-hop and contemporary to pop. It consisted of around 14 songs; New Velocity members performed 13 of them while one song was performed by another IIT dance group called Love To Dance (LTD), who made a special appearance.

The show took place in the Hermann Hall auditorium and one could see the posters for the showcase on the major posting areas around campus the week prior. The attendance at the event was mostly by friends and family of the dancers that were part of the show. One could question the appreciation of an art form at IIT just by glancing at the number of people that showed up. The auditorium was only half filled with about 75-100 people turning up. Is dance an under-appreciated form of expression at IIT or did students have a lot of homework piled up this week? Whatever the reason be, the show definitely demanded more audience, purely for their quality of dance alone.

Speaking to the president of New Velocity, Andrea Rivera, an architecture undergraduate student, we learn about how di-

verse New Velocity really is. She claims that the goal of the group is to unite for a common passion, dance, and there is no need to have prior experience or talent of any sort to be a part of this. LTD is another group that performs every year and it is a group that started off alongside New Velocity but they are more advanced and have auditions for people to join them, whereas New Velocity doesn't have any auditions for students to clear. Pretty much anyone can join the group and start dancing. The goal of the group, according to Rivera, is to bring together different people from different backgrounds, train as a team, choreograph as a team, and give the best annual performance they can. The other annual event, which happens in the fall semester, is a flash mob, followed by recruiting more members before eventually choreographing ahead of their spring show.

When asked about how passionate fellow students are about dance and stage shows, Rivera had this to say: "It's definitely a growing thing when it comes to passion, and I strongly encourage people who like to dance to come join us and spend time as a team." After Rivera graduates, she hopes to be a guide/mentor for the group and would like to oversee the workings of the organization. The current objective is to get more people involved in dance at IIT and have more students join New Veloc-

ity. To be passionate about dance is one thing; to actually choreograph a song, practice with your team, and perform under lights on stage is quite another.

So, Illinois Tech, put on your dancing shoes and sign up to dance the night away. The group practices mostly in the newly-acquired multipurpose mirror room at Keating and previously did have practices at Hermann Hall. Speaking of the mirror room, Rivera thanked Sonia Kamdar who worked closely with SGA to get the mirror room proposal approved after repeated requests from 33rd Street productions, LTD, New Velocity, and the Mixed Martial Arts club.

This room now functions as a multipurpose room and the clubs take turns practicing in this room at Keating. Rivera and others had trouble getting this project out of the way in terms of approval and that's where Kamdar came in, speeding the process up by talking to the board from a student's perspective. Rivera expressed disappointment that the organization had some trouble financing the showcase, but she hopes that this year's showcase would help them out financially in terms of funding from the university and also drawing more dance enthusiasts to the group.

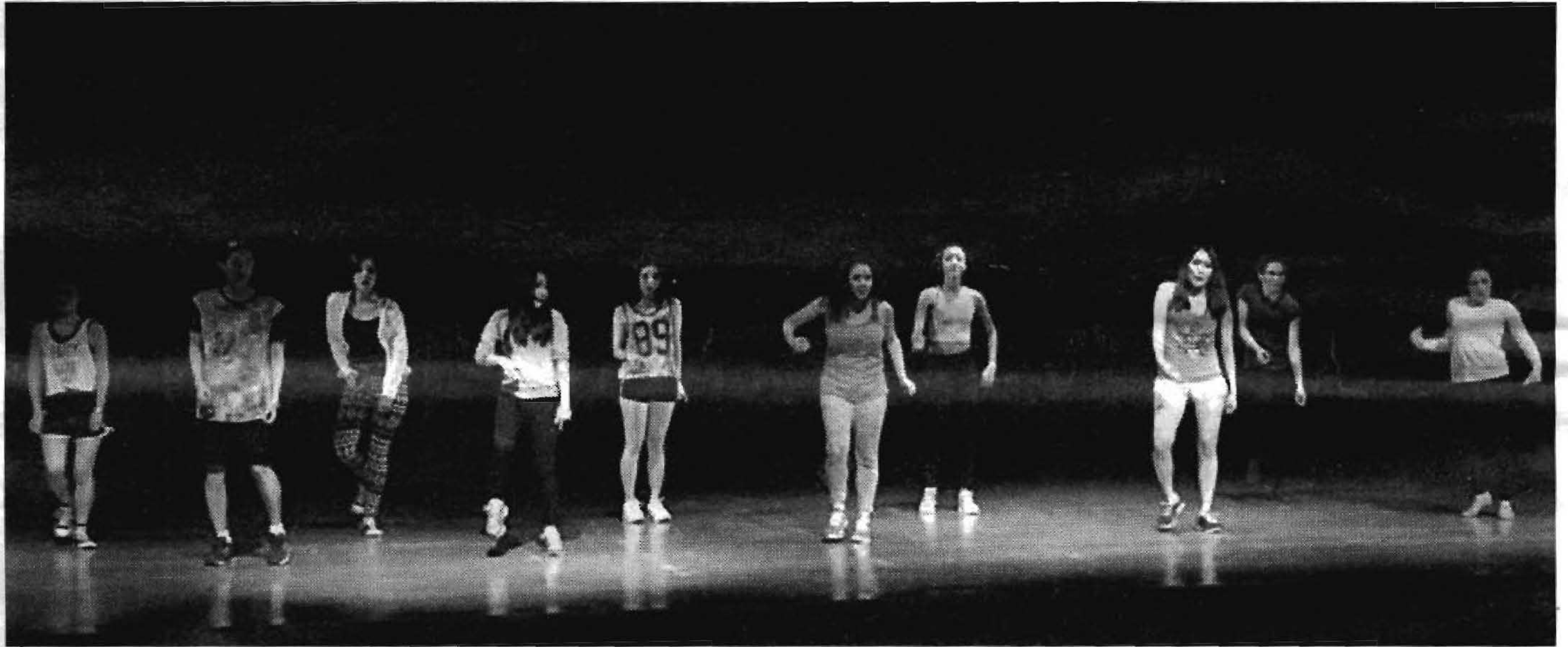


Photo courtesy of Andrea Rivera

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TEDxIIT continues preparation for 'X-FUSION'

Olumurewa Oguntade
TECHNEWS WRITER

Friday nights at The Bog at IIT are typically buzzing with activity, as it is the time that students take to unwind from the week and have fun. On Friday, March 27, TEDxIIT was one of the parties contributing to the buzz by hosting a few activities to create awareness of the organization.

The TEDxIIT event, or rather, 'pre-event,' was mainly to promote the global conference that will be taking place on Sunday, April 12, 2015 in the IIT Tower main auditorium. The night began with bowling at about 7:30 p.m. In addition to being an opportunity for the planning team and volunteers to let off some steam, it was a way for interested students to build connections with TEDxIIT members through a shared activity. Bowling lasted for about an hour and a half after which

the people present proceeded to the stage area in The Bog.

At 9 p.m., everyone gathered for the second part of the pre-event, emceed by some members of the TEDxIIT 2015 planning team - Sai Krishna (Vice President of Operations), Vishak Chandra (Treasurer), and Shyamoli Gramopadhye (Chair of Hospitality Committee). This part involved playing selected TEDxIIT videos to show the audience what they could expect from a TEDxIIT talk. The presentations viewed were 'Why you must start a business while in school' by Nik Rokop (TEDxIIT 2013), and 'Uncertainty' by Jessica Hubert (TEDxIIT 2014).

Other acclaimed non-IIT videos were also played to share ideas and inspire the audience. The TED and TEDx presentations viewed were 'Augmented Reality, techno-magic' by Marco Tempest and 'Dance, tiny robots' by Bruno Maisonnier. Next on the agenda,

was an interview of the two student speakers Mark Milhouse, a third-year ITM student, and Sunny Shah, a first-year Psychology student. Several questions were directed at the speakers including "What can the audience expect from you on the day of the event?" and "What has your journey to the TEDxIIT stage been like?" As a response to the former question, Mark Milhouse explained his idea of the fusion of 'sleep' and 'work' by utilizing idle computer resources in the supercomputer of the future. And to the latter question, Sunny Shah responded with some insight into his high school and early college involvement. According to Shah, doing what you love is the key to success.

The last activity for the night was the trivia game. The crowd was divided into eight teams of three students each and was competing for free tickets to the main event on April 12. Like the previous activities, this

was also a way to create awareness about TED and TEDxIIT. The first question asked was the meaning of the acronym TED. For those that do not know, the answer is Technology, Entertainment and Design. This was followed by questions about past TED global speakers, previous TEDxIIT event themes, previous TEDxIIT presidents, and more.

The trivia continued in the form of the game 'Twenty Questions,' and the teams played until about 11 p.m., when the night ended and the winners were announced. If the pre-event is an indication of what to expect of the main event on Sunday, April 12, then the attendees are in for a treat! Apply to attend the live event now, or save the date to watch the live stream online, or with fellow students in the MTCC Auditorium. Visit the TEDxIIT website at <http://mypages.iit.edu/~tedxiit/>.

Brooms up, Muggles: It's QuiddIITch time

Shriram Anbalagan
COPY EDITOR

No, you cannot actually go to the Hogwarts grounds and play the sport among hovering Dementors. We are yet to find a dragon, let alone learn to ride one, and invisibility cloaks still haven't gone on sale on Amazon. But hey, guess what? You can play Quidditch on the Quad next week with fellow Muggles from IIT. It seems like we have managed to translate the phenomenal game of chase, shoot and seek from J.K.Rowling's wizarding world into our real one - at least in some form.

One fine Muggle group from Middlebury School enchanted this game right out of the books and formed a modified version of the fictional Quidditch which is on its way to being established as a recognized sport and game. The game has been around for quite sometime now in colleges, and there is also a world cup organized for it. The Intercollegiate Quidditch Association (IQA), the sport's surprisingly professional organizing body, now manages close to 1,000 teams in over 40 countries with 600 teams in the United States alone; there are so many teams, in fact, that the Quidditch World Cup (QWC) is no longer an open invitational but a serious tournament at which the top 80 teams earn their spots after battling it out in one of nine regional tournaments. The IQA is just a disguised name for the Department of Magical Games and Sports, if you don't know that already, then you haven't read the phenomenal series thoroughly.

So how does one play such a sport you may ask? I wouldn't blame you if you did. Brooms don't fly, snitches are still in books and Dumbledore is still dead. How else does this sport work? It's simple actually. It's essentially the same game in terms of objective and types of players, except there is no flying involved. Players mount broomsticks and run on their feet. One may argue that the essence of the game is lost by this Muggle form but tell that to the 1000+ athletes who compete intensely at the QWC. Other rules that apply include the

following. The Snitch is a person who has a tennis ball enveloped in a sock hanging by his clothes or a similar detachable ball tied around him and he would run around the field with the seekers behind him, hoping to grab the ball.

The Beaters would be people who would hurl Bludgers (dodgeballs) at opponents. Those who get hit by an incoming Bludger have to drop the Quaffle (volleyball) if they are in possession of it and dismount their broom and run back to the posts before resuming the game. The game in many aspects is a combination of dodge ball, rugby and flag football. It involves the running around and dodging of the Bludgers similar to what one would do in dodgeball; the passing of the Quaffle and teamwork is similar to Rugby. The battle between the Seekers for the Snitch is very much like a game of flag football.

The story of Quidditch at IIT begins with Amy Zasadzinski, a Harry Potter fan wanting to relive some of that magic from the books in the most athletic way. She founded the QuiddIITch club here at Illinois Tech in her sophomore year. She drafted a presentation as a proposal for the club's initiation to the Student Senate and got things moving. It has been over a year and a half now since this club has been started. The club had a lot of starting trouble with games and funding in the first year. They did not have a lot of players to choose from and played no games in the first year, but as things moved on, it heated up. Initial hurdles such as coming up with a logo and brand along with a design for the jerseys were inevitable and they gained experience building hoops - which turned to be quite a process and setting up schedules and practice sessions. Ryan Miller from Office of Campus Life (OCL) who also happens to be the club's advisor was a key factor to the progress. Zasadzinski was nothing but thankful for Miller's tremendous help towards the club. Upon being asked if the funding allocated was timely and reasonable, she only had accolades for OCL and Finance Board, who were very supportive to the club by

providing a lot of the required funds in the beginning to get things moving and also continued to reimburse the players for miscellaneous costs during tournaments.

In the previous semester, the last game was against Northwestern and it was the first time they gathered a bunch of players, organized team props and basics before competing in a tournament in which they finished second. This semester has been no less amazing for the club; they took part in two tournaments, one at Northern Illinois University and another at Illinois State University. The club went on to secure second place at the latter tournament. Zasadzinski owes this impressive record to hours of scrimmage and practice on the Quad. The team usually practices twice a week and during winter they switch grounds to Keating Sports Center owing to the weather conditions.

Apart from mainstream game practice and prop building, the QuiddIITch club organizes several promotional and fun events both for the fostering of awareness about the club and also to help spread word about the Harry Potter movement. Last year a Yule Ball was hosted at The Bog by the club which saw a decent number of people dressing up as Harry Potter characters and dancing the night away. Other notable mentions would include a Halloween party and Quidditch pong. Upon being asked about the objective of the club, Zasadzinski had this to say: "The purpose of the team is not to be a Harry Potter club but to take the sport up to the next level here at IIT. We are pushing to be a part of the IQA by getting official, so that we can obtain regional rankings and qualification and eventually take part in the world cup."

The Quidditch community in general is a very friendly and helpful atmosphere, according to Zasadzinski, and the other teams have donated players to fellow teams in case they don't have enough. She claims that the club is always looking for more players and would love to have more people join the team. Having a healthy number of substitutes is al-

ways good, as it ensures that the team has more variety and that no one tires quickly. "We want more people to turn up to the meetings and join the team for games," added Zasadzinski.

A very interesting fact about Quidditch is that it's a co-ed sport. Title 9 is a prevalent education amendment meant to achieve just this and to be kept sports at the school level very non-discriminatory. A Harry Potter version of the educational amendment called Title 9 and three quarters is in place in every official Quidditch game. A minimum of 2-3 women is mandatory for them to even play a game and also to practice efficiently.

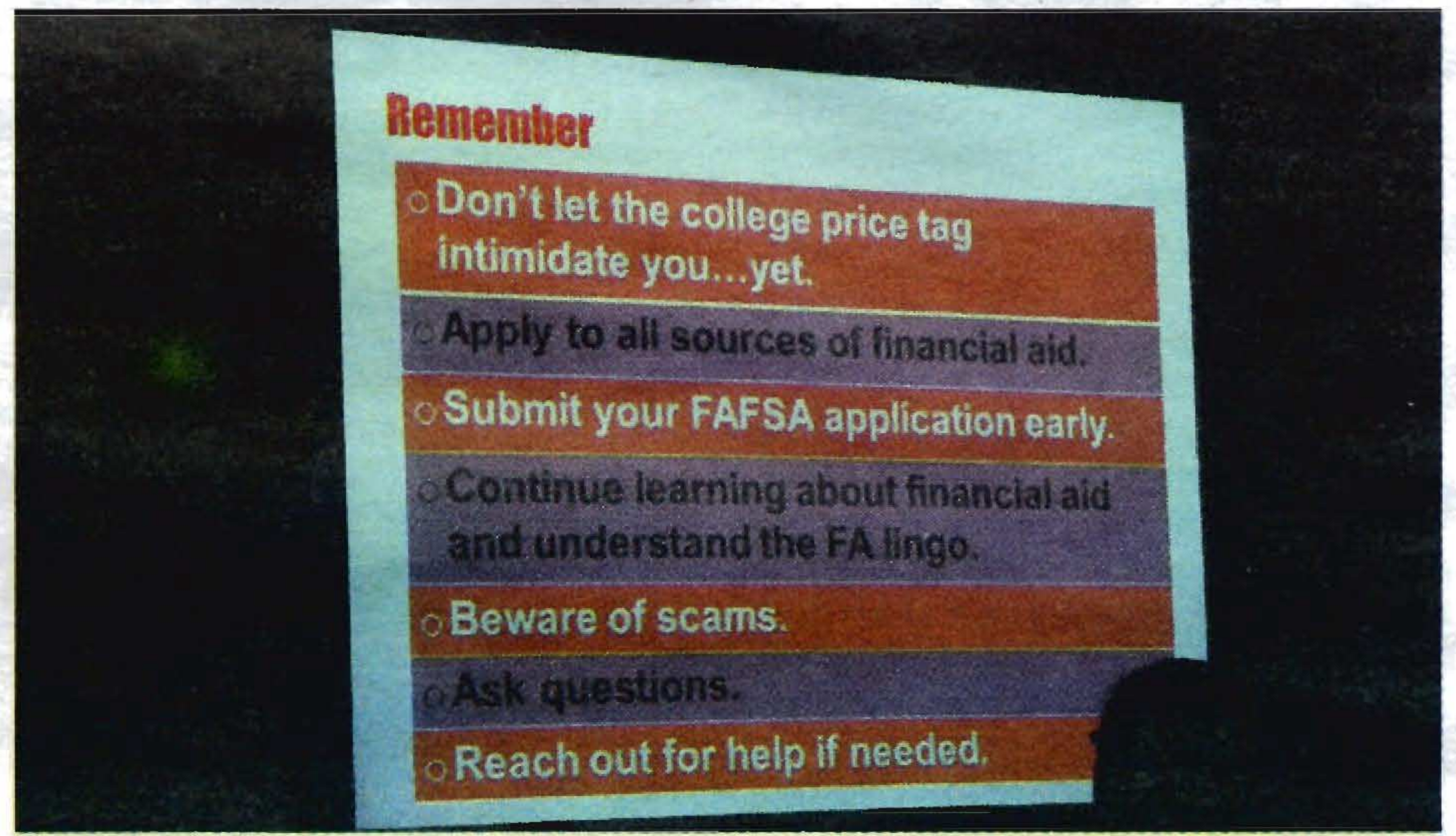
Currently Zasadzinski is training a couple of players to be treasurers and she is hoping that one from the team would step up and take over as president, so that she can pass the baton forward. The first step is to become officially intramural before any of the long-term goals get accomplished. On a final note, the president of the QuiddIITch club thanked her team and all those people who came to practice regularly and believed in each other. Nothing but good sportsmanship and hard work could have got them this far. She especially was grateful for the former Vice President, Ryan Cummings, who helped a lot with the inception of the club and is a key reason for its current status.

Here is a list of the team members who won second place last semester: Amy Zasadzinski, Ryan Cummings, Stoyan Stoyanov, Harold Heo, Morgan Kretlow, Denisse Lara, Brendon Kepple, Amairani Lopez, TJ Ayodele, Chris Lutzo. The team that won the second place this semester included the following students: Amy Zasadzinski, Ryan Cummings, Lindsay Zasadzinski, Morgan Kretlow, Stoyan Stoyanov and Sufyan Sher. Many congratulations to the team for exceeding expectations. One can join the club for its next practice and join the club's mailing list by contacting the president. So gather your brooms and put on your robes folks; its QuiddIITch time.



Photos courtesy of Amy Zasadzinski

Parent University event encourages support of youth, higher education



Photos by Katy Banks

IIT Community, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee Lecture



Confronting the "New" American Dilemma:

Expanding Underrepresented Minority Representation in Engineering

Featuring

Dr. Irving Pressley McPhail

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

12:45–1:45 p.m.

MTCC Auditorium

Please join us for the inaugural IIT Community, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee Lecture focusing on how to better the relative absence of African Americans, American Indians, and Latinos in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) study and careers.

Dr. McPhail is president and chief executive officer of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. McPhail founded The McPhail Group and served as a college president or chancellor for 15 years. He is also the co-editor of *Teaching African American Learners to Read: Perspectives and Practices*.

This event is open to all university students, staff, and faculty. Space is limited. Please RSVP by April 10 at <http://goo.gl/WWxUyH>.

For more information about this event, please contact Frances Patterson at 312.567.8850 or Patterson@iit.edu.

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Event sponsored by the IIT Community, Inclusion and Diversity Committee. This is the first lecture that the Committee is sponsoring. The Committee plans to sponsor similar lectures in the future on issues and topics of diversity, inclusion and related subjects.

Empathetic Connections: an interview with songwriter Mieka Pauley

Reno Waswil

TECHNEWS WRITER

Union Board puts on a lot of great events, but one that I look forward to each and every time is the Hawks Coffeehouses where we can enjoy the performance of known and unknown artists from IIT and from all around in the backdrop of the evening-educed snugness that rests on the MTTC Welcome Center and free coffee and snacks; that's always a plus. The last performance I had the pleasure of seeing featured singer-songwriter Mieka Pauley, who I also had the esteemed privilege to interview after her fantastic show that Tuesday night

Pauley has the distinction of having won the title of Cosmopolitan's Fun Fearless Female Rock Star of the Year as well as dominating such competitions as the Starbucks Songwriter Competition and New York Songwriters Circle Songwriting Contest and having been featured on such programs as PRI's "Mountain Stage," which I recommend everyone look up on and listen to get the 'full Pauley experience,' which is, I'd say, a very real and personal one.

Her set list for that night had her performing a number of her own songs including "All The Same Mistakes," "Marked Man," "Never Fuck a Woman You Don't Know," and "Run," as well as a couple of covers including Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and the traditional folk/blues song famously covered by Nirvana on their Unplugged album, "In The Pines."

In response to me asking about whether she related to Nirvana front man personal Kirk Cobain's critical lyrical style, she responded fidgeting anxiously with the wrapper on her bottle of water, "I do feel like I'm pulling on that same feeling of isolation, though Cobain was a lot more messed up than me." She comments on the fact that many of her songs deal with recognition of the mistakes that she has made in a similar vein to the confliction that Cobain felt with his fame. Her real attraction to the song in question, which she would more readily attribute to the folk/blues musician Led Belly, was its atmosphere: "There is something so creepy about it, the song. The girl... is probably going to be murdered."

My interview began with me asking her how she would define her sound given the caveat that it had to be a genre she made up for herself. She at first had expressed some difficulty at this as she has been so used to classifying her music on the well-trodden grounds of main genres. "People want to know what to expect," she explains. After 10 years, she has tended to fall into her indie-pop roots for the sake of simplicity. After some serious consideration though, she said that she would describe her music as "art-writery folk alt-rock," and as someone that is totally on-board with making up words and phrases as a means of demonstrating one's personal freedom of mind, I was content with this answer.

As for her music, Pauley writes from

the heart, and, as she herself admits, her heart tends towards the critical and depressing. "It's a lot easier for me to write hopeless songs even when I'm in a happy place." With songs like "He'll Never Quite Love Me Enough," "We're All Gonna Die," and "All The Same Mistakes," it's a claim difficult to refute. As she divulges: "I'm looking for that empathetic connection, I've tried to write happier songs but there's something missing in my own delivery, in my presentation. I can't deliver happy and have that empathetic connection."

That concept of empathy is definitely a major player in the songwriting of many 'indie' artists and definitely one I share with her in striving for with most of what I do. During her concert, in the downtime between songs when artists usually talk to their audience in a very casual way, she felt compelled to ask one of the students in the front row if he was drawing sketches on his notepad. Whatever that could possibly say about her personality and her character, whether it is that she is naturally curious or enjoys conversing with people similarly artistically minded or is maybe just a tad bit nosy, I like it.

Being an avid listener and practitioner of music, I think that there are often hidden influences in artists based on what they listen to even if what they listen to is no where near the kind of music they make. John Darnielle of the Mountain Goats, a band which is not at all known for its brutal energy, famously listens to almost exclusively Death Metal, and I find that sort of reveal very telling to the frame through which a musician may be looking in the composition of their own music, like how a popular musician may listen to classical music and treat their song writing process similarly to a classical composer.

Instead of surprising me with listening to the most niche genre imaginable, she voiced something common with seasoned artists as herself, saying "The more I listen to music, the less I listen for my own enjoyment." Now that I think of it, perhaps a musician's interest in genres that are not their own may be something of a coping mechanism to deal with that constant analysis that keeps musicians from fully enjoying other's music.

She did express interest in looking at the sort of science of our enjoyment of music and cracking why some songs can be so enjoyable. "Songs I've been trying to figure out why they're so catchy-I listen to them and try to enjoy them in a professional way: Ryn Weaver's "Octahate" - I'm gonna dissect that shit and write another one, Gautier's "Somebody That I Used to Know," Sia's "Chandelier," Hoiser's "Take Me To Church;" I'm gonna dissect all of those so you just wait; the next time I come to Chicago, I'm gonna have the best songs."

Pauley does elaborate that instead of from other music, she gets most of her inspiration from books, explaining, "In my car I listen to a lot of audiobooks," ascribing a great deal of importance to the "phrasing" of words in literature. This interest in phrasing is a factor

of her vocal style I definitely picked up on during her performance. I told her that something that I think she shared with folk artists like Bob Dylan was mindfulness about her lyrical flow and rhythm, which could be heard particularly her song "Run."

To this, she responds that it was interesting that I bring up Bob Dylan in the first place because, as she explained, there is something innate to Bob Dylan that does not work with her vocal style: "I cannot cover Bob Dylan or Joni Mitchell." I remarked how similar it was to the emphasis of the artist's 'unique' personality of rappers, Hip Hop being something I think of as being a folk music in its purest sense.

With this, I couldn't help but see how she felt about a music culture theory I have been forming for a while detailing my distinction between the motivation for writing music as existing on a spectrum, the extremes of which I refer to as folk motivations and classical motivations. Folk artists in this theory tend to focus on the artists who writes the music and/or performs this music whereas classical artists focuses on the music and illuminating something akin to an objective truth or grand concept, and from this follows many of the characteristics and 'problems' recognizable in much of music.

To this, Pauley responded favorably, agreeing and open to expanding it, adding another dimension to this spectrum which would make the distinction between the personal and the group consciousness with regards to music. It was an idea which I had, to be honest, been toying with myself. We both agreed that she sits on the folk end hedging strongly towards the individual level, which fits perfectly in line with the similarities I drew between her and hip-hop artists, which resist perfect covers. Particular about Bob Dylan, Pauley complains, "I don't like hearing other folk musicians with Bob Dylan's delivery and accent, it's just so awkward; that's his, get your own." That is a truer summary of folk music than I could ever come up with myself.

Enough about my stupid theories though, what kind of interview would this be without getting to know the path that brought Pauley to her current state of success? When I inquired of her musical beginnings, she tells me that as a youth, her training in music was limited to studying classical piano, which led her to attempt to write classical piano pieces of her own at a young age, albeit classical from a kid's perspective. She explained how she used to give her compositions names in other languages not realizing that classical songs were named in different languages because those were the composers' languages of origin.

Apart from that, most of her musical prowess was self-taught, besides a few vocal lessons she did take in her formative years, and even those were of little consequence to her now besides having helped her with breath control and placement to some extent. She says this because earlier in her career, she ended up

getting a condition called vocal fold nodules (which, if you don't know, is a swelling tissue growth on vocal chords that manifests in the reduction of one's vocal abilities), which she reassures me most singers in popular music gets to some extent, but had caused her classical vocal training as a soprano to become almost completely nullified. Her instrument of choice though, the guitar, was self-taught.

As she grew older, she started writing bad pop songs, but she wrote them more so she would have something to sing, not thinking too fully about the complexity of their composition or anything like that. It wasn't until high school when she started writing for the sake of writing, but even then she could hardly say she had found her voice. Still, those years in high school were when she started cutting her teeth as a performer in clubs and coffee houses and where she got her true passion for the art.

In college, she started street performing and started focusing on writing and preforming for herself instead of as a member of one of fifteen bands on any particular night doing a gig. When she graduated, she saw that she could actually make enough money street performing to do it full-time.

She takes a pride in being where she is today having never studied music above those piano lessons, saying that it kept her from being jaded. Above all, she expressed interest in trying to find music in all the business, and given that most of her major releases, chiefly her 2012 LP "The Science of Making Choices," were done independently, one would think that business proficiency plays no small part in her work.

After 30 minutes or so of chatting, we had to start wrapping up, so I finished off by asking her what she had planned the future of her music career, particularly if she was working on or planning to record any new albums anytime soon. She told me that it has been hard to write lately and that she has had writers block for about four years now. "I've been trying to figure out a bunch of different ways to write. I might be getting closer; a lot of writers block is anxiety, so the closer I get to writing it the more I panic." It seems the same propensity for anxiety and unrest which she expresses so well in her music was actually keeping her from writing; I love it.

I'd like to thank Mieka Pauley for the interview and I want to encourage anyone interested to keep up with her releases and tour dates by go to her website where you can find links to take you to where you could purchase tickets to her May 1 show happening at Uncommon Ground in Chicago.

Also, for a good evening of music, check out all future Hawks Coffeehouse events. The next one is planned for Tuesday, April 7, (the day this newspaper drops) at 7pm in the MTCC Welcome Center and will feature IIT student and fellow TechNews contributor TJ Ayodele and it sounds awesome. Hope to see you all there.

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Layers of provolone cheese separated by real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato & mayo. (Truly a gourmet sub not for vegetarians only, Sprouts* optional)

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NATHAN MCMAHON

SPORTS



Tuesday, April 7
Baseball
@ Trine
3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8
Women's Lacrosse
@ Elmhurst College
7 p.m.

Thursday, April 9
Baseball
@ Dominican
9 p.m.

Friday, April 10
Baseball
vs. Marian
1 p.m.

Baseball
vs. Marian
3 p.m.

Sunday, April 12
Women's Lacrosse
vs. Loras
12 p.m.

Baseball
@ Blackburn
1 p.m.

Baseball
@ Blackburn
3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15
Baseball
@ Calvin
1 p.m.

Student Government Association (SGA) elections are on Tuesday! Be sure to visit HawkLink (hawklink.iit.edu) to vote!



Thursday is National High Five Day. Take this one from us because you are AWESOME!



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 x = independently organized TED event

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Self Defense Classes

Every Wednesday: 6:30-7:30pm, Keating
 Sponsored by IIT Intramurals and Recreation
 Join IIT's self-defense expert every Wednesday evening in April and learn how defend yourself against grabs, chokes, muggings, gun, and knife attacks. This will help students of all genders learn how to protect themselves, but also doubles as a phenomenal workout. *There will be a specific sexual assault awareness-focused session on Wednesday, April 15.*

It's On Us Campaign

Thursday, April 2 & Friday, April 3: 12:30-2pm, MTCC Bridge
 Sign the national "It's On Us" campaign's pledge as a personal commitment to help keep individuals safe from sexual assault and reject bystander behavior. Teal ribbons in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month will also be available, as well information about programs throughout the month.

The Clothesline Project

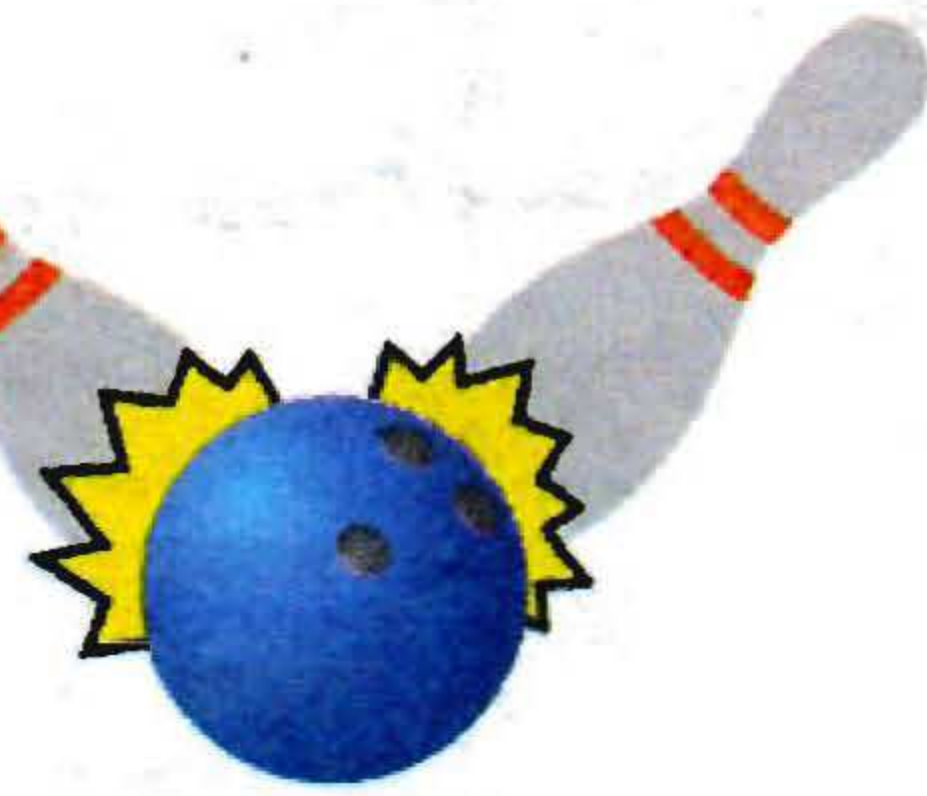
Tuesday, April 7 - Thursday, April 9: 12:30-2pm, MTCC Bridge
 The Clothesline Project is a program started in 1990 to address the issue of sexual violence. Shirts and decorating supplies will be available at our Bridge table, so all are encouraged to stop by and add your message to the clothesline. Additionally, all are welcome to decorate your own shirt to add to the clothesline by dropping it off in the Office of Campus Life anonymously.

"One in Five": A Presentation by Porchlight

Thursday, April 9: 12:45-2pm, MTCC Executive Conference Room
 Join Chicago community partner Porchlight Counseling Services to view their brief Emmy-winning video "One in Five," which is a program about Porchlight's work with survivors of college sexual assault and the epidemic of college sexual assault in the US. A question and answer session will follow the 30 minute video. Lunch will be provided.



April 9



7:00 pm—Good Vibrations

7:00 pm—VSA Bowling Social

9:00 pm—PSA Singing Competition

April 10

9:30 pm—BSO Dance Party



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 Office of Campus Life