

TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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Office of Campus Life prepares Welcome Week

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every fall, to kick off the new school year, Illinois Tech's Office of Campus Life (OCL) organizes Welcome Week, a week of fun events that help new students get a taste of what IIT's campus community has to offer as well as help returning students get more involved and meet new students.

This year's tentative Welcome Week schedule is even fuller than last year's, currently including over 50 events spaced out over the 10 days before classes begin. This year's new and

returning students will have plenty to keep them from becoming bored before classes get started. Events for this Welcome Week include a good mix of events that will introduce students to what IIT has to offer, trainings for new students, performers being brought to campus, and social events hosted by student organizations. Some returning favorites on the tentative schedule include Playfair, an event featuring a collection of high-energy ice-breaker games, a pep rally, and shopping shuttles to nearby retailers.

Ryan Miller, Associate Vice Provost for Campus Life, had a few thoughts to share

regarding the purpose of Welcome Week. "The goal of Welcome Week is just what it sounds like. We know that coming back to classes isn't always the most fun thing in the world, but our goal is just to make everyone feel welcome at IIT," said Miller. "We hope that by providing a few fun activities mixed in with some more official ones, we can get everyone acclimated to campus and making a friend or two before the grind of class starts up."

Even more than with years past, this year's Welcome Week events aim to kick start the formation of the IIT community that students love. All students who participate will

have the chance to make some great friends, learn something new, and maybe step a bit outside of their comfort zone.

The Office of Campus Life is also planning a few additional events that will take place during the first week of classes that will also be helpful to new students. Throughout the academic year, keep your eyes open for even more events facilitated by IIT's Office of Campus Life. The office plans many activities during the school year to keep campus fun and also works with student organizations to plan even more events for students.

MEDLIFE-IIT starts Summer 2015 in Riobamba, Ecuador

Egle Malinauskaite
TECHNEWS WRITER

After months of planning, grant-writing, and fundraising, IIT's MEDLIFE Chapter embarked on their journey to the May 23-31 brigade in Riobamba, Ecuador. This year, the chapter sent nine students, four alumni, and one faculty member to a mobile clinic visiting indigenous communities outside of the city.

MEDLIFE is an international NGO helping various Latin American and African communities achieve freedom from the constraints of poverty, empowering them to live healthier lives. The organization believes access to quality healthcare is a basic human right and should be addressed in a comprehensive application of MEDs: Medicine, Education and community Development. Since IIT's chapter's launch in 2013, they have championed MEDLIFE's commitment to addressing the root causes of disparities worldwide. Just like last year's trip to Lima, Peru, their experience in Ecuador was an eye-opening juxtaposition to Chicago.

The communities outside of Riobamba identify strongly with the Native American Quechua culture; residents are typically fluent in both Spanish and Quechua. With an economy based on agricultural goods

that continue to decline in value, lack of access to many basic resources, including transportation and sanitation infrastructure, is common. The hard physical labor of mountain farming from an early age, coupled with malnutrition, can lead to premature health problems. However, the cost of lost productivity and traveling to the nearest city for financially unobtainable medical treatments prevents most residents from obtaining adequate medical care.

This is where IIT's MEDLIFE students came in. During the daily mobile clinic, they volunteered in rotations under the guidance of local healthcare professionals to provide free medical services and educational tools for hygiene. The stations included triage, general medicine, dentistry, obstetrics/gynecology, pharmacy, and education. One of the most popular rotations was tooth brushing - teaching children as young as 3 oral health with free colorful brushes, a large teeth model, and tons of spit. Each rotation was a humbling lesson in doctor-patient relationships and privilege. At the end of the week, they helped the brigade tend to a total of 444 patients.

One of the communities visited was Galte Yaguachi, in the region of Guamote, Ecuador. In addition to the mobile clinic, students worked alongside the locals on a development project: sanding and priming the walls of a new classroom that would eventually serve over 100 children and five teachers.

According to IIT student Dawlat Mohamed, B.S. Biochemistry '15, it was "an experience unlike any other. While you're working with the community members, you are constantly learning valuable lessons from them: humility, gratefulness, perseverance, contentment, and strength. . . One woman even had her baby strapped to her back while I was helping her carry cement back and forth. The strength I saw from this community was incredible, and inspired me to push myself even harder in all that I do. These people have given way more than I would have ever hoped to give them." On the last day of the trip, the classroom's inauguration was a full-out celebration, complete with delicious snacks, games, and dancing. Yet the most heartwarming moments came when the community sang Ecuador's national anthem in unison and the children handed out hand-woven baskets as gifts to all the volunteers. To say it was a beautiful display of humanity doesn't do it justice.

The 11 days spent in Ecuador are defined by moments like this. Of course, students also had plenty of time to explore the country's culture and conquer plenty of fears. They climbed to the top of the Basilica Del Voto Nacional, the largest neo-Gothic basilica in the Americas, located in the historic center of Quito. They rode the Quito Teleferico gondola, one of the highest aerial lifts in the world, to Pinachicha Volcano. They ziplined

upside down over waterfalls in Banos de Agua Santa. They took turns milking a cow and riding a donkey literally in the clouds while in Guamote's mountains. They visited the Mitad del Mundo museum at the equator. They even ate guinea pig (pronounced "cuy" in Quechua for their high-pitched sounds), a national delicacy! As Courtney Rouse, B.S. Mechanical Engineering '15, put it, "The MEDLIFE brigade was a great way to experience the unique culture of a different part of the world all while contributing service to provide free healthcare and improve education in a third world country. It was truly an unforgettable experience and I would recommend it to anyone, whether you're looking to go into a health related field or not."

MEDLIFE at IIT would like to thank everyone in the IIT community who supported this trip financially, especially Dean DePaola from Armour College of Engineering, Dean Betts from College of Science, the Student Activities Fund, and all who participated in their fundraisers. If you're interested in getting involved with MEDLIFE-IIT, please email medlife@iit.edu and make sure to stop by the organization's informational table during Welcome Week's Student Organization Festival. The organization looks forward to see where next year's medical brigade will take them and they hope you can join!



Photos courtesy of Egle Malinauskaite

TechNews

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TechNews is written, managed, and edited by the students of, and funded in part by, Illinois Institute of Technology. The material herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Illinois Institute of Technology or the editors, staff, and advisor of TechNews. There will be no censorship of TechNews publication by the faculty or staff of IIT. Sole authority and responsibility for publication and adherence to the values set forth in this policy rests with the TechNews staff. This paper seeks to bring together the various segments of the Illinois Tech community and strives through balance and content to achieve a position of respect and excellence. TechNews strives for professionalism with due respect to the intellectual values of the university and its community. All material submitted becomes the property of TechNews, and is subject to any editorial decisions deemed necessary.

SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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LOCAL & NATIONAL ADVERTISERS

To place an ad, contact us via email at business@technewsiit.com.

Letter from the Editor:

Welcome to IIT!

Illinois Tech is a pretty interesting place. We have the benefit of having a small local campus community, but we're also located in the middle of one of the largest cities in the United States. Our campus also provides many opportunities for IIT students to learn, both inside and outside the classroom. It's easy to say that the environment our school provides is a unique one.

IIT is a wonderfully unique place, and every student who takes the opportunity to get out and experience what it has to offer is guaranteed to have an excellent few years here.

TechNews is all about promoting

and supporting this IIT community.

TechNews, the student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928, began printing a summer issue in 2012 to serve incoming and returning students as a resource to help them learn about things happening on campus and around the city.

This issue has everything you need to catch up on campus life, things to look forward to, and some cool things to do in the city before classes get started soon in August.

New students will benefit greatly from checking out a few of the tips and suggestions offered within as well as learning about some IIT organizations. The information in this issue will also help

those returning for another year here at IIT. Hopefully, this issue will keep you up to date with new developments on campus and in the Chicago area.

So, on behalf of all of the staff here at TechNews, I'd like to welcome you to Illinois Tech. I hope your fall semester goes well, I hope you learn more about yourself, and I hope I get you see you around campus this semester! See you soon!

Sincerely,
Kori Bowns
Editor-in-Chief, TechNews

On risk and reward

Ryan Hynes

CHICAGO-KENT LAW '15

During her recent commencement address, Madame Christine Lagarde charged graduates to "take calculated risks." As Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Lagarde is no stranger to risk. Her professional success and career is a handbook on bucking tradition and challenging the status quo, and her recent standoff with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras over unpaid loan obligations is evidence that Lagarde is still not shy about risk.

Earlier this month, Tsipras, who campaigned on an anti-austerity platform, refused to make a relatively small 305 million euro payment due to the IMF, the first time a developed nation has done so. Rather than immediately defaulting on its obligations, Lagarde and the IMF have consolidated several of Greece's payments into a lump sum of 1.6 billion euros due at the end of the month. After Greece struggled to fund a roughly 400 million euro payment in April, the world is

watching, anxious that Greece will become the first developed country to default on its IMF obligations.

A default on IMF obligations would be a scary thing. Under the terms of its bailout package, a default to the IMF would be considered a default on all of Greece's Eurozone obligations, and would make all of Greece's European debts immediately due. Greece is already bankrupt and cannot fund these obligations; such an event would rattle international financial markets, severely weaken the euro, and threaten to plunge Europe back into recession. Yet in the face of all of this, Lagarde remains unflappably calm, confident that Greece will meet its obligations and reassuring those who think otherwise with a flash of her brilliant smile. Lagarde is clearly not just a proselytizer, but a practitioner of her own philosophy as well.

Risk in the traditional sense connotes interest rates on loans or return on investment, but personal risk, the type of risk Madame Lagarde was really getting at, is much more important. Personal risk begets personal

development, and stepping outside of our comfort zone allows us to not only learn more about the world, but ourselves as well.

IIT students who have taken calculated personal risks often find themselves where they could never have dreamt previously: as CEOs of successful companies, improv comedians shaking audiences with laughter, or as compassionate engineers bringing clean water to the third world. Personal risks have shaped and molded IIT students into a community of difference makers. Taking calculated risks is not easy. There are many sleepless nights, laughless crowds, and giant tropical insects along the way. Madame Lagarde herself has just taken perhaps the largest risk of her career, with the fates of Greece and the entire European economic community resting on the successful resolution of this debt crisis. But if Lagarde is any indication, the rewards of taking calculated risks are great, and lead to personal and professional growth and development. When the potential rewards are so great, then the only real risk is doing nothing at all.

CAMPUS

campus@technewsiit.com

Do you 'love to dance?'

Lindsey Rice

TECHNEWS WRITER

Love to Dance Collective (LTD) is a student organization that allows students to perform and express themselves through various forms of dance. Members of the group have assorted training and backgrounds, but are tied together by their passion for the art form. LTD is a fairly young student organization on campus, only entering its fifth semester this fall. They hold auditions each semester, as well as an Open Class, where any student can take a break from their studies, get a small workout while learning some choreography and having fun. Open Classes are a great way for students

to get involved with LTD, and dancers from all skill levels are encouraged to attend.

This year, LTD has been extended an offer to perform at Northwestern University's Think U Can Dance competition on October 24th to raise awareness for a foundation in China called Half the Sky Orphans. They also plan to hold their first showcase in the spring, along with some small performances throughout the year. A few of the events that LTD has performed at in the past include basketball games, IFest, Homecoming, and New Velocity's annual showcase. Check out their YouTube page to see some past performances at youtube.com/user/LTDdanceteam/videos.

LTD is looking for new performers

- students who share their passion for dance. Fall 2015 auditions will be held the second week of school. Interested dancers will learn and perform choreography taught by members of LTD. They will then have the option to perform a short piece of their own to express their unique style of dance and choreography.

"Whether you're a natural performer or someone who wants to break out of their shell and get out there, keep in mind... we are all part of this group because we Love To Dance" said LTD's Vice President, Wesley Lo.

Be sure to check LTD out at the student organization fair in August or email ltddanceteam@gmail.com for more information.

Imagine your name

IN PRINT

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33rd Street Productions gearing up for a fantastic semester

Reno Waswil

TECHNEWS WRITER

Art does more than entertain us; it inspires us, challenges us, and is just really fun to make as well. That is the philosophy behind IIT's student-run theatre group 33rd Street Productions where IIT, Vandercook, and Shimer students come together and put on some of the best theatre productions in the business. Perhaps you have heard of, or were lucky enough to see for yourself one of their famous performances, and perhaps you too have considered yourself worthy of the opportunity to escape yourself within the wonders of a world of imagination. If this idea intrigues you and you would like to see the scenic magic for yourself, or, dare I say it, if YOU want to be a part of a true institution of an organization, you're in luck; the upcoming fall semester has so much to offer your stage-lusting heart.

Speaking of lust, the first show on 33rd's agenda is David Ives' 2010 award-winning production inspired by and subsequently named after Leopold von Sacher-Masoch's novel *Venus in Furs*. This two-person play, or play-within-a-play, investigates the ever-so-fragile power dynamic of the writer-director Thomas Novachek as he is trying to cast his own adaptation of the risqué novel, and actress Vanda, who arrives to audition for the lead character Wanda von Dunayev, a role for whom our writer/director has heretofore been unable to find someone worthy. Surrounding the gripping series of events that takes place during the reading with Novachek playing the part of Severin von Kushemski, the show is a must see and a great introduction to the kinds of things 33rd Street Productions is planning all next year. Tuesday, August 18th, in the wakes of Welcome Week, at 5:30 PM in

the Hermann Hall Auditorium, is when you can expect to see for yourself the first show of a jam-packed semester. Keep an eye out for advertisements for the event; you'll know them when you see them.

Once you have seen the play, you might be wondering yourself how you might approach being a part in one of 33rd's productions, well you are in luck, because shortly after *Venus in Furs* makes its IIT debut, auditions are scheduled for the three upcoming productions they are planning for the semester from August 31st to September 3rd in the Herman Hall Auditorium. There are a lot of roles to fill, so whether you are a theatre veteran or have never been on a stage in your life, don't be afraid to try out for a role; you just might be exactly what they're looking for.

The first and by far the largest and most time-intensive performance that auditions are being held for is their fall musical, *Avenue Q*. Mixing puppetry and live-action, *Avenue Q* touches on and finds humor from adult themes and situations with an element of absurdity at their presentation, being similar to that of children's programming, most notably Sesame Street, with numerous similarities in story-telling styles and characterization between the two. The show is scheduled to debut November 13th, and run for two weeks on each Friday and Saturday evening. Making this show will not be easy, so that's why 33rd needs all the help it can get in bringing it to life. Students interested in trying out for this performance should prepare a short, one-to-two-minute comedic monologue and be prepared to sing an *Avenue Q* song during the audition dates above. Monologues can be from a play, from a book, or if you fancy yourself a writer, one you've written yourself, as long as it shows off your ability to read comedic content

compellingly. For the sake of ease, acceptable songs and comedic monologues will be available at the auditions, so there is no reason to not try out.

In addition to their musical, in anniversary of former Illinois Governor Quinn signing same sex marriage into law in 2013, 33rd is also casting for their second run of *Standing on Ceremony: the Gay Marriage Plays*, which is back by popular demand from last year's showcase. Deemed by playbill.com as, "a staged reading benefiting the Human Rights Campaign," *Standing On Ceremony* presents a set of short plays connected by a deeper message of gay tolerance, rights, and most centrally, as the name suggests, marriage. Powerful, beautiful, and at times, exceptionally funny, 33rd is looking for open-minded students who can pull off some compelling and sometimes shocking character types in an amusing way for this performance. The performance is scheduled for September 25th and 26th, and if all goes to plan, in the glory of the serene wilderness (in other words, outside) to make it as joyous an occasion as physically possible. Auditions will entail selected readings from the play, so if this play interests you, don't hesitate to wait with bated breath for the August 31st audition date.

The third will be a story-telling showcase that exemplifies elements of horror, suspense, and mystery called *Tales of Torture, Mystery, and the Macabre*. This show is expected to utilize the theatre-in-the-round style setting of Keating's Basketball Court to capture a story-telling atmosphere, and is planned to take place right after the annual IIT Pumpkin Launch held every Family Weekend. Your nameless host will present to you three classic, spine-chilling short stories from some of the greatest horror writers of history: The

Squaw, by Bram Stoker, Accessory Before the Fact by Algernon Blackwood, and The Masque of Red Death by Edgar Allen Poe, with special appearances by some surprising names. For this performance, 33rd is in need of some actors with a knack for Drama, Suspense, and capital 'R' Romance. Students auditioning will be asked to read one of the selected readings from the performance, so catch up on your Gothic poetry...while you still have time.

Students can audition for any combinations of the plays that they'd like, and if willing, students may even get more than one role. For safe measure though, it is highly recommended that you practice some of the songs for the musical over the summer for the best chances of getting a part in it.

To learn more about upcoming events, audition dates, and expectations, head over to 33rd Street Productions' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/33rd.iit, or write them at 33rd.iit@gmail.com and make sure to keep an eye out for advertisements for the auditions placed at strategic points around the campus. If you don't find time in your busy schedule this semester but still want to stay in the loop, liking the Facebook page also gives you the lowdown on future auditions, like for the Shakespeare play planned for Spring 2016, and more information on the performances on some of the best in the business.

Finally, all that learning of scripts and rehearsing isn't your thing, keep an eye out for advertisements about 33rd Street Productions' exclusive Improv Troupe 2sense Improv, which is planning some great stuff for the upcoming semester too. To learn more, you can go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/untitledimprov>, or contact 33rd Street directly via the methods described above.

**All incoming students are
expected to be back on campus
on Friday, August 14!**

**Be sure you are moved into your Residence Hall room in
time for Convocation at 3:30 pm (Friday, August 14) for an
official welcome to IIT!**



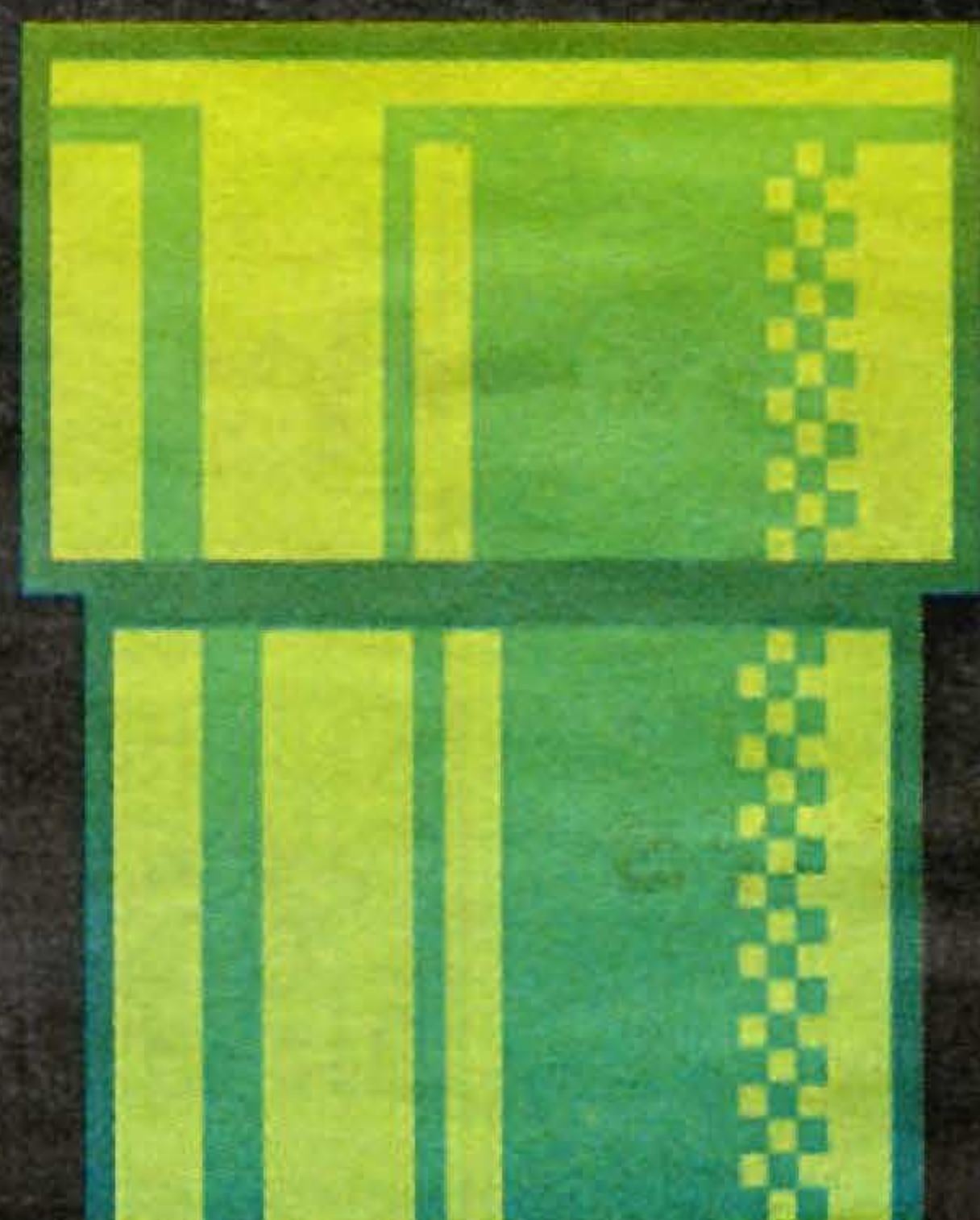
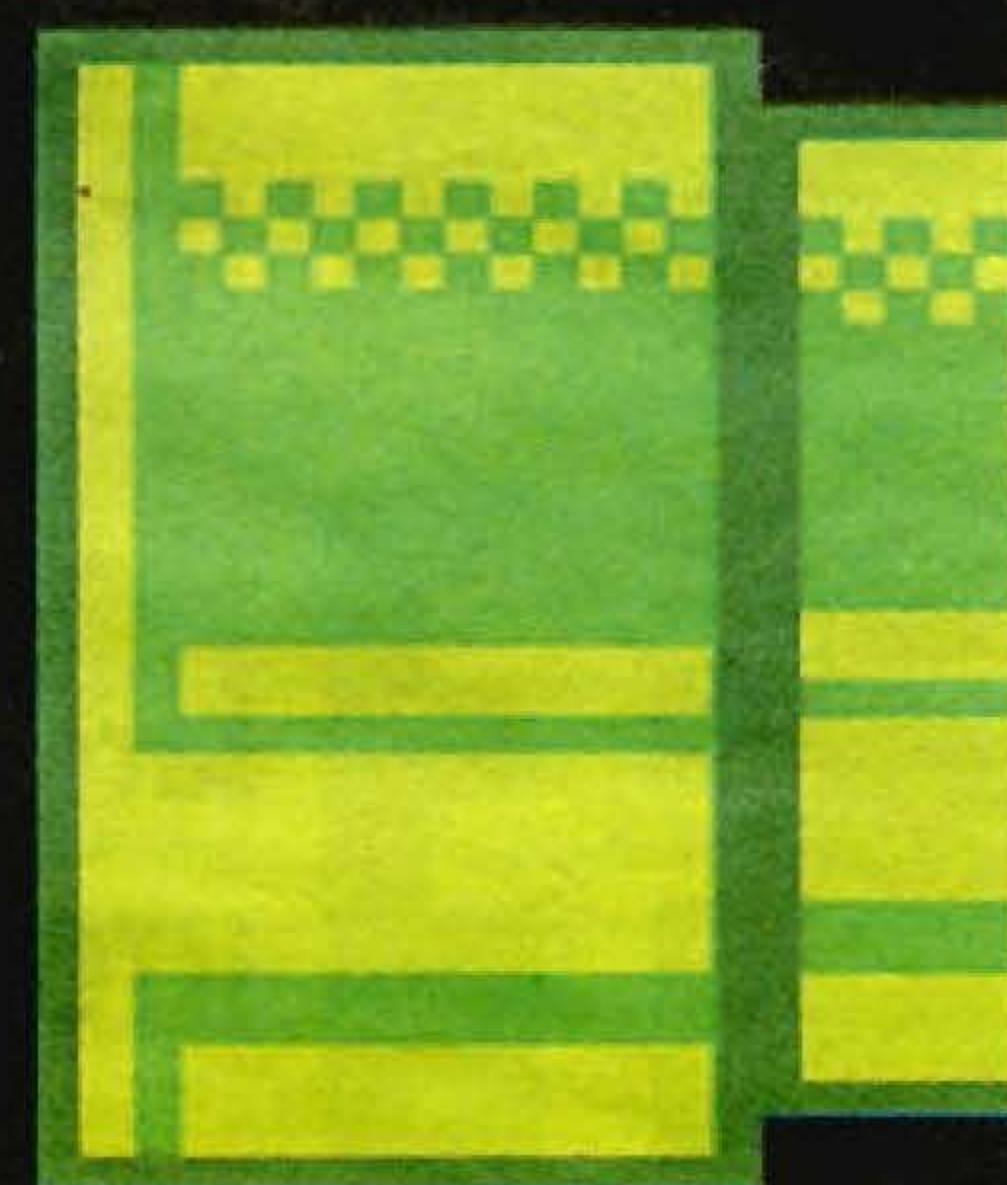
**Parent Reception starts at 5:30 pm in
The Bog.**

**Student Activities kick-off at 6:00 pm in the
Hermann Hall Expo!**



**For the latest on Welcome Week, visit:
web.iit.edu/campus-life/events/welcome-week**

Talon's Timewarp





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Illinois Tech Robotics exhibits at French-American Science Festival

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Office for Science and Technology at the Consulate General of France in Chicago recently organized the fourth annual French-American Science Festival as part of French Innovation Week. The festival celebrates partnerships between French and American universities, laboratories, and industries in the pursuit of furthering science. In addition to a number of keynote speakers and other conferences, as part of the festival, a full day of free hands-on science activities was offered to middle school students on May 1st at the Robert H. Lurie building at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Illinois Institute of Technology's robotics club, Illinois Tech Robotics (ITR), was invited to share their creations with students at the event.

ITR brought three items to showcase at the event. One of ITR's newer robots, named Modulus, displayed its crab drive system that allows it to rotate its wheels to turn on a dime. When learning about Modulus, students

got to manipulate one of the robot's wheel modules. Icarus, Illinois Tech Robotics' flying quadcopter, was also brought along. While learning about Icarus, students learned about different materials, the importance of sensors, and got to see the display that the club's pilots use to fly the robot and see how it reacts in real time. The last addition to ITR's display was a portable 3D printer invented by ITR alumnus Paul Kim, where students learned about the future of prototyping and the cool things that can be done with manufacturing technology.

Alongside other presenters from University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Field Museum, members of Illinois Tech Robotics presented to hundreds of students at the event.

In addition to many outreach events like these and hundreds of hours of volunteer opportunities each year, students in Illinois Tech Robotics work on a variety of robot projects. Students interested in Illinois Tech Robotics can join the organization on HawkLink or email robotics.iit@gmail.com.

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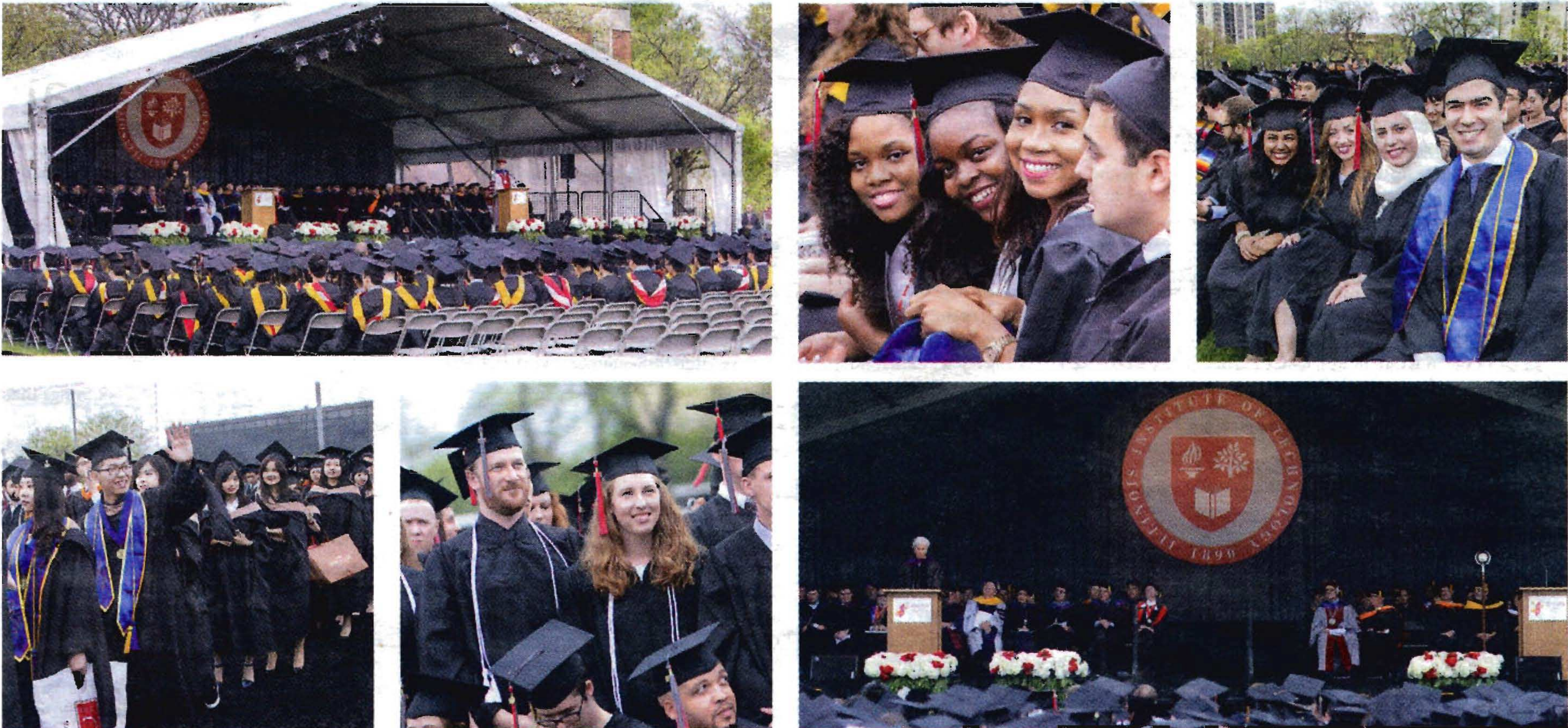


Send nominations (full name and email) to
iitnominations@gmail.com

Self nominations are encouraged!



IIT celebrates graduating students at Commencement



Photos by Bonnie Robinson and Michael Goss

IIT Interns perform science demonstrations at Museum of Science and Industry

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) is one of Chicago’s most-popular museums and tourist destinations. MSI holds over 35 thousand artifacts in its nearly 14 acres of interactive exhibit space located in Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood, making it the largest science museum in the western hemisphere.

For IIT students, though, it is more than just an attraction to visit on the weekend. Each year, the museum works toward achieving its mission to “inspire the inventive genius in everyone” with the help of several Illinois Tech students. For eight years, IIT students have worked as interns at MSI through a unique partnership shared between the university and the museum. Each semester, students apply for a volunteer opportunity at the museum. During both the fall and spring semesters, 12 student volunteers spend a few days volunteering at the museum where they learn science demonstrations and then present

them to the museum’s general audience. These volunteers receive close training and feedback from museum staff to help them grow their presentation skills. The topics that student volunteers present about during their volunteer time at the museum include sound, Newton’s Laws, and electricity and magnetism.

After completing a required minimum number of volunteer hours at the museum in either semester, students become eligible to also apply for a paid internship at MSI during the following summer. Last year’s eight summer interns reached over 30 thousand museum guests through their science demonstrations. Though that amount of human interaction might seem daunting to some, staff at the museum set interns up to succeed, providing extensive training in guest readiness, public speaking, and science literacy, as well as closely observing their presentations and providing constructive feedback.

This year’s summer internship group is well on their way to delivering programs to tens of thousands of guests once again at

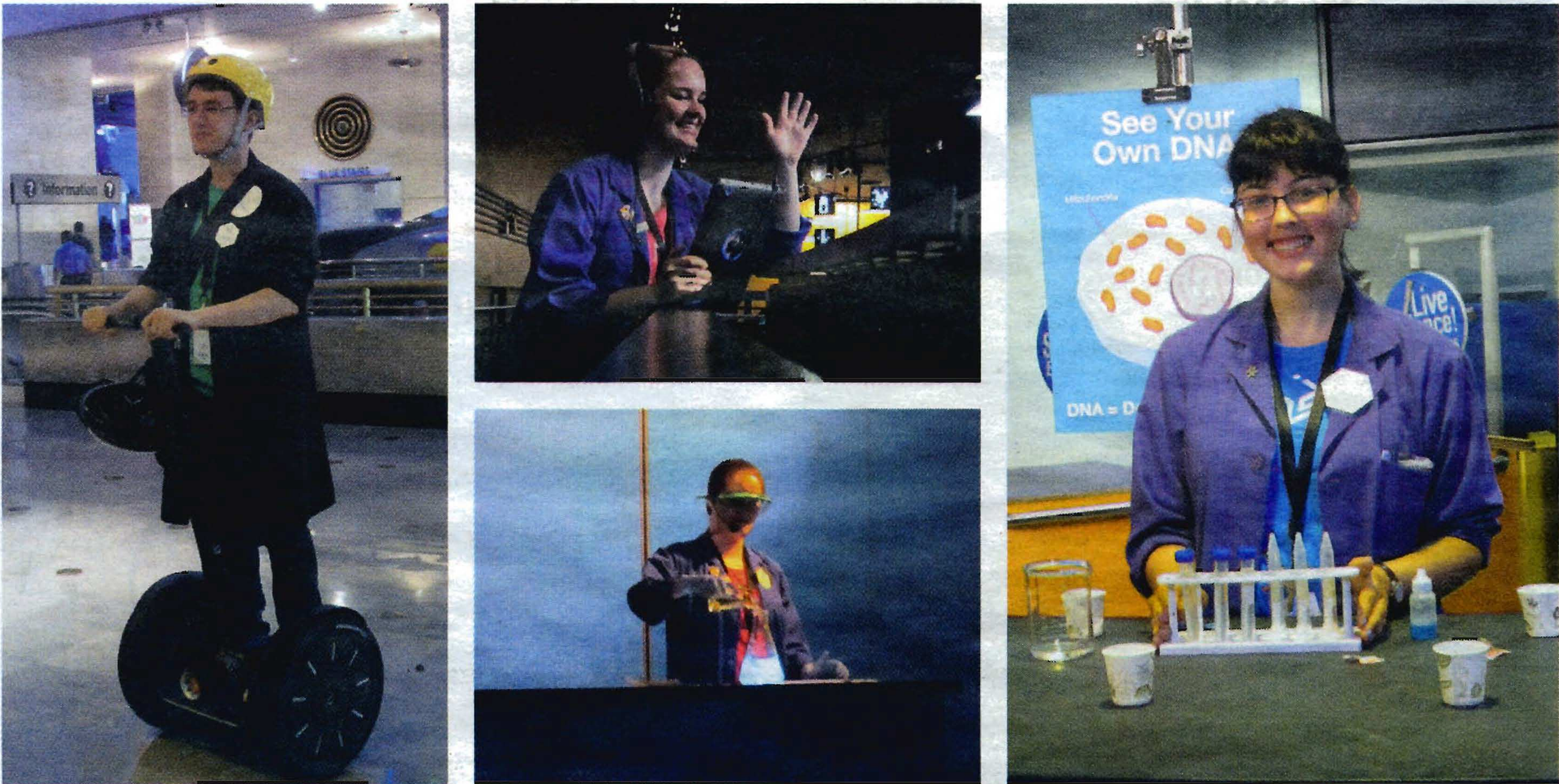
MSI. Seven interns were selected from the last academic year’s group of volunteers to continue as paid full-time interns at the museum throughout the summer. This summer, IIT interns are learning a variety of programs and demonstrations to deliver to guests during the museum’s busiest season of the year.

Demonstrations learned by summer interns include varieties of fast and small physical science experiments dubbed “pocket science,” a show where interns show guests how they can use household items to see their own DNA, a demonstration of how a Segway personal transporter works, a demonstration using a telepresence robot, and a chemistry show where guests learn about chemical reactions. Less than a month after the internship has begun, this year’s group of interns have already reached over 5,000 guests with their demonstrations.

Rubab Fatima and Kathleen Mullin, two current interns at the museum, say they’ve learned a lot so far. Fatima says that the communication skills she has gained are

valuable. “A lot of us are in STEM fields; it helps a lot to have a job where we’re not holed up in a lab somewhere; we have to communicate science with others,” she said. Mullin added, “We get to talk to people who don’t have the same background as us, which will be useful training for any future job.” Both interns also agree that they find their work enjoyable and fun, specifically noting that they enjoy seeing the look on guests’ faces when they discover new things.

The MSI-IIT volunteership and internship program is open to undergraduates of all majors at IIT. In order to apply for the program, students must attend one of several information sessions to be held during the first few weeks of each academic semester. Dates and times for information sessions will be announced on campus as well as in future issues of TechNews. Questions about the program can be directed to Lynne Meyer, IIT’s Director of the Office of Spiritual Life, Diversity, and Service, at lmeyer2@iit.edu.



Photos by Kori Bowns and Austin Gonzalez

Welcome to the next great chapter

Rahul Wadhvani
SGA PRESIDENT

Congratulations on being admitted to the Illinois Institute of Technology!

You are now a member of the community of highly talented "Scarlet Hawks" who brainstorm, collaborate, invent, and solve real-world problems to relax after a long and tiring day of being super awesome.

Make sure you enjoy the numerous unique experiences IIT has to offer. Your journey here will take you from city-wide scavenger hunts to multicultural dance parties

via detours through midnight breakfasts, student org events, late night pizza hangouts, and, a campus-wide favorite, the notorious 4 a.m. MSV fire alarm!

I also have the privilege to introduce to you the Student Government Association (SGA) at IIT. To be concise, SGA's goal is to fix problems and make aspects of IIT better than before. This is done through the process of initiating and completing projects. Some of the successful student-led SGA projects around campus are the existence of the One Stop office in MTCC, Galvin library being open 24 hours, five days a week, Keating Sports Center housing

multipurpose fitness and recreational rooms and much, much more! In addition to that, we are the bridge that connects students to the administration and the other way around. Allocation of the Student Activities Fund (SAF) is managed by SGA as well.

We consist of over 50 brilliant students from all the different backgrounds and majors IIT has to offer, which helps us achieve an accurate representation of our student population. You can be a part of SGA as well! Talk to a member, come to our meetings on Tuesday nights in MTCC, run to be a senator in September, visit our website,

and like us on Facebook. SGA has some of the major leadership opportunities IIT has to offer, and your experience with us is something you will reap the benefits of during the entirety of your time at IIT and even after.

Join us, be part of something magnificent, make a difference, have fun, and leave your mark on this little world of ours. Anyone and everyone is welcome.

Finally, welcome to the marvelous, unique and innovative world of Illinois Institute of Technology. I hope you have a fun and successful experience here.

Student Government Association: How you can make a difference

Subarno Saha
SGA VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

So what is up with all the hype about the Student Government Association (SGA)? What is it and why should you care? The Student Government Association is a large student-lead organization hell-bent on improving student life here at IIT. In the past, this organization has been involved in the restoration of the Bog, the creation of the One Stop Shop and the implementation of Google Apps. It is led in the next academic year by SGA President, Rahul Wadhvani, who is in charge of listening to student opinions and voicing them to the IIT President, Provost, and Board of Trustees. The SGA President then works side-by-side with the administration on projects to implement the changes the student body wishes for. Being the voice of the student body, the SGA President's opinion is taken into great consideration by the governing body of the institution when making big decisions.

Going deeper, SGA can be divided into several committees under the supervision of the Executive Vice President, Trevor Wasserzieher. These are the following:

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) - The Vice President of Academic Affairs, Viraj Shah, leads this committee. The AAC works towards making sure IIT students are getting the best academic experience. Past projects of this committee include having Galvin Library open 24 hours a day, five days a week, making library laptops available to students for longer hours, getting higher student participation in course reviews, and many others. The committee continues to work with the Academic Resource Center, the Career Center, and the Undergraduate Studies Council.

The Student Life Committee - Led by the Vice President of Student Life, Leo Hamze Sukkar, this committee works towards making campus life more vibrant, exciting and fun. In the recent past, this committee has been responsible for bringing workout equipment to McCormick Student Village, putting up mirrors in Keating Sports Center for a dance practice room, improving the quality of on-campus food, and improving student participation in sporting events. The committee is now working towards bringing students and staff together by having open forums with different departments so they can understand each other better.

The Communications Committee - Chaired by the Vice President of Communications, Subarno Saha, this committee is in charge of maintaining efficient communication within the IIT Community. This committee links SGA to the student body and the student body to IIT administration. The committee has been vital in getting the student body to participate in the campus-wide Student Speak Survey which collects student opinion on a wide range of topics. This year, the committee hopes to work with IIT's various media outlets (WIIT Radio, TechNews, etc.) in order to keep the student body up-to-date with IIT's news. Gina Qualter, SGA's Events Coordinator, will be working very closely with students and the committee to set up many fun events as well as service learning events for students to enjoy.

Judicial Board - Along with being the SGA body that brings down the hammer when the Student Senate does not perform up to the mark, the Judicial Board is in charge of making sure SGA elections are held fairly. Appeals for fund allocations from the Student Activities Fund are also adjudicated by the Judicial Board. It is led by the Chief Justice.

Finance Board - Jacob Aynessazian

is the Finance Board Chair. Finance Board is in charge of the distribution of the Student Activities Fund to student organizations.

Getting involved in any and all of the above committees or boards is very easy. As listed on the SGA website, found at sga.iit.edu, "Any student may join a senate committee in which students provide direct input on important issues. Students may run for an elected position with Senate Elections held in the fall and Executive Board elections held each spring. Students may also be appointed to Judicial Board or nominated for Finance Board. All of these positions provide excellent opportunities to make a real difference at IIT. SGA is looking for any motivated students who want to make an impact. No experience is required - just the desire to get involved and make a difference!"

Remember this: the most important part of the Student Government Association is YOU, the Student. Only you can bring about the change that you want to see in SGA! So, join us in helping create the most spirited, fun, educational campus in the world. Let's make IIT better!

Congratulations on your achievement! As you work on starting your career, let me help you find your next home. I look forward to talking with you!



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Join us in The Bog for some fun!

The Bog provides a fun environment for IIT Students, faculty, and staff. Visitors to The Bog can enjoy FREE bowling, pool, table tennis, or just grab a drink with friends. The Bog regularly hosts events such as magicians, live music, video game tournaments, karaoke, and a variety of other things! We hope to see you there!

Commuter Students

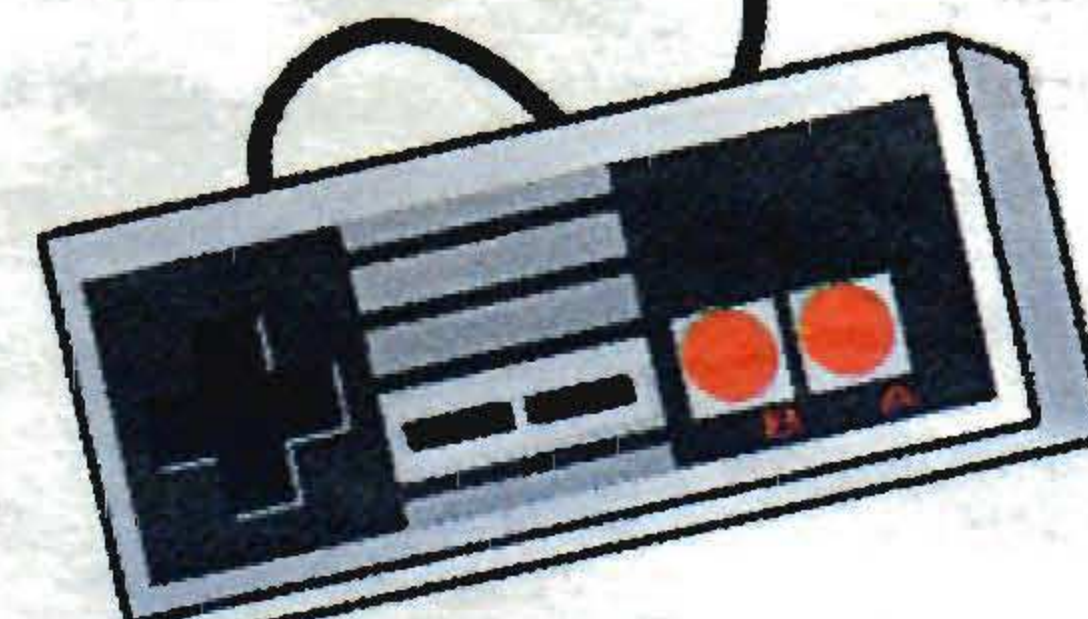
Are you a Commuter Student? If so, The Bog is the place to go during the day as well! Hang out, do homework, play videogames, or just relax and eat your lunch!

Hours

11 am - 6 pm: Monday - Wednesday

11 am - 1 am: Thursday & Friday

5 pm - 1 am: Saturdays from October to March



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Creating your own student organization

Zofie Mandelski & Subarno Saha

TECHNEWS WRITER & SGA VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

If you are looking to get involved in something you love while at IIT, there are over 100 student organizations to choose from. But if none of them pique your interest, you could create your own. To get started, find nine other people interested in the organization you wish to create, find a faculty advisor to help out, and get yourself to the Office of Campus Life (OCL) to get a few forms filled out. Next, you will have an opportunity to present your organization in front of the Student Government Association (SGA)'s Senate.

There are three major things to take note of to make a good case for your student organization: a specific plan for the future (especially budget and source of funds), enough initial student interest, and something that makes the organization unique and different

from existing student organizations on campus. These are things that are covered in the steps preceding a student organization's presentation to the SGA Senate, yet sometimes they are not clearly present in the organization's presentation.

An organization has five minutes to present their case to the senate and an additional two minutes, plus whatever extensions the senate motions for, to answer any questions the senators and other representatives have. This is not a very long time to present a full schedule of events the organization wishes to hold, so it is recommended that such an organization provide a sampling of the type of events it will hold. Planning for events also means organization staff should have a budget planned out for the semester. Keep in mind that they will expect the organization have a backup plan in case the money allocated from the Student Activities Fund (SAF) is less than

what was requested.

It is required for a student organization to have a minimum of ten interested members to get to senate. Yet when a student organization only has ten members, it raises the question of whether the organization will be sustainable. The expectation is that each organization has had at least one interest meeting, the number of people who show up to the meetings before the senate presentation is important to keep track of. If an organization can't get more than ten members before they are approved, how will they gain members in the future? It looks like the organization will die out after the founders leave. The immediate impact that a student organization will make is important, but the long-term ability of the organization to remain active and contribute to the campus in the years to come, is just as important.

Lastly, an organization should present what it is they will do that is unique to their

organization. Inclusivity of other organizations is great, but what can the new organization add to campus? If something is already being done by another organization or if the resources a new organization will have are already available, there is no reason for the senate to approve the new organization. Collaboration is great, but having multiple organizations doing the same thing is boring and wasteful. Emphasizing an organization's unique attributes is important.

While this might seem intense, it is a very rewarding process and it helps your student organization get prepared for whatever it intends to do and to make a positive impact on campus. OCL has a nice step-by-step guide to starting out in their Student Organization pages. If you're starting a new student organization and on the way to the senate, have a nice looking presentation, keep these points in mind, you'll do great. Best of luck!

ae@technewsiit.com

A&E

Avengers films lose some of their punch

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

Produced for the low, low price of 250 million dollars, *Avengers: Age of Ultron* has now grossed nearly 1.5 billion dollars worldwide. The newest installment in the Marvel franchise smashed box offices opening weekend garnering over 190 million dollars. At the end of the day, director Joss Whedon and producer Kevin Feige have shown once again they know how to make a film for the masses.

The masses, however, appear to want something even more massive, more immersive,

and more epic. The box office debut fell short of the precedent set by the first *Avengers* movie. The ratings on review site Rotten Tomatoes show an 18 point spread between the *Ultron* and his predecessor. At a lowly 74 percent, *Age of Ultron* could justifiably be passed up for *Mad Max: Fury Road* or *Spy*.

Reasons for this may be the villain. Tom Hiddleston's Loki was the greatest comic villain performance since Heath Ledger's Joker. The character was often described as the villain we love to hate and hate to love. In *Ultron*, viewers are met with Ultron: a bodiless AI similar to Jarvis who has taken control of one of

Tony Stark's robotic suits. The literal humanity of Loki may have added to the connection critics formed over an abstract idea such as Ultron. For better or for worse, *Age of Ultron* was packed to the rim with stuff, and not necessarily anything engaging or new. The movie follows a pattern of punch, talk, level a city and repeat. Perhaps after the expectations set by the first *Avengers* movie there is nowhere for *Age of Ultron* to go.

Personally, the greatest failure of *Age of Ultron* was the lack of fulfillment. Leaving the theatre feels satisfying. The movie is worth the 12 dollars, 50 cents, and three hours of your time. Yet there's nothing new.

The villain could've been a dread-inducing all-encompassing entity. The realization of a fear that one day our delicate electronic systems will stop or be turned against us. A fear of creating the artificial intelligence that is greater than its creator. This is what *Ultron* could have been. Instead, he finds a body and is defeated after the heroes save the world.

The first *Avengers* movie is a tough act to follow. Withholding any expectations going in, *Avengers: Age of Ultron* will prove a good time for any group. However, it's going to take some risks to amp up audiences to the level of excitement of days past.

WIIT's 'Unknown Talent'

Reno Waswil

TECHNEWS WRITER

Did you ever wonder where the greatest artists came from? Unlike the days of yore when the most talented were concentrated in ancient and fine lineages of knights and lords, so much of the most highly, now, so much of the most well-known and highly regarded artists, thinkers, and doers come from obscurity, and through hard work and determination, make something truly inspiring of themselves. With this in mind, Unknown Talent, the radio show broadcast from IIT's own station WIIT 88.9FM Chicago, your hosts Anna Banana Garcia and Reno Fera-Ducatt survey some of the best local talent and interview them about why they do what they do.

Both hosts being artistically minded themselves as well as holding ambitious aspirations for their goals in life, they try to ask the questions that they themselves have and attempt to document the stories of some brilliant minds. Guests have thus far included musicians, artists, photographers, entrepreneurs, but there is opportunity for so much more; so many more types of Talent to offer. So many questions to be asked, lessons to be learned, methods to be shared and compared, and inspiration to be made. Comedians, scientists, authors, journalists, thinkers, doers, there is value in every talent and ambition and Unknown Talent wants to bring it out.

Anna and Reno, through their casual yet in-depth interview style attempt to unlock the subtle and wonderful talent of all kinds of people. Every person has the opportunity to be a compelling story and every person has passions and talents and aspirations, and Unknown Talent attempts to be the medium that uncovers them and exemplify the unique and gifted personalities that lie at the heart of people you may have otherwise never heard from on such a personal level. A desire to inspire and motivate as well as inform and entertain lies at the heart of this show, and an investigation of the experiences that illuminate the necessity of dedication and creativity to advance in a very self-reliant range of disciplines turns into a compelling and unique character study of each of the guests as the discussion goes on.

Using the highly accessible and

democratic method of college radio and of podcasting, Unknown Talent highlights the subtle greatness of all sorts of people and celebrates their differences while still marveling at the similarities that set them apart. People of all different types can make it if they utilize their skills and talents in the right ways, and part of the reason this show exists is to see how every person makes their characters and their decisions and actions work for them and maybe give others ideas for how they want to conduct their own projects and further their talents.

As a radio show, and very active one at that with a close relationship with its fan base, Unknown Talent also will on occasion conduct free giveaways to listeners who are brave enough to call in and participate. With great and talented guests, enlightening discussions, humor, games, music, and so much more, there is truly something for everyone who wants to listen, and no reason you should not at least have a taste.

Going back to that relationship with the community of listeners and ambitious people in general, Anna and Reno are eager to get a taste of what IIT and the Chicagoland community, perhaps the entire world of talent, has to offer. That is why they are calling out to anyone who wants their stories or works out there to contact unknown.talent.525@gmail.com or through their Facebook at facebook.com/unknowntalentchicago to inquire about having an interview or simply putting themselves out there so Unknown Talent can include you and/or samples of your work as a segment on the show.

And then of course, if this article has reasonably piqued your interest and now you want to listen for yourself, you can tune in to WIIT 88.9FM Chicago every Monday from 4PM to 6PM (at least during the summer schedule, come the fall semester, times might be changed) on your old fashioned radio or via the TuneIn application you can download on your phone from your app store, or simply by going to radio.iit.edu and streaming the content live there. Not into the time constraints it seems like you are being forced into? Well, all the episodes are then released a week later in the iTunes store for free as a podcast if you search for Unknown Talent, so if you miss a show or can't listen live, you can still hear the episode and all it has to offer.

Free summer activities in Chicago

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

Now that summer is upon us, one wonders what is there to do besides sitting indoors and binge watching an entire Netflix series. Luckily for you, we're in one of the best cities in the U.S. and there are tons of free activities to do.

The Chicago Cultural center located on 77 E. Randolph Street has an assortment of free events that include film screenings, theater events, performances,



and seminars. The center also includes free tours which show off the two beautiful stained glass domes. Their website has more information about the daily events and shows.

If you're out on the Magnificent Mile and want to look at some great art, the Historic Water Tower place has a city gallery that showcases art exhibits from local artists and photographers. It is located on 806 N. Michigan and hours are from 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

If you don't mind spending times outdoors and indoors seeing plants and flowers, there are also free activities for you at the Garfield Park Conservatory located on 300 N. Central Park Ave. and the Lincoln Park Conservatory located on 2391 N. Stockton Drive. Both conservatories feature some of the most beautiful flowers and even rare plant species. Garfield Park features

half a dozen greenhouses and two large exhibition halls across 12 acres and boasts the fact that it is in the top five conservatories in the country. Lincoln Park conservatory contains four display houses which stay green all year long no matter the weather outside and is where the annual flower shows take place. These display houses include Palm House, Fern Room, Orchid House and Show House. Garfield Park Conservatory is open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

on Wednesdays. Lincoln Park Conservatory is open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

While catching up on those summer reading lists, make sure to check out the Newberry Library located on 60 W Walton Street or Harold Washington Library center on 400 S State Street. The former contains more than 1.5 million published works while the latter more than 13 million. The Newberry library features special exhibits and tours are available for free to the public 3 p.m. on Thursdays and at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Harold Washington Library also has a 9th floor Winter Garden that is the perfect location to relax and enjoy the scenery or a good book.

These are only a few of the great places Chicago offers, and, with a little research, you'll be on your way to finding tons of free things to do this summer in the great Windy City!

Photo courtesy of Clark Maxwell

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Obama Sweeps to Historic Victory

Nation Elects Its First African-American President Amid Record Turnout; Turmoil in Economy Dominates Voters' Concerns

By JONATHAN WEISMAN
AND ERIK MEYER

Obama

WASHINGTON—Sen. Barack