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ILLINOIS TECH

CAMPUS LIFE

Illinois Tech Robotics exhibits at French- American Science Festival

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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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