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# TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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## Dancing, casino games at RHA Boat Cruise

**Kayleigh Stevens**  
COPY EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) held their annual Boat Cruise on Lake Michigan this past Friday night into Saturday morning. Tickets went on sale last Monday morning at 12:30 p.m. in the Office of Campus Life (OCL.) The line grew quickly, and soon it was wrapped around the corner and onto the MTCC Bridge. No cash was accepted, only credit and debit cards. The line slugged along, and lasted for more than three hours. The tickets sold out within the day, and many people were disappointed. The week dragged on until finally, Friday came.

Friday night, the women got all dolled up and formally dressed, ready to look their best. The men tightened their ties and put on their suit jackets. Then, everyone attending met in Cohen Lounge in MSV. There were two times to board the shuttle to

get to the boat, at 10:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. As people boarded, excitement was high, and anticipation was climbing. The bus ride only took about 20 minutes, and the passengers finally disembarked onto the famous Navy Pier.

The boat was magnificent. The Odyssey, a Chi-Town favorite, sat waiting for the Illinois Tech passengers to board. As they waited in line once more, to turn in their original tickets for new, official ones, anticipation was extreme. Passengers over 21 were allowed to drink alcohol on the ship, and were differentiated by a white wristband they got from the crew after checking their IDs. The line was moving, and each group got to take their picture behind a branded life preserver.

Once on the boat, the atmosphere changed from anticipation to exhilaration. There were four floors of activities for the passengers to use. The first deck, the bottom of

the boat, was a casino-type feel, with blackjack, roulette, poker, and more. Each table had their own set of chips, which was distributed to the players. Each passenger was given 500 dollars worth of chips for the night. Each table had a helpful dealer who taught people how to play if they didn't. It was a light and fun atmosphere that emulated a casino feel, and fun times.

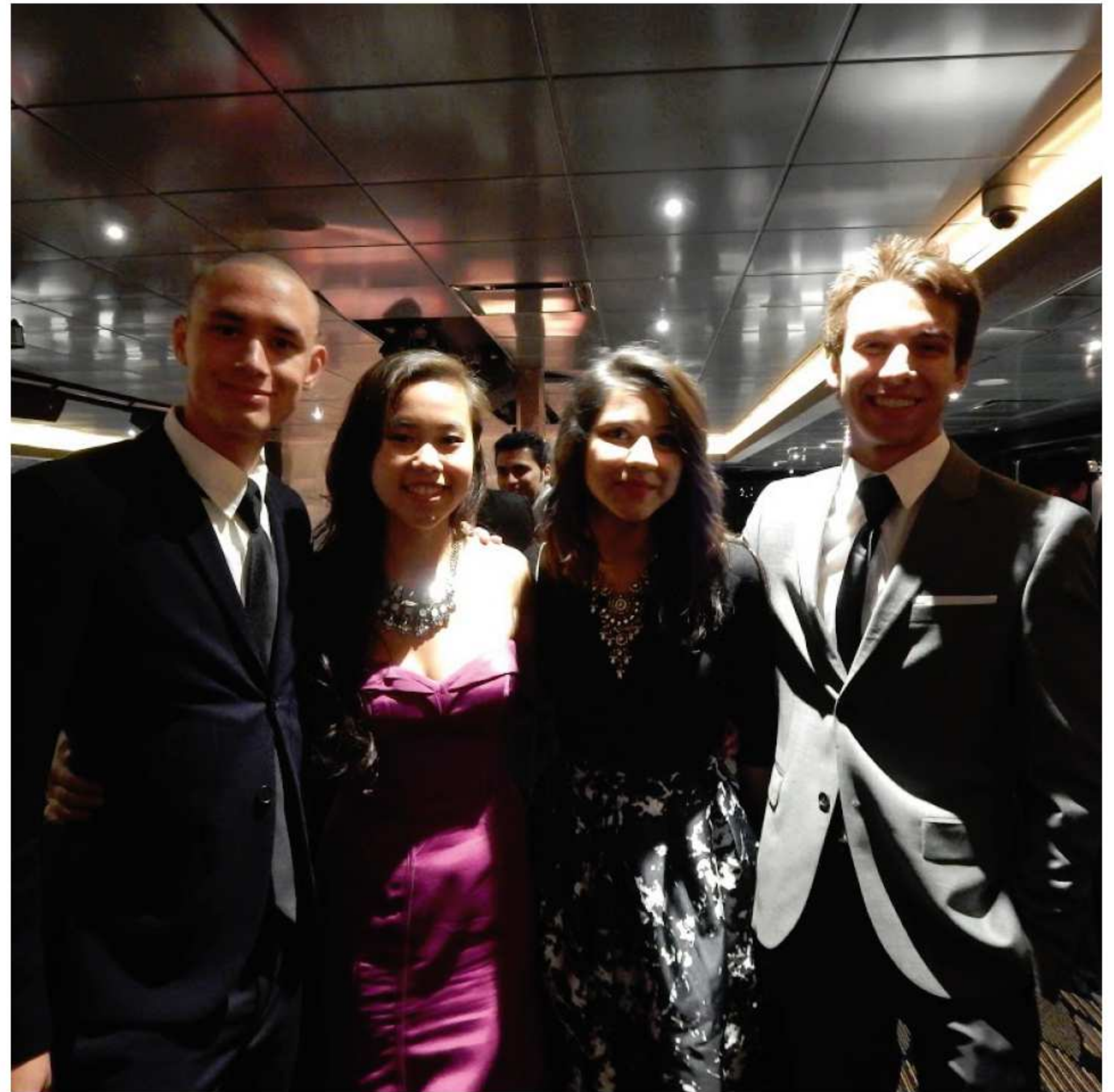
The second deck was a small dance floor with a full bar. The mixers were both amazing, and the lighting was moody and dim. This floor was mostly empty, and the music was more oldies—jazz or swing music. Not too many popular new hits were playing, but it was still a great atmosphere.

The third deck was the party deck. At the beginning of the cruise there was a buffet of finger foods including vegetarian spring rolls, meatballs, chicken fingers, potato wedges and more. There were also a slew of desserts including mini cheesecakes, brownies, and

fudge. There was also a full bar and a big dance floor able to hold every passenger. The lighting was bright, and the music was bouncing. New age hits blasted through the speakers and dancers enjoyed the rhythm of the boat along with the music. The atmosphere was high and jumping, and it was quite a lot of fun.

The fourth and top deck was a sky deck. The skyline looked beautiful with the city lights twinkling. It was chilly and the wind was blowing hard, but a few brave souls explored the top and were rewarded with the view. Romantic couples pictures were taken, and many shots of the tall buildings were captured. Though the boat never left the dock, the view was still stellar all night long.

The cruise was three hours of fun-filled times, with many options for everyone to enjoy. Though the ticket line was grueling and long, many thought it was well worth the wait.



Photos by Khaleela Zaman

## TechNews

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McCormick Tribune Campus Center  
Room 221  
3201 South State Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60616E-mail: editor@technewsit.com  
Website: http://www.technewsit.com

## TechNews STAFF

<b>Editor-in-Chief</b>	Kori Bowns
<b>Opinion Editor</b>	Austin Gonzalez
<b>IT Manager</b>	Kristal Copeland
<b>Copy Editors</b>	Kristal Copeland Kayleigh Stevens Anoop Sundararajan Annie Zorn
<b>Layout Editors</b>	Sijia Wu Xiaoyu Zhang Annie Zorn
<b>Distribution Manager</b>	Khaleela Zaman
<b>Financial Advisor</b>	Vickie Tolbert
<b>Faculty Advisor</b>	Gregory Pulliam

## 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 dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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## New students explore their new home

Kayleigh Stevens  
COPY EDITOR

I attended the "Fresh in the City" Scavenger hunt that the Leadership Academy and Office of Undergraduate Affairs held on Saturday, September 26. First-year students were invited to join a team at Morton Park, and then sent on a journey through the city to fulfill objectives for point values. The team with the most number of points at the end of the day won a prize.

The day started with first-years signing in at Morton Park and being assigned a team number. I was assigned to team number one, the light blue team. Each team had a Leadership Academy student, which were the team's supervisor and mentor throughout the day. There were 10 teams in total, with about three or four students each. The 10 teams then decided to merge into five, doubling the team size. My team was now six people from teams light gray and light blue. We named ourselves the Sullen Skies. Once teams were formed, the challenges began.

The first challenge was a 3-legged sack race. Team members paired up and each

member put on leg into the sack, creating a 3-legged race. My team came in last place (unfortunately) because I fell twice during the race (ouch). As soon as each team finished the sack race, they could begin the next challenge. The second challenge was a collection of mind games. There were seven in total, and each team had to complete four of them to move on. There was a range of challenges, from scrambled authors' names to Sudoku puzzles. Team Sullen Skies finished the mind games first, meaning we could choose where in the city we wanted to explore.

There were four places that were available, in different combinations. The four options were: the Lincoln Park Zoo, The Loop, Navy Pier, and Museum Campus. At each location, the teams had to sign in with one of the Leadership Academy students at the location. The teams then were to travel around the area they decided to visit, completing some challenges worth different point values. The teams then checked out from the Leadership Academy students, and moved on to the next area, and repeated the process.

The Sullen Skies—my team—decided to visit the Loop and the zoo. We had a

great start, collecting 85 points from the Loop area by singing IIT's Fight Song in front of the Opera House, posing in front Willis Tower's sign, visiting Union Station, and more. We then headed over to the Zoo, forgetting to sign out from the Leadership Academy students. This cost us our 85 points. The zoo was so far away that we ended up being 20 minutes late to check in, causing us to lose 20 more points, leaving us at a record -20 points. Once at the zoo, we decided to just enjoy the zoo instead of trying to rush around to gain points. We ended up visiting the Big Cats exhibit, and the small reptiles exhibit, and then headed back to campus.

At the end of the day, all of the teams gathered for a dinner of burgers and hot dogs, and the awarding of the top three teams with prizes. The prizes were a \$40 Visa gift card for 1st place, \$25 Visa gift card for 2nd place, and \$10 Visa gift card for 3rd place. My team ended up in last place, with -45 points.

Even though we didn't end up winning anything, I still had a great time exploring my new home city and made some great friends along the way.



Photo courtesy of Kayleigh Stevens

## CAMPUS

campus@technewsit.com

## SGA discusses campus safety, student gift at biweekly senate meeting

Genevive Hummel  
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Student Government Association meeting on September 30 covered a large variety of topics; from making new apps available to students to student gift ideas. All IIT, Shimer, and Vandercook students are encouraged to attend the biweekly SGA meetings and are invited to express their opinions concerning the happenings on and around campus. SGA meetings are also a great way to stay informed about changes taking place on campus.

One important issue that the SGA discussed this week was the possible implementation of a Raider/Rave Guardian app. This app is a safety app that can directly link students to public safety. Public safety is supportive of this app and students seem interested because the app will be available whenever a student has their phone, while the call boxes located around campus are only available in certain locations. There are still some details to be sorted out when it comes to implementing this app such as the radius the app will cover and the cost to the school. Additional information about the app is covered elsewhere in this issue. Senators will be on the bridge soon to provide more information about this app and to encourage students to sign a petition in support of bringing it to campus. Any students interested in making this happen should be sure to sign the petition and encourage others to do so as well.

The next big topic discussed at the

meeting was the student gift ideas. Right now the student gift committee is in the project planning phase. This means that they have come up with a few preliminary ideas that they will now advertise and survey students



Photo by Genevive Hummel

on. The first idea for this year's student gift is to add more charging stations, charging tables, or charging lockers around campus for student use. The locations have yet to be determined for any of these items. The charging tables would provide students with a place to work or hang out while charging their devices.

The charging lockers would be convenient if a student wanted to leave their phone charging while they were doing something else because students would be able to lock up their devices and leave them to charge without fear of having them stolen. The third idea that the committee is considering right now is the idea of renovating the furniture in the bog. The thought behind this idea is that the current bog furniture makes it hard to be social while sitting in the bar area because of the way the booths are set up. The next idea is to increase/renovate the outdoor seating and study spaces around campus. This project would aim to increase the outdoor seating options and renovate the current benches, grills, tables and canopies so that students could spend more time outside. The final idea is to set up a student textbook fund to raise money for low-income students. This project could help approximately 40 students and would provide money for the purchase of textbooks.

The meeting then continued on with regular business, with a short presentation from each of the vice presidents, followed by presentations by two new student organizations that were seeking approval to start up on campus. There were very few non members at this meeting and SGA would like to encourage all students to attend the biweekly meetings. Any student can attend the meetings and join the committees without needing to be a member of SGA.

## Undocumented Students and Allies seminar sheds light on Advanced Parole

**Abha Dalmia**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Undocumented Students and Allies (USA) is a student organization that seeks to spread awareness about the diversity of undocumented students and current immigration talk to the IIT community. It was founded in 2011 by Maria Gonzalez ('14, Sociology) and Daniel Garcia ('12, Material Science and Engineering) as a safe space on our campus for undocumented students to pursue an enriching education, regardless of their status. Four years later, the organization maintains this same mission by partnering with various IIT departments and Chicagoland organizations for programming and initiatives geared towards the needs of one of IIT's most underrepresented groups of students. Most notably, recent initiatives include their "Drop the I-Word" Campaign to have the entire IIT community pledge to use the word "undocumented" instead of xenophobic and legally-inaccurate terms such as "illegal" or "alien," and their annual Coming Out the Shadows spring semester event, during which members of the organization share their stories of self and demand IIT's departments be held accountable for actions unfavorable towards the community.

For those who are new to this concept, undocumented students are students who entered US without inspection or entered legally but overstayed their visa, remaining in the US without authorization. Most students who fall into this category were brought by their parents at a young age and have stayed here ever since. They have lived and attended school in the United States for most of their lives, but at present, lack a pathway to become permanent residents or citizens of the U.S.

The organization frequently organizes seminars to disseminate information about changes and opportunities within immigration procedures. One of their latest seminars took place on Wednesday, September 30th 2015 from 7-9 p.m. at the John T. Rettaliata Engineering Center Auditorium. This particular seminar was about an immigration document

called Advanced Parole (Form I-131) that allows students who have been approved for President Obama's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy to lawfully re-enter the US after traveling abroad, even though Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPO) at U.S. port-of-entries still hold ultimate discretion to allow re-entry. DACA is simply a policy that allows students who entered the US before June 2007 and before their 16th birthday to receive a 2-year work permit and stay exempt from deportation.

The seminar started with a sumptuous Mexican dinner that was catered from Carbon Mexican Grill. This was followed by an overview of Advance Parole benefits and the application process by the main guest speaker, Mony Ruiz-Velasco, an immigrant rights attorney and activist of over 18 years who owns her own law firm, Law Office of Mony Ruiz-Velasco, and represents immigrant families, LGBTQ immigrants, as well as other vulnerable populations, such as unaccompanied minors and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other crimes. In short, she explained that Advance Parole is available to students traveling for humanitarian, educational, or employment purposes. She covered the various documents required to apply for Advance Parole, the most important being a valid passport. She also explained on how to obtain the evidence for the purpose of travel and gave tips on how to prepare and what documents to keep before traveling abroad to ensure a smooth return. The attendees then discussed the certain special circumstances under which an application for Advance Parole might go unapproved, like a prior criminal record that may prove to be a barrier.

The highlight of the event was the first-hand experiences that students shared of their trips using Advance Parole to travel to countries outside the US. Cindy Agustin, Outreach Coordinator of the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), an organization that frequently partners with Undocumented Students and Allies to host DACA renewal information sessions on campus, was the first one

to share her experience of going back home to Mexico City for a week as part of a "Dreamers" conference, after a gap of 23 years! She covered how their group had to go through an additional inspection with rude and disrespectful CBPO officers and how they dealt with the discrimination that made them feel powerless. She explained to students the importance of informing and communicating with friends and family, even if through Facebook, that they had landed in the U.S. and were going to go through immigration, just in case there was some problem needing community organizing to solve. She also shared with students the repercussions she faced due to her mistake of leaving one of the two Advance Parole document copies she received at home and how she solved it.

Carlos Roa, a 5th year architecture student at IIT also shared his experience of traveling using Advance Parole. He shared how his entry back to Chicago had been relatively smooth despite having to go through the depressing and dreary walls of the secondary room for additional inspection. The last speaker of the night was Egle Malinauskaite, a 3rd year Biomedical Engineering/pre-med student and President of Undocumented students and Allies, who went to Ecuador this summer for community service with IIT's chapter of MEDLIFE (Medicine, Education and Development for Low-Income Families Everywhere). She reflected on how she felt thankful for the life-changing experience, but at the same time upset on how she had been given preferential treatment through immigration just because of the color of her skin. She believes that being an undocumented student should not stop anyone from travelling and missing out on incredible experiences similar to the one she had. When asked about the reason behind conducting a seminar on advanced Parole, Malinauskaite said that "my own Advanced Parole experience instilled a duty in me to inspire others to travel and having the support of the Study Abroad's office is a crucial step in making sure students feel comfortable". Any undocumented student at IIT traveling with Advance Parole

can rest assured they will get full support from Undocumented Students and Allies, especially should they face any trouble re-entering.

The sharing of personal experiences helped to familiarize students who might be traveling with Advanced Parole of the possible scenarios they might face when re-entering and how to overcome them by advocating for oneself, as well as reaching out to the community for support. In addition, anyone who has encountered or heard of discriminatory treatment by CBPO when using Advanced Parole can submit a summary to a case example database created by NIJC, United We Dream (UWD), and Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), ([https://ilrc.formstack.com/forms/ced\\_cbp](https://ilrc.formstack.com/forms/ced_cbp)), thus advocating for better treatment of Advanced Parole recipients.

Since traveling abroad as an undocumented student is a very practical opportunity, the session attendees were very involved and asked great questions for detail clarification at the end of every speaker's presentation. When Malinauskaite was asked what could have been improved, she responded that had they more time, the organization would love to put together and share with attendees some of the international opportunities that students can take advantage of. However now she will make sure that information is disseminated with the support of the Study Abroad Office. She also expressed her appreciation that Elizabeth Hall, Coordinator of Study Abroad, took the time out to attend and learn about the Advanced Parole process, and even expressed interest in partnering with USA for developing resources to help undocumented students find opportunities abroad based on their personal interests.

At the end of the seminar, everyone was pleased with the turnout at the event and in Malinauskaite's own words, the one thing she hopes people took back is that "Sure, applying for Advance Parole presents a risk, but it is one of the most worthwhile and life-affirming risks one can take as a student, especially when coupled with all the extracurricular, educational, and career opportunities IIT has to offer."

## Petition to seek inclusion of Rave Guardian app in IIT's safety strategy

**Reno Waswil**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Safety is obviously a huge concern on this and all other college campuses. Our Public Safety does what they can, but many times it is difficult to get in contact with them and in certain situations, it may be inconvenient or even impossible to. That is why better and more assured methods of communication between and among students, faculty and staff, as well as campus and city emergency responders are always welcome.

One option that Student Government Association (SGA) President Rahul V. Wadhvani sees as a potentially immensely beneficial resource is the Rave Guardian mobile safety application, which is a method currently in use at over 100 colleges in the country, including the University of California Los

Angeles, Dartmouth College, and the University of Tennessee.

Rave Guardian is powered by a national safety database called Smart911. Information from this database is displayed to Campus Safety as well as to Smart911 enabled 911 centers when you contact them. This information can include family member contact information, photos, medical conditions, disabilities, addresses, even pets, and anything that a user feels like it would be important for someone to know about them in the case of an emergency.

The app is free to download, and will allow you to connect directly with 911, police, emergency responders, or "Personal Guardians." Personal Guardians can be trusted friends and family as well as campus safety officials that users can interact with through the number of features that the application allows.

One of these features is called a "Safety Timer." This is a timer that users can set when they plan on going away for set periods of time. If the timer expires without the being deactivated, then the app will notify the Personal Guardians to check up on them.

Another feature of the app is that it allows for "Tip Texting," through which users can send anonymous, two-way text and image tips to Campus Security in the case that they see something suspicious.

Rave Guardian's panic button allows students to contact 911 personnel and allows campus safety to immediately see their GPS location and their Smart911 data for rapid response to emergency situations. This app connects directly to 911 with a voice call, the caller of which will be clearly identified. The GPS location available will also include schematics of the buildings and the layout of the campus to

help safety responders locate the caller in need.

There are most certainly benefits to the partnership with the school, including the previously stated connection directly to campus safety as well as more integrated schematics of buildings and a wider base of users to increase the security of the greater campus community. Also, student information provided by the school, such as class schedules and family contacts, which will only be available when students establish that they are in an emergency, will be more readily available to responders via the school's student information system.

In the next few weeks, SGA will be advertising and petitioning for the inclusion of the app as part of IIT's safety program. There will be advertisements along the MTCC Bridge and on social media and SGAs other internet platforms.

## Galvin Library partners with Shimer College for Banned Books Week celebratory read out

**Reno Waswil**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Banned Books weeks, as the American Library Association's (ALA) website reads, is meant to "highlight the value of free and open access to information" by celebrating books that have historically been challenged, banned, or kept from the general public for some reason or another. It is typically held the last week of September, and libraries across the country celebrate this week with events that criticize acts of censorship and promote open publication for all literary works.

Last Thursday, IIT's Galvin Library teamed up with Shimer College for a banned book read out, located in the Upper Level, Northeast Corner of Galvin.

Students (mostly Shimer students) and library staff gave short readings of the sorts of works that were censored, banned, or otherwise kept from the public eye.

There was no standard procedure for those that were performing readings that night, but the precedent that was set early on was that each would give a little background on the story, what category of censorship it fell into, and why they chose it.

The titles that were read include the poem by Nikki Giovanni from her book "Black feeling, Black talk, Black judgment" entitled "Nikki-Rosa," a passage from "A Past Revisited" by Filipino Historian Renato Constantino, an expert from Chicana/Feminist Theorist Gloria Anzaldúa's semi-autobiographical work "Borderlands," from a chapter entitled "How to Tame a Wild Tongue," and an undelivered speech written by Indian politician B. R. Ambedkar called "Annihilation of Caste."

One of more interesting readings was by a library staff member about a paper entitled "An elastic tube theory of pulse transmission and oscillatory flow in mammalian arteries" by John R. Womersley. The audience was

taken through a trip where the reader asked the audience to imagine themselves as mathematicians on a hunt to find this paper that has been referenced in a number of other works written for an audience of physicians. This was document, as it turns out, was subjected to limited distribution, which means that though it is unclassified as far as scientific papers are concerned, the government can keep it from being openly distributed. Luckily, due to efforts made by the library to the Department of Defense, they were able to get the study digitized, and a digitization of Galvin's own copy is now available on their website. This presentation was concluded with a passage from the abstract of this paper.

The final three readings were from an Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir called "Fun House," Vladimir Nabokov's famously provocative novel "Invitation of a Lullaby," and a passage from The Quran, which emphasized the tolerant aspects of such a historically censored work.

The ending remarks included ruminations about a controversy over this year's Banned Books Week bookmark, which was scattered atop the tables around Galvin. The first draft displayed a woman's eyes peeking through a space on the bookmark, one who just so happens to be of Italian ethnicity, looked very much like a woman's eyes peering through a Hijab. Not wanting to give the wrong impression, the woman's eyes were removed for a more plain design. This instance certainly offered an interesting and ironic perspective of what is a sort of censorship in media.

The totality of the event was recorded for use by Shimer College for the promotion of the event, and because of that, all non-Shimer Students who participated had to sign releases to be in their video. Hopefully, these readings will be made available at some time soon through the Shimer website for all those that couldn't be there.

# Hawks Coffeehouse welcomes Katie Wirsing for first installment of Pancakes and Poetry

**Reno Waswil**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

The term "spoken-word poetry" perhaps conjures a particular sort of imagery. Though the imagination may leap to a middle school poetry slam when encountered with the idea, in practice, a spectator may make the closer association to the stylings of a standup-comedian who is less, for lack of a better description, desperate for laughs.

The students at IIT had the great pleasure to see such stylings at last week's installment of the biweekly event Hawks Coffeehouse, which takes place at the MTCC Welcome Center on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Katie Wirsing, a past performer at IIT, gave an enthusiastic demonstration of sincere storytelling and fascinating life experiences as the sunset was blanketed in dark night and those in attendance surveyed the artistic culinary delicacies on offer.

This particular Hawks Coffeehouse was a special occasion, being part of a series of Union Board events known as "Pancakes and Poetry," where spoken word artists perform to the keen gazes of the pacified audience busy munching on pancakes and sipping coffee. Wirsing was definitely a professional, and her

comfort on and command of the stage were undeniable. It did not go unnoticed either, as this show boasted an attendance of over 50 people, all crammed into the Welcome Center.

This was the third Hawks Coffeehouse since the start of the semester in August. The past two took place in the Pritzker Club, located right next to the Welcome Center, as the model of the addition to the campus was still on display and blocking the area where the artists would be performing. Due to the inconvenience of the object in that location to events such as the coffeehouse as well as to the numerous other ceremonies and speeches happening that were planning on using the area, the model was finally moved to the space in front of the television between the Pritzker Club and the post office.

This performance was definitely more welcoming though. Dannielle Boer, a past programmer of the event, complimented the publicity of this event. Even as of the day of and subsequent days after the event, the background image of the Illinois Institute of Technology: Admitted Undergraduate Facebook group was its advertisement poster.

When the hour hit, Wirsing held off her show for a few minutes so that the long line

at the catering table could have time to shed down as people settled in. That point didn't seem to come until all the pancakes were gone and more and more people seemed to be shuffling in at a constant rate, and so, about ten minutes past the hour, it was decided that she might as well start her show.

The pancakes lasted until around 7:20 p.m., and the end of the last drops of the coffee was not that far off, but there remained plenty of chocolate and butterscotch chips for those that needed to indulge during the show.

Wirsing's performance revealed much about her personal life, such as her dog, Lentil, who she takes with her to her many destinations as a professional performance artist who is rarely home, carrying her on her person even in the plane. In fact, she was waiting, as Wirsing spoke, out in her rental car in the parking lot. This didn't bother Lentil much though, and being the kind of dog she was, she didn't care in the slightest and just slept through.

Wirsing also spoke a great deal about her high school experience, her being the only out lesbian in the school. This meant she had somewhat of a large impact on her fellow classmates when her reunion came around, to

the point that they referred to her at her there as their "resident lesbian celebrity." She also talked about her grandfather's death and her grandmother's disapproval of just about everything she had done in her life, and she spoke about all of this with such touching emotion and yet so much positive energy.

It was difficult to distinguish between what was prepared material, her actual poetry, and what was just off-the-cuff, at least until quite a ways through each of the poems, when a certain rhythm and presentation style could be detected.

At the end, the programmer Reno Pera-Ducatt concluded with the traditional questions to the audience about the performance, about the programming organization Union Board (UB), and about various other events happening around the school. He also announced the next date and artist of Coffeehouse to be October 13, the day after the Fall Break Monday off of school, and with Nashville based singer-songwriter Ella Mae Bowen. Hopefully, everyone who missed the pancakes at Wirsing's show will come early enough to get whatever sweet and seasonal treat (apple cider maybe) is decided on at this Hawks Coffeehouse.

# Alternative Spring Break seeks support

**Khaleela Zaman**  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

IIT's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) student organization is ready and raring to go! With the team finally put together, fundraisers are about to begin and applications for staff members for the trip are open. ASB focuses on service learning and team building through team meetings, numerous fundraisers, and service events, all culminating with a trip over spring break to a Habitat for Humanity site somewhere in the United States. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that aims to provide a hand up, not a handout, to those in need of a better home. The Alternative Spring Break team will be working alongside other Habitat for Humanity volunteers, and

possibly even the future homeowner throughout the week of spring break. The experience is something students and staff members who accompany the team never forget.

As their first fundraiser of the school year, ASB is hosting a tip matching night at the local sports restaurant, Rocky's, on 31st and Wells, just one block across the Dan Ryan expressway. Take your friends and walk over to Rocky's on Thursday, October 8, anytime between 7 p.m. and 2 a.m. Make sure to mention that you are there to support IIT ASB, and by all means, tip well, since Rocky's will match all the tips received for ASB that night.

The IIT community will also see the beautiful faces of the ASB 2015-16 team at Family Weekend's Pumpkin Launch and Sun-

day Brunch, on Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18, respectively. Stop by the ASB table during these events to pick up a snazzy souvenir, designed and laser cut by the creative and handy members of the team, in exchange for just a small donation. That following Monday, October 19, ASB will also have a table at Taste of IIT, full of delicious desserts inspired by the Southern hospitality the 2014-15 ASB team experienced first-hand during their spring break trip to Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Whether you are on the team, have not made it on the team yet, were on a previous ASB team, or if you just want to help, ASB would greatly appreciate any help you can provide.

If you are a faculty or staff member of the institution and are particularly inter-

ested in the mission of ASB, please apply to become a faculty or staff member of the team.

Feel free to check out the ASB page on HawkLink at <https://iit.collegiatelink.net/organization/asb>, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/asbiit>. The application is scheduled to close on Tuesday, October 20, at 11:59 p.m. More information about applying can be found on IIT Today, or feel free to email [asb.iit@gmail.com](mailto:asb.iit@gmail.com).

ASB looks forward to reading all your applications, and is extremely grateful for everyone's support. The ASB team would not be able to make a difference in this world without the help of IIT students, faculty, staff, and community.

# RHA holds 'Sex Games' event to inform students

**Kayleigh Stevens**  
COPY EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) held the "Sex Games," this past Saturday night, at 7 p.m. in McCormick Lounge in MSV. The event was held to inform the student body about sexual topics of conversation including sexuality, STD awareness, consent, and more. Advertising had gone on for a while in the window of RHA's office, and anticipation was high and curiosity was arisen.

Many people gathered, their curiosity rising high. There were teams of three or four people split up, and each team had to come up with a name. Most teams went with sexual connotations for their name, some examples being Eggplant Emoji, Stiff, and

Banana. Each team was then sent to one of the four activities.

The first activity was the Sexy Commercials. There was a bag with sexual objects in them ranging from dildos to female condoms. Each team selected one object from the bag, and then had six minutes to create a commercial for that object. The commercials were graded on hilarity, content, and realism. Most were hilariously funny, and some were downright out of this world.

The next activity was a Jeopardy-style challenge, where two teams faced off in knowledge-based competition. There were six categories including "STDs and me," "IIT's got it," and "Sexuality." Each team won or lost points based on correct or incorrect answers and the top three teams with the highest points

were announced at the end of the competition.

The third activity was the Condom Station. This station had a fake penis on which teams selected one person to place a condom properly onto. If the condom was properly placed, the team would win one point. If it was rather quick, they gained two points. After this challenge was over, part two of the Condom Station was taking a quiz on the history of condoms and random condom facts. There were three levels of difficulty on the test, and seven questions. Each level had a different point value, and the points were totaled at the end.

Next was the Genderbread Man. This challenge was focused on sexuality and differences in views. It was a challenge like pin the tail on the donkey, where there was a

spectrum of femininity versus masculinity. The team was given a term or phrase relating to sexuality, and the team had to decide where to stick the genderbread man on the spectrum.

The final challenge was optional, and quite awkward. In this challenge, the teams chose one member to go in front of everyone and make the noises of a fake orgasm. Each representation was judged on funniness, realistic values and crowd applause. Points were gained, but they were only as a boost and the challenge was optional.

This program was helpful in informing students about sexuality and sexual tendencies. Students left with more knowledge about STDs, sexuality, and more.

# 'Vandercook Live!' large ensemble concert held in Herman Hall



Photos by Reno Waswil

## 33rd Street Productions performs 'Standing On Ceremony'

**John Ramirez**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

33rd Street Productions put on their second play of the semester on September 25, "Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays," featuring nine plays highlighting the lives of LGBT couples. These plays showcased love, loss, struggle, with some stories even being comedic. Some highlights of the night included: "On Facebook," "Strange Fruit," and "The Gay Agenda."

"On Facebook" dealt with the well-known Facebook arguments many of us have either witnessed or been a part of ourselves. Displayed in an educational but funny way, it helped people understand what the LGBT community can go through on a daily basis.

"Strange Fruit" focused on a happy soon-to-be-married gay couple named Tom & Jerry; they took a trip to California in order to make it official. In this story of love and loss, it explained that they made the trip and got married only to have it end abruptly when Jerry was beat to death by three men. It took us on an emotional ride while also teaching us that LGBT couples are just like regular couples. They are dorky, cheesy, and in love, but face the extra struggles of dealing with dissenters to their love.

Finally, we had "The Gay Agenda," which focused on the far too common idea that many in the LGBT community have some sort of agenda. We learn about Mary Abigail who has what she calls a "gay voice" in her head, making her believe that her new neighbors are trying to turn her husband and son gay. It takes a comical tone and left the audience laughing, while leaving an impression on them as well.

When asked about the numerous short plays, the crowd said it was well-directed and fun to watch. Some also noted that a few plays seemed too real, and that it was scary how accurate they were. Raj Zaveri was definitely one of the big players of the night, with his eulogy in "London Mosquitos" leaving a powerful impression on many in the audience.

Luke Moyta, the director, stated, "This year's production of 'Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays' was a huge success. We had a large turnout, nice weather, and welcome support from students, faculty, and staff. The entire cast worked very hard to put the production together in three short weeks, and their hard work and dedication showed in their performance. In light of the recent SCOTUS decision, I was even more thrilled to put on this show. Whether or not those in attendance supported the decision or not, everyone agreed that the production brought up some valuable issues that some LGBTQ+ peoples face and others that they will continue to face in the years to come. I would like to thank all members of 33rd Street Productions, Alien Sound & Lighting, and everyone else who helped to put this show together!"

Be sure to keep an eye out for 33rd's future plays. The group's next play will be "Tales of Torture, Mystery, and The Macabre," happening on October 17.

## Alpha Sigma Alpha holds lip sync fundraiser, raises over \$500

**Annie Zorn**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

"Never Gonna Give You Up" and "Bye Bye Bye" could be heard resounding through the quad on Sunday afternoon for Alpha Sigma Alpha's annual fundraiser "So You Think You Can Sync." Winners of the competition were determined by the amount of audience donations they received after performing their lip-sync on ASA's porch. The event was emceed by ASA member Gold Azad. A total of \$565.18 was raised to benefit the S. June Smith Center, an organization that helps children with physical disabilities and developmental needs, according to their website.

The first place winners from the Skulls fraternity called themselves -Sync and

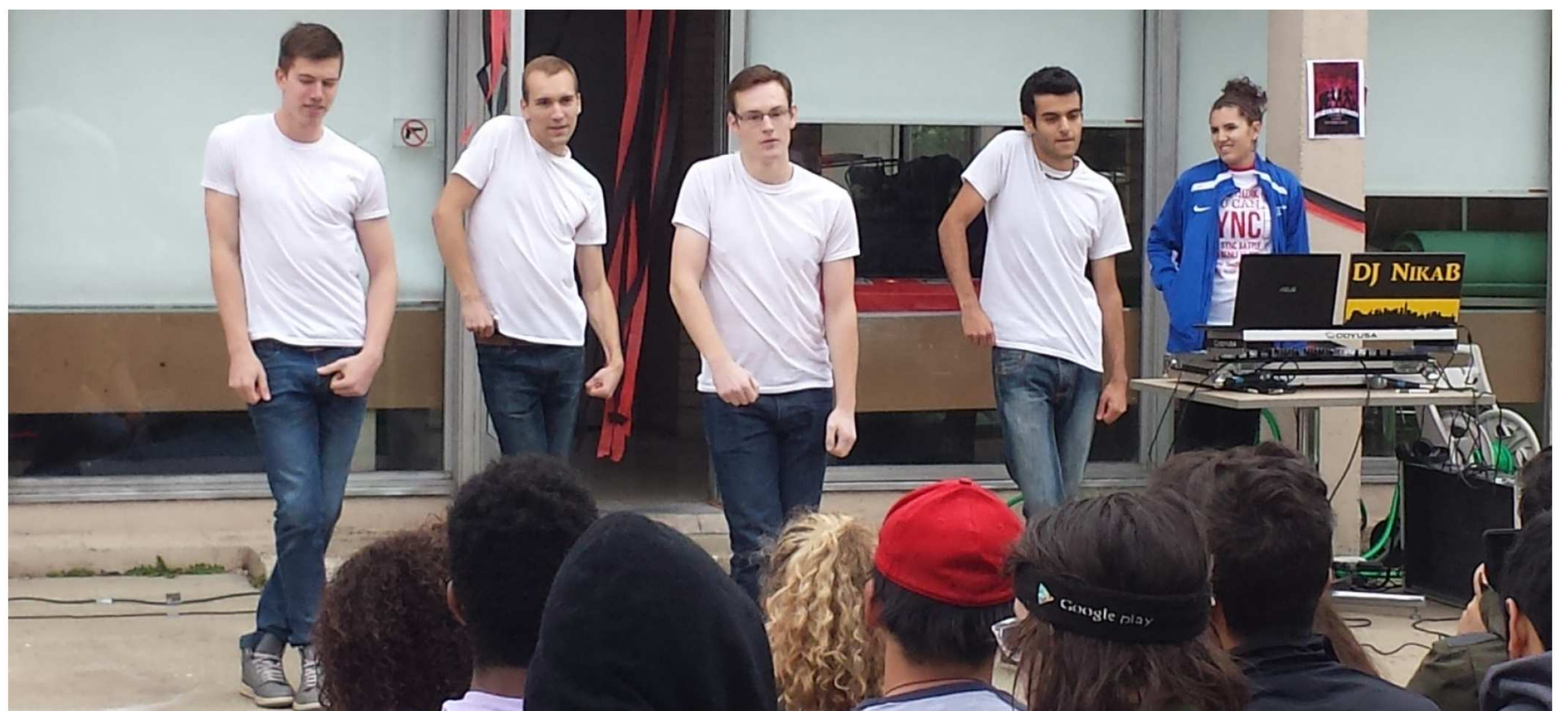
performed a choreographed routine to the 90's classic "Bye Bye Bye" by 'N Sync. They raised a total of \$232.34. Triangle's DaRude Sandstorm sang "Never Gonna Give You Up" and came in second place with \$179.28 donated. In third place with \$72.45, Kamdars from Pi Kappa Phi performed "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Marvin Gaye. The first place prize was a trophy and the second and third place prizes were medals with microphones on them.

The names of the other acts were Lady Nana, Beyonce ft. John Cena, Delts.exe and Cole Eisenberg. Eisenberg had a memorable performance in yellow underwear with monopoly money flying out of his sock. As he sat on top of his friend the music "conveniently" stopped. Delts.exe performed a medley

of songs including songs by the Weeknd and iHeart Memphis. During breaks in the performances, the audience was free to get on stage, dance, and request songs.

In past years, the fundraiser was called "Queen of the Quad" and featured members of the fraternities in drag with various acts such as singing, a talent portion, and questions. They decided to change the fundraiser this year to make it more gender inclusive. With the change there was some concern that the event would not be as well attended, but there was still a good amount of people.

The event raised a substantial amount of money, breaking their goal of \$500, and Alpha Sigma Alpha is hopeful that the event will raise even more in the future.



Photos by Kayleigh Stevens

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## Neuroscience researchers present at BRAIN Initiative conference

**Anoopa Sundararajan**  
COPY EDITOR

The Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative is one of the latest projects funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH). The human brain is the most complex known structure in our universe, making the NIH's funding essential to neuroscience research, which aims to better our understanding of the way it works. In order to fully comprehend and subsequently treat neurological and psychological disorders like Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, bipolar disorder, epilepsy, autism, and others, we need to first map the connections the human brain makes and the patterns and structures that can be inferred from those connections.

The Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C2ST), in collaboration with the Argonne National Laboratory and Chicago Society for Neuroscience hosted an event titled, "What is the BRAIN Initiative?" at Northwestern University's campus in downtown Chicago on Thursday, October 1. The purpose of the event, as stated in the program, was to "Help bring this research initiative into the public eye and raise awareness of this vital research." The three speakers who presented at the program were Dr. John Maunsell, Dr. Bobby Kasthuri and Dr. Tom Macek. Maunsell is the Director of the Grossman Institute for Neuroscience, Quantitative Biology, and Human Behavior at the University of Chicago and serves as the Al-

fred D Lasker Professor of Neurobiology. Kasthuri is a Neuroscience Researcher at Argonne National Laboratory and is also an assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology at the University of Chicago. Macek, on the other hand, is a clinical neuroscientist. He is a Scientific Director of Clinical Sciences CNS at Takeda Development Center Americas. The moderator for the evening was Norm Peterson, who serves as the Director of Government Relations at Argonne National Laboratory.

In the first talk, Maunsell provided an introductory overview of the functioning of the brain and stressed on the importance of understanding it on a much deeper level to delve into solving the neurological disorders that plague several million Americans and even more globally every year. In keeping with the evening's theme of providing a clearer understanding of the BRAIN Initiative, Maunsell went on to explain why this research is important now, adding that the overwhelming increase in technological advancements has made scientists and researchers feel like they can overpower a number of the challenges that they would have faced just a few years or decades ago. He also provided a set of three goals for the initiative: obtaining a parts list for the brain, obtaining wiring diagrams of the brain, and understanding the links between brain and behavior. As he ended his talk, Maunsell stated that although the BRAIN Initiative has been compared to revolutionary scientific projects like the Human Genome Project, the difference is that mapping the brain is a task without

a clear-cut end goal because the discoveries are endless and new findings arise continuously.

Maunsell's talk led into Dr. Bobby Kasthuri's talk, which was more specific to the research he does at his lab. Kasthuri captivated his audience from the beginning by illustrating that even though our brain controls our five senses, we almost never use all five senses to acquire a deeper understanding of the brain. He said that the way he sees it, part of the BRAIN Initiative's mission is "to give us new ways to visualize the brain." In the Kasthuri lab, the biggest current challenge is in regards to the amount of data storage space that is required to interpret the connections that are being observed in the brain. Even storing the data from connections observed in a fraction of a mouse's brain would take more space than is feasible. Kasthuri expressed hope that diverse fields like data science and neuroscience will be able to collaborate more closely in the coming years, so that efficient methods can be procured to analyze the data and eventually make significant progress towards mapping the human brain and understanding the way it functions. Kasthuri ended with one of his favorite quotes by John F. Kennedy: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard; because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win..." using it as inspiration in his own work.

Dr. Tom Macek has been working with the pharmaceutical industry for over a decade now to develop new medications for the treatment of neurological and psychological disorders. He described three phases in the process of developing these medications—the first is to develop a more comprehensive understanding of neuropsychiatric illnesses, the second is to develop animal models for the drugs, and the third is to obtain better biomarkers in drug development. The latter half of his talk was spent putting their NIH funding in perspective in terms of six-packs of beer. He compared government funding on this project and others to the number of six-packs and amount of money each would cost based on a roughly chosen estimate of the number of American adults. His overall data was extensive, but the point was that this NIH grant is essential to furthering neuroscience and much more needs to be done to truly comprehend the functioning of the human brain before neurological and psychological diseases can be accurately treated.

The talks were followed by a Q&A session with questions from the audience. The event drew a diverse crowd ranging from college students to retired teachers, scientists, and science enthusiasts. One of the most successful aspects of the event was that it delivered to its target audience by not being too technical in terms of scientific language and translating instead to layman's terms that every member in the audience could likely relate to.

## Otherworldly Light Show at Garfield Park Conservatory

**Anoopa Sundararajan**  
COPY EDITOR

Within the next year, if you find yourself with a few hours to spare, going to The Otherworldly Light Show at Garfield Park Conservatory is a great way to spend that time. If you are extremely busy and the semester is stressing you out, the conservatory is still an excellent place to unwind for a few hours and recharge yourself. The venue is only a two-minute walk from the Conservatory-Central Park Drive stop on the CTA's Green Line. "Solarise: a sea of all colors" is a location-specific special exhibit created by Luftwerk, comprised of Chicago artists Petra Bachmaier and Sean

Gallero and is the cause of the aptly named "otherworldly lights" that have taken over the Conservatory.

If you have never been to the Garfield Park Conservatory before, it is likely that you will be, as many were, awestruck by the seemingly endless variety of the exhibits. The whole space is separated into interconnected rooms so that each room houses a unique collection of plants, trees, flowers and/or fruits. Luftwerk has used the exhibits as inspiration to create a total of five installations, each exploring intriguing ways to experience light, color and nature. Even if you do not particularly enjoy or appreciate nature, the atmosphere in the Conservatory is enough to captivate you.

One of the best things about the Conservatory is its accommodation for people of all ages. Some exhibits have play areas for kids, others have a larger concentration of historical facts that accompany the displays and some, especially the new installations, are equally intriguing to children and adults alike. Throughout the Conservatory, there are conveniently placed benches that enable guests to sit down, relax and appreciate the extraordinary world around them. Few public spaces have the ability to engage guests of all ages and demographics equally but the Conservatory accomplishes this almost effortlessly.

The special exhibits opened on September 23, 2015 and will be on display until

September 22, 2016, but don't let that be a reason for you to postpone your visit. The sooner you visit, the more chances you will have to keep going back. Additionally, the entire trip is free as long as you have a working U-Pass because there is no fee charged at the Conservatory. The Garfield Park Conservatory is open every day of the week, with special hours on Wednesday when they are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Every other day, their hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on the special exhibit, visit <http://www.garfieldconservatory.org/solarise-a-sea-of-all-colors.html>



Photos by Anoopa Sundararajan



Reviews:

## 'Big Grams' EP misses the mark

**Soren Spicknall**  
WIIT MUSIC DIRECTOR

Some collaborative albums come about as natural extensions of deeply connected music scenes, and by the time they happen, they seem inevitable. This one is neither of those things. Put together following a series of brief meetings at music festivals, "Big Grams" is the debut EP from a trio of the same name, composed of OutKast member Big Boi and indie electro-rock darlings Phantogram. More than just a meshing of Phantogram's signature dream pop style with Big Boi's rhymes, the project represents a wholehearted attempt to create a brand new sound from the talents of both artists, and for the most part, it succeeds. Given the nature of the project, diehard fans of Phantogram won't think that this EP ranks among the duo's best work to date, and Big Boi

devotees will largely consider it as subpar in comparison to 2012's critically-acclaimed *Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors*, or anything he's done with OutKast. But really, that's not the point, since *Big Grams* represents a brand new act instead of a one-off collaboration, those who most fall for this album will be new fans, not each artist's established base.

Album opener "Run for Your Life" is the obvious single from the EP, one of five tracks on the release produced entirely by Phantogram themselves. It serves as an introduction to the philosophy behind the album; reimagining Josh Carter and Sarah Barthel's signature composition style through a pure hip hop lens, with Big Boi providing the lyrical power to make such a concept work. In fact, that first song and a couple others from the album could easily find their way into a Big Boi album, with Barthel's smooth voice serving

as chorus content and largely avoiding verses. However, the record shines most where the vocal balance between Big Boi and Barthel is evened out, with mid-album standout "Goldmine Junkie" giving the best demonstration of what the group is truly capable of when they work together as a unit. The middle three tracks of the EP, where this true meshing of sounds comes into force, is the strongest passage present.

Outside the impressive center of the EP, though, things start to fall apart somewhat. Songs like "Lights On" are far too light on lyrical impact, with repeated pop tropes ("keep your lights on for me," etc.) pervading otherwise solid backing music. On occasion, Big Boi seems to be drawing from an outtakes bin for his verses rather than devising truly new, hard-hitting lyrics, and no storytelling of importance is ever given to Sarah Barthel to sing

about, an oversight of massive proportions. In addition, the Skrillex-produced final track "Drum Machine" simply doesn't fit in, sounding like a dance-floor mix of a demo reel rather than a fully fleshed-out song in its own right. Interestingly, given that only two guest producers were involved in the album's production, rapped lyrics seem to be at different levels in the mix from song to song, which makes the EP hard to consider as a cohesive effort rather than a collection of singles. If a couple tracks had been cut and some more time had been spent in the studio to combine sounds as well as Barthel, Big Boi, and Carter do on "Put It On Her" and "Goldmine Junkie," *Big Grams* would have earned high praises for this release. As it stands, though, there's still some work to do. 5.0/10

# SUDOKU

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3				5				9
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## 数独

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



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9				4	8	1		
	5		7					
			3			9	7	

sports@technewsit.com

## SPORTS



**Tuesday, October 6**  
**Women's Soccer**  
 @ Elmhurst  
 7 p.m.

**Friday, October 9**  
**Women's Volleyball**  
 @ Gallaudet  
 1 p.m.

**Cross Country**  
 @ Benedictine University  
 4 p.m.

**Women's Volleyball**  
 @ FDU-Florham  
 5 p.m.

**Men's Soccer**  
 vs. Lake Forest  
 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 10**  
**Women's Volleyball**  
 @ Va. Wesleyan  
 9 a.m.

**Sunday, October 11**  
**Women's Soccer**  
 @ Lakeland  
 2 p.m.

**Men's Soccer**  
 vs. Rochester  
 3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 14**  
**Women's Soccer**  
 vs. Rockford  
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CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 8, 1941

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## HIJACKED JETS DESTROY TWIN TOWERS AND HIT PENTAGON IN DAY OF TERROR

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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 LAURA MECKLER

Obama

WASHINGTON—Sen. Barack