

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

**Reno Waswil**  
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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 stand-up-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**  
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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