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TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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Illinois Tech Robotics, Society of Physics Students take home top prizes at 11th annual BMES Pumpkin Launch

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Illinois Tech's Pumpkin Launch, hosted for the past 11 years by IIT's Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) student organization, is a popular event that attracts hundreds of spectators, including IIT students, family members, staff, faculty, and alumni, as well as members of the local community and media, to Ed Glancy Field each year. In order to compete in Pumpkin Launch, teams of students across a variety of disciplines build machines that throw pumpkins across our university's baseball field. This year's Pumpkin Launch event took place on Saturday, October 17.

Each launcher designed for the competition had to adhere to a variety of rules set forth by BMES and others overseeing the competition. The launchers had maximum total height limits and height limits for any counterweight used to launch the pumpkin, as well as limits on the types of propulsion that could be used. Several safety regulations were also included as rules to the competition; students had to be able to operate their device from a safe distance and the launchers were inspected prior to launching by two faculty advisors for the event, Professor Carlo Segre and Professor Derek Kamper.

After weeks of preparing, five launchers lined up along the first baseline of Ed Glancy Field on Saturday morning, all hoping to take home some of the prizes offered by BMES. Three different types of awards were

up for grabs at this year's launch. The distance and accuracy competitions have been a part of IIT's pumpkin launch for several years. Teams win the distance competition by launching the pumpkin furthest and win the accuracy competition by being able to most accurately guess the distance of their launches. A third award, the Crowd Favorite award, returned for a third year after its debut in the 2013 Pumpkin Launch. During the event, spectators voted on their favorite launcher, and the launcher with the most votes was the winner.

The competition was also one of several events that are a part of the Office of Campus Life's IIT Family Weekend as well as a Freshman 15 event, one of a collection of events that the Office of Campus Life encourages all first-year students to attend.

Early on Saturday morning, the five launchers were in place and teams were working on some finishing touches and last-minute testing. Before the competition began, several activities were underway to entertain spectators. IIT's Residence Hall Association hosted pumpkin carving, and many food trucks had arrived to campus so spectators could grab lunch prior to the event.

The five teams that competed in this year's event each designed a different type of machine aiming to launch pumpkins as far as possible across the baseball field. The first team stationed on the first baseline was a team comprised primarily of IIT alumni, calling their team "Meow" and their launcher the "Kitty Cat-apult," a floating axel King Arthur trebuchet. The next team was a collection of

students from IIT's Society of Physics Students organization, their launcher was powered by a collection of 12 large springs and named "Celebratory Gourd Relocation Engine," shortened CeGRE, alluding to the student organization's advisor, Professor Carlo Segre. Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity was the next launcher up the first baseline; their trebuchet Skullcrusher III was an adaptation of their machine that won second place for distance last year. The last two launchers on the field were built by student organization Illinois Tech Robotics (ITR). Their first launcher was an onager, a type of catapult that uses twisted rope to store energy for launching the pumpkin. Their second launcher, Mach III, was the third iteration of a powered rotating arm launcher that won the organization first place in accuracy at the 2013 competition and first place in distance at the 2014 competition.

At 1 p.m., the launches began. This year, the pumpkins being launched were spray painted pink by students from Colleges Against Cancer to promote awareness for breast cancer research. Each team got three official launches to try to throw their pumpkins as far and as close to their estimates as possible.

At the conclusion of the launches, ITR's Mach III was the distance winner, with a furthest launch distance of 227 feet. The second and third place winners went to ITR's Onager and alumni team Meow with distances of 65 feet and 43 feet respectively.

The first place accuracy award went to Society of Physics Students' CeGRE; the organization estimated that they would launch

seven feet and one of their launches met this estimate perfectly. The second place award went to ITR's Onager; the students on the team estimated they would launch 25 feet, and one of their launches reached 11 feet, a difference of 14 feet. ITR's Mach III won the third place accuracy award. The team estimated a launch distance of 300 feet, and their furthest launch of 227 feet resulted in a difference of 73 feet.

Lastly, the Crowd Favorite award went to alumni team Meow. With a smaller number of launchers than usual, this year's pumpkin launch event was still very successful. The small number of launchers resulted in a better viewing experience for spectators, who were able to line up along the third baseline instead of their view being blocked by additional launchers like in previous years. The launchers involved in this year's competitions were also varied and creative, each launcher had a very different design and only two of the five launchers were the traditional trebuchet usually seen at pumpkin launch.

The event concluded with University President Alan Cramb loading a final pumpkin into Mach III, which slipped through the machine's holding mechanism and spectacularly flew backwards nearly 200 feet as the launcher gained speed in preparation for launch. After a few additional exhibition launches, high school students invited to the event by BMES met with members of ITR to discuss the physics and engineering behind building the launching machines.



Photos by Kevin Zheng

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Loving and living life to the fullest

Ricardo Torres
TECHNEWS WRITER

"Sophomore leadership retreat [is] probably the only place where you can meet someone you've never talked to before, and by the end of the week feel like you've known them all semester," said Todd Wilson. These words spoken by a fellow IIT student express the powerful impact the retreat had in our lives and many of us can relate to. The Sophomore Leadership Retreat was only a weekend long but I dare say that the friendships that were formed will last a lifetime.

The retreat, the third of its kind held by IIT's Leadership Academy, was filled with exciting team activities where we would learn to trust each other and explore our own fears and limits. "I think the most fun part was the event on Sunday, the high ropes" said Phan Minh Triet. As fellow IIT Student Phan stated, one of the favorite activities was the High

Ropes. In this activity the students had to complete obstacles referred to as elements high above the ground.

The high ropes event was definitely out of my comfort zone. As I prepared with my partner, I looked up at the elements and judged that they would not be too hard to complete. Then our turn came to go up the ladder. I saw my partner go up and I followed and began to climb. Upon reaching the top, I could feel my legs begin to shake and found myself not being able to let go of the safety ropes beside me. My partner and I began to hesitate as we were scared to even begin the first element. We finally gained the courage to try and cross the element and I went in first. As I took a step forward to step onto the tight rope, I could see the ground below me and I quickly moved back. After encouragement from my partner and my own assurance that I was safe with the harness, I took the first step onto the tight rope. I began to move further into the element. I could

feel the rope move back and forth beneath my feet. My partner followed me close behind. She then reached for my hand and we helped each other maintain our balance. This is when I was thankful for having a brave partner who helped me discover that it was not so bad after all. As a fellow IIT student, Precious Eboh, stated, "Hanging more than 20 feet in the air with my partner, I learned the need for effective communication, trust and interdependence and risk taking." When we reached the other side of the tight rope, we were filled with happiness and excitement. From that moment on, we learned to trust each other and continued to complete more elements.

On behalf of the sophomore class I would like to thank all the great people who made this experience possible for all of us. Also, a special thanks to the Pretty Lake Staff, George Langlois, and Rodney Vallejo helping us explore ourselves and allow us to live to our fullest!



Photo courtesy of Ricardo Torres

IIT student Facebook group changes name

Kevin Zheng
TECHNEWS WRITER

In the middle of class, I was alerted that someone had tagged me in a Facebook thread. IIT Student Subarno Saha had tagged me in a post made on the former Admitted Undergrad page regarding changing the group name to be more inclusive.

When the group was originally founded in 2007, its intention was to create a community where admitted students were able to discuss and bond over this new chapter of their life, a new journey, 4, 5, or even 6 years of unforgettable experiences. At the time, the group was a mere few hundred people and it has grown to nearly 3,500 people today. For those of you who don't know, a recent IIT alumna is the founder of the group. Christina Noonan was a student in the College of Architecture and graduated earlier this year from the IIT Institute of Design with her Master of Design degree.

When asked what inspired her to create the group, she said she was "just a fellow student who noticed a need for a more collective voice for students and a place for people to better share ideas and questions." When asked to elaborate on more details, Christina said, "I actually created the group before I even moved onto campus! I started the group by connecting with people I had met during Camras interview weekend and others that I had interviewed with. The combination of current students and new students made for the perfect combination to create great dialogue and share stories about how to prepare for college. Soon many more people sought to join this group to get the inside scoop and personal

advice from students. Jerry Doyle was one of the first administrators to recognize the power of the collective and envision a way in which the group could serve an even greater purpose. Over years of collaboration, the group has become a collective voice for the student body. It is a place to ask questions, publicize events, help others, share concerns, and have a voice that has never been stronger. I'm personally really excited that the local community is doing to take notice of the vibrant community that we've built. I recognize that it means that our group is much more public facing that it's ever been, but it also means that the university has a better sense of the goals and values of the collective student body. I'm thrilled that members of the group widely remain open and respectful to their fellow peers and that it continues to grow daily." Christina is now in New York changing the way businesses communicate with their customers through user experience design and strategy.

As the group grew and grew, its members now include more than just undergrad students but included graduate students, alumni, and some university staff members. The group has turned into this university's public forum ranging from posts about events run by student organizations to financial aid announcements and reminders from the administration. The group had grown so large that the name "Illinois Institute of Technology: Admitted Undergraduate" no longer accurately represented the group. A thread was started on the group about two to three years ago, and in that thread there were debates of whether we should use IIT or Illinois Tech in the name, I made the suggestion of Illinois Tech Student Community because

I felt although there were a wide variety of categories that the members belonged to, I felt this group was a community meant for students. It was created by a student, run by students, and the purpose of the group is for students, so I felt that name Illinois Tech Student Community was appropriate, the group is meant to serve and connect students, even the ones who graduated. People seemed to agree with it, however the name could not be changed at the time. Facebook had a policy where groups with over 500 people could not change their name for reasons not clear to me. However, sometime recently, Facebook had decided to change that policy and I was able to change the name to what it currently is now.

Students reacted almost instantly on the page making comments from "Finally!" and "It only makes sense" to a GIF of Ron Paul with lasers behind him with a flashing caption reading "IT'S HAPPENING." When asked how he felt about the group name change, Business Administration student John Ramirez remarked, "I like the change. As time went on I started feeling that 'Illinois Institute of Technology: Admitted undergraduate' was no longer a relevant name. As more students graduate or continue on to their masters and PhDs it was clear we needed a refreshed name. I like the new name. It's not only all encompassing but makes this page a welcoming place for all IIT students."

Please continue to post your stories, questions, concerns, and anything else you deem appropriate for the page. It's been a great honor being an admin for this wonderful Facebook community and please remember to search for Illinois Tech Student Community or ITSC to find the group!

TechNews corrections

Last issue, in an article covering the Sex Games event held in MSV, it was reported that the event was hosted by Residence Hall Association. This information is

incorrect.

The author of the article erroneously reported the event was run by Residence Hall Association. The event was hosted

by the Resident Advisors of East, Fowler, and North Halls.

We apologize for the confusion.

Internet as a societal polarizer

Jerry Sha
TECHNEWS WRITER

You're wrong.

Now those are two words that no one ever wants to hear. But this simple observation of arguably basic human nature, combined with recent developments in how humans seek and access information, has some very profound ramifications.

Information access has always been very tightly constrained. When Gutenberg started the printing revolution, everyone read the Bible because that was the only book printed in bulk. Even with the invention of mass media, casual consumers of information still have very little say in the type of information they consume. A Soviet citizen in the 60s heard TV, newspaper, and radio content glorifying the state and the communist way of life, while his American counterpart, in essence, hears the same thing regarding democracy and consumerism.

Then, of course, Google happened.

Google made the content of the Internet not only easily accessible, but easily customizable. On the TV and radio, even with today's hundreds of channels, you see what the show producers want you to see. On the Internet, however, you see only what you want to see.

While great for the consumer, this unprecedented level of control over our intellectual intake has many immense dangers. Instead of broadening our scope of learning, internet browsing instead tends to polarize our existing views, or even worse, blind us to the possibility of valid conflicting views.

This concern is actualized when the University of Minnesota published the results of a study titled "The Internet and Racial Hate Crime: Offline Spillovers from Online Access," and the summarizing statement of conclusions read "The incidence of racial hate crimes increased by 20 percent when a new broadband provider entered an area, according to new research from Carlson School of Management and NYU Stern."

The study makes two key observations. First of all, the correlation between broadband access and rate of racially charged hate crimes becomes highly significant only when there already exists a high level of segregation and racially charged keyword queries in the American county being surveyed. In racially hostile demographics, the positive correlation of hate crime and broadband access was sometimes as high as 200%, while progressive or liberal counties saw little to even negative correlations. The point being proven here is that internet access

did not instill in everyday citizens an urge to commit hate crimes, except when the citizen in question already likely had been exposed to racially-charged ideals.

The second observation made by the researchers further affirmed the ideal polarization theory by noting that over 60% of the crimes recorded were committed by what popular media would call "lone-wolf actors," individuals who are acting on their own behalf, without external motivation from an organized group. This observation leads us to conclude that individuals with internet access are—instead of being pressured by outside organizations to adopt certain views—actively seeking affirmation on their own for views they already hold. After all, no one likes to hear that they are wrong, and everyone wants the affirmation that they are thinking, doing, and believing the right thing, no matter how wrong even the majority of their peers may view those thoughts, actions, and beliefs. This affirmation of fringe views frowned upon by the majority of civilized society, tragically, is made possible and sustained by access to the Internet, which has already firmly established itself as a staple of modern life.

Mark Twain once wrote that "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it

sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." The Internet, at its creation, was meant to allow its users to virtually travel across institutions and environments to access information and ideals not locally available, it was meant to be a tool to broaden our minds and banish our bigotry. And yet, once again, a powerful tool created for human benefit has been warped by the base desires of the human individual, drawing from the Internet only the ideals which suit them, and in effect, building a concocted reality of handpicked ideals around themselves, with the intention of vegetating within forever.

While normally optimistic, I see no feasible solution to the issue at hand. The adaptation of the Internet was far from a well-controlled event, and the freedom it embodies has been enshrined too wholly and unquestioningly for drastic change or heavy regulation. Like racism, cronyism, corruption and nuclear proliferation, the use of the Internet to self-deceive is just yet another regrettable blemish of the human condition, one that is far from impossible to remove, but we can seemingly only hope for its removal within our lifetimes.

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CAMPUS

IEEE to host technical writing presentation

Genevieve Hummel
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) is the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community through IEEE's highly-cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities. Anyone interested in learning more about how to publish papers in IEEE periodicals and conferences as well as time saving search techniques for finding technological content

should join IEEE at IIT for a presentation titled "How to Write a Technical Paper for Publication with IEEE."

IEEE Client Services Manager Jalyn Kelley will present an overview of how to become an IEEE author on Tuesday, October 27 in Life Sciences 111 from 1-3 p.m. This presentation will cover topics such as how to select an appropriate IEEE periodical or conference, how to organize your manuscript, and how to work through peer review. She will discuss how successful IEEE authors structure quality work to improve their chances of being accepted. You can learn how to avoid common mistakes and ethical lapses that will prevent your manuscript from being accepted. Kelley

will also provide insights into what editors look for in a submission and discuss some common reasons that editors and reviewers reject papers.

Kelley will also discuss strategies for using IEEE Xplore effectively for a literature review. She will talk about how to stay up to date on the latest research using saved alerts and downloading citations into bibliographic management databases. IEEE Xplore is the premier database for research in electrical engineering, electronics, computer science and related disciplines. This database, produced by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, is a digital library providing full text access to more than 3 million documents,

including journals, magazines, conferences, and standards, as well as content from IET (Institute of Engineering and Technology), Alcatel-Lucent and VDE Verlag.

This presentation is open to any interested IIT student, regardless of major. Students are not required to be members of IEEE. Lunch will be provided to all attendees. This presentation will provide a good insight into the process of writing, submitting, and receiving approval for the publication of technical writing. Any student interested in publishing in any technical publication should consider attending this event to receive fist hand outlooks and advice about the topic.

CSA meeting discusses campus safety app, upcoming events

Ricardo Torres
TECHNEWS WRITER

Commuter students make up a large part of the student body at the Illinois Institute of Technology. They face the daily challenge of commuting to school from different parts of Chicago and sometimes their journey may take hours. Due to this long distance from campus, they tend to be detached from campus activities and have fewer opportunities to socialize with the student body. Fortunately, the Commuter Student Association (CSA) focuses on helping connect commuter students by providing them with fun activities and keeping

them updated with events and opportunities on campus.

The CSA held their second general body meeting on Tuesday October 13. It was hosted at the Bog instead of the usual Wishnick Hall location. The meeting was lead by the CSA President, Kevin Tapia. He welcomed the students to the meeting and handed over the floor to William Gordon who represents the CSA in the Student Government Association (SGA) meetings.

William Gordon spoke about the Rave Guardian App that SGA is attempting to bring to campus. This application will help create a safer community at IIT and it will have

more of an impact on commuter students because they will be able to travel at night and feel safer on campus with the Rave Guardian App. The app contributes to a more secure environment by providing users with features that they can easily access on their phones. Among the many features, it offers a feature called the Panic Button. Pressing this button will immediately alert campus safety with your location and your personal profile information. This is ideal for when a student is traveling at night and needs immediate assistance. Gordon informed the students to support SGA as they will be petitioning daily on the MTCC Bridge to bring the Rave Guardian app to campus.

The floor was returned to Tapia who spoke about the fun events that the Commuter Student Association will be hosting for the month of October and early November. Some of the events mentioned included SkyZone, Statesville Haunted Prison, and the Dia de los Muertos Party at IIT. The dates are yet to be announced for these events so Tapia encouraged students to look out for these activities by connecting with the Commuter Student Association on their Facebook page and by joining their mailing list by sending an email to commuter.students.iit@gmail.com.

Blow off some steam, burn some rubber

Labib Rauf & Austin Gonzalez
TECHNEWS WRITER & OPINION EDITOR

Last Wednesday, the 14th of October, officially marked the halfway through semester, meaning by now all the midterms should be over. Midterms can be very stressful, and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is here to help with a great way to blow off some steam: Racing simulation.

What's more fun than ripping around corners of a track at breakneck speed? Ripping around corners of a simulated track and not breaking your neck when you invari-

ably crash! On October 13, SAE presented its simulator to students in the MTCC. It was originally supposed to be held in Perlstein Hall, but, because of electrical problems, it had to be moved to the MTCC Bridge. Even in the face of this problem, the event was very successful with several students getting a chance to feel what it's like behind the wheel of an Formula SAE car. Because of popular demand, SAE will now be hosting this racing simulation event on the MTCC Bridge every Tuesday during the lunch hour starting at 12:40 p.m.

Do not mistake it to be a normal ar-

cade game. It is not a game; it is an experience. This simulation gives the real life thrilling experience of a real Formula SAE time trial. The simulator uses a top-of-the-line force feedback system so you can feel the tires grip the road. The base of the simulator is a real chassis that ran in past competitions for Illinois Tech. Take it from a person who actually tried it, I would definitely recommend it to anyone who aspires to be like Sebastian Vettel (winner of Formula 1 from 2010 until 2013).

With this simulation, you can compare yourself to the best race car drivers in the

world. Not only that, you can also compete against your friends. It is not easy; only people with skills can win.

If you think you have the skills, then come to the bridge on Tuesday and compete against all of the participants. The winner will win a limited edition souvenir from SAE. The winner will also be able to walk away with the title of "Best Racer at IIT." So what are you waiting for? Stop stressing over exam results and come to the event for a little excitement.

Educational tour at Chicago Board Options Exchange

Shachi Sayata
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Career Management Center and IIT's Stuart School of Business recently provided students an opportunity to take a guided educational tour of Chicago Board Options and Exchange (CBOE). For an aspiring trader, this is a dream tour, since it provides a first-hand view of the vibrant trading floor as well as an opportunity to speak to a few traders.

The educational tour had a narrator who took a group of students across the edifice and answered their questions. The narrator was a previous employee at the CBOE; she started working as a clerk in 2005 and has been serving the institute ever since. She took students through the aisle that had interesting

pictures of important events that occurred at the CBOE. These pictures showed the group how trading was done in the pits before computers were used. An open outcry method was followed, with traders locking in multi-million dollar deals by simply shouting them out and peculiar hand gestures. It was rather chaotic; one can hardly imagine how an exchange so big would function without a computer.

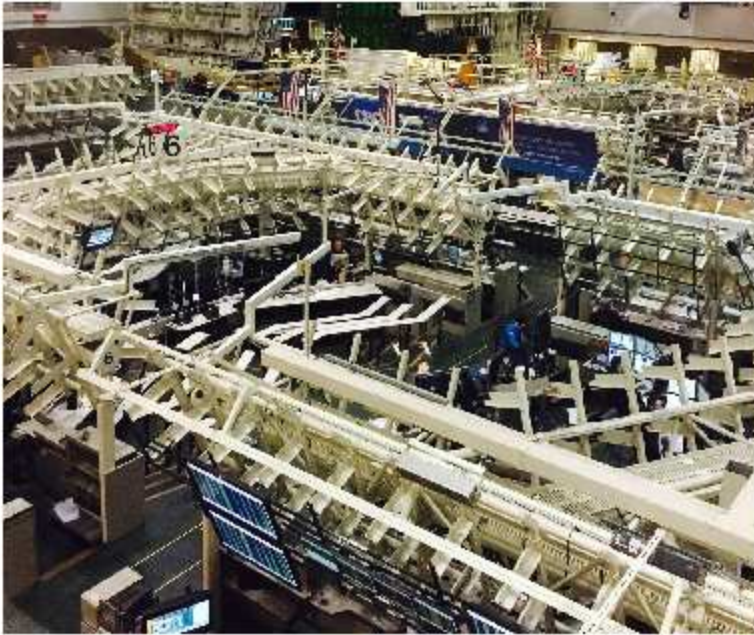
The group of students were also taken to the gallery where they could see the majestic equity pits. The pits did not look like what had been seen in the pictures earlier. The narrator explained how previously the pits would have thousands of employees, traders, market makers and clerks. Today, most of these tasks are done on a computer at a click of a button they thus employed less than four

hundred people.

The group was then taken to the S&P 500 Index pit where traders were meticulously crunching numbers on their computers and staring at the huge monitors that displayed market values that changed in the blink of an eye. This was followed by an interactive question and answer session that was conducted by a trader. He provided the group with a brief overview of how trades were conducted and monitored, the people involved in locking in these trades, and the policies and procedures they followed. The traders in the pit used computers or tablets, but still relied on the open outcry method for locking trades. He explained how he preferred this method, since it gave him an adrenaline rush, as opposed to locking in the trades on a computer screen that

made the task rather mundane.

The CBOE is indeed what it looks like in movies like "Margin Call," "Catch Me If You Can," and "Wall Street" to name a few. The environment was more like a football field, except it has humongous computer screens and men in suits as opposed to jerseys, and has heaps of papers all across the building in contrast with the popcorn and cheerleaders at a football stadium. If you're at a crossroads and having trouble making decisions regarding your career path and being a trader is one amongst the innumerable choices, then you have an even better reason to take the tour! What better way to understand a trader's job profile than to step right into the shoes of one? After all, it's not a bad place to earn a couple of million.



Photos by Shachi Sayata

Service, leadership, fellowship with Circle K International

Ricardo Torres
TECHNEWS WRITER

Circle Kiwanis International (CKI) is a group at IIT that focuses on helping the community and providing students with leadership roles while creating strong friendships between members and the community. Circle K International had their fourth general body meeting on Thursday October 15. The meeting was called to order by club President Paul Nagtalon Erickson as he recited CKI Pledge along with the current and new members.

The Pledge was followed by a fellowship activity that was led by the Vice President of Administration, Woojin Pang and the Mem-

bership Development and Education Chair, Yimnan Zhong. This activity gave the students an opportunity to have fun playing Simon Says and getting to know each other at the same time. After this activity, Erickson welcomed the new members and played videos to show them the purpose and benefits of becoming a member of Circle K.

The excitement grew when the meeting focused on the upcoming events that Circle K will be hosting. The president reminded that these events are open to every IIT student and they are encouraged to come and be a part of a great cause while gaining leadership experience and making friendships. Some of the events revolve around a goal that the Kiwanis

family is hoping to accomplish. This goal is to help Eliminate Maternal Neonatal Tetanus around the world. Circle K at IIT is helping by trick or treating around campus for spare change that students would like to donate.

Circle K will also host a fun-filled event that will take place during the lunch hour of October 29 on the MTCC Bridge. In this event, called the Egg Russian Roulette, students will get to buy an egg for two dollars and egg a member of Circle K. The fun part is that they will not know if the egg they have chosen is raw or boiled and so they could potentially leave the Circle K member in a sticky mess. The meeting continued with mention of the Fall Fest at Lincoln Park Zoo that will take

place on October 24. This is a fellowship event where students will go to Lincoln Park Zoo as a group and enjoy each other's company. The Fall Fest will provide fun activities such as a corn maze, a Ferris wheel, pumpkin carving, and sing-alongs.

The members then got to draw and cut out Halloween figures to prepare as decorations for the Taste of IIT on Monday October 19. Circle K will be selling a Hawaiian dish named Spam Musubi. The president then made final announcements and brought the meeting to an end. If you would like to learn more about these and future events you can contact Circle K International at illinois.ckig@gmail.com.



Photocourtesy of Ricardo Torres

Society of Women Engineers hosts week of events

Adedoyin Adeniji
TECHNEWS WRITER

Canvases, Paint brushes, pizza, and good conversations! This was how IIT's Society of Women Engineers (SWE) chapter's spirit week began. The events coordinator, Joey Yeap, says the week was planned with the aim of promoting SWE on campus and giving members a chance to bond and de-stress.

On October 5th, SWE began their spirit week with a painting social at The Bog. This was the first of many events that were to happen that week. Members gathered at The Bog and painted whatever their mood dictated. The spa night that happened on Tuesday was the perfect de-stressing event. Listening to some old R&B tunes while receiving a pro-

fessional massage and drinking hot chocolate on a somewhat cold night definitely had the power to turn anyone's week around. Thursday was trivia night which also happened at The Bog. There were 11 teams of three people each and the questions were from science, general knowledge, math, and technology. The teams were made up on the spot which even made the night all the more fun and hilarious.

The week ended with an airplane competition on Friday which was hosted by both the National Society of Black Engineers and SWE and partially sponsored by Armour College of Engineering. The competition began at 4 p.m. on Siegel Field. Originally, five teams had registered to participate, but two teams dropped out at the last minute leaving just three teams to compete. The three teams

had an hour to build their airplane from scratch with self-provided materials. The materials they had chosen to work with included cardboard, drafting paper, newspaper, and wood, which unexpectedly worked out in the end. There were some worries while building the planes; the weather had gotten cold and windy, which made constructing and creating a little difficult, but the teams were able to work around it. At 5 p.m., the teams launched their airplanes. The competition was judged based on distance. The teams were given two chances to launch their gliders. Two of the teams had a draw, so a tie-breaker was introduced into the competition. At the end of the day, a team calling themselves the Wrong Brothers emerged as the winners of the competition.

IIT NECA student chapter takes 2nd in national competition

Dr. Daniel Tomal
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, IIT SCHOOL OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

The IIT NECA Student Chapter won second place in the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Green Energy Challenge held in San Francisco on October 3, 2015. A total of 20 universities competed in the challenge and top three finalists earned the privilege to compete in the finals.

Iowa State University won first place, followed by IIT, and Penn State University captured third. The five IIT NECA student chapter members who competed in the finals, under the guidance of advisor Dr. Dan Tomal, adjunct professor in Industrial Technology and Management, were Alex Wall (Electrical Engineering), Dan Went (Electrical Engineering), Tim Tyrrell (Industrial Technology and Management), Sam Valtierrez (Industrial Technology and Management), and Bianca Panczak (Architectural Engineering).

As a result of winning, the IIT NECA Chapter was awarded an engraved glass trophy, an all-paid trip to San Francisco, and a check for \$3,000. The trip was sponsored by the Electrical Contractors' Association of the City of Chicago (ECA). ECA has been a fan-

tastic supporter of the IIT chapter and IPRO projects at IIT. They have afforded the students over the past years wonderful educational experiences through field trips, guest speakers, tours, and resources.

The NECA competition goals are to engage university NECA chapter members in an awarding educational experience in the electrical and energy services industry. The competition requires students to compete in technical skills vital to careers in the energy field and professional and time management, oral, and written communications. The NECA IIT chapter developed a 40-page energy audit report that centered on energy analysis, technical lighting retrofit, EPA benchmarking, critical load and micro grid, energy storage battery system, schematic estimate, and finance plane. The students also used the NECAWORKS energy economic screening tool to support their conclusions.

The competition required the teams to conduct an energy audit of a campus building. The IIT chapter members selected the IIT Tower and conducted the audit as part of the spring 2015 IPRO 338 project, working with the IIT Office of Energy and Sustainability. The IPRO project was sponsored by ECA. "I know the team worked hard on this IPRO project

and we're proud of their accomplishment," noted Jeremy Alexis, Director of IIT's IPRO program.

The competition was intense and the IIT team put in numerous hours of preparation and practice for the event which required them to make a 15 minute formal presentation to a panel of five judges, selected from around the country. Dr. Bob Carlson, Dean of the School of Applied Technology, praised the team: "I'm proud of this team since I know that they have been trying for the past few years to make it to the nationals. This helps to give recognition to IIT at a national level, especially beating out so many top-notch schools."

In addition to winning second place in the competition, the IIT NECA Chapter also won second place in the Outstanding Chapter of the Year, again being edged out by Iowa State. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our university chapter to gain out-of-class experience and at the national level," said Alex Carlson, Director of IIT's Office of Campus Life. The Green Energy Challenge is an annual event the IIT NECA Chapter plans to enter the 2016 competition as part of the spring IPRO project. The next national competition will be held in Boston.

SGA Senate Meeting Recap

Genevieve Hummel
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Student Government Association (SGA) at IIT held its biweekly senate meeting last Wednesday, October 14. The meeting ran very smoothly and the new senators seem to be settling into their positions well. The first order of business at the meeting was the president's report. The President, Rahul Wadhvani, discussed a few topics, including getting SGA on Student Speak. Student Speak is an online survey that all IIT students are encouraged to participate in. The goal of the survey is to find out how much students know about various groups and projects on campus and gather students' opinions about these groups and topics. The survey offers the chance to win prizes to students who participate. SGA would like to encourage all students to take this survey because it will help SGA find out how much students know about the organization and will hopefully give SGA an idea of what they need to improve or change, if anything.

The next topic that Wadhvani discussed was the Alumni Career Panel. On Saturday, October 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Herman Hall, a panel of alumni from all over the country will be gathering to talk to students and offer them advice and answer questions. This is a great opportunity for students to develop connections with alumni that are working at big name companies. Students who attend and meet with the alumni also have the opportunity to participate in job shadowing with members of the panel.

Following the president's report was a report by the Vice President of Communications, Subarno Saha. Saha talked about the media advisory board, which is looking to gather representatives from all of the media related organizations on campus to work together and help each other improve and reach out to more students. The organizations that will be part of this group have been contacted and the board is awaiting their responses.

There is also an interest in gathering representatives from all of the community service groups on campus to put together a community service committee. This committee will then be able to organize events together, such as the donation drive that is currently in the works.

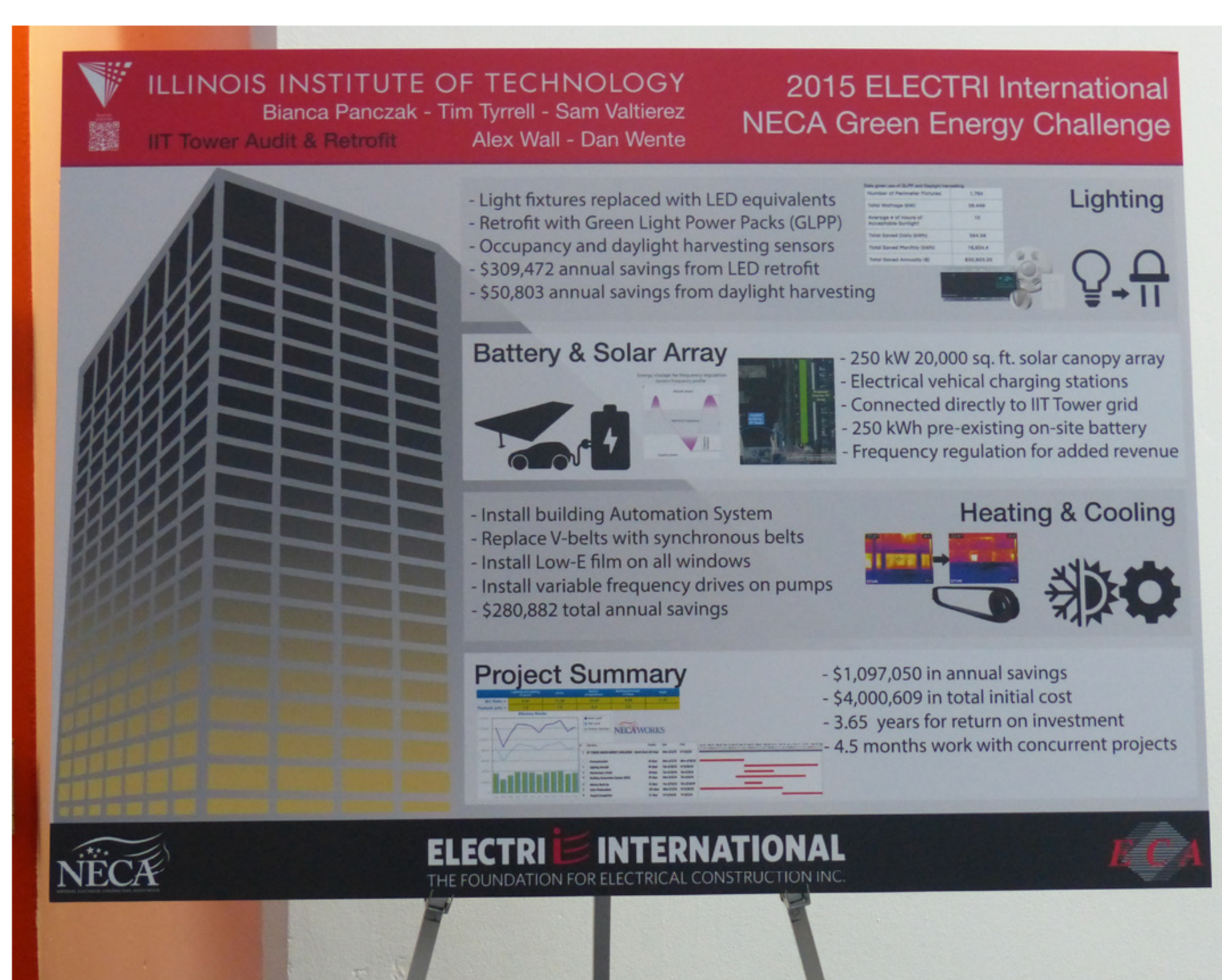
Continue to keep an eye out for senators on the bridge. For the next couple of weeks, there will be senators on the bridge every day. The senators will be there to answer any questions students have about the role of a senator, how students can be more involved on campus through SGA, or any other questions students might have about SGA in general.

Also covered at the meeting was the voting in of new Judicial Board members Poshak and Citlalli, who were both voted in after a brief introduction and question session.

The next topic discussed was a proposed project of trying to get a second entrance/exit put in the north end of MSV. The main problem with this project is that any entrance/exit in MSV must be staffed at all times and there has to be funding in order for that to happen.

The meeting ended with the presentation of three new student organizations that were seeking approval for official status. Three organizations presented: Art and Digital Design, the Armed Forces Honor Society, and the Electronic Gaming Club. All three received approval with little debate.

The SGA senate meetings are held on a biweekly basis in MTCC and all students are encouraged to attend. The senate meetings provide students with a great opportunity to learn about events and organizations that are happening on campus and offer the chance for anyone to voice their thoughts and opinions on what is happening on campus.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Daniel Tomal

Star Citizen celebrates 3rd birthday

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

Star Citizen is the most successfully crowd funded project in history, achieving 93 million dollars and not showing signs of stopping. The space simulator has recently turned three years old with respect to development and to celebrate this, Cloud Imperium Games had some presents for the community at the annual Citizen Con.

There are many crowd funded projects that are marred in controversy over where and how funds are being spent. Star Citizen is no exception. Recently, a competing games developer has leveled complaints that have grabbed headlines on popular gaming news outlets. The accusations come after a near three-month hiatus, during which Chris Roberts was directing the performance capture of the single player section of the game Squadron 42. Chris Roberts and his wife addressed these concerns, both before and during the event in strong and heartfelt messages. Despite the threats and insults, the team set up to show the claims are unfounded.

The event started with a look back on how the project has grown. At first launch in

October 2012, a team of seven game developers were funded on Kickstarter by 60,000 fans. The development team has grown to 270 and is now trusted by over 1 million backers. Cloud Imperium Games now has offices around the world in Santa Monica, Manchester, Frankfurt, and more, all of whom are looking to hiring more talent.

This team showed off the second part of a first-person multiplayer demo they've been working on. The next update will be the most substantial one yet, adding EVA, FPS, Social elements, 35+ missions, and local physics grids for the interior of ships. This huge jump is a move from alpha 1.0 where the players are confined to their single-seater fighters to a part of the sandbox universe the community has been promised. The overworld map in this demo is 1 trillion square kilometers and 200,000 kilometers high. For comparison, renowned open world RPG Skyrim's map is less than 26 million square kilometers. This is the play area of only one planet of one of the over 100 promised systems. Even more exciting, inside this, each ship will have its own local physics grid which essentially makes it a map within a map.

The demos were played in real time from current developer builds. This differs

from a typical demo you might see where the game developer has polished a small section with the explicit purpose of being shown at a show like E3. Even without the final detailing, the map looks amazing and performed without a hitch. The team completed several missions showcasing all of the new game mechanics being introduced with the next build. The small test world's built in missions, pirate raids, and PvP areas will be a baby step towards the ultimate vision for the Star Citizen universe.

The most exciting updates were those coming from the Squadron 42 team. Star Citizen's single player story driven campaign is much akin to the original wing commander series. After displaying an amazing cutscene and detailing the next generation VFX involved, the crowd was introduced to the first moments they will experience once they get their hands on the game. The talent working on this video game include the likes of Gary Oldman, Mark Hamill, Mark Strong, John Rhys-Davies, and many more. These names are only the first few on a list that spans so many A-list actors. The final game will be completed with over 10 hours of professional performance capture film. The difference between motion capture and performance capture is more than a pedantic one. Traditional motion capture only follows the

positions of the head, body and limbs. Performance capture goes one step above and captures the facial expressions on top of this. Then each actor has to mimic a set of 19 expressions which are captured from every angle to map every detail in their face from slight asymmetry in muscle lines to differences in coloration of the face due to capillary contraction. The final SQ42 script is around 8 times longer than a traditional movie script and twice as long as the last wing commander game.

Aside from the multiplayer and single-player gameplay developments, there have been a number of smaller additions. There's the new star map detailing the whole of the known universe. It will serve as the Google Maps and information gateway to the world. It's free to access on their website and is worth taking a look at. New ships were announced, a referral system was introduced, and so much more was packed into the two hour event.

After Citizen Con, the vigor of the Star Citizen community was renewed. The work that was shown clearly laid out the amazing work that is being done, and that the ever growing team of game designers at Cloud Imperium Games will not disappoint their now over 1 million new fans.



Reviews:

New music review: 'Mister Divine' by Naytronix

Soren Spicknall
WIIT MUSIC DIRECTOR

Nate Brenner's association with tUnE-yArDs at this point in his musical career has been, to use a clichéd phrase, both a blessing and a curse. Serving as the only permanent member of that group aside from central figure Merrill Garbus, Brenner has already gained experience performing and promoting across the country as part of an in-demand act. His first album under the solo moniker Naytronix, 2012's "Dirty Glow," had a PR advantage right out the gate due to the tUnE-yArDs connection. On the other hand, perhaps the tUnE-yArDs link put Naytronix at a critical disadvantage, with writers from publications like Uncut and PopMatters evaluating that initial double 10" in the context of Garbus's work and finding it somewhat lacking.

At the time, Brenner was still developing his solo style and reigning in his own voice, which was at times unstable on "Dirty Glow." Today, though, after moving from small L.A. label Plug Research over to international indie institution City Slang, Brenner seems to finally have hit his stride with his latest LP, "Mister Divine," which is out October 16. While "Dirty Glow" was a fun but somewhat scattered trip through a variety of genres with little to connect each track, "Mister Divine" starts to give a sense of the Naytronix sound and functions much better as a unit than Brenner's previous work.

"Mister Divine" begins with its title track, which was released as a single with accompanying music video back in August. The video features an orange-hued sixties beach scene witnessed through a filter of digital video corruptions, a fitting representation of the track itself, which juxtaposes a quiet surf-era lounge melody with passages of percussive, glitched-out electronic rhythms.

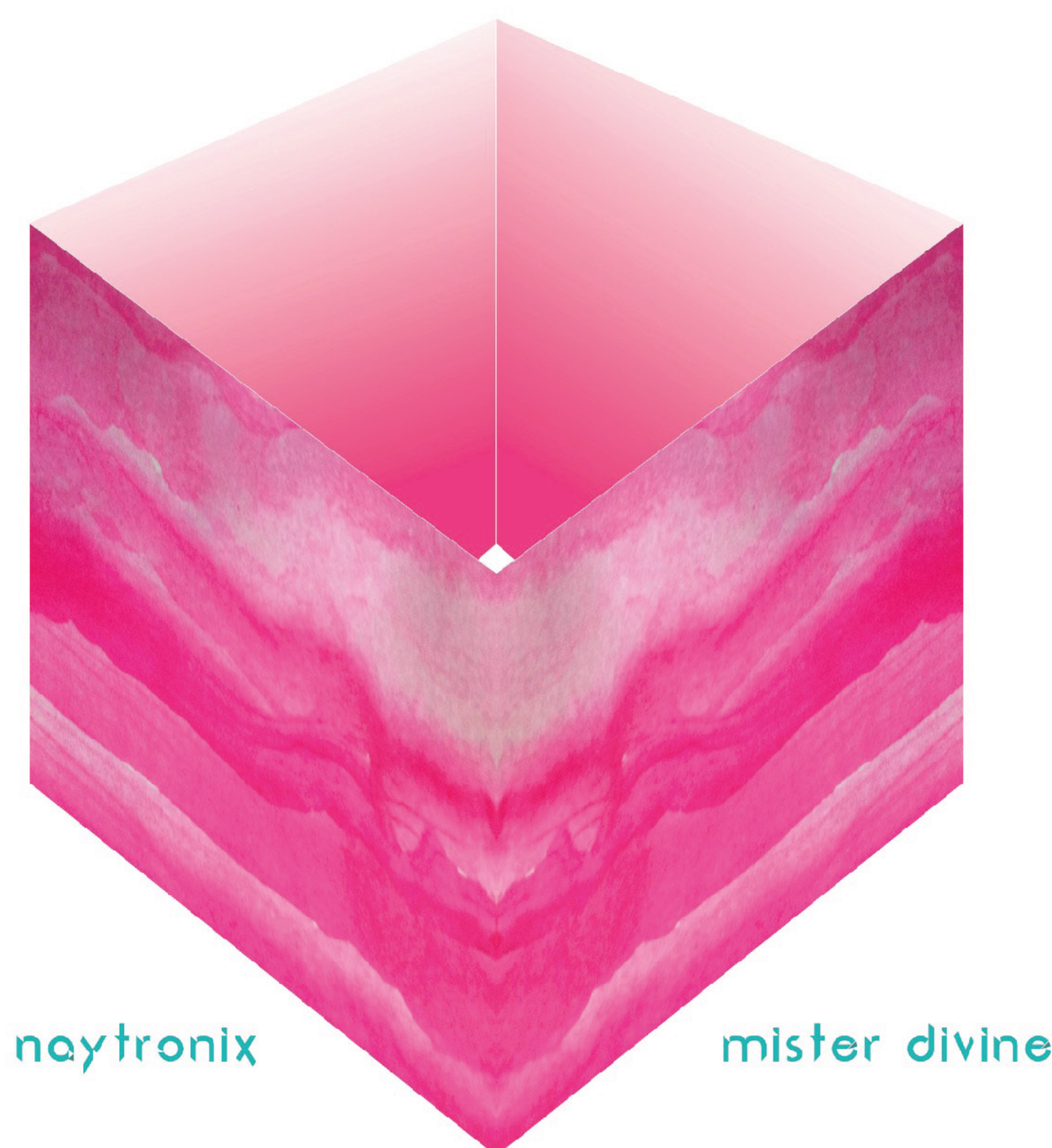
Unlike the songs of groups like Django Django or Coves, the goal here doesn't seem to be to modernize surf pop. Instead, the track deconstructs and distorts the genre's cues

in a way that comes across as both fundamentally experimental and effortlessly familiar at the same time. Most of the album's nine tracks follow a similar formula, with Brenner's voice serving as a relatively passive component as various electro-psych elements rise in and out

His voice itself is often filtered in certain passages, and generally doesn't reach for quite the same volume level or high tenor notes as it did in "Dirty Glow" tracks like "Nightmare" and "Robotic." This works out to the new album's advantage, since Brenner's pipes are at their

the LP, with many tracks built on danceable underpinnings and punctuated with horns both live and sampled. An experienced multi-instrumentalist himself, Brenner has expertise working complex arrangements into his songs without ever overwhelming the overall atmosphere of each track or losing any one instrument in the background. However, there are times when the number of layers seem to be the focal point of each piece, rather than the bones of the track itself (e.g. the slightly too passive "Future"). Whether that's positive or negative is up to the listener, but some of the whimsical lyrical content on previous Naytronix work seems to have gone by the wayside.

Though there are moments on "Mister Divine" when Naytronix seems to be drawing from tUnE-yArDs for influence, nobody will mistake any of the compositions contained here for the product of Merrill Garbus's creative process. While Garbus thrives on frenetic live overdubs and her own fast-paced vocal prowess, Nate Brenner takes a more measured approach to songwriting, reminiscent of Tame Impala's Kevin Parker or Junip's José Gonzalez. New songs like "Mister Divine" closer "Shadow" prove that Brenner has evolved impressively as an artist since 2012, drawing the listener in like nothing he's released before. While tUnE-yArDs is music for moments of empowered activity or even inspired anger, the songs on "Mister Divine" are more quiet and introspective, never demanding attention but rewarding those who listen closely. Though nearly every review of this album will draw endless comparisons to tUnE-yArDs (this one being no exception), in the end it's not a truly apt narrative to force. Naytronix doesn't sound like the spawn of Brenner's work with Garbus; it sounds like something else entirely. Nate Brenner has found a sonic groove that exhibits his strengths in a unique and innovating manner, and stands out positively with or without the connection to his first group. 8.3/10



naytronix

mister divine

Image courtesy of floodmagazine.com

of the mix. That's not to say that vocals never a point of attention; in the track "Dream," Brenner layers different sung tracks and uses his voice as a rhythmic element in a way that is somewhat reminiscent of tUnE-yArDs, if only because that association is already present in the mind when listening to the album.

smoothest and most inviting when kept relatively subdued.

While the development of the eclectic, electric soundscapes on "Mister Divine" set it firmly apart from "Dirty Glow," a few things have remained the same, in a good way. Infusions of Seventies funk are present throughout

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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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 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21
Men's Soccer
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 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 23
Women's Volleyball
 @ Principia
 5:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
 @ Illinois Col.
 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 24
Swimming and Diving
 @ Illinois Tech
 1 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
 @ Mac Murray
 10 a.m.

Women's Volleyball
 @ Anderson
 12 p.m.

Men's Soccer
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