Magnificent Mile Lights Festival kicks off holiday season

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Winter is finally here to mesmerize us with its beauty! It is said that first snow is like first love, an experience that you forever remember. This winter will be the first time many students, especially international students, to experience snow. The BMO Harris Bank Magnificent Mile Lights Festival held on Saturday, November 21 provided a perfect reason to go out and experience the cold winter firsthand.

The lights festival was a whole-day event, but a decent number of IIT students reached Michigan avenue at 5:30 p.m. in hopes of catching a glimpse of the parade over the huge crowd that had gathered there. The air was infused with excitement and thrill that easily distracted us from the chilly weather. In addition, every tree in sight had been decorated with beaming golden and silver lights that provided a picturesque and romantic backdrop for Facebook photos.

It was surprising to see the huge crowd of people, including small children, who had gathered at such low temperatures to witness this beautiful parade.

The parade started from Oak Street and Michigan Avenue and progressed towards Wacker Drive. Trucks and vans had been decorated like beautiful brides carrying children waving out to the crowds. Christmas carols were being played and added a festive and celebratory feel to the environment. Our group, which consisted of graduate as well as undergraduate students, got to experience childhood again as we waved to Santa on one of the vans. In addition, we got to witness young children show off their impeccable circus skills as they covered the whole distance being rotated in a wheel.

The beautiful night ended aptly with a picturesque fireworks show over the Chicago River. The Light Festival was definitely a perfect way to kick off the holiday season.

Photos by Abha Dalmia

Museum of Science and Industry premieres annual Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light displays

Photos by Kori Bowns