

Immunization holds to prevent students from class registration

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With the Spring 2016 class schedule already published and registration for classes opening on Monday, November 9, students across campus are already working out their preferred class schedules and arranging meetings with their academic advisors. Before getting too excited about class registration, students should first ensure that they will have no holds on their student account preventing them from registering for the next semester of classes.

Holds on a student's account can come from a variety of offices for a multitude of reasons; for example, a student who still owes the university tuition payment from the

current semester might be unable to register for the next semester of classes. Another type of hold, and one of the more common holds experienced by students at the university, is an immunization hold from the IIT Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC). According to Anita Opdycke, Associate Vice Provost for Student Health and Wellness, "All students who have not submitted or completed their immunization requirements will receive a hold on their account, preventing Spring Registration, on November 3, 2015."

Illinois state law requires that university students enrolled in at least half-time credit hours be immunized against certain communicable diseases. When students first enroll at the university, they are encouraged to submit a record of their immunization history

prior to the beginning of classes. Students who don't submit this form or don't meet the immunization requirements will need to visit the SHWC to obtain the proper immunizations or visit their own healthcare provider to do so and send their records to the SHWC office.

IIT's SHWC wants to help students obtain proper immunizations and get their records up to date to help students avoid the registration hold. Opdycke added, "The Student Health and Wellness Center would like help you meet the requirements set forth by the State of Illinois in order to achieve compliance at the Illinois Institute of Technology. You may contact us at (312) 567-7550 to schedule an appointment to receive any necessary vaccines or to determine what vaccines you may need." Students who will need their immunization

record updated should contact the SHWC as soon as possible; appointment slots fill up quickly and lines at the health center's office tend to become very long once students are being prevented from registering for classes.

In addition to being required to register for classes, immunizations are important for the overall general health of each student and the campus community. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the widespread use of vaccinations in the United States has limited the occurrence and transmission of preventable diseases. Students with any questions about immunizations can contact the SHWC at (312) 567-7550 or student.health@iit.edu.

Students Speak 2015: We want your voice to be heard

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With the approval of the President and Provost, your fellow IIT students are once again looking for your input in discovering how we can improve the quality of student's experiences with various service areas and departments here at IIT. The Students Speak program aligns with the President's and Provost's commitment to advancing student satisfaction and the quality of services provided to students.

The project is headed by a committee of students, who are tasked with identifying how the university's services can make your lives as IIT students better. Their focus is on you – their fellow students and they want to understand what your needs, concerns, and ideas are surrounding the university. The committee is made up of a diverse team of individuals that come from many different backgrounds, ranging from SGA, ISO, Camras Scholars, the Leadership Academy, varsity teams, the Greek community, graduate student organizations, and more. They are committed to helping the administration establish

benchmarks of performance for student services, identify priorities for improvement, create action plans for change, map progress, and instill accountability for those changes.

Once the committee has identified areas within the university services that are most important to students, they will develop the survey to focus on each of those key areas and ask students to provide feedback so that they can gauge what the university is doing right and what needs improvement. The committee will present the results from the Students Speak survey to the President and Provost in January and will also give feedback to the departments and service areas included on the survey. Student committee members also submit specific recommendations on how administrators can make the necessary changes needed to increase student satisfaction with their offices' services. These recommendations will stem from the survey findings collected and from additional input from members of various student organizations.

The Students Speak committee is supported by Dr. George Langlois, the Executive Director for the Center of Research and Service (part of the Lewis College of

Human Sciences) and the IIT Leadership Academy. For those that do not know him, Dr. Langlois is an Industrial/Organizational psychologist whose office also conducts the annual faculty survey and provides consultation to numerous high profile clients outside of IIT. His knowledge and expertise in survey design and analysis serves as a valuable asset to the committee. The Students Speak project is especially important to Dr. Langlois, as he received his PhD here at IIT and the project allows him and his office to give back to the university by helping to make students' experiences here the best that it can be.

The committee has the manpower, the determination, and the contacts, but they need one more crucial piece in order for this survey to make a difference – you. They need as many students as possible to provide feedback on the various student services in order to really gauge what has been working well for students and what needs improvement. Traditionally, the number of student responses has been close to half the total student body and the goal this year is to get an even larger proportion of students to participate. A couple minutes of your time is all it takes to help drive

positive change by ensuring that your voice is heard when the committee presents their findings to the President and Provost.

As an added incentive for participating in the survey, there will also be a raffle drawing that any participating students will be entered in, where they will have the chance to win up to \$150 in the form of a gift card. This is your chance to influence positive change for all IIT students and to have your opinions heard by the university's leadership and senior administrators. Again, the Students Speak Survey is focused on you, the student and this is your chance to help make a positive, lasting impact for current and future IIT students. The survey goes live October 26 and continues through November 6. All students will be sent an email with a link to the survey, but in case you miss it, you can simply go to (http://www.iit.edu/students_speak) and complete the survey there once it goes live, or stop by the kiosk that will be set up in MTCC during lunch hour. Take the survey and let your voice be heard – it only takes a few minutes of your time to make a difference at IIT!

Lewis College to host data roundtable

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The work of IIT's Lewis College of Human Sciences is situated at the intersection of humans and technology. As a part of promoting cross-disciplinary dialogue, the college will be hosting a roundtable event this week titled "Algorithms: Human Influence on the World of Data."

The college's roundtable event will be taking place on Thursday, October 29, in the MTCC Auditorium from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. On the Lewis College of Human Science's website, the description of the event reads as follows: "Algorithms convert

data into results—online news aggregation, investment trading decisions, and targets of surveillance programs are all determined by them. But this process is not morally or politically neutral; each algorithm carries in it cultural and political values. Behind every computation sits a person or group of people who've decided what information to collect, how to store it, how to analyze it, and how to use it. In this roundtable, we will discuss how algorithms shape the information we receive, and how transparent the social and political implications of these equations should or shouldn't be."

The event is open to any member of

the IIT community and is free. A reception will follow the event in the MTCC Ballroom.

Four featured roundtable participants will be present. Angela M. Cirucci has her Ph.D. from Temple University's School of Media and Communication. She is a current assistant professor of communication studies at Kutztown University. Jason Resch, who received his computer science degree from Illinois Tech in 2006, will also be joining the roundtable discussion. Also joining will be Christian Sandvig, associate professor of communication studies and information at the University of Michigan. The last featured panelist is Nick Seaver, a Ph.D.

student of anthropology at University of California-Irvine researching how people use technology to interpret sound. According to Stephanie Healey, Director of Marketing and Communications for Lewis College of Human Sciences, the four panelists will "Discuss how algorithms affect the information we receive, and how transparent the social and political implications of these equations should or shouldn't be."

Healey highly recommends that students attend the event. More information as well as an RSVP form can be found at <http://humansciences.iit.edu/roundtable>.

Illinois Tech Robotics presents at MSI Robot Block Party

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Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry (MSI), the largest science museum in the western hemisphere, premiered its newest exhibit, Robot Revolution, this past summer. The exhibit showcases dozens of robots and highlights the ways that humans and robots interact and the ways robots make work easier for humans.

To complement the exhibit, MSI has also hosted events called "Robot Block Party;" for these events, the museum invites local robotics experts into the museum to informally

present their work to the museum's audience. The most recent of these events was held over Columbus Day weekend, October 10-12. IIT's extracurricular robotics student organization, Illinois Tech Robotics (ITR), was the only local exhibitor to present at the museum all three days and reached over one thousand guests.

Illinois Tech Robotics brought four items to the museum to share. The most popular was a project known as mini-Roslund, a one-half scale functional model of ITR's oldest robot, Roslund. Mini-Roslund, armed with a Nerf dart launcher, was available for guests to drive around as well as shoot darts at targets on a field that students from ITR had set up.

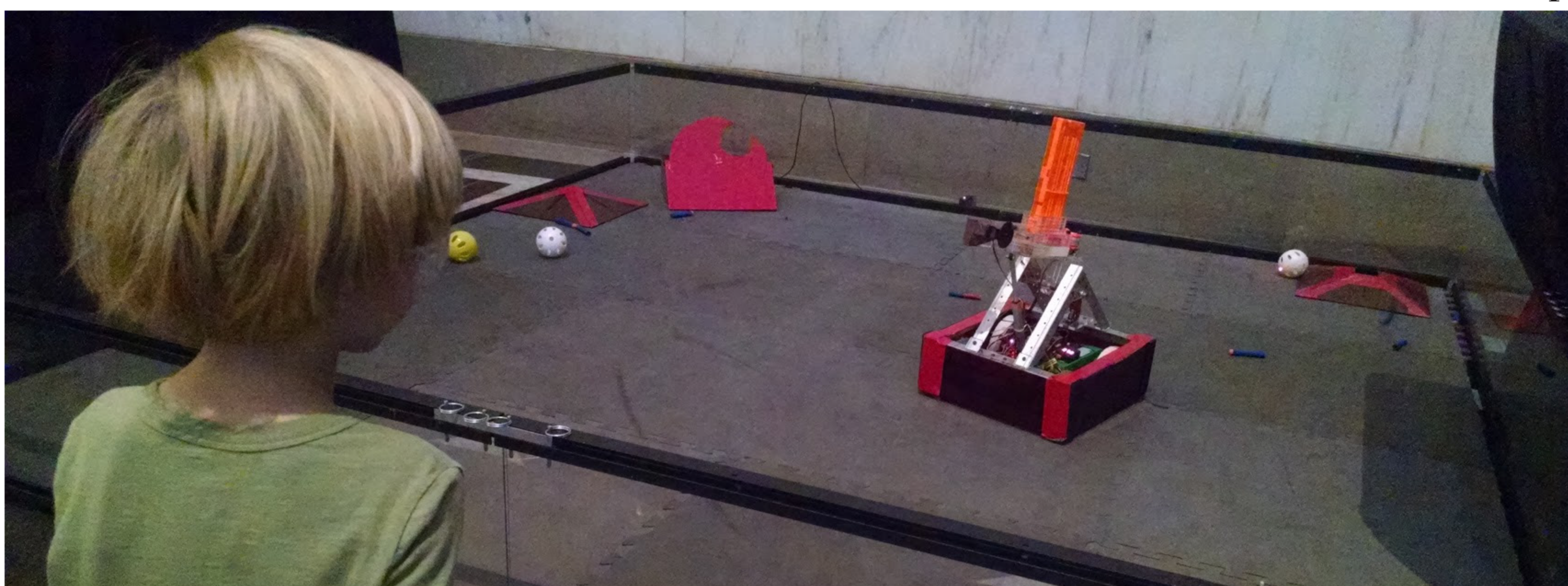
Hundreds of children had the opportunity to drive the robot and aim the dart launcher in a rotating target.

In addition to mini-Roslund, ITR also brought two other robots, Icarus and Fenrir. Icarus, ITR's quadcopter flying robot, was available for guests to see up close. Guests got the chance to interact with the robot by lifting and turning it and watching the robot's artificial horizon display change on a laptop screen. Fenrir is ITR's gravity-drive robot, a robot with two large wheels and a center mass on the axle between them. Guests who visited ITR's table at the museum learned about Fenrir's similarity to a Segway as well as the sensors necessary

to create a balancing robot.

The last item of interest included at ITR's display was their 3D printer, which was designed and built by IIT and ITR alumnus Paul Kim. ITR explained the principles and uses of 3D printing to guests and printed off small trinkets for guests to take home.

Even though MSI's Robot Revolution exhibit will only be open through early January, ITR looks forward to presenting again at MSI's next Robot Block Party event, which will take place during National Robotics Week in April 2016.



Photos by Kori Bowns