CAMPUS **OPINION** A&E TUESDAY, Have you been to Chicago's new Check out some great photos from Read about one student's NOVEMBER 3, the ISA formal. Uniqlo location? experience at the Lewis roundtable. 2015 Page 9 Page 2 Volume 183 | Issue 8 technewsiit.com OPINION 2-3 CAMPUS 3-8 **A&E 9** SLIPSTICK 11 SPORTS 11 Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

33rd Street Productions cast members finalize preparations for 'Avenue Q'

Kayleigh Stevens
TECHNEWS WRITER

"Avenue Q' is a dirty-minded Sesame Street for adults that everyone should come and see," says Stage Manager, Aesha Jackson, about 33rd Street Production's upcoming performance. Hilarious, offensive, and disgusting were all words used to describe the show that the cast members have been rehearsing for seven weeks. All of the cast is extremely excited for the show and can't wait to perform for students and faculty alike.

The musical "Avenue Q," according to stageagent.com, is about the interaction of puppets and humans in New York City. A newly-graduated college alumnus tries to find his place among the rest of the community. Other puppets and humans roam the avenue, lending a hand and a helpful song to guide him through this rough patch. Lucy T. Slut, Kate Monster, and Nicky are just a few names of the different puppets in the show.

Danny Wittig, the cast member portraying Princeton, was excited to have finally received his puppet on October 27, and he was not alone. After practicing for weeks with bare hands and 5lb arm weights, many in the cast were excited to begin rehearsals with puppets. Wittig was also excited to perform the song "I Wish I Could Go Back to College,"

as he thought it was a cool reflection that he thinks may happen to many people in the years after their graduation.

Kate Monster is the female lead of the musical, played by Jessica Buehler. Buehler's favorite song in the musical is "There's a Fine, Fine Line," as it is the perfect climax to the show. It is a "seriously deep song," she says, and it really leads into the second act. Buehler was ecstatic upon receiving her puppet, as the entire cast had to work hard to get used to holding them and using them properly.

The Bad Idea Bears, depicted by Jenna Disandro and Gianni Carvajal, are "sweet, cuddly, malicious bears," according to Disandro. They both are enjoying finishing the blocking of the play, especially with the new puppets. The Bears, though cute and cuddly, voice the opinions you get in the back of your head of bad things to do.

A cast favorite, Kurt Olson, plays the puppet Trekkie Monster. Trekkie Monster is a loner on the avenue, and stays to himself mostly. He has only one interest—Lucy T. Slut. Olson's favorite characters (besides Trekkie, of course) are the Bad Idea Bears. He enjoys these characters because he thinks of them as the voice everyone has in their head, but never acts upon.

Lucy T. Slut, illustrated by Robbi Hicks, is a performer in the Avenue Q world. Hicks' favorite song in the musical is "Schadenfreude." She thinks that it is a funny, true song that many can connect to. Hicks is struggling with her "sexy walk" in the show, and has been working on it the most throughout all of the rehearsals.

Sharing song favorites with Robbi Hicks is Kristal Copeland, who characterizes the superintendant of the apartment complex, Gary Coleman. This is Copeland's first time singing in a performance, and she feels terrified. She has been getting lessons from cast member Alex Hunt, on singing and performing. She may be terrified, but others are confident in her ability to pull through and perform what she needs.

Margaret Lee, the Artistic Director, warns to you to "be prepared to be offended, touched, and rolling on the ground of laughter." She is also very happy that 33rd Street Productions is producing this play, as this is her last chance to direct any sort of art form here at IIT, and she looks forward to closing out her career on a good note. Lee also plays Christmas Eve, a human on Avenue Q.

The Assistant Director, Dave Coxhead, is excited to perform the finished product. He also plays the part of Brian, a human on Avenue Q. His favorite song, "For Now" is the perfect message, says Coxhead, and warns that "happiness is fleeting." He is

excited for the show, and loves working with the other cast members to put together a great show.

The Music Director, Alex Hunt, is currently working on character development for his character, Rod. Rod is a puppet that is struggling with his identity. Hunt is excited for the harmonies to come together in the songs of the musical. As Hunt progressed through the rehearsals of the play, he has expressed a like towards the character Nicky, Rod's roommate.

Nicky is the lazy roommate to Rod's cleanliness and stress. Nicky helps Rod throughout the musical trying to find himself. Nicky is played by Brendan Kerrigan. Kerrigan is excited to sing "The Money Song" as he feels it sends a good message about giving to others. Kerrigan says that the song illustrates how it is "good to give to people, and that makes you feel good."

Avenue Q is set to be a funny, touching show that brings tears of understanding and laughter to everyone's eyes. There will be a donation hat going around, so, if you feel so inclined, bring your spare change to donate to IIT's student theatre group. The show is set to be performed on November 13, 14, 20 and 21, at 7 p.m. The show will go on in the Hermann Hall auditorium, and is approximated to be two hours long.













Photos by Kevin Zheng

TechNews

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Lewis Roundtable on human influence on the world of data

Shachi Sayata

TECHNEWS WRITER

In 2012, Facebook conducted an experiment to see if there was a relationship between the content it displayed to its users on their newsfeed and the emotion the users expressed through their own posts. The company was accused of 'manipulating' so to speak what the users could see and influencing their expressions. Interestingly so this experiment is a classic example of how computer simulated algorithms influence our behavior. I believe today algorithms are becoming more and more mortal; in the sense that they are not only a tool to quantitatively analyze data but a means

by which humans are becoming increasingly

predictable. Algorithmic studies today are thus

not an area limited to computer scientists or

engineers but a holistic field that involves peo-

I was glad I could grab the opportunity to attend the roundtable by Lewis College of Human Science on this topic. What really got me interested in going for this event was the diverse background of the panel participants. Further, despite their varied background they focused their research on the same topic. It was thus a great opportunity to obtain a holistic understanding of human influence in the world of data.

The panel participants consisted of Angela Cirucci who studies social networking sites to understand more social aspects like identification and culture, Nick Seaver who is a current PhD student of anthropology at University of California, who has an interesting paper published called "What Should Anthropology of Algorithms do?" where he talks about his study on engineers behind music recommending systems like Pandora, Jason Resch, who is an IIT alumnus and has over 500 patents (yes, 500!!!) in his name both issued and pending, and lastly, Christian Sandvig who is a professor at University of Michigan his area of study is the internet infrastructure and public policy. While Resch and Sandvig were able to bring about more technical aspects to the discussion, Seaver and Cirucci focused on the more social aspects. The panel was thus able to lucidly describe both technical and social parameters of algorithms and how we as users may be unaware of their existence but are interacting with some form of algorithm every day.

We live in an exceedingly digital age, where all our opinions and decisions are recorded and monitored. According to Sharon Machlis of Computer World, the number of hyperlinks on the World Wide Web in 2010 was approximately equal to the number of synapses (neurotransmitters) in the human brain. This only brings me in awe of how much data there really is on the Internet today and how these rather complex algorithms derive meaning from it.

Google is one of the most powerful and widely-used search engines today that deploys complex algorithms to derive meaning from the multitude of data on the web. Sandvig provides an example of how, if a person writes emails about how depressed he is on Gmail, his featured ad results would automatically show products that would treat depression. This type of targeted marketing is something that is a function of the human society and the 'algorithmic world', so to speak, is only a mirror to this. Sandvig focused his conversation on how topics related to fraud, racism and inequality that exist in the human society are replicated in the digital society.

The roundtable utilized instances of how Facebook runs its algorithm to interact with its users. I felt this was an appropriate example since it is the most widely used networking site today and it is easy for people from all walks of life to relate to. Have you ever wondered how you get the news feeds on your Facebook page, what you see on your wall or how Facebook recommends "People you may know?" It all goes through an algorithm that is run at the backend. If you've ever read the hundred-page terms and conditions document before signing up on Facebook, you would know that you are actually giving Facebook the right to use your activity data and present you results. Increasingly so, you do not see everything your friends post because Facebook filters the data and tailors the information for you with the help of its algorithm.

The most interesting thing I learned was when Sandvig explained the science behind the 'like' button. For example if I 'like' a product on Facebook, for me it is simply a metaphoric way of expressing my opinion in the digital world. Facebook on the other hand

establishes a permanent association of my identity with the URL. This link would later be reused not only to provide me with a similar newsfeeds of the product, but also recommend this product to other users.

Then arose the issue of 'Algorithmic Transparency,' or how companies should disclose how they are utilizing customer information and activity log to provide them with a set of results. To this, Resch explained how we would never be able to understand what really goes on behind the algorithm of Google even if they were compelled to disclose it. Further, the algorithms are dynamic and are continuously adapting to user needs and changing preferences. Multiple programmers make the modifications on the algorithms over the course of time and this would thus raise questions on the accountability, since no single programmer can be held responsible for writing the code.

They also spoke about ethics in the digital age and how it is increasingly important today to increase scrutiny and regulation on companies. To this Cirucci explained how no technology is timeless since it is constantly tweaked with the new requirements. The people creating these programs have a moral and cultural expectation, which is shaping the way we use technology today. The Internet is moving to an age where it shows us what it thinks we want to see, which is a tailored search result, rather than just providing the most optimal search result. This search result is not only influenced by our previous search query but also by factors such as geographic location, operating system of device and type of browser. As algorithms become more sophisticated with time it is the moral obligation of the programmers writing these algorithms to ensure that they are ethical.

Overall, the event was intellectually stimulating and provided a good level of insight to the audience. The audience consisted of alumni, industry experts and current students who were able to raise eloquent questions. The event was followed by a reception where I had the opportunity to meet the panelist and many people from the audience. It was a great experience since I learned how algorithms influence other industries. I look forward to reading more about the research conducted by the panelist and many such events by Lewis College.



Photo by Shachi Sayata

Advancing women by engaging men

Adedoyin Adeniji
TECHNEWS WRITER

we so desired.

tunity to sit in a room with a bunch of young women from across the nation. We had gathered in the room on that sunny day in Nashville to attend a session called "Advancing Women by Engaging Men." The workshop was just one of several seminars, workshops, sessions and tours that made up the WE15 Conference for the society of Women Engineers. It began with the three women fellows from the following universities—University of Maine Louisiana Tech University, and North Dakota

This past weekend I had the oppor-

For the next hour that I sat in that room, we discussed certain practices that made women engineers feel discriminated in schools, at work, and out on the field. Then came the big question, "Why is male engagement needed to advance women in the engineering field?" Simply put, because the engineering field was designed by men, for men, naturally the practices favor men. This doesn't

necessarily constitute a bad thing. It was just

University—reading out their reference so the

attendees could find out more information if

how things were until the Industrial Revolution happened and women delved into more technical work places.

Statistics from the Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey (Beede et al., 2013) shows that women make up 48% of the work force and 24% of the STEM work force. David et al. (2013) says that these numbers might be due to different reasons such as "a lack of female role models, gender stereotyping, and less family-friendly flexibility in the STEM fields." Margaret E. Blume-Kouhout in her article "Understanding the Gender Gap in STEM Fields Entrepreneurship," (2014) attributes the disparity in gender participation in STEM field to incentives and benefits not being as available to women as they are to men. With there being more men than women in engineering, it makes sense that for things to change to improve the current state of the field for women, male participation is necessary. Another reason is that men are generally more influential than women, as is evidenced in a research done by Linda L Carli (2001), which means that they would have a better chance at changing the policies and issues that currently limit the participation of women in the engineering field. Thirdly, changing these sexist policies that exist in engineering field that discourage women from participating could also benefit men.

Karen Horton, from the University of Maine, mentioned at the session during the conference that the unrealistic expectations placed on men to be tough has caused certain men to make some unwise decisions on the field causing them injuries, stress, and even death in extreme cases. Certain societies, foundations, and universities are doing what they can to advance women in engineering. Foundations like the National Science Foundation providing grants to women in stem field.

Societies like the Society of Women Engineers provide scholarships to young women in the STEM field. There are several other wonderful things like this going on to advance women, but maybe it's time we started thinking about involving men in our bid to advance women in the STEM field. It doesn't mean all the several gender disparities that happen in the STEM field right now will disappear but it wouldn't hurt to try. UN Women thought this would be a great idea. Their #HeforShe campaign is a solidarity movement aimed at involving boys as agents of change for gender equality rights.

Nuclear fission, security, IPROs, and how we need you

Reno Waswil

TECHNEWS WRITER

What are we willing to do for the sake of national security? It is a depressing fact about the world that this needs to be an issue. I am naturally conditioned to err on the side of less funding for things that are geared towards violence or sensationalism, especially in the face of the large costs that can be used for better purposes. There is an inherent value in preservation of life, but there is also value in assuring that life, while it's lived, stays just and worth living. For this, there must be some compromise between these two, and an indepth analysis of the pros and cons, risks and benefits, and negative and positive implications of each specific issue that is introduced.

Think of the following example, and not only the ethical, but practical issues involved in the solution: the smuggling of nuclear material and weaponry for the purpose of malicious activity. Considering just how much post-Cold War weapons grade nuclear material is missing, and given news stories about illegal trade and seizures of such

precious product, the danger from this is

One of the most probable methods of smuggling these items in undetected is by hiding them in Intermodal Cargo Containers, which are the format used to transport goods on cargo ships overseas as well as on trucks and trains overlandmasses.

The risk of the detonation of a nuclear bomb at a United States port could cause billions of dollars' worth of damage, as well as risk human lives and cause widespread panic. The proposed solution to this is to detect the product before it becomes a threatening issue. In fact, congressional mandates have enacted to address these concerns, particularly a series of acts made in 2007 that demanded that the best available technology be investigated and used at ports to detect such dangerous weapon grade, high-z nuclear material by 2012. However, there are severe practical problems as well as ethical ones that forestall the process.

My IPRO group 497-209, "Developing a New Strategy to Detect Smuggled Nuclear Material" focuses on this very problem, thinking about the practical,

ethical, legal, and scientific ramifications, and devises new ways of scanning cargo containers that will optimize the process by making it more efficient, safe, and useful towards that goal. One thing we could do is try to calculate chances of a bomb being smuggled without being detected given the current nuclear prowess and socio-political climate of the world. We still must remain cognizant of -- if the mathematical and design aspects of the project pan out—the monetary costs, possible health effects, and the effects to the shipping process these would cause, but what might be even more important is the issues others have with the concept we are proposing.

The survey found by going to tinyurl. com/cargoscan was designed specifically for that. As a recent IIT Today post explains, it exists "to gauge the prior knowledge about, reactions from, and levels of concern towards the subject matter of the general public (centralized in the Illinois Tech population) to ensure that all angles are addressed and to gauge how best to present the findings of their project to maximize understanding."

We will be collecting responses until

Thursday, November 12, and would love if those listening with opinions would fill it out, to help us figure out what goals in addition to the ones we've already discussed might be applicable.

OPINION

Things that are applicable include: how people in general feel about the possibility of misuse of dangerous machinery at cargo ports, health risks from being hit by a scanning beam, the probabilities of false negatives, slowing down shipping process, obligation to educate of risks, and many more. We've had in-depth discussions with Kelly Laas from our Ethics Library on the second floor of Hermann Hall, but that's only one voice out of all the rest of them that this would be affecting, so we ask you to help us get more.

We have done a lot on the part of researching the science, technology, and effects on certain materials, including the issues, but we won't be much closer until we get an idea of what people think about this. I encourage everyone to start and continue thinking about these sorts of issues, and a great start would be to answer our 3 page survey at tinyurl.com/ cargoscan.

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CAMPUS

Union Board fills Halloween weekend with fun

Kayleigh Stevens

TECHNEWS WRITER

Halloween weekend is a time of spooks, scares and freaky costumes. Union Board made sure that the spirit of Halloween could be felt throughout campus, holding numerous activities. From spooky movie marathons to hayrides, Union Board had Halloween covered.

The fun and activities started on Wednesday at lunch time. The Student Organization Trick or Treat took place on the MTCC Bridge, providing students with a way to learn more about different organizations, including National Society of Black Engineers, Vedic Vision Society and IT-Cru. Each table had candy and little prizes. At the beginning,

by Global Grounds students could pick up a bag to collect their goodies in. Some tables had fun things to do such as ASA's table where students could design their own mini ghost, and the sisters were going to hang them in their house. This turned out to be a fun way to get to know more student organizations, while getting rewarded at the same time.

Starting at 3p.m. on Wednesday screams and spooky sounds could be heard throughout the MTCC, coming from Center Court, where Union Board was holding a movie marathon of spooky Halloween movies. They played three movies in total, Hocus Pocus, Nightmare on Elm Street and Halloweentown. Many turned out to watch part of or the entire marathon, and the sounds gave a spooky feel to

the entire MTCC until 9 p.m.

On Thursday the festivities continued, with a Halloweek Hustle on the MTCC Bridge during lunch. This activity was similar to the trick or treating the day before, but instead of only student organizations, there were different companies present as well. Upkey, a website that helps students find jobs and internships was there, along with UNICER Student Government Association and Union Board. The Union Board table had guessing games and other activities to do in the hope of winning prizes. The prizes included headphones, Bluetooth speakers, and more.

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, the Union Board had a Greek Spooktacular planned to take place on the Quad. It began to drizzle a

little, but that didn't dampen the spirits.

Priday during lunch, Union Board had a horse drawn hayride, touring through the campus. The horse's name was Rave, and he was adorable. He paraded through campus an old, 1800's cart, creating a historic feel to the event. Rave started the hayrides in front of Galvin Library and traversed most of campus, hitting all the scenic buildings and areas.

Lastly, Union Board held a special Halloween Dance in the Bog Saturday night. It had a spooky and funky feel to it, with a tarot card reader and photo booth. Many appeared, in costume and not in costume, creating a fun, spirited atmosphere that rounded out the holiday nicely.





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IIT students break dance with the Brick Headz Crew

Ricardo Torres

TECHNEWS WRITER

Union Board hosted their third All The RIITe Moves session on Saturday, October 24, and it was hosted at The Bog. The event began at 7 p.m. as the members of Brick Headz crew prepared to give a break dancing presentation. The Brick Headz Crew is a Chicago group that focuses on break dancing. They also give performances throughout the community and dance lessons to those who are interested. After rehearsing for some time, the Brick Headz Crew—made

up of four members—was ready to perform. During the performance, it was clear that the IIT students were enjoying the show as they clapped and showed expressions of surprise as the performers executed impressive moves.

After their performance the Brick Headz Crew gathered the students into a circle to teach them a few break dancing techniques. The first member introduced the students to the basic break dancing steps. He explained that when beginning to dance it is important to learn to do the basic steps as these will help the dancer get in step with the music and have fun by adding their own moves to

the dance. The second member then took the floor as he would be teaching the students about performing more dynamic moves. These included moves such as handstands, and others where the dancer would be partially or completely upside down. He stated that an essential technique to performing these moves was to generate momentum and use it to perform the move. After this, another member of the Brick Headz crew shared some break dancing moves that would bring a style to the dancer. He also shared that in break dancing many dancers have their unique style and it was common practice for a dancer to generate

their own moves that would give them their own style.

The IIT students then prepared to show what they had learned as the music was turned up and the lights were dimmed. Each student took a turn to dance to the music in the middle of the circle as they laughed and learned from each other. The event ended as the Brick Headz Crew took a group picture with the IIT students and thanked the students for coming to watch their performance.



Photo courtesy of Ricardo Torres

Adjunct professors seek better compensation, benefits

Kori Bowns

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Senator Dick Durbin, along with Chicago's City Council recently endorsed the organization of adjunct professors to seek better working conditions as well as a voice on their campuses. A city-wide movement toward unionization of adjunct professors is currently underway in Chicago, and IIT adjunct professors are joining it.

On Tuesday, October 27, a few adjunct faculty members from the university hosted a table on the MTCC Bridge over the

lunch hour, seeking support from students for their cause. They asked students passing by to sign up in support and to receive additional information. According to Kim Moulos, an adjunct instructor in the Humanities Department, 44% of the faculty at IIT is adjunct faculty, which is a large increase from the number of adjunct professors in the past. Adjunct professors often have the same qualifications as other faculty, but are nontenure track and often contracted to teach part-time at an institution.

Moulos says that the national

average pay for adjunct professors is \$2700 a course, and while IIT pays much better, the university limits adjunct faculty to teaching two courses a term and offers no benefits. Moulos says she teaches six classes with 140 students between IIT and College of DuPage in order to meet her expenses. When only 30% of an IIT student's tuition goes toward paying faculty and 44% of faculty are adjuncts, many of the adjunct professors believe that they can be paid more and receive benefits.

The movement toward unionization of adjunct faculty is gaining ground at a

number of Chicago universities, including University of Chicago, DePaul, Loyola, and Northwestern, as well as IIT. The organization of adjunct faculty at IIT is in its first stages, so Moulos wasn't able to comment much on the reception of the movement at the university as of yet. Students interested in following the developments of adjunct faculty unionization at IIT can follow the "Faculty Forward Chicago" page on Facebook to see updates regarding unionization from a variety of Chicago-area schools.



Photo by Genevieve Hummel

2016 Student Gift survey goes live

Kori Bowns **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

For the past six years, IIT's Student Gift Campaign has raised money from the student body to help purchase a variety of campus improvements as a gift from the student body to the university. Previous student gifts have included bike racks for campus, new furniture for Galvin Library, improved water fountains, and this year's gift, renovations to the Keating Sports Center weight room. The tradition of the annual Student Gift Campaign aims to allow students to give back to the IIT

community.

IIT's Student Gift Campaign has a committee that includes a number of students. The committee selected a variety of options for the 2016 student gift, and is now surveying the IIT community to see which gift option they'd like to see make a difference on campus. The survey went live last week and was also announced in an email to students from Provost Frances Bronet on the morning of November 2.

After following the link in the email to the survey, students can choose the project that they'd most like to see brought to campus. Four options are offered in the survey. One option, an emergency textbook fund, is a fund of money that would help students experiencing financial hardship purchase textbooks. Another option, charging stations and lockers, would bring locking phone charging stations to The Bog, MTCC, and academic buildings on campus. A third option is the implementation of solar-powered crosswalk signs that have flashing LED lights to alert traffic of pedestrians crossing the street in an endeavor to increase safety when walking through campus. The final option included on the survey is solar-powered picnic tables

that would have power outlets for student electronics.

CAIMPUS

The survey also offers the option for students to share ideas for future Student Gift Campaign projects and allows students to sign up to be involved in the campaign. Last year's campaign raised over 25 thousand dollars including donations from 781 undergraduate students. After selection of the next student gift, students can look forward to the opportunity to donate toward a project to improve the university.

RHA creates spooky Halloween festivities

Kayleigh Stevens

TECHNEWS WRITER

Screams of terror and fright could be heard resounding from South Hall this past Friday night. South hall's first and second floors were turned into a terrifying haunted hall, creating a freaky frightening feel to MSV. However, it wasn't all fright in the dorms, as in the courtyard there was apple bobbing and other activities. There was also a scavenger hunt that traversed the entirety of the dorm, causing students to explore areas they might not have been before, while trying figure out

the clues.

The haunted hall was definitely a fan favorite. The decorations and preparations began at 7 p.m., and the hall opened at 8 p.m. Students were made to go through a black curtain covering the entrance, and into the first floor, and that's where it all began. Residents of that floor were also in good spirits, helping add to the fear: by quickly opening doors as people passed by, jumping out of their rooms wearing creepy masks, and screaming to make people jump. The first floor had ghosts flying across the hall on powered wires, and creepy

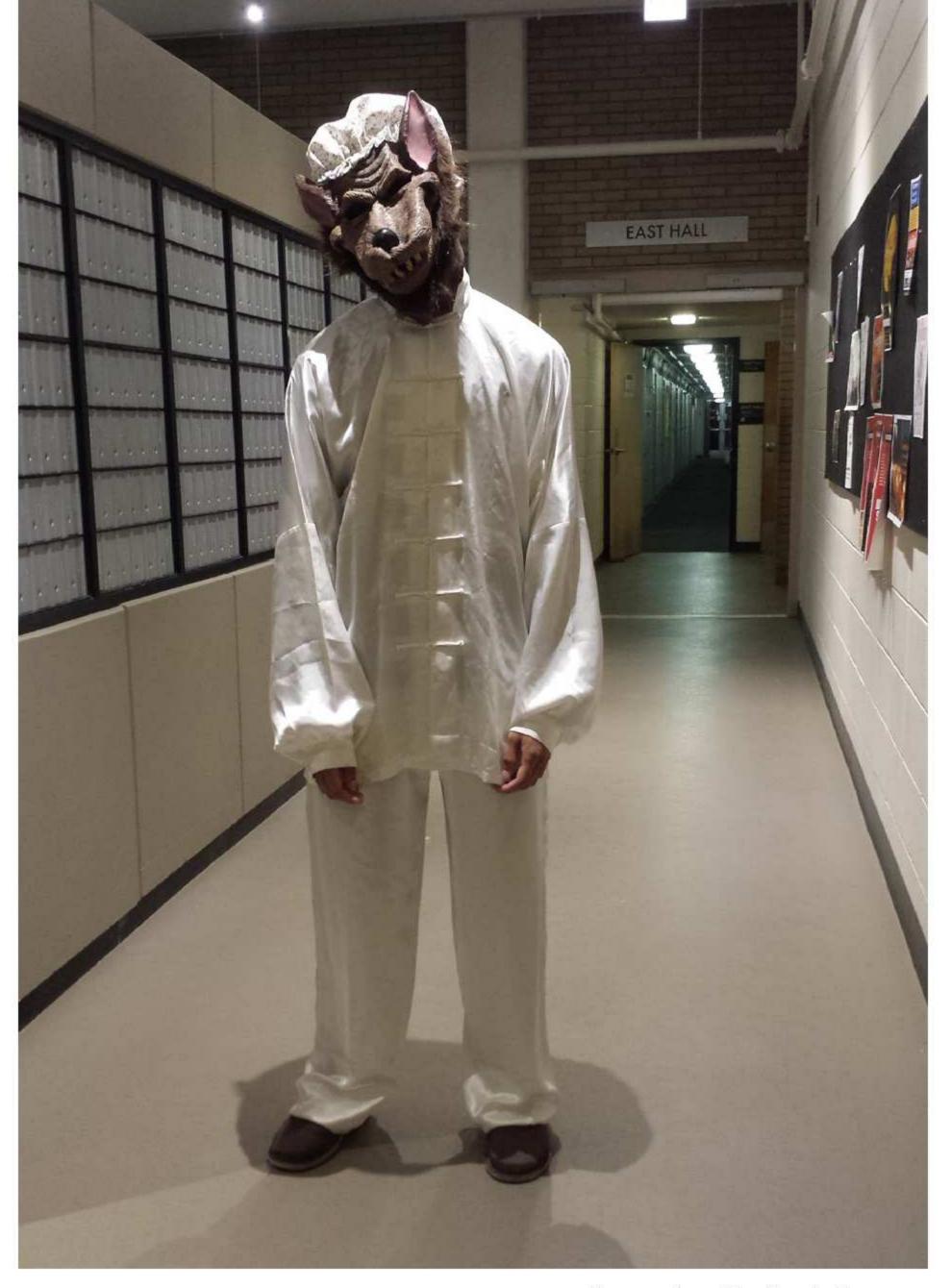
skeletons shrouded in cloaks roamed the floor. The lights were off and there were a few dim lights emanating throughout the floor. Spider webs had been hung from the ceiling, hanging low to make people crouch as they went through.

The second floor was a step up from the first floor; the antics were turned up a notch. The lighting was lower, there were screams resounding from a speaker at the other end of the hall, and there were more frights. Lights were flashing on the second floor, creating shadows that moved and other frights in students' minds. At one end of the hall, the phone was ringing incessantly, antagonizing someone to answer it. Once it was answered, a creature would climb down the wall in front of the phone, scaring the answerer. After the phone, students were lead out of the house and back downstairs.

The residents were so into these festivities that if one student was particularly terrified, they would begin to follow them out of the hall. Terror could be felt throughout the hall, as even some of its own residents would be too scared to enter the hall. It was the perfect touch of horror that should be present in every Halloween celebration.







Photos by Kayleigh Stevens

Union Board in need of performers for Hawks Coffeehouse

15%

Reno Waswil **TECHNEWS WRITER**

Union Board's Hawks Coffeehouse, though one of its primary reasons for existence is to give students and others within the IIT community an outlet to perform in a casual and yet professional coffeehouse style venue, has historically had trouble booking these sorts of acts. This semester particularly, they have begun to rely on professional performers more heavily than ever due to a lacking ability to find interested and able student/faculty/staff artists.

Hawks Coffeehouse takes place

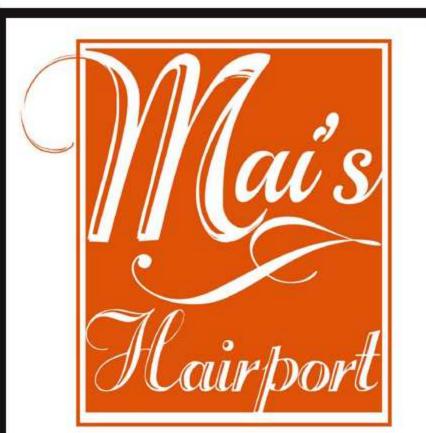
every other week, Tuesday nights starting at 7 p.m. and running usually to 8 p.m. or a little longer in the MTCC Welcome Center. There have been five performances so far this semester, and two more are planned to take place throughout the month of November.

For the purpose of ensuring that the gig is made as accommodating as possible to those on campus that are artistically inclined, the very last Coffeehouse this semester on Tuesday, November 24, 2015, will be something of an open mic night, and will feature multiple acts in the time period, who are offered the opportunity to perform sets ranging from under 10 minutes to over 30.

Union Board and WIIT, IIT's student run radio station, ask that all campus affiliates that find this opportunity compelling, whether they be in bands, a solo artist, a spoken word performer, or skilled in any of a plethora of performance based art-forms, join to whatever capacity they feel comfortable. Coffeehouse performances are a great outlet for performers to engage in creative expression in a judgment free environment, which is rare outside of the Greek community. Performers on the bill that night will be provided Union Board swag as a "Thank You" for their addition.

There will be food (sweets, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and possibly others) available for those that perform and attend. Prior to the event, WIIT will be conducting interviews with the performers interested in participating to help promote it. These "Unknown Talent" interviews are very casual and always a blast.

Seeing that there are so many great and creative artists in the IIT community that truly deserve to be heard but just don't have a suitable outlet, Union Board and WIIT are confident that this event will be a high point of the semester as long as they get the message out in the right venues. Interested individuals are encouraged to write unknowntalentchicago@ gmail.com to setup a brief audition, which will involve the performance of one set piece.



Chicago, IL 60616

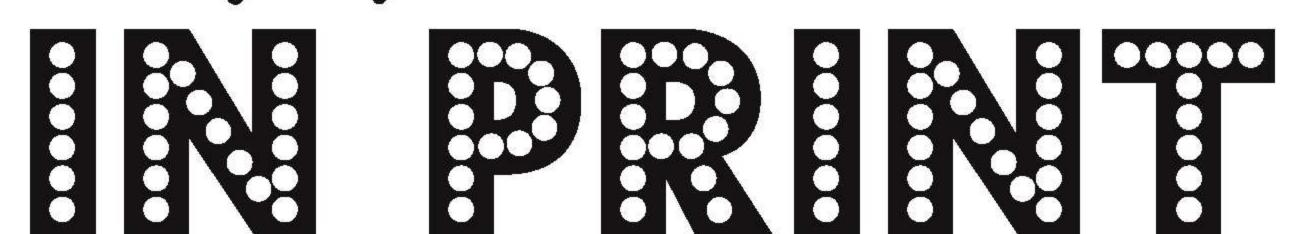
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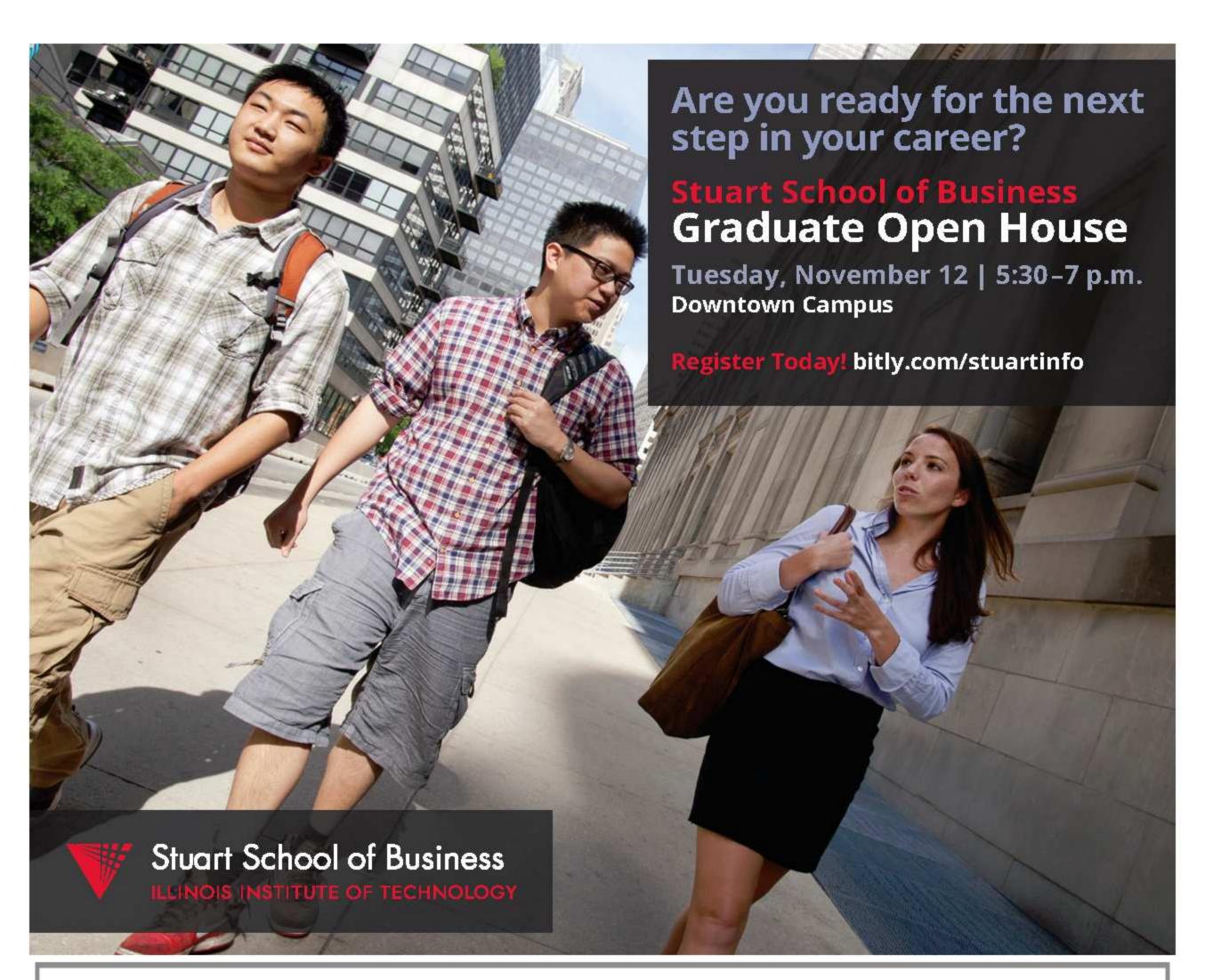
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ISA celebrates a glamorous formal night

Abha Dalmia

TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT's Indian Student Association (ISA) organization held its most-awaited annual fall event, The ISA Formal night, on October 23, 2015. The fact that tickets sold out within a record time of two hours indicates how excited students were for this event.

The 99th floor of the Willis tower served as the perfect location to celebrate the important Hindu festival of Navratri, which is a 10-day festival of worship and dance. Zain Shethwala, Vice President of Marketing for ISA, said that even though they encountered difficulties negotiating for the venue, he is glad they could secure it as he received a lot of positive feedback from attendees after the event. In addition, the committee intended to change ISA's image from an organization that just provides good food at its events to one that produces meaningful experiences for the student body of IIT. Previously people would just come to eat and leave; they wanted to provide a backdrop where people would enjoy mingling with one another and expanding their networks.

Students had to take two sets of lifts to get to the elegantly-decorated hall on the 99th floor of the Willis tower. Half of the hall was set up with dinner tables designated

for eating and relaxing while the other half boasted a huge, glittery black dance floor. The venue was decorated in a very simplistic and elegant manner by the student organizers, with flower lights at the center of every table and an Indian flag displayed with pride at four opposite ends of the hall.

Students decked in their best Indian attire started to trickle in by 7 p.m. In an hour, the hall was filled with color and glitter with girls looking gorgeous and glamorous in their lenghas and men looking dashing in their Sherwanis. It was heartwarming to see that a decent number of non-Indian students had not only made the effort to wear the Indian attire, but also looked absolutely gorgeous as they carried themselves with utter grace and beauty. The event witnessed students from China, Korea, Magnolia, Poland, Bulgaria, Chicago, and Mexico, to name a few.

According to Shethwala, the organization was making a conscious effort towards achieving their goal of incorporating students from a diverse range of backgrounds in their organization and events. They marketed this event through the general Facebook group for IIT students as a formal night event where students get to learn about the Indian culture to emphasize that everyone is welcome to join ISA events. In addition, they asked for song recommendations in any

language from everyone to ensure that they could cater to everyone's taste in music.

Upon entering the venue, the organizers checked students in and gave them raffle tickets. Then around 8 o'clock, they started to call out groups of 15 at a time and gave the "lucky" ones an opportunity to go to the skydeck. About 100 students got free passes to visit the sky deck, a part of which had been cordoned off just for us. For many it was their first time on the sky deck and the mesmerizing view of Chicago provided students with ample opportunity to click some Facebook-profile worthy pictures. This was followed by dinner where international students got to taste the authentic Indian cuisine with a moderate amount of spices that ensured that everyone's taste buds could handle.

The most memorable aspect of this event was a dance performance presented by ISA organizers on a medley of popular Indian songs. The 2 weeks of hard work and time these passionate dancers put into this performance was evident in their euphoric smiles and synchronicity. According to a member of the organizing committee, in previous years they had random people perform to a random playlist of Bollywood songs; however this was the first time that they had a team of passionate dancers willing to put forth a performance.

After the dance performance, the

dance floor was open to everyone. The DJ started with playing Garba, Dandiya, and Bhangra songs before gradually progressing to the much-loved Bollywood music. The DJ's attempt at mixing English beats and Hardwell songs with Bollywood music injected the atmosphere with a lively sprit. Students familiar with the complicated 12-step Garba sequence could be seen teaching the amateur dancers with much patience, pride and encouragement. It was lovely to see everyone present at the event, dancers as well as nondancers, shaking their leg to Indian music.

Overall, students who have been attending ISA events feel that it is drastically improving with each event. It is becoming bigger and starting to organize events that are more meaningful and beneficial. They had two other events this semester- the career workshop and picnic event that too garnered very positive feedback. Moving forward, the committee hopes to host events that create and extract meaningful value for not just the Indians in IIT but for all nationalities, with the aim to integrate the IIT community further.

The next event that they are currently working on is one where an array of organizations on campus that deal with issues of racial discrimination will clarify common misconceptions.













Photos courtesy of Abha Dalmia and Indian Student Association

campus@technewsiit.com Students celebrate Day of the Dead by dancing the night away

Ricardo Torres

TECHNEWS WRITER

As Halloween was right around the corner, many student organizations have been hosting Halloween-themed events. On the night of Thursday, October 30, students had the opportunity to experience another fun night with dancing and laughing. The Day of the Dead Dance party was hosted at The Bog with the combined efforts of Latinos Involved in Further Education (LIFE), Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE), and the Commuter Student Association (CSA).

The members of these three student organizations met before the event to decorate The Bog with Halloween themed items. They brought in long and colorful paper decorations that were hung on a string across The Bog. The tables were decorated with paper of different colors and bags with the Day of the Dead drawings on them. These bags also included a light that changed to different colors inside, which helped brighten up the room and the bags with the different colors. Also, to give the tables a spookier look, the members placed little skulls that are traditionally used during decorations, the DJ team for the dance party arrived and prepared their equipment to



Photo by Ricardo Torres

the Day of the Dead celebrations.

provide fun music for the students to dance After they had finished with the to. The members then began to change into their costumes to begin the party. Shortly after 9 p.m., everything was ready and students began to arrive and walk into The Bog. It took some time for the students to loosen up and enter the dance floor since there were not too many students in the beginning. After about 20 minutes, a larger crowd began to gather and some students started to move to the beat of the music.

As the dance party moved later into the night, many students began to gather at the dance floor and enjoy each other's company. Some of the song genres that were played were Cumbia, Merengue, Bachata, and Hip-hop. A song that really helped break the ice for students, to enter the dance floor was Cha-Cha Slide.

The event was considered successful by the members who hosted the event, became the students could be seen having fun and dancing the night away.

SGA 'Hearing Of Horror' meeting recap

Genevieve Hummel TECHNEWS WRITER

The biweekly senate meeting of the Student Government Association was held last Tuesday in the regular room, the MTCC Auditorium. What was not so regular about this meeting, however, was the Halloween theme that presided over this "Hearing of Horror". Senate members and meeting attendees were encouraged to come in costume, creating a fun atmosphere for all involved.

The meeting started with President Rahul Wadhwani presenting his points while remaining in character the whole time. Wadhwani, donning a white mask that hid his face, presented his points under the guise that he was not, in fact, Rahul, but instead was Ron Weasley, there to present for him. This was a fun, light-hearted way to start the meeting.

The President's report covered such topics as the meeting of the board of trustees. The two main points covered at this meeting were the plan to improve student housing by talking to students who have moved off

campus to find out what motivated them to move and how the dorms can be improved to the topic of meal plan changes was discussed because many students are dissatisfied with the inflexibility of the meal plans available and the school is looking for ways to improve the meal plan to suit everyone's needs as best as possible. The President also discussed Student Speak, the online survey that allows various organizations and departments on campus to learn what students know and think about what is happening on campus. All students should fill out this survey to get their voice heard about campus matters.

The Vice President of Student Life presented project updates about a few of the projects that SGA wants to happen around campus. First, SGA is trying to get a second entrance put into MSV. There are, however, some complications surrounding this, such as the entrance needing to be staffed full time, causing this project to become a long-term project that SGA will continue to work on. There is also a project happening to add more

bottle filling water fountains in other halls in MSV and buildings on campus. Also discussed on campus, to have a printer installed in Carmen Hall, improvements to IIT Today, and improvements to the crosswalks and lighting around campus. All of the projects are going well and progress is being made on each.

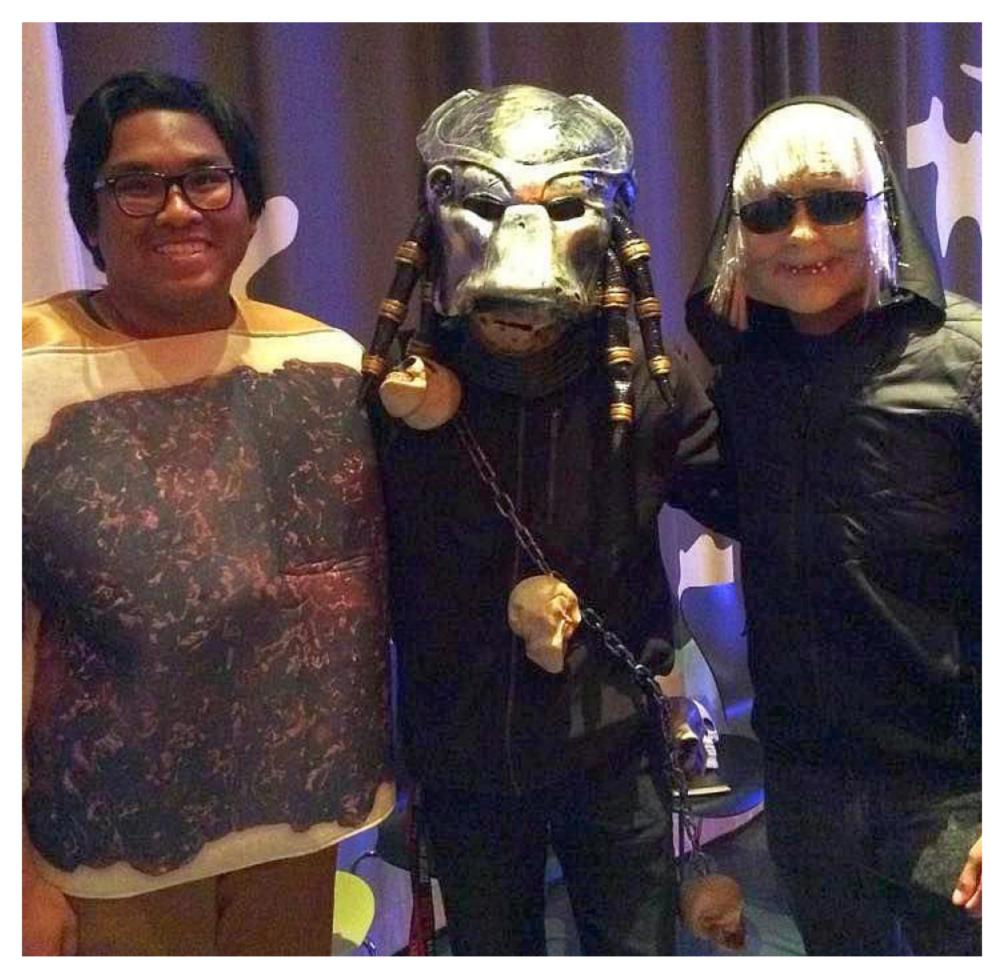
Finance board had a hearing last Saturday where funds were distributed to the various organizations that sent in budgets and requested funds. There will be two forums, hosted by finance board, where anyone is welcome to attend to ask questions and learn more about the funds that were distributed. These two forums will be held Tuesday November 3 and Thursday November 5 at lunch time in Perlstein Hall 109.

Two new organizations presented at this meeting and received approval to become official clubs on campus. The IIT Maker Society is a group looking to encourage entrepreneur types who have ideas for projects they want to build, but don't know how to go about building them. The society wants

to provide students with a single place to go when looking for information on how to use encourage students to live on campus. Also, was the project to install a calisthenics park campus resources like the IdeaShop as well as encouraging students to create and market their project ideas.

The second organization that received approval was the Veteran's Club. Illinois state schools are required to have a Veteran's club on campus; however, IIT is a private school and therefore is not required to have one. This club would be a great way to support veteran students on campus and bring together veteran students, veteran faculty, and possibly even ROTC students to create a friendly support group for those involved with the armed forces.

The various costumes worn by senate members brought a spooky theme to the meeting that everyone appeared to enjoy. Senate meetings are held every two weeks in MTCC and all students are encouraged to attend to learn about happenings on campus and let their voice be heard concerning matters that pertain to students at IIT.





Photos by Genevieve Hummel

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Uniqlo Chicago opens on Magnificent Mile

Kori Bowns

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Japanese clothing retailer Uniqlo is immensely popular for its reasonably-priced, high-quality basics and cold weather gear. At the beginning of this year, it operated over 1,400 stores in 16 countries, but only 21 in the United States, leaving many fans of the store only able to order online. This fall Uniqlo is opening 18 additional stores in the US, including one in Chicago.

On October 23, Uniqlo opened its doors on Chicago's Magnificent Mile at the intersection of Pearson Street and Michigan

Avenue. The store fills three floors above the Topshop location in the same building. Chicago's new store is the second-largest in the country, the exception being the New York Fifth Avenue flagship store.

After much anticipation, the opening of the store brought thousands of guests over the weekend. Customers who visited the store on Saturday were welcomed by a variety of activities taking place nearby outside of the store. A range of musical acts were performing, including several DJs and taiko drum performances. Radio station KISS FM also offered a prize where visitors could win candy, bracelets, and Uniqlo gift cards.

While the hype outside of the store was its own spectacle, entering the store itself was another. After riding a long escalator ride to the first floor of Uniqlo, customers were greeted by wall-to-wall sweaters, shirts, and jackets in dozens of colors, many of which were on sale to promote the store's opening weekend. The first 200 customers who visited the store each day received a free Uniqlo tote bag, and all customers who spent more than \$50 received a free Heattech shirt, a warm base layer similar to Under Armour.

The store was well-prepared for the immensely popular launch. Dozens of sales associates were on hand to answer questions,

advertise sales, and assist customers in navigating the long fitting room and checkout lines. The store features a Starbucks on its top floor that had its team members wandering the store offering samples of baked goods.

While lines at the store were long, many people came away with great deals and a fun experience. Even if nothing is purchased, seeing and navigating the store is an adventure on its own. With the high quality and simple items it offers, Uniqlo is sure to become a staple on Chicago's Magnificent Mile for tourists and locals alike.







Stuart Firestein presents C2ST Lecture on failure in science

Kori Bowns

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C2ST) hosts a variety of events in the city to enhance the public perception of science and technology. On the evening of Wednesday, October 21, C2ST hosted a lecture by Stuart Firestein entitled "Failure: Why Science is So Successful." The lecture took place in the gymnasium of Chicago Tech Academy High School on the Near West Side of the city.

professor of Firestein is a neuroscience at Columbia University and has published two books that deal heavily with the differences between public perception of science and how scientific progress is actually made. The first of which, "Ignorance: How it

Successful" was released in early October of this year.

Approximately 50 people joined members of C2ST for the lecture. The audience included a variety of teachers, scientists, and students. Firestein opened his talk with a proverb he recalls often in "Ignorance:" "It is very difficult to find a black cat in a dark room. . . especially when there is no cat." Firestein says that this quote in particular is a great descriptor of science; while many people think of science as exact and absolute, a lot of scientists spend their time stumbling through what they don't know, looking for a connection that may or may not exist. Firestein explained to his audience that science isn't solely built on

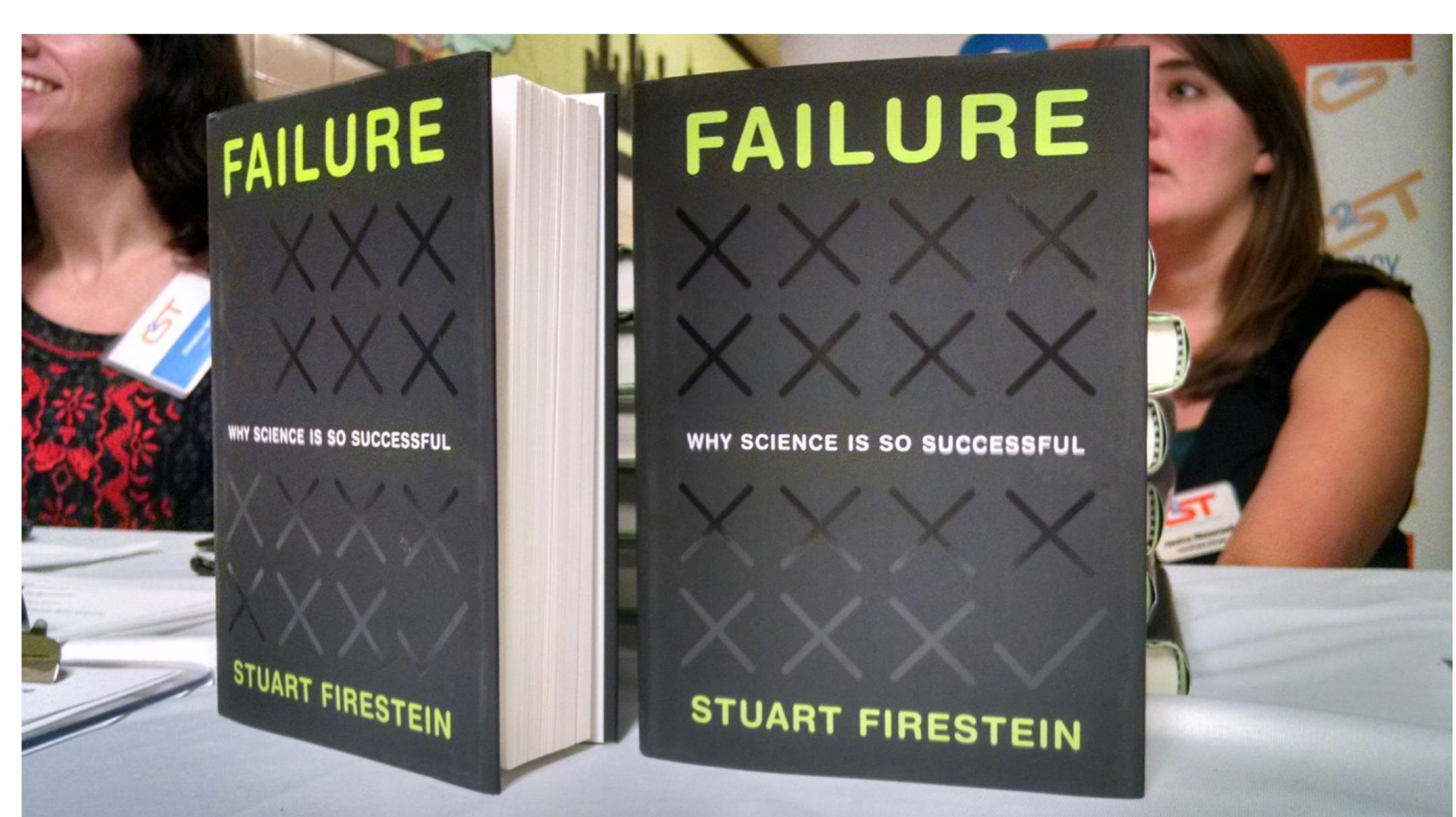
Drives Science," was published in 2012, and knowledge, objectivity, fact, and truth, as many his second book, "Failure: Why Science is so non-scientists perceive, but it is also built on variety of historic stories of scientific progress ignorance, failure, doubt, and uncertainty.

> Firestein spent his lecture explaining many of the human aspects of science that are often left out in an average person's education on science. He spoke of his experiences as a professor of neuroscience, where he noticed that his curriculum and lectures seemed to imply that scientists has discovered everything that there is to know about neuroscience, when that is very far from the truth. That experience led Firestein to explore the differences between the way scientists do their work and the way the public perceives it. He says that scientists "don't sit around and talk about what we know ... we talk about what we don't know and what we want to know."

He continued his lecture and told a and discovery that relied on human creativity, failure, and uncertainty. Firestein says that scientific progress is full of, and should be full of, failures, even though we normally don't learn about the process of science in school or from the media; we only see the end result. Firestein also says that these human aspects aren't a bad thing; they don't mean that science is unsound. He told his audience that he thinks it is important that all members of the public are scientifically literate and understand more about how scientists do their jobs.

After Firestein's lecture, copies of his newest book were available for purchase and he stayed at the venue to sign books and speak with members of the audience.





Photos by Kori Bowns

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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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SPORTS



Thursday, November 5

Women's Soccer @ SUNY ESF 10:30 a.m.

Friday, November 6

Cross Country @ USCAA Championships 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 7

Swimming and Diving vs. Loras College 3 p.m.

Swimming and Diving

vs. Lake Forest 3 p.m.

Women's Basketball

vs. Rockford 1 p.m.

Friday, November 13

Men's Basketball @ Chicago State 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 14

Swimming and Diving vs. Kenosha, Wis. 12 p.m.

Women's Basketball

vs. Calvin 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17

Men's Basketball @ Wabash Crawfordsville 6:30 p.m.

The Charleston Paily Mail THE WEATHER City and State-Rain. Snow, Colder

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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 WEESMAN

Obama

WOASHINGTON - Sep. Barack