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**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 22,
2016**

Volume 186 | Issue 11

technewsiit.com

TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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Giving Day raises \$747,538 and kicks off this year's Student Gift Campaign

Reno Waswil

DISTRIBUTION EDITOR

Giving Day is a newly formed Illinois Tech tradition during which the community surrounding the university comes together to donate to the school to provide funding for "scholarships, educational supplies, campus support, and other university initiatives." On Tuesday, November 15, 2016, the second annual 24-hour Giving Day campaign was held, which had the slogan "TECH YEAH!"

This event was primarily organized by the Office of Institutional Advancement and was headquartered at the Pritzker Club that day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Donations made in-person, online, or over the phone went "straight to the fund, scholarship, or department" to which the donation was made.

This year, the event raised a total of \$747,538 through 1,036 "gifts" or donations from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the university along with a number of matching donations and "challenge" donations, which "unlocked" money as more

and more donations were made. This was an increase from the \$685,000 from 1,005 gifts the previous year in the same 24-hour period of time.

Although the Office of Institutional Advancement's duties primarily revolve around alumni outreach, encouraging students to make donations was made a focus this year with the Student Gift Committee's "Hawks 4 Hawks Hardship fund" contribution to the event. This is a fund that would be set aside to provide financial assistance to students that face hardships and to which students could

make direct donations. Several tables were set up around MTCC staffed by volunteers of the Student Gift Committee at which donations could be made. Each donation at the minimum \$5 limit returned a raffle ticket to the donor, and a donation of \$15 or more came with a free t-shirt, which was designed by Diana Wu, a student on the committee. This campaign ended with a launch party from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the MTCC Ballroom at which the raffle prizes were awarded.



Photos by Reno Waswil

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

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Some faculty members issue statement of support post the presidential election

We, the undersigned faculty, condemn the election of a racist, bigoted, xenophobic, misogynist to the office of president. We write to make our voices heard during a dark and troubling time in U.S. history, and to let you--our students and coworkers--know that we will endeavor

with all the resources at our disposal to resist the forces of hatred in our classrooms and on our campus. We, the undersigned, stand with students of color, international students, women students, LGBTQI+ students, students with disabilities, and all students who are feeling marginalized or frightened by the

results of the recent election. We are glad you are here. You are valuable. We recognize and appreciate the many things you add to our community and our nation, and we will fight for your civil rights.

In solidarity,

Marie Hicks, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of History of Technology
Humanities Department

Laura Forlano, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Design
Institute of Design

Signed in support:

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Raising awareness of endangered and vulnerable sea turtles

Ruth Rodriguez
TECHNEWS WRITER

When you think about dinosaurs, you see and imagine all the creatures that lived long ago and are now extinct, but what if I told you that you were wrong and that you just overlooked a very important sea creature...the turtle?

Sea turtles have been around for over 100 million years; they predate the last era of dinosaurs, and even though they don't amount to the size of an actual dinosaur, the rare leatherback sea turtle species can weigh up to as much as 2,000 pounds. This is the equivalent weight of a small car.

Now, the reason I tell you about this wonderful rare sea creature is that the leatherback is listed as endangered on the U.S. Federal Endangered Species Act, and that there are seven different species of sea turtles, six of which are either endangered or vulnerable. The seventh sea turtle species is the

flatback and it is only found in Australia and it cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information. While the Kemp's ridley sea turtle is on the brink of extinction, this sea turtle is classified as the most endangered. Then we have the olive ridley, that is known for having a nesting population in western North Atlantic that has decreased 80 percent since 1967. The hawksbill turtle has been listed as endangered on the Endangered Species Act since 1970 with no change, they no longer find them in large numbers anywhere. The green turtles have been an endangered species around the world since 1978. Finally, we have the loggerhead sea turtle, which nests in the U.S., and is commonly seen. However, this turtle has been listed as threatened on the Endangered Species Act since 1978.

I want to raise a very important question: "are sea turtles worth saving?" First, I want to point out that one of the main reasons sea turtles are on the brink of extinction is humans. We, humans, as a large population

have huge impacts on fisheries bycatch, coastal development, plastic pollution, and the one of the worst, the consumption of sea turtles and their eggs.

Fisheries Bycatch are considered as one of the greatest single threats, and it is estimated that since the 1950's over a million sea turtles have been captured with longlines, gill nets, and trawls which leads to death after entanglement.

Pollution is considered another huge threat because of plastics, discarded fishing gear, petroleum by-products, and chemical runoffs. These are all things that harm and kill sea turtles. Chemical pollutants weaken sea turtles' immune systems, making it easier for them to get diseases and die. Many leatherback sea turtles have died for ingesting plastics.

These are just a few of the many threats, but I want everyone to know that sea turtles play a vital role in two of our ecosystems, beaches and marine systems. Both of these ecosystems would be weakened if the

sea turtle were to go extinct, and the ocean is such an important source of food for humans. Sea turtles help control the jellyfish population. They are also sea grass bed grazers, which helps maintain a natural balance of fragile marine ecosystems. They also help control the population of sponges and coral reefs, which helps maintain a diversity of sea creatures.

I know that turtles are not as important as dogs and cats, but think about how overall, only one in 1,000 to 10,000 sea turtles will live to maturity. I believe that as a society, we should become more aware of what is happening to our planet and a perfect place to start is to raise awareness about sea turtle conservation and the marine ecosystems. It is important for everyone to be aware of how endangered these turtles are and what is causing their numbers to decrease. So please ask questions, do some research, adopt a sea turtle, donate, recycle, or learn about sea turtle-safe materials.

Something to think about...

In the mythology of India the survival of the sea turtle insures the survival of the world. The Indian myth states that the earth rests on the back of three elephants. These elephants in turn stand on the shell of a giant sea turtle which swims in an infinite sea. It is believed that if the sea turtle disappears the world will end.

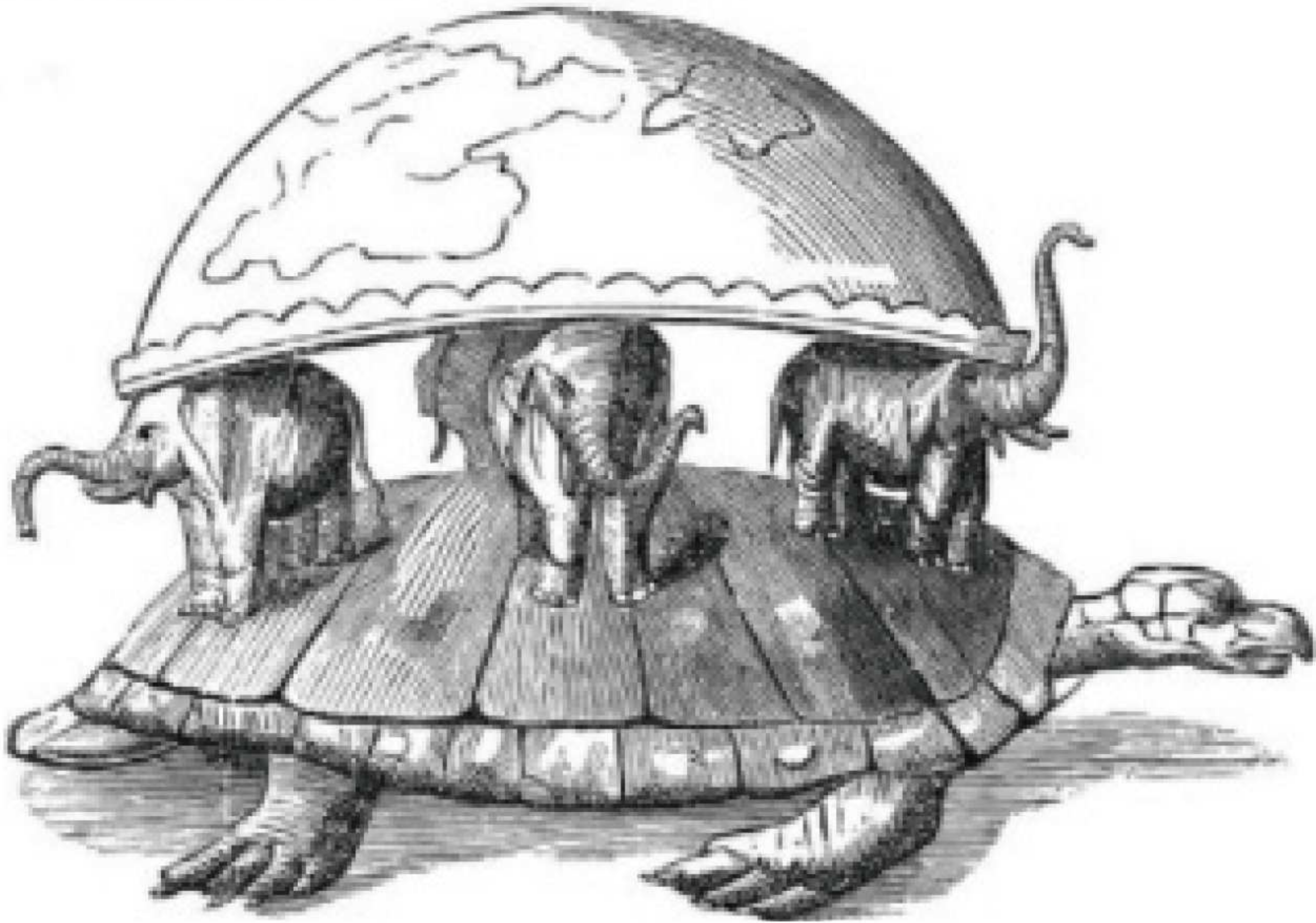


Photo courtesy of Ruth Rodriguez

International Students Feature: Turkey

Alexandra Detweiler
COPY EDITOR

This week, Aslinur Taskin, a third year student from Turkey studying architecture, gave her two cents about the differences between her home country and life in America. Taskin is from Ankara, the country's capital. While she recognized that each city is different, she thought that as a whole Turkey's history was much more visible than America's because there were many "traditional things still from the Ottoman Empire," like old mosques. Another clear difference, according to Taskin, was the organization of the streets themselves. "There are no perpendicular streets; everything is diagonal. You can get lost even if you've lived there your whole life." Because of this, Taskin explained, Google Maps is a necessity when traveling.

Taskin left Turkey after the third grade. However, she briefly remarked upon the differences in academics. When she moved here, she remembers that "all of the math and sciences here were very behind. By the time I was in fifth grade, we went over the math stuff that I had gone over in second grade." Additionally, Taskin has friends in Turkey that tell her the architecture program at Turkish universities is only four years, a year shorter than the five year program at Illinois Tech. It's the same environment, though, Taskin said. Architecture colleges consist of both studio space and lecture space, although she said that "here maybe it's more artsy, but it also depends on the school." She explained that there is less of an emphasis placed upon math and science

classes for architecture majors in the U.S. than in Turkey. In Turkey, there are no separate architecture and architectural engineering programs, yet here the classes that make the two different are those math and science



Photo by Anooa Sundararajan

classes. Because of these extra classes and the shorter period to complete them, architecture students in Turkey experience a heavier class load.

Readers may be surprised to hear that American food, in Taskin's words, "is not anything compared to food over there." Taskin thought that this difference came from the varying ingredients that each country uses. "Let's say my mom is making a particular

dish," Taskin explained, "when she makes it in Turkey, it tastes completely different than if she would make it here. It doesn't taste as good [here]." People living in Turkey get their fresh ingredients from the bazaar, or marketplace,

explained that bargaining with shop owners was common, even expected, in Turkey, yet not at all common here.

As an example of common ingredients that differ between countries, Taskin said that the use of solid oils like butter were hardly, if ever, used in Turkey. Instead of butter, cream is very common, and Taskin recalled times when she would eat it on toast for breakfast. According to Taskin, breakfasts also commonly consist of olives, cheeses, barbecued peppers, eggs, bread, and paninis. Turkish coffee is usually served after breakfast, not during, and it is usually the responsibility of the youngest person in the family to make coffee for everyone else. Dinner, on the other hand, usually consists of soup first, followed by a salad, then a cold bean dish, and then rice served with meat and yogurt, which is much different than the yogurt that is commonly sold in American grocery stores, and is more salty than sweet. After the rice dish, fruit is served (commonly watermelon and grapes) as well as nuts, such as walnuts and almonds. The almonds are commonly soaked in water before they are eaten, Taskin explained, so that the skin goes away. Tea and dessert conclude the meal, after what Taskin described to be about a five hour process. It is no surprise, then, to find that she thinks dinner is a very rushed process in America. "Here you eat your dinner and you're done. [In Turkey you] calmly end your system right. You don't eat dinner and then you're like 'oh no, I have so much food.'" Overall, Taskin thought that a typical diet from back home was healthier than an American one, a feeling that many international students shared with TechNews this semester.

every Sunday. Taskin's grandmother, she said, went there often, and as a result, those that worked there always recognized her and offered her discounts. According to Taskin, people at the bazaar are very friendly and most everyone knows each other because every neighborhood has its own bazaar. She contrasted this to American life, remarking that "even if you go to the same mall, that guy is not going to remember you at all." Taskin also

MSA fall banquet seeks to build Illinois Tech's community

Sufian Kaki Aslam, Kawsar Wayit
TECHNEWS WRITERS

Once every semester, Muslim Students Association (MSA) at Illinois Tech organizes a banquet that attracts a number of students and the surrounding community. During the fall semester, the banquet usually happens after Eid-ul-Adha. This is a festival of sacrifice which is celebrated in the remembrance of a number of sacrifices made by Prophet Abraham. Muslims all around the world honor this sacrifice by slaughtering animals such as sheep, cows or camels as commanded by Allah. Illinois Tech has students from all over the world, so to facilitate the celebration of this festival, MSA arranges the Eid prayer on the day of Eid-ul-Adha and

the fall banquet in the following days. This semester, the banquet took place at MTCC Ballroom on the eve of Friday November 11.

At this event, they had Abdul-Malik Ryan, Assistant Director of the Office of Religious Diversity and Muslim Chaplain at DePaul University, as a guest speaker. Despite the fact that he graduated from DePaul, he was excited to be at Illinois Tech, since both of his parents graduated from this university. He likes the Muslim Students Association chapters in different universities where students with various demographic backgrounds come together to build a community. Furthermore, he spoke about an ideal community, quoting a rabbi that an ideal community is one in which people feel welcomed when they are present and are missed when they are absent. The companions of Prophet Mohammed (peace be

upon him) each felt that they were his favorite. This is the ideal way, he said, to treat other members of our community. One of the things he mentioned during his speech is that "it is easy for us to come together and argue about things. It is the nature of human beings and oftentimes the difference of opinions in these arguments make people apart. But when they gather for a Godly purpose, the difference of opinions doesn't matter and it brings the hearts closer."

When asked about the event, Zubair Shareef, the president of MSA, said "coincidentally the date of this event was just a few days after the election results so the guest speaker spoke about Unity and Faith in times of unease." Also, according to Abdallah Hasan, "The speaker had a powerful message and he presented it in an amazing manner where he, I

believe, he brought us closer together."

Students in general attend the banquet for its food and to socialize. Adeena Ahmed, an active MSA student, said "I went to the event because I always love eating the food and seeing people show up to the event that I don't usually see because of busy schedules. It's a fun chance to dress up and spend time within our Muslim community." Similarly, another participant said, "I wanted to take my non-Muslim friends there and show them the MSA. I really liked the speaker and how he was very down to earth and the fact that he was a local made it very nice. And the food was also great."



Photos courtesy of MSA

New EIC applications open in January!

If you have the passion and interest for journalism, and care about campus, city and world events, consider applying to be the next Editor-in-Chief of TechNews! Applications open on Tuesday, January 3 and remain open until Tuesday, January 10. Applicants who make it through the

first stage will be called in for an interview before a final decision is made. If you have any questions about the process or what the position entails, feel free to email editor@technewsiit.com for more information.

Illinois Tech alumni win awards, celebrate success

Anoop Sundararajan

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Three Illinois Tech alumni who currently work for the IBI Group - Gruzen Samton in New York City have been pushing boundaries and winning design competitions across the country. Maria del Mar Granados Santiago, "Mar Granados," graduated with her Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2000 and is now a Senior Architect at the IBI Group. Gabriel Espinoza also graduated with a degree in architecture in 2015 and Meriem Sakrouhi, also an architecture graduate, completed her Bachelor's degree in 2016.

Within months, Espinoza and Sakrouhi brought in awards for their company at different design competitions in the country; Granados supervised both projects. Espinoza is a Project Architect who worked on the AARP 2016 Memphis Design Competition where the aim was to "rethink how an existing home can live and grow with a family as the family evolves in life." The team won first place at the competition with their "Inter-Active Living" design, responding to the requirements set by the challenge: "to generate universal design solutions and build an attractive, adaptable and affordable home of the future that speaks to and showcases livability, by promoting both aesthetically and functionally-appealing designs for better living." Asked what was most special to him about winning this award and working on this project overall, Espinoza says, "I had the

amazing opportunity to collaborate with a non-profit organization to bring the design to life, and that in itself posed new challenges that I wouldn't have been able to overcome without the necessary background that IIT provided me with. For the first time I had to manage and design a project which had a lot of stakeholders, and that experience is invaluable, and I feel very proud of what we accomplished." More information about the team's winning design can be found at homemattersamerica.com/design/2016challenge/winners/.

Sakrouhi, a Junior Architect at the firm, worked on the Habitat for Humanity Challenge 2016. The goal was "to create an affordable and flexible home that engages outdoor living and adjusts to the homeowner's needs, while mitigating the humid Florida Climate." The challenge was to design an affordable 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home in a maximum of 1300 square feet and with a budget of \$150,000. The team won second place. Sakrouhi says, "The greatest takeaway from the Habitat for Humanity design competition was to be able to design with a very specific purpose, which is to make a great house for everyone, whatever the needs of that person can be in the future. This principle of universal design is something that is taught at the College of Architecture at IIT." More information on the competition winners can be found at aectrends.com/design-challenge-winners.

Granados, who supervised both projects says of her involvement in the projects, "My role was to listen to their ideas

and push them to answer the questions that were presented; to focus their thinking towards the problems and challenges, and to give advice on aspects of their own designs." She adds, "In both projects I wanted them to explore how the house would react through different stages in life, and different users. Our motto was: everyone deserves affordable and quality living, and this needs to be flexible and engaging and it needs to improve life."

Turning her focus to architecture students, Granados says, "there is no real barrier between student and office work when it comes to the way we analyze architecture: there is always room for innovation and principles. Any barriers there are, we are creating ourselves. We need to keep pushing for critical thinking, for wonder, and need to keep including the principles of quality into architecture. Many times architecture is a response to a problem or a commentary in the world, it is up to us as architects to keep pushing this conversation forward." Adding to that, Espinoza said that one of the most important things he hopes students take away from this article is, "when we enter our respective professions, our fresh and new perspective is an incredible asset to any company, it should be something that outgoing students are proud of. A perspective I did not have when graduating, it was somewhat the opposite, I thought I couldn't bring much to the table because I didn't have the experience." In her time at Illinois Tech, Sakrouhi learned that while critical thinking is an extremely important skill she learned from the College

of Architecture, her IPROs taught her that, "it is as important to sell your ideas, to make sure people can understand your stories," adding, "learning how to pitch ideas, designs or yourself-when interviewing for a job-is crucial."

Finally, TechNews asked Granados, Espinoza and Sakrouhi if they had any words of advice for current students at the university. Granados says, "My advice to students at IIT right now is to remember that this is a time for exploration. IIT is one of the best architecture schools in the world. You are lucky enough to be inhabiting history by occupying Mies' Crown Hall, and fortunate to have some of the most visionary architects as your teachers, take advantage of this. Learn from their wisdom and always wonder, keep questioning and always remember that the future is not written yet, and that you part of that conversation." Espinoza adds, "the 'real' world needs future generations to be proactive and innovative so we can break the mold of what is standard, which is what our competition projects are trying to accomplish, and it's an amazing thing to be part of." Sakrouhi, who moved to the U.S. as a transfer student in 2013 ended with, "Before moving to the U.S. one of my goals was to be able to watch American movies with no subtitles. This was only three years ago and what I am trying to say with this is that you can do anything you want, and through being around incredible teachers, students and guest speakers, IIT is opening many doors for you, all you have to do is decide which ones to use."



Photo courtesy of Meriem Sakrouhi

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SGA Judicial Board operates as organization arbitrator

Ethan Castro

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER

Thus far, coverage of the Illinois Institute of Technology Student Government Association (SGA) has focused on the four main committees of the Senate - Academic Affairs, Communications, Events, and Student Life. As prior articles have exemplified, these four committees serve the needs of the student body by creating projects and assigning senators to carry them out. However, the Senate is only one third of the Student Government Association body. Somewhat less visible than the individual senators, SGA's Finance Board and Judicial Board are both still equally vital parts of the association's operations. Specifically, Judicial Board stands as an intermediary for any potential issues that may arise both between student organizations and Finance Board in terms of funding allocations and between the general student body and SGA as a whole. In addition, the last SGA Senate hearing this past Wednesday affirmed a new amendment to the SGA constitution that will allow Judicial Board, with proper permission, to act as an arbitrator passing final judgment on conflicts within an individual organization.

Working with Finance Board is a vital aspect of any student organization's operations. However, all student organizations have the full right to dispute the allocation decisions made by Finance Board, and Judicial Board functions as a facilitator for these disputes. According to SGA Chief Justice San Dinh, processing appeals of this nature

constitutes "90 percent of our job. After a Student Activity Fund allocation, student organizations have one week to submit their appeals to Judicial Board if they are not satisfied with Finance Board's decision." From here, Judicial Board scrutinizes the source of the student organization's appeal and makes

allocation or lack thereof.

In a similar manner, Judicial Board also processes appeals made by the general student body against the actions of SGA. Chief Justice Dinh explains the process as "when the student body disagrees with a decision made by SGA, they can simply submit a petition to

are liable for petitions to Judicial Board, if plausible reason can be shown for concern.

Finally, the newest amendment to the SGA constitution strengthens the position of Judicial Board by allowing it to serve as an intermediary for issues that may arise within the internal affairs of a singular student organization. One important caveat of this newfound power is that it applies "if, and only if, both sides of the conflicted organization agree to let Judicial Board make the final order" as was clearly stated by Chief Justice Dinh. By no means is SGA seeking to impede upon the autonomy of student organizations. Instead, SGA is merely looking to serve as a neutral and civil option in resolving any issues that may arise within a student organization. By no means are internal student affairs required to go through SGA in the process of their resolution, but the option is now there for those who wish to utilize it.

Student Government Association looks to improve the quality of campus life for all students of the university. However, the very nature of this grand endeavor means that conflicts may emerge. Thus, Judicial Board exists as a nonpartisan entity meant to neutrally and peacefully resolve these issues, whenever they should emerge. All students have a right to make themselves heard and to make their concerns rightfully addressed. To facilitate this standard, students should be aware that appeals to Judicial Board can be made through Hawklink, in addition to being sent over email to sgajboard@iit.edu.



Photos courtesy of SGA

a final decision based on the allocation's compliance with Finance Board guidelines. It should be noted that, as is defined in the SGA constitution and bylaws, Finance Board must comply with whatever decision Judicial Board passes, including completely reversing a given

Judicial Board." Once again, Judicial Board will weigh the students' concern with the existing SGA constitution and bylaws and then dispense a final ruling. Whether it be the approval of a new student organization or the nature of a certain event, all SGA proceedings

Students find answers at SGA-hosted Financial Aid and Student Accounting Town Hall

Erin Nelson

TECHNEWS WRITER

At the first Town Hall meeting of the semester, students approached Financial Aid and Student Accounting with questions that they had about loans, billing, scholarships, and more.

The Department of Financial Aid was asked about multiple topics including the status of the MAP Grant and what the department is doing about it. The Director of Financial Aid, Elizabeth Wahlstrom Helgren, informed the community that they are staying updated on what is happening in Springfield and in student organizations through or outside of Illinois Tech. There has not been a budget meeting this month yet; however, hopes are high for positive results.

The present staff were also asked "If I do not complete the FAFSA paperwork this year, will it affect future years of receiving financial aid?" The Assistant Director, Melissa Hayne Loretto, answered that all aid through Illinois Tech would be unaffected, and that the only loss of financial aid would be federal and state awards of money (and it would not have an impact on future years, either). The financial aid department also addressed the fact that FAFSA was sent out earlier this year and explained that it is so that prospective students can make a more informed decision about their college cost. The new FAFSA also does not require the new year's tax information; it calculates finances with tax information from the previous year. This is an action that was put into place under President Obama and is carried out all over the United States.

Following this, students asked why student loans increase and how that is determined. The response was that the Department of Education has rules that the school follows about when and how they increase. These rules affect Perkins and Stafford loans. Helgren mentioned that the calculated cost of attendance equals tuition, board, room, transportation, fees, and books minus the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is the number given to the school from FAFSA based on a student's family's household income. The school then determines the amount of need-based aid that can be given through loans, federal work study, or scholarships. The Department of Financial Aid is continuously researching to increase the amount of money that they can give to students and has a spreadsheet of outside scholarships that can be applied for after being in school. Illinois Tech does not reevaluate merit scholarships after the first year; therefore, any additional scholarships must be from the outside, the Leadership Academy, or receiving a Resident Advisor job. However, there is a special circumstance application, if needed, that students may fill out for additional consideration of financial support. If a student does receive outside scholarships, the information should be given to financial aid as soon as possible so that their merit scholarship amount can be calculated faster. This will help the department be more proactive in making sure Illinois Tech students receive information about their finances faster. The department has also increased publicity about the FAFSA so that Illinois Tech students get the money that they need. In addition, the department is processing loans that they do

receive faster so that the billing statements that students receive are more accurate.

Some additional initiatives that the department of financial aid has taken are expanded counseling hours (testing morning hours), an increase in website communication so additional scholarship help can be offered and student understanding can be improved, making sure a staff member is at the One Stop two days a week, hiring a professional to work the front desk of the office so that students have a better resource when they come to the office, faster email turnaround, and helping students better understand their debt.

Similarly, Student Accounting was asked questions about what the activity and service fees on the bill are. Jackie Anderson, Director of Student Accounting, answered that they are fees that support student organizations, the library, OTS, and the athletics department. It is split up through the Office of the Provost and discussions with the VPs of those services; however, for the most part it is a fairly standard amount that the university receives from year to year. Further confusion about charges can be answered through the One Stop or checking the bill on a student's portal. Tamara Posley, Assistant Director, also clarified that Student Accounting is located at Tech Central on the fourth floor.

Dalvina Lane, the other Assistant Director, then answered a question about payment plans and announced that they become available on November 30 (and that signing up can prevent late fees). Adding or dropping classes automatically recalculates a student's payment plan. Another question was asked about how an employer can pay some of a student's tuition bill if that student works part

time. The employer would need to supply a letter and that would defer the student's tuition payment until they could supply grades to the employer, and a refund would be given to that student if the employer paid after the student had made a payment. This refund and any other refunds would be given through a direct deposit setup, or a cash refund can be given if a form is filled out on the Student Accounting website.

Another question: "How can I set up my account so my parents can pay for my bill?" The answer is to make parents an authorized user on the myIIT portal so that they receive the bill and make payments. FERPA is separate from this, so making sure that the student understands the distinction is important. Student Accounting is working on making sure that billing statements are moving faster so that payments are better understood. They are working also on proactive outreach so that academics are not affected by the financial stressors in the middle of the term.

What many took away from this Town Hall meeting is that administration working with students is the only way to get proper change and communication effectively at Illinois Tech. Career Services and Financial Aid are working together to get students help with understanding their finances, especially in the final six months of college. This means understanding how a student's income can be balanced with all their necessary charges, and formulating a plan of how payment of loans should work. Currently the Department of Financial Aid can help answer these questions, but the goal is to be proactive and get students information about how to control their futures better financially.

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Game Overview: "Pokemon Sun and Moon" hit shelves

David Sobel
COPY EDITOR

The newest games in GameFreak's acclaimed Pokémon game series, titled "Pokémon Sun" and "Pokémon Moon," finally hit shelves on Friday, November 18 for the Nintendo 3DS. This game, like many other popular game series, received a midnight release, which I decided to attend as my first midnight release (there's a first time for everything). If "Pokémon GO" was your first Pokémon "game" and you still enjoy it, continue to do so, but you may find it pales in comparison to the full-fledged experience if you decide to give it a go. That said, at the time of writing I have only been able to put a few hours into the game, but I'm going to provide a few initial insights I've had.

Pokémon games have always been known for having rather simple stories, which typically entail playing as a new trainer who has yet to receive their first Pokémon and is the "new kid in town." However, before we even get to that point this time, there's a cool cinematic chase scene that the player is shown, involving a mysterious girl on the run from what is presumed to be some evil organization. This kind of intro is new for the series, which historically has not had many "cinematic" moments, as it were. Before you officially begin the game, you are given the choice of being male or female, along with a few choices of skin tone, which is far more options than we have previously seen. You can change things like hairstyle, color, and more later on in the game. After that you'll begin the game being woken up by your character's mother, aptly named "Mom," who informs you of a visitor. This visitor ends up being Professor Kukui, a very casual guy who seemingly always requires a fanfare of guitar riffs and upbeat percussion along with his presence. After some dialogue and such, you finally get the chance to choose your starter Pokémon. There are three options as per usual, featuring a grass, fire, and water type starter. Respectively, these are Rowlet, the owl Pokémon; Litten, the cat Pokémon; and Popplio, the seal Pokémon. Seeing as I'm a somewhat shallow person, I picked the one I thought was cutest, which was Rowlet. Keep in mind that, as usual, these Pokémon will not stay so cute forever. After choosing your starter, you get to see a short scene where you as the trainer gain their trust then proceed to hug them (I squealed a bit, I won't lie). Beating "Sun" and "Moon" is a notably different undertaking when compared to previous games in the series, as this time your goal is not to visit eight towns and defeat Gym Leaders. Rather, your goal is to travel to all four islands of the Alola region and complete various trials, with the final trial of each location being defeating its "Kahuna." As of right now, it is unclear what happens after you complete all four final trials. As expected from Pokémon games, along your journey you will be a bit sidetracked by an evil organization, this time referred to as Team Skull, whose main job is to get in your way and serve as the obligatory evil group who goes around terrorizing people and Pokémon under the orders of a leader with a

very skewed view of creating a perfect world. Gameplay and Features

Pokémon has retained a very defined gameplay formula over the years, "Sun" and "Moon" being no exceptions. In terms of game mechanics, everything is the more or less same, except for the introduction of Z moves. These are powerful attacks that a Pokémon can use for causing some major damage to the opponent Pokémon, which is activated by using the Z-Ring feature. Most of the notable changes are present in the organization of in-game functions, notably the pause menu, which features a paginated system for options, like viewing your Pokémon party, looking at the Pokédex, and other new features such as the built-in QR scanner. With that in mind, I'll address a few new features.

The QR scanner allows you to scan QR codes which are associated with a certain Pokémon. You get one new scan every 2 hours, and you can scan up to 10 codes in a single sitting. Each code you scan awards you 10 points towards the "island scanner" and registers the scanned Pokémon in your Pokédex. Once you receive 100 points, you can activate the island scanner, which will make a Pokémon that would otherwise not appear in "Sun" and "Moon" show up in a place defined by the scanner. I was able to easily get to 100 points by visiting Pokémon GO Hub, who has



Photo courtesy of Nintendo

80 or so QR codes available which cover most Pokémon native to the Alola region. Speaking of, there are new, "Alolan" variants of Pokémon from the first generation of Pokémon games (Red and Blue), which are essentially variants that adapted to the more tropical climate of the Alola region. For instance, a Rattata, normally a purple rat, is gray and has moustache-like whiskers. Long before the release of "Sun" and "Moon," the internet got a chance to see various Alolan Pokémon, out of which Alolan Exeggutor became popular enough to become a meme. I highly implore you to Google that one if you'd like a good laugh.

Up next is the new Festival Plaza, which acts as a virtual hub for interacting with other players in your local area or over wireless, be it through chatting, battling, or trading Pokémon. Interacting with other trainers is interesting, as you have the option of paging another player (yes, paging them), which allows you to interact with a

downloaded version of their character, viewing information from win-to-loss ratios to how many eggs they have hatched in the game. You also have the option of adding up to 50 other players to your VIP list, which means that they will consistently show up in your particular Festival Plaza. In addition, everything in the Festival Plaza that doesn't involve interacting with strangers uses Festival Coins (FC), a currency utilized only within the Plaza. FC is gained by interacting with other players, to then be used at various facilities, such as a shop that sells items which increase your Pokémon's affection towards you, a lottery, and a haunted house, which I have read involves sending in one of your Pokémon then receiving a random item when they come back. Chances are that I may not use this feature too often, but I like seeing GameFreak making more efforts to increase interaction between players.

The last notable feature I got to try out was Pokémon Refresh, which allows you to interact with your Pokémon. You can pet them with the 3DS stylus and feed them "Poké Beans" which increase their affection towards you, among other features I have yet to explore. After battles you sometimes have the option of using the feature to clean up your Pokémon, be it by blow drying or brushing, which also increases their affection. This is similar to the "Pokémon Amie" feature introduced in X and Y, which was very similar minus the additional grooming options present here.

Visual

There is only so much I can say about my excitement without using profanity, so let me just say that this game looks amazing for a handheld Pokémon game. In fact, I can say without a doubt that it is the most visually appealing handheld Pokémon game to date. Those who played the recent "Animal Crossing: New Leaf" may find the game's visuals somewhat reminiscent thereof, featuring lush 3D landscapes and nice touches such as actual moving water and rather detailed walkways (including tile and hardwood floors). You'll also find characters with mostly human proportions (no giant heads on small bodies here, folks). This allows for notably better representation of physical motion, among other things. The most amazing thing to me upon starting the game, however, was the star-filled night sky, which

admittedly had me staring for a good couple of minutes, and provided a wonderful sense of immersion. In terms of battles, each Pokémon present on the field isn't given its own little "area" anymore, instead occupying a part of the field. For comparison, in previous Pokémon games, during a battle, every Pokémon was surrounded by a small circular area, but in some ways that always made a minor dent in my immersion, so I'm glad that GameFreak made the change. I could go on for a long time on all of the little visual nuances present in "Sun" and "Moon," but this should give a bit of an idea. Keep in mind that this game was made with the New 3DS in mind, so while it does look great, if you're an original 3DS player like me, then you may notice a bit of lag here and there, especially when more than two Pokémon are on the field at once.

Look up screenshots, demo the game: I don't care what you do to gather a visual, just prepare to be impressed. No, it doesn't look like a PlayStation 4 game, but were you expecting it to? Without further ado, onto the gameplay.

Sound

As usual for Pokémon, the background music is solid. This time there's a more tropical vibe, because the game takes place in the more tropical Alola region, which, as noted, is meant to be modeled somewhat after Hawaii. Because of this the game has a more leisurely feel, making the experience both relaxing and engaging. A few sound effects have been changed, such as the "item received" sound, affecting a more tropical vibe as well. Other than that there isn't too much to say about the sound; things can only get better.

Final Thoughts

I'm very much looking forward to getting deeper into this new Pokémon entry and am very glad it was my first midnight game release. Also, as this is more of an overview including my initial thoughts, I'm not going to assign a score to this game. However, it looks very promising and I'm excited to try out all the features that I either briefly touched on here or have yet to learn about at all. The only thing I would advise to anyone looking to buy the game: you may want to consider getting a New 3DS if you own the original handheld like I do, because like more recent games such as "Super Smash Bros. 3DS", you may see slightly more lag and every time you quit the game, the whole device will require a reboot, presumably due to having to run in a higher power mode. There is some good news, though, if you were looking into eventually getting the New 3DS, as Nintendo is releasing a \$100 version for Black Friday, which will be sold at retail stores like GameStop. If you're willing to risk potentially being uncomfortably close to other customers, this is as good a time as any. Now, excuse me while I go back to staring at my 3DS screen and pressing buttons with my thumbs.

Note: Currently, you can receive a Muchlax over the game's Mystery Gift which has special attacks and comes with Snorlax Z (an item that allows a Snorlax, evolved from Muchlax, to use a Z move), and if you played the demo of the game, you can transfer the Greninja you acquire in it to the main game.

Frost in their Mortar: A short story

Soren Spicknall
COPY EDITOR

The site was originally composed of a series of untouched pre-mountainous hills, land as fertile as it was formidable. Measuring 79 kilometers along each side, the square plan for the massive complex called for leveling those rolling banks of soil, creating a flat plinth to underpin the largest single development in human history. Leftover earth from the levelling process was used to create an imperceptible gradient leading from the site's easternmost edge, lying in grasslands, up to where the now-demolished hills turned rocky at the base of the great mountain range to the west. For a decade now, construction crews had worked nonstop to transform the landscape's natural chaos into an orderly and

uniform mass, carrying out a vision devised in offices whose occupants would likely never find themselves in the foothills of northeastern Wyoming.

Rising from the carefully constructed ground was a new kind of city. Really, though, it wasn't a city at all; Henning would have to find a few alternate words to use in the final version of his report. In some ways, it was a utopian community: the engineers he had spoken with told him that the plan dictated that the land be divided into 1,444 square subsets, each two kilometers in length, which were further divided into grids of 40 by 40 private home plots, each populated with a squat California bungalow at its center. In the middle of each multi-home grid was a masculine concrete tower (based on a scaled-up version of a little-known Brutalist

design for a religious museum in northern Michigan, he was informed) containing public services and amenities for each community. The word "utopian," however, implied some form of luxury, and since luxury was defined on a relative scale, it was hard to form a frame of reference within the all-encompassing boundaries of the grid, where every community took on the same shape. After accounting for the space needed for roads and for the towers at the center of each of the grid's subsets, the number of homes in each community totaled to 1,596. Overall, taking into consideration reserved space for two massive three-kilometer-wide strips of unused land which divided the whole site into quadrants, the development would contain 2,304,624 households upon completion.

The press had already exhaustively

documented the crews that for years worked to carve out the giant square which carried the compound. In fact, a team from Henning's own publication had made repeated trips from Seattle to document every step in the process, returning each time with increasingly outlandish stories about the sheer scale of the project. Henning himself was only sent here because of the unique nature of the report his editors now wanted written: an in-depth look at the technology which enabled the construction and maintenance of so many dwellings with minimal human support.

Continued on Page 8

Frost in their Mortar: A short story

Continued from Page 7

In the project's early years, geological blast teams and construction crews largely functioned in a traditional fashion, with a hierarchy formatted similarly to the laborer and supervisor roles used in the construction of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways close to a century before. Now, though, the arrangement was quite different. Rather than employing human craftsmen to build each of the site's millions of homes, a fleet of hulking, complex machines roamed the land day and night, spitting out buildings behind them at a rate of about three dwellings per hour. These machines were attended to by technicians who could diagnose any issues and make repairs, but all construction work was done by the contraptions themselves. If anything occurred that could not be remedied by a process contained within a technician's manual of potential maladies, an engineer was called in to assess the situation. So far, this hadn't happened. The teams who designed these machines were among the best in the world, so the on-site engineers largely spent their time granting unofficial interviews to members of the press from the confines of their new homes in the most central four communities of the complex.

It was there that Henning found himself on a temperate Friday evening, across a coffee table from a polite, middle-aged woman of Somali origin and her husband, a German twelve years her junior who she had met while teaching at Hochschule Darmstadt. Henning knew neither of their names, since despite the casual nature with which the engineers were generally treated by managerial staff for the project, there could be repercussions for letting slip certain details to press members. He could probably identify them with some basic research based on the stories they had told him about themselves, but it wasn't in anybody's interests for him to have that knowledge. The two had been his editors' main contact point within the vast site since moving in when home manufacturing began three months ago, and Henning had spoken with them in virtual

conference rooms many times prior to his physical trip.

They had already been through the motions of gathering information for his assigned report topic earlier that day. Henning had sat down that afternoon with the Somali woman and a few of her neighbors to discuss the automation which underpinned the construction and maintenance of all the homes in this vast system, documenting various ways in which everything from food growth to structure repairs were managed by automated systems complex enough that they had never previously been applied outside a military context. The identical, idyllic communities in the grid were meant to house millions of people living in what they believed to be the beginning of a post-work world, a grand experiment with roots in Jacque Fresco's Venus Project and Peter Joseph's Zeitgeist Movement. They would grow, learn, and prosper in their communities, but they would never have to toil. In fact, many of the initial non-employee residents of the compound were previously employed in fields that the compound's technology would render useless, hoping to find peace by living in a community based upon their own professional obsolescence.

Despite the physically mirrored nature of every community within the complex, the blocks were not designed to be truly homogeneous. Nobody had ever been able to track down whether the directives for the project came from a single source, since the number of intertwined companies working on it was in the thousands, but it was clear from the beginning that a unique pricing structure would be employed for each residential plot. Communities near the outer edges of the cleared land would be expensive to live in, and were being built last in order to capture a particular type of customer. The groups occupying homes in these spaces would likely be those most skeptical of the project as a whole, approaching a drastic shift in their lives with guarded optimism while also forming contingency plans. That said, they were likely the most well-heeled, hailing from professional backgrounds and interested in the complex from a largely academic perspective. Having

them near the outside of the compound allowed them to come and go easily if they chose to, while the less expensive inner units weren't expected to see much external travel. At the very center of the compound, the four reserved engineering and technician communities were the only parts of the compound where "work" still had a meaning in the established sense.

Sitting in the kitchen of his hosts, Henning bore witness to an engaged debate the couple was having over some aspect of European history. He had found that the engineer's husband, the German, was constantly at risk of veering off into pseudo-philosophical topics related to any and all aspects of technical discussion about the details of the complex. Henning had gathered earlier in the day that the German had not finished his Civil Engineering degree at Hochschule Darmstadt, choosing instead to complete his education at HafenCity Universität Hamburg, in the field of Metropolitan Culture. This explained in part why he had no professional role in the project he now lived in, but felt free to interpret its every facet in myriad convoluted ways. Right now, it involved the Dark Ages:

...most Europeans in the 8th and 9th Century were keenly aware of the existence of the Roman Empire before them. They lived among the ruins of a civilization that far eclipsed their own capabilities to build or to govern on such a large scale. Roman society had rather quietly disintegrated in previous centuries, and many modern civilizations across Europe were initially formed as wood-and-straw encampments built into the shells of stone structures that their inhabitants could not fathom creating themselves. Granted, the Romans documented their construction methods and political system for future societies to build upon, but no single group would have the concentration of both manpower and willpower to attempt what the Romans achieved until many centuries later. In fact, many early English tribes, living on former Roman land, believed that their inability to recreate the Roman environment meant that they were living in the end times, and that they were among the last human groups to exist before Earth itself would perish...

Henning tuned out the talk; he had heard many such asides in the German's presence that day, weaving their way through metaphors, stories, and omens. The man had made it clear that he had reservations about the entire concept of the development, but those reservations were grounded in a sense of futility: that all this work was bound to wash away with the ages, rendering it ultimately useless for mankind. Henning knew there was practical merit to that view, but it was tiresome to consider such a cynical perspective. If something of this magnitude was futile, then what did that say about the merits of any smaller-scale human endeavor, least of which being the German's own observations?

Tomorrow Henning would return to Seattle with a wealth of information in hand, thoroughly documenting many of the automated processes that made this strange place tick. He had gotten word today that construction was starting on another such site in Vermont, and a third was eventually slated for eastern Tennessee. If this was all bound to be emptied out and left to rot one day, the communal towers of concrete at the center of each little community would likely be the subject of awe for whatever post-technological natives inhabited the place next. It could take those men and women many generations, though, to plot a course around each build site and figure out that the land was levelled in a perfect square; interpreting the machines which made the complex tick would be even harder, since each device might as well be an Antikythera mechanism for somebody without an implicit understanding of its workings. Henning's editors were generally averse to sentimentality, so it didn't matter in the end. His role was to inform the people of the present, and he would relish that opportunity while it still existed.

Holiday season starts with a bang in Millennium Park

Steven Milan Moreno
TECHNEWS WRITER

The start of the holiday season in Chicagoland was marked by the 103rd Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Millennium Park on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Washington Street on Friday, November 18. While people waited for the event to start later in the evening, several other events took place around the famed "Cloud Gate" (commonly referred to as "The Bean") inside the park to mark the special occasion. These included the opening of the seasonal skating ring directly below the famed sculpture and the opening of a Virtual Reality (VR) Experience Pavilion by Facebook across from "The Bean." Many of the people in attendance for the ceremony started to line up to take their turn at both attractions while they waited for

the main event to begin.

The Facebook VR Experience was only recently set up in Millennium Park, and is a free experience open to anyone ages 13 and up. While many were excited and amazed by their first glimpse at virtual reality, others were more skeptical of the device, opting to voice their concerns and problems with the device through the optional survey that followed their demonstration. Despite some negative remarks, many were still amazed by the technology they had just experienced and were soon finding themselves asking questions about purchasing and using the device at their own homes. The pavilion is scheduled to remain in the park for the most of the remainder of November (excluding holidays).

Across from the Facebook pavilion was the skating rink, which was a less popular attraction for the day through no fault of its

own. Despite the opening date of the rink being made at a time when cold weather should have appeared in Chicago, the unusually warm November weather meant the ice-covered rink became more of a watery slurry over time as patrons began to skate across. Despite this setback, many skaters were willing to put up with the watery conditions due to the unique situation they found themselves in: being able to skate in warm weather. With no need for large, warm clothing, skaters found themselves in lighter attire which provided them greater maneuverability. This made for fantastic skating moves and overall mobility in the rink, making the rink popular with experienced skaters. Despite the weather setback on Friday, weather forecasts for the city show colder weather ahead, meaning no such problem will occur again anytime soon.

The ceremony itself included several

performances, including music from carolers and the band STOMP, a scene by the cast and crew of Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer the Musical, and a special visit by Santa Claus towards the end. The lighting of the tree soon followed and was itself followed by a surprise fireworks finale emerging from the rooftop of a nearby building. The fireworks were incredibly close, proving a spectacular scene that engulfed the entire sky above the park. When the lighting ceremony was complete, many began to gather around the tree to get up close and personal to the beautiful sight that glimmered and shined across the entirety of the park. It was truly a spectacular sight, and will continue to be for the remainder of the holiday season here in the Windy City.



Photos by Steven Milan Moreno

The Future of Mobility at the Chicago Humanities Festival

Divya Soopal
TECHNEWS WRITER

Our global automotive industry has an ever-evolving climate. The fad is now frictionless, automated and personalized travel. A future mobility system is pivoted around driverless vehicles and shared mobility. Let us thus explore an algorithm-led car industry.

With ubiquitous computing, our transport system is constantly improving. 1908: Ford's Model-T debuted as an automobile with a steering wheel, four tires and seats. Today, Henry Ford would be baffled by the new technology under the hood. Automotive digitization has led to important transformations. Adaptive cruise

control, automatic parallel parking, collision warnings, and more are already widespread car technology.

Indeed, full-fledged self-driving vehicles already exist. They are transforming cities. But what are their worth? The answer is actually locked with the rapid societal and urban transformations. Today, it is possible to gather real-time information, seamlessly, on every dimension of urban life. HubCab, for instance, is a web-based interactive visualization that shows how New York's 170 million annual taxi trips connect the city.

Self-driving vehicles are also described as 'the next revolution of the roadway by the US Department of Transportation (DOT). This body wants to experiment with "cheaper, faster safer, greener, more efficient, and more convenient transportation for

citizens (Scott Corwin et. al 2016)." A wide range of intermodal innovations is thus commercially viable. Nevada, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Florida are among the states whereby prototypes of the mobility ecosystem are implemented in pilot-phases.

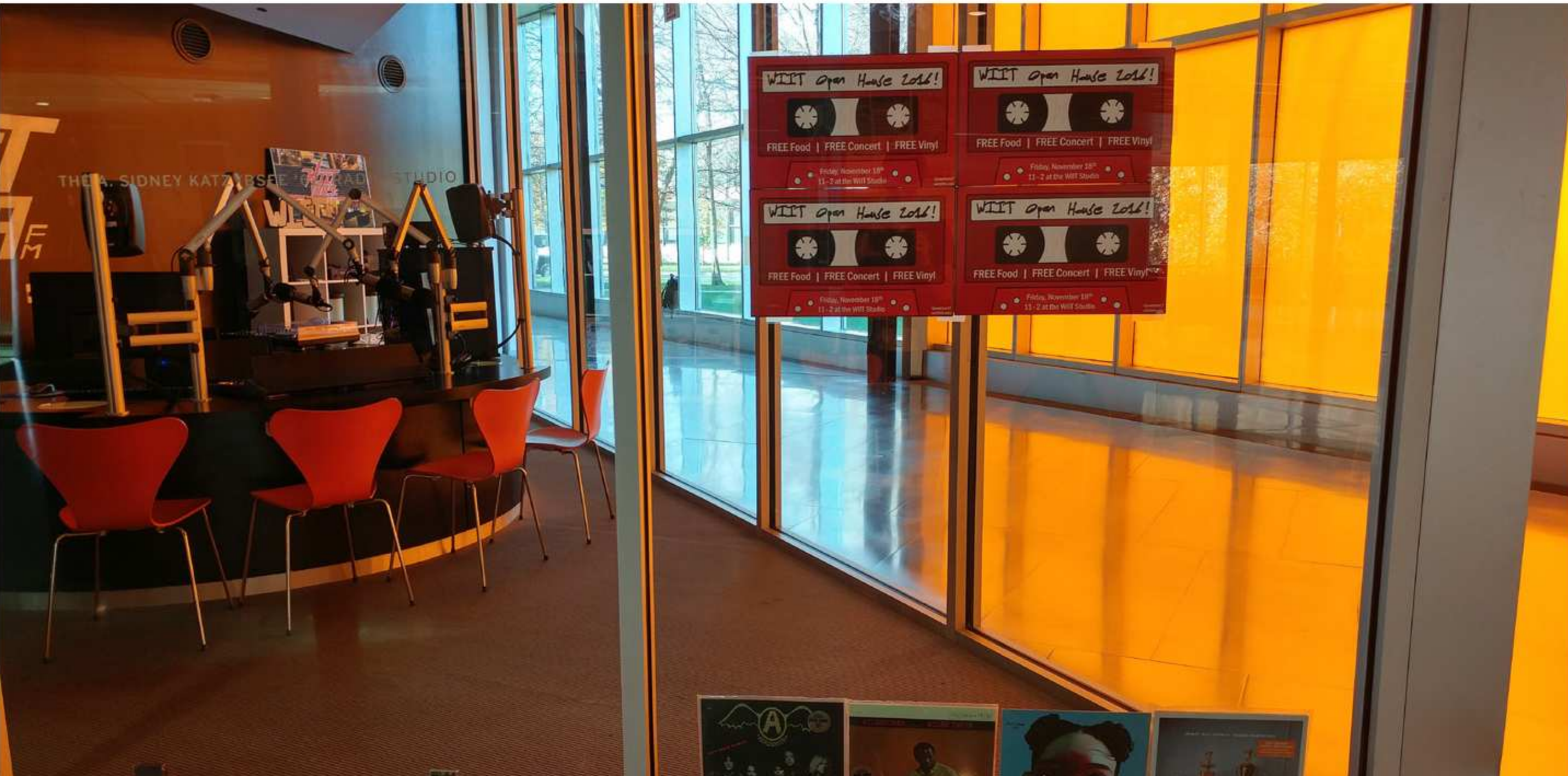
John Zimmer, co-founder of Lyft, had envisaged the autonomous vehicle as a 'transformative force' to reshape our congested cities. Laura Forlano, an associate professor at Institute of Design at Illinois Tech, shares the same view. Recently, at the Chicago Humanities Festival, she joined Travis Lee, the managing director at the design firm IDEO, to discuss the evolution of the transportation system. With a driverless city in mind, her design for the transportation system was that of an intermodal innovation.

An intermodal transportation

system scenario is like this: Bill is someone who commutes to college. He takes a bus to get to a train station. Getting off the train, Bill takes either a bike ride or a car share to reach college.

IHS Markit Limited, a firm feeding insights and forecasts about the sales of autonomous cars, including driver control, speculates that by 2050 almost all vehicles will be driverless. Ultimately, the future of mobility will be shaped by the advent of driverless cars. The world's mobility challenges will henceforth increasingly be met with silicon rather than asphalt.

WIIT hosts Open House, ChinaRose performs



Photos by Soren Spicknall

Illinois Tech A Cappella hosts once-a-semester concert



Photos by Alexandra Detweiler

SUDOKU

2	7	3				6		
	4					1		
1		5		4	6			8
					3	5		
	6		9	5	2		3	
		2	8					
9			2	7		3		6
		7					5	
		8				7	1	4

6		1	4					
3		5		2			8	
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2	9			5		8		
			8		3			
		3		1			5	9
5								
	1			4		3		7
					9	6		5

数独

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.”



1		2			4	9		
5	7			8		6		
			5	3				9
	4	8		7		2	3	
7				4	9			
		5		9			7	8
		1	7			4		3

1		2			4	9		
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	4	8		7		2	3	
7				4	9			
		5		9			7	8
		1	7			4		3

WORD SEARCH

Word List

CARNIVALS	FOG	IGLOO
COATS	HIBERNATE	MUFFLER
COCOA	HOCKEY	PENGUIN
COZY	HOLIDAY	SCARVES
DECEMBER	HOOD	SKATING



NONOGRAM

[illegible]

Basic Rules

1. Each clue indicates a group of contiguous squares of like color.
2. Between each group there is at least one empty square.
3. The clues are already in the correct sequence.

A black and white advertisement for Jimmy John's. The top half features the text "TAKE ME HOME TONIGHT" in large, bold, white capital letters against a black background. Below this is the Jimmy John's logo, which consists of a circular emblem with "JIMMY JOHN'S" at the top, "SANDWICHES" at the bottom, and a large "JJ" in the center, flanked by two stars. The word "TASTY!" is written in small letters at the bottom of the circle. The bottom half of the ad has a white background with the text "SERIOUS DELIVERY!™" in bold black letters, followed by "★ JIMMYJOHNS.COM ★" in bold black letters. At the very bottom, a black bar contains the text "TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM" in white capital letters.

THE WEATHER
City and State—Rain,
Snow, Colder
(Details in Daily Almanac)

VOLUME 97 — No. 161

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