

MSA fall banquet seeks to build Illinois Tech's community

Sufian Kaki Islam, 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.