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# TechNews

*Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928*

# Chicago Innovation Challenge, a new route to startup success at Illinois Tech

**Teesta Jain**
**Donna Rockin**
JULES F. KNAPP ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY

Fueling innovation has always been a cornerstone at Illinois Tech. Whether it's building the new Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship, challenging students to create advanced and original projects for their IPRO submissions, or starting businesses during their student years at the university or shortly after graduation, Illinois Tech students never shy away from solving tough consumer or business problems.

Creating products and apps that solve real consumer and business problems was the germ of the idea that gave birth to the 2016 Chicago Innovation Challenge (CIC) sponsored by the Jules F. Knapp Entrepreneurship Center, The Fogelson Family Foundation, the Coleman Foundation and the M-Hub, Chicago's newest co-working space for makers. The 2016 Chicago Innovation Challenge (http://web.iit.edu/knapp-center/chicago-innovation-challenge) has 3 divisions students can enter: (1) Currently enrolled Illinois Tech students, (2) Currently enrolled students who are enrolled in a college or university with a physical presence in Chicago, and (3) Currently enrolled high school students attending any Chicago Public School or Chicago Public Charter School.

The Knapp Center recognized that competitions, especially those with cash and other prizes, motivate students to participate. Competition winners also have the opportunity to brag about winning on their resumes, during job interviews, and on their social media accounts. Winners and even participants stand out in a crowd of "me too" job applicants, because winning competitions or participating in them shows potential hiring managers; applicants with creativity, critical thinking skills that have been applied, problem solving skills and (depending on the competition) the ability to work as a team with other members to accomplish a goal.

The competition has a design and format to educate student innovators and let them gain real-world skills like creating mock-ups, PowerPoint decks, video presentations and giving a "Live Pitch." Contestants can enter as sole inventors or as part of a team (up to four tudents from the same educational institution can form a student team) to compete by presenting their idea and defending it. Teams that work together gain experience in the division of labor and collaborative thinking, fostering teamwork and creative problem solving. Another aspect of the CIC is access to a free mentor to help guide the team, or a sole contestant: on market analysis, prototyping, revenue streams and other requirements of the challenge to work towards a specific goal.

The CIC has divided the competition into manageable, implementable steps. These steps are laid out in the official rules as well as when participants apply on the Startup Compete (https://iitchicago2016.startupcompete.co/) platform. For example, rather than asking participants for a comprehensive slide deck or a prototype in Stage 1, the CIC made it very easy for as many students or student teams as possible to enter. In Stage 1, besides entering basic biographical information, the competition asks contestants to identify a real-world consumer or business problem or need; a solution to the stated problem or need; and a basic illustration/photo/drawing or simple wireframe work for an app or the interface. Then, the candidate pool will be narrowed down to quarter-finalists. Quarter-finalists will have to prepare some additional work to advance to the next level of participation and reach the semi-finalist stage. Then, judges will narrow down semi-finalists to a group of five students or student teams that will then be asked to polish up their pitch decks and prototypes/frameworks and prepare a video and a "live pitch" to a small group of experienced judges.

The CIC provides internal and/or external mentors at Stage 2. As teams move through the stages they build a repository of resources, knowledge, IP potential and prototype/framework knowledge. The contestants receive Knapp Center social media coverage and exposure to Knapp Center advisory board members and staff.

The 2016 academic year is the initial year of the Chicago Innovation Challenge, but the Knapp Entrepreneurship Center already has a commitment from the Fogelson Family Foundation to keep this competition running for academic years 2017 and 2018. Moreover, the Knapp Entrepreneurship Center and Illinois Tech's Institutional Advancement team are working together looking for ways to grow the Chicago Innovation Challenge competition and help ensure it goes on as long as consumers and businesses have real-world problems that need solving by the best and brightest student minds in Chicago. As the competition unfolds, the greatest benefit will be to IIT and other Chicagoland area students as the CIC hopes they will learn many aspects of starting and growing an idea into a full-blown business, or learn how to license or sell their creative solutions/technology to an industry leader. To learn more about the competition, go http://web.iit.edu/knapp-center/chicago-innovation-challenge. Official competition rules are also available at that link. The deadline to register your "Big Idea" is September 30, at 11:59 p.m.

# Students, staff, alumni enjoy games, more at 2016 homecoming carnival









*Photos by Khaleela Zaman*

# Undergraduate Studies Committee holds first meeting of the semester

**Soren Spicknall**
COPY EDITOR

The Undergraduate Studies Committee (UGSC) of the Illinois Institute of Technology is a body of faculty and staff members (as well as a representative of the students, SGA Academic Affairs VP Akash Raina) tasked with formulating major policies regarding how undergraduate teaching and learning takes place at the university. Meeting every other week throughout the academic year, the group is a step along the path to undergraduate degree modifications, and is tasked with writing and directing the implementation of various policies which impact the academic path of Illinois Tech's students and setting expectations for its faculty. Though much of the UGSC's work requires final approval from the University Faculty Council (UFC), the group is integral to the university's internal process of undergraduate program development.

At its first meeting of the fall 2016 semester on September 13th, the UGSC gathered only briefly to discuss some business left over from the previous semester. No votes were held, but topics from the body's final meetings of the spring were expanded upon and clarified among those in attendance.

First, the UGSC discussed implementation of its course feedback policy, formed last semester from a dialog with SGA about third- and fourth-year students lacking meaningful information about their academic progress before the final date for class withdrawal in certain courses. The UGSC had passed two pieces of policy representing "minimum" and "optimal" standard feedback metrics to which professors would be held, and both standards were accepted by the UFC in spring. However, the approved course feedback language has yet to be placed anywhere in public view, and the assembled group debated the merits of its potential placement in the student handbook in an email to all faculty, and more. The group settled on placing the feedback language (which is included in full in the UGSC's April 26th meeting minutes) in the student handbook, and working on including it in the academic bulletin so that professors could be held to it unambiguously.

In a similar vein, the UGSC discussed implementation of a proposal last year to allow certain courses to be taken on a pass/fail basis, approved by UFC the previous semester after a full academic year of negotiations and wrangling over specific language. The new policy, covered in previous TechNews issues, is slated to become active in spring 2017, and will be placed in the academic bulletin then. Departments must internally discuss which courses they will allow external students to take as pass/fail, as well as which external electives their in-major students can take as pass/ fail, before the policy becomes effective. Dr. Kathryn Spink, representative of the Biology department and former chair of the UGSC, mentioned that her department had already conducted that decision-making process, but no other department representatives could yet claim the same.

While the business discussed in the first UGSC meeting of the semester was largely focused on topics covered in the past, the group is likely to tackle newer and more complex challenges as the year continues. Information about the UGSC, including a list of voting members, full minutes, and a schedule of upcoming meetings, is available at iit.edu/~ugsc, updated this year by the office of Marketing & Communications to fit the visual style of Illinois Tech's web design standards.

# EWB discusses solutions from sanitation project in Nicaragua

**Abhinaya Iyer**
TECHNEWS WRITER

Summer is probably one of the best times of the year, with the sun radiating heat and all the temperatures rising to about a 100 degrees Fahrenheit. But not all countries are as lucky as the United States to have all the luxuries of air conditioners, swimming pools and ice cream stores nearby to cool the heat of the summer. Central America, one of the continents closest to the equator is hit by the sun's rays the most with the temperatures rising to about 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Most of the villages here don't even have basic healthcare and sanitation facilities for daily life, let alone an air conditioner during summer!

The students of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) recognized the alarming issue and as part of their projects decided to help a village in Nicaragua, about two hours southwest of their capital Managua. Each time the students of the EWB pick a community, the idea is for the project to last for five years and be fulfilled to maximize the satisfaction of the citizens. The Nicaragua project started in 2012, where the initial idea was to build a bridge. The village was accessible by only one road, which during the monsoon season flooded, cutting off the connection of the village with the outside world including hospitals, schools and many other services. This was an alarming issue in the village and the EWB students decided to take this project up as one of their own. The initial phase of the project was to carry out multiple assessments of the land. A hydrologist was brought in and multiple tests were done on the land to understand the situation. Other than assessments, the students helped the villagers build healthy relations with the municipality and the Rotary club.

Building any structure in a location, especially a location that isn't in your country, isn't a one month process, but rather a process requiring a deep understanding not only of the land but also of the culture, weather, buildings around and many other factors that influence a village and its surroundings. The conclusion from the studies weren't exactly expected and didn't seem very plausible with their budget. The floodplain was too deep and had no direction, so to build a bridge of that scale would not only cost much but require an equal commitment from the government and the villagers. Not seeing a positive outcome from the bridge, the EWB moved from building a bridge to address the issue of sanitation.

The sanitary conditions in the village weren't exactly ideal in the mind of an average person. They didn't have bathrooms, typically using holes dug in the ground as their toilets. Most of the latrine holes were built close to the well, which wasn't very sanitary. In a recent storm, the school latrines were knocked down, leaving a school with about fifty students were without a bathroom. Seeing the poor conditions of the sanitation facilities in the village, the EWB students decided to take this matter into their own hands. The goal was to build bathrooms that could be useful for the villagers and still be hygienic. In addition, they taught the villagers about healthy cleaning habits. A detailed analysis on the culture of latrines and how they were built prior to their visit was carried out. After a detailed study and analysis, a design for a latrine was laid out. A two-chambered latrine was designed that would have two holes on either end of the chambers. One chamber would be used for six months or until it got filled. After it was completely filled, it was closed and the other chamber was used for six months. During this six months, human waste would be converted into compost, which could then be used by the villagers in their fields or sold in the market. Seeing that the construction of a new latrine not only meant hygienic living conditions but also better compost, the villagers agreed to the proposal of the new idea. They got the contractors to custom build a latrine where the liquids and solids were separated. The liquids were then sent away from the bathroom and the excreted matter was stored as compost. The matter of odor was addressed by adding ventilation pipes, which also kept flies away.

As for construction, contractors were hired from outside, aided by the students and villagers, to construct the chambers. Hand washing education was carried out by building a hand washing station and talking about the importance of washing your hands. Building a handwashing station was harder than a latrine chamber due to electrical requirements and needing to connect the faucet to a nearby well as a water source. Although the layout was designed here at Illinois Tech, the execution proved to be harder than just designing. Most of the construction took place over this summer under the guidance of our students. During the course of the past five years, the village has become more independent and well-connected with the rest of the world. "The importance is where the village was when we started versus today. It makes sense to leave the village and start elsewhere because they are well connected and they are much more vocal with their thoughts and needs today than they were five years ago. Yes, they are much more aware of their own needs," said Oscar Guzman, the president of EWB when asked if they were better off today.

The team who worked on the Nicaragua project ranged widely, from speaking Spanish to carrying out fundraising activities here at Illinois Tech. The entire team was very enthusiastic about the project and very satisfied with its work. Saeed, a second year chemical engineering student said, "Living with the villagers was harder than I thought it would be. Sleeping on the beds made of jute or just surviving the heat without an air conditioner but the outcome and happiness in the end was worth all the effort."

Every summer may never be the same as the previous one and both the villagers and the students of EWB can vouch for the statement, "There is much to happen between the lip and the cup."




*Photos courtesy of EWB*

# Staff Spotlight: Stephanie Glover, OCL

**Khaleela Zaman**
TECHNEWS WRITER

Passing by the Office of Campus Life (OCL) in the MTCC, the more seasoned students probably have noticed the different office set-up and different person behind the desk that used to be Ryan Miller's. Please do not be alarmed! Ryan Miller has simply moved to an office closer to the International Center, and this new person is super nice and welcoming, ready to help with anything you may need OCL-wise. Currently in her fourth month as the OCL Administrative Associate, Stephanie Glover is now "the front face of OCL." Stephanie mostly handles the purchase requests and finances for all the student organizations on campus. For all the treasurers out there, Glover is the one in OCL who reviews and takes care of all those HawkLink purchase requests that are submitted. She also acts as an assistant to Miller, which basically equates to her being involved with "a little bit of everything for Campus Life."

While previously working at Purdue University, Glover conveniently came across this job opportunity with Illinois Tech on HigherEdJobs.com, and "it was a very smooth transition here." She is definitely happy taking on this new position, and she has been loving all the interaction with students as well as the fast-paced environment. Her favorite

Photo by Khaleela Zaman

part about her new position is hands-down the "heavy contact with students"–getting to know them as they get to know her, allowing students to realize they can rely on her, and the fulfillment of knowing she has helped student organizations create successful events.

Surprisingly, Glover has yet to run into too many challenges, although she is sure she will with more time in her position– not that there have been no challenges so far. The one thing she has run into are problems involving pizzas and receipts: "Getting receipts

from pizza orders is the biggest challenge I've had so far." So, if a student organization happens to order some pizza, Glover would really, really appreciate the receipt being given to her.

As far as Illinois Tech in general, Glover absolutely loves "how Illinois Tech involves their staff into the culture." For example, during Homecoming this past week, the staff was invited and so were their families, allowing staff to "feel like [they're] truly a part of the campus community."

If Stephanie Glover could give Illinois Tech students a bit of advice, she encourages every student to "really take advantage of everything." By attending classes students will develop their education, and combining that with involvement in student organizations provides opportunities for developing social skills among other things. Glover is the one in OCL who is given a credit card to purchase the various items requested by student organizations on campus, so she knows the Student Activities Fund (SAF) is truly given back to the students through all the student organizations. She also believes that experiences have an impact like no other, and it is "so great to have an experience outside your normal." Therefore, consider joining "things outside your normal life," and those experiences more than anything "will stay with you forever."

# International Students Feature: China

**Alexandra Detweiler**
TECHNEWS WRITER

If you aren't an international student, you most definitely know one. Take any route through campus and you'll overhear a conversation in another language, turn your head at a phone call you don't understand, or fail to read a poster full of characters you don't recognize. In an effort to more deeply understand this large population at Illinois Tech, this International Students Feature will act as a chance for readers to understand how life in other countries differs from life here at Illinois Tech.

This week, three international students from the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) were asked what they thought were the biggest differences between life in the US and in China. Siyu Wang, a graduate student studying marketing, immediately answered, "Lots of things. The food, of course. … China is really about food." While American food consists of, in her words, "burgers and hot dogs," Chinese food is much more diverse and has a longer, richer history. However, Wang wasn't too bitter about the drastic diet change. "For me, it's okay." Wang

continued. "I try lots of different kinds of food. I'm not so typically focused on Chinese food. I like Indian food, actually." In contrast, Lei Yan, a graduate student studying electrical engineering, doesn't like the food here as much. "I think Chinese food is better," Yan confessed. "I can't adapt to [American food]. It's very different. Chinese food has so many spices and we can [eat] different food every day … Chinese food has so many kinds." Yisu Yuan, a graduate student also studying electrical engineering, agreed with Yan, mentioning that he also did not like the food in America as much. Yuan commented, "America has a lot of food from different cultures. But as for American food, I think it's only burgers and sandwiches. And also they're only serving very large sizes." Yuan continued, saying, "In my family, every time we had a meal, we must have rice. But here, it's like a lot of meat." However, Yuan did go on to say that he feels lucky to live so close to Chinatown. Every time he feels homesick, he can easily travel there and enjoy a meal that tastes more like home.

All three students also pointed out differences between school here versus school in China. Before saying anything else, Wang lamented, "Books are really expensive

here." Wang completed her Bachelor's degree in China and said she was used to buying books for 20 RMB, or three US dollars. Additionally, according to Wang, classes are more lecture-based in China. In America, they are more hands-on and collaborative. "Here, you have more projects," Wang says. "You have to invite some partners to do it as a team." Lei Yan commented on the same topic, saying, "Research here [is] different ... [it] is interdisciplinary." Yan's major is electrical engineering, yet he says he frequently works with students of different disciplines like computer science. Another difference between schooling in the US and China, according to all three international students, is that there is more pressure on university students in America. While many Americans believe in the stereotype that Chinese students are placed upon more pressure, this is not necessarily true. According to Yuan, the belief that Chinese schools are harder than American ones holds true only for high school. It is very important for Chinese high school students to perform well due to a college entrance exam after graduation that can only be taken once a year. In Yuan's words, "[High School in China] is hard. It's really hard … But once you enter

university, it's a lot better. I think the university here has more pressure than in China."

The most obvious difference between Chinese and American culture is the language. Lei Yan thought that this change, above all else, was the hardest to adjust to. In fact, in Yan's opinion, the transition between cultures wouldn't have been difficult if not for the that barrier. According to him, there are many aspects of life that are the same, but the one thing that is most different is language. In Yan's own words, "Adapting to the life here is a problem of language. If I could speak English well, I could live here very well."

China and the US are on opposite sites of the globe, and for international students, the differences in culture can be overwhelming. In fact, according to Yuan, "The first year I got here, I thought China and America might be the most different places in the world." However, understanding the difficulties that international students are facing can make the transition easier, and let others learn about what life is like in a completely different culture.

Next week, look for a International Students Feature on students from the Caribbean!

# Election results revealed, new student organizations approved at SGA Senate meeting

**Soren Spicknall**
TECHNEWS WRITER

Illinois Tech's Student Government Association (SGA) cast aside its usual two-week Senate meeting rotation on Wednesday, September 14, holding a second such meeting in as many weeks in order to reveal the results of elections that had taken place the previous three days for the incoming 2016-2017 Senate. Since many Senate candidates were packed into Stuart 113 to hear whether they would be representing the students of their college this coming academic year, Wednesday's meeting was also a chance for SGA's current Senate to run through the structure of its normal business, giving incoming members a chance to see how a typical meeting took place. Even though most observers were present simply to hear election results, those results were held until the end of the meeting in order to put a spotlight on how SGA generally functions.

To start off the meeting, current SGA Executive Vice President Sonia Kamdar introduced a revised set of rules for conduct

and speech. Dubbed "Sonia's Rules" (after a previous revision had been named "Mete's Rules" for the former Executive VP who drafted them), changes included a strict limit on discussion time per topic, a one-minute limit on individual speaking terms, and other items means to reduce circular discussion and keep meeting length within a reasonable time overall. These changes were based on discussions held at the end of the previous week's Senate hearing about how Senate meetings could be made more efficient and accessible.

The next portion of the meeting, as usual, was concerned with presentations from prospective student organizations, which must be approved by the Senate in order to exist in an official capacity on campus. The first two organizations, Chess Club and Programming Club, were presented by the same individual, a first-year Computer Science student named Dan Rauch. Within their individual disciplines, both clubs were very similar in purpose, intended to focus on the competitive facet of each topic. However, while

questions from Senators about Chess Club were limited, the concept of a competition-focused Programming Club brought much more concern with it due to the ongoing existence of an Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) chapter on campus. Since ACM serves as the professional development organization for Computer Science students and its national-level organization actually hosts a number of the competitions that Programming Club intended to participate in, some Senators, as well as Finance Board Chair Sung Min Choi Hong, were concerned that creating a separate entity specifically for competition programming might not make sense, and might lead to an unnecessarily split audience.

Rauch countered by claiming that he had reached out to ACM prior to creating his Programming Club proposal, and had been rebuffed by ACM leadership who were uninterested in forming a competitive group or seeking funding for regional, national, and international programming competitions. He also pointed to strong online support for the

organization so far, citing 52 Facebook page likes for a group that hadn't even met yet. In the end, the organization passed by a vote of 11 for, 4 against, and 1 abstaining; Chess Club passed by a higher ratio of 13 for, 3 against, and 0 abstaining. Many among the Senate, though, including Communications VP Jelani Canty, expressed concern about the Senate's willingness to vote through organizations which were largely unstructured without following up and aiding in their growth, and proposed focusing on fostering a positive relationship with new student organizations this academic year to ensure they were equipped with the tools and knowledge to expand and continue to function over time.

The final proposed student organization to present at the September 14 meeting was Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM), a group that classifies itself as a religion, but which originally rose from tongue-in-cheek

# Election results revealed, new student organizations approved at SGA Senate meeting

political advocacy organizations which opposed the teaching of intelligent design and creationism theories in public schools. Pastafarianism, as the religion is called, is legally recognized in a handful of countries, but was ruled not to be a legitimate religion in the United States in an April 2016 court decision.

The students presenting FSM at Senate began their time with an introductory video explaining some of the basics of the religion (which include an all-powerful deity taking the form of spaghetti, and the annual celebration of "Talk Like A Pirate Day"), then demonstrated a specific plan for on-campus events and for an organized Executive Board to carry out leadership duties. Senators' questions for the group largely revolved around the inclusiveness of their activities (to which presenters answered that all were welcome at their events, and as members in their organization), and whether they had coordinated at all with Lynne Meyer, the director of Spiritual Life and Diversity in the Office of Campus Life. The primary speaker for the group stated that Meyer had actually been the first to suggest making the group an official student organization, and that they had been working with her throughout their development. After a very brief private discussion primarily focused on the organization's impressive structure and vision

so far, Senate voted it through by a margin of 10 for, 3 against, and 3 abstaining.

Following each new student organization vote, the SGA Executive Board presented in turns. President Leo Sukkar took time to simply thank the outgoing Senate, and encourage each member to continue involvement in SGA in some way. Since only one Senator had run for reelection, this message was intended for the vast majority of those present. Following Sukkar's comments (which were bolstered by similar words from Executive VP Kamdar), the VPs of Academic Affairs, Communications, and Student Life presented jointly, briefly introducing information about their committees for potential incoming Senators. Akash Raina, Academic Affairs VP, highlighted his committee's work formulating the pass/fail proposal the previous semester (to be implemented in Spring 2017), and indicated that his committee's close relationship with Illinois Tech's Provost, Frances Bronet, and the university's Board of Trustees allowed them to push for student-led academic initiatives. Communications VP Jelani Canty put a focus on community service in his committee, as well as fostering a positive relationship with student organizations in this academic year (especially media organizations TechNews and WIIT). Student Life VP Qianran He spoke primarily about the launch of and continued improvements to the HAWKi app, and welcomed any new Senators to join her committee to improve the daily lives of

students at Illinois Tech.

Before election results were to be announced, there were two important items still to get out of the way. Finance Board Chair Sung Min Choi Hong summarized the first Finance Board hearing of the semester, in which $142,583.72 was approved of the $255,714.22 requested by student organizations. He explained that any organization wishing to appeal their decision could first talk to Finance Board, then file a petition with SGA's Judicial Board if they were still unsatisfied.

Piggybacking off of that topic, Judicial Board's recently-approved Chief Justice, San Dinh, put forth three individuals to fill the vacant slots in his Associate Justice Roster: Mohammed Samir Siddique, William Gordon, and Shreya Jha. Each candidate was questioned about their motivations for becoming a Justice (notably, Siddique mentioned that he is a current Kent Law student looking for on-campus experience in similar areas), and Dinh was asked about how the candidates were recruited (through an email sent when Senate nominations opened last month). The slate of Justices was then approved by a Senate vote of 14 for, 1 against, and 1 abstaining.

Finally, it was time to reveal the victors of this year's Senate elections, which featured a higher total turnout of voters than either of the previous two years choosing between a total field of 20 candidates (drawn from 88 nominations). The winners are listed

below in descending order of total votes, separated by the college they represent:

Applied Technology - Caitlin Simpson and David Sobel

Architecture - Savannah Brown

Business - Boran Chen and Ethan Castro

Engineering - Alyssa Deluca, Kislay Bhagat, Franklin Nwaezeigwe, Golzar Shobeiri, Richard Opara-Ndudu, Jacob DiGiorgio, and Jillian Edwards

Human Sciences - Trixie Weiner

Science - Gina Oberoi, Nathan Jones, and Sydney Smith

Some colleges did not have enough candidates to fill their entire constitutionally-mandated number of Senators, so those openings will be advertised and filled through Senate votes later in the semester. Each Senator represents the voice of the students in the College they represent, and are meant as a contact point for student issues arising from each college. New Senators (and all current SGA members) will be participating in a mandatory retreat on Saturday, September 24 to orient them to their role, and business will proceed as usual very soon for the 2016-2017 academic year.
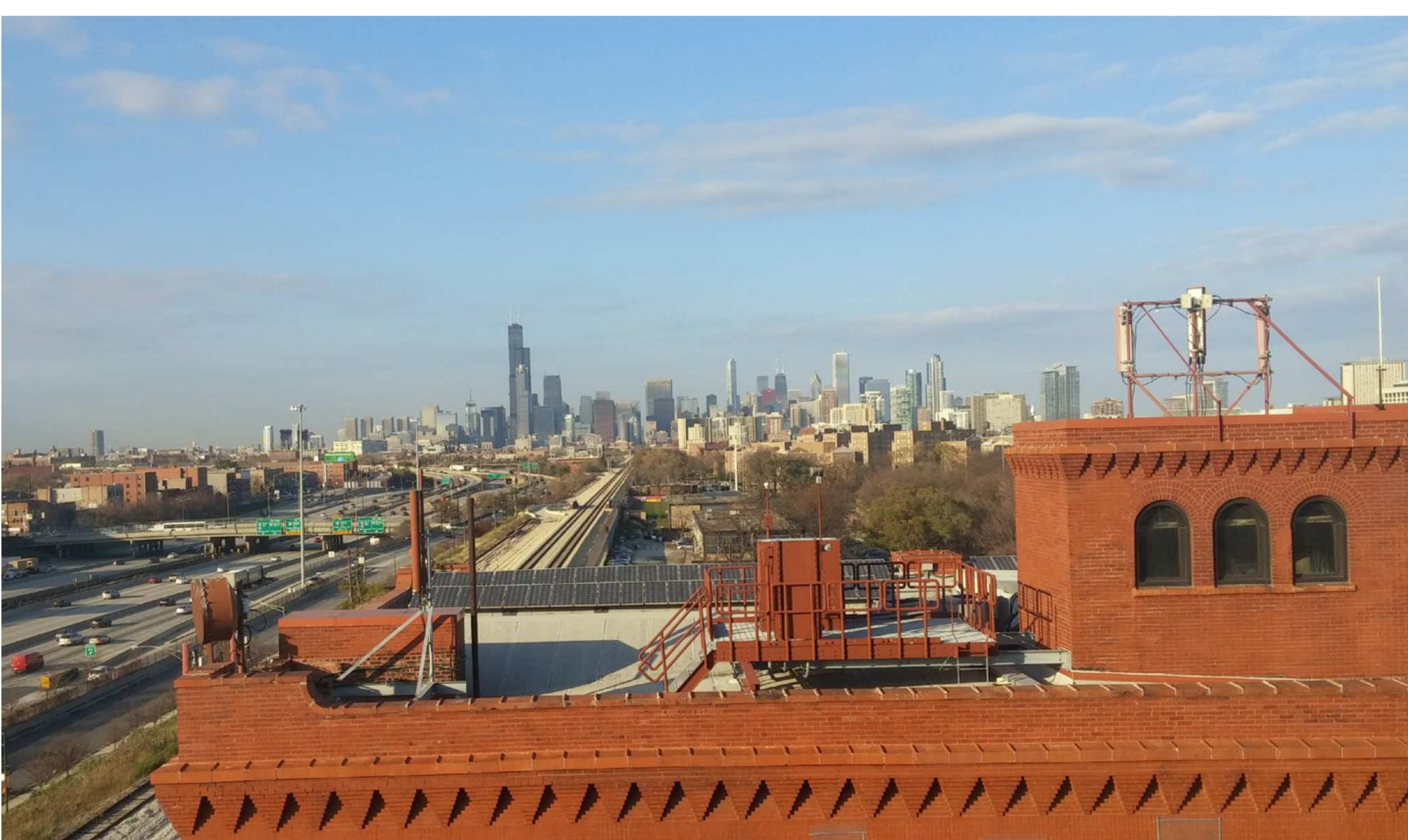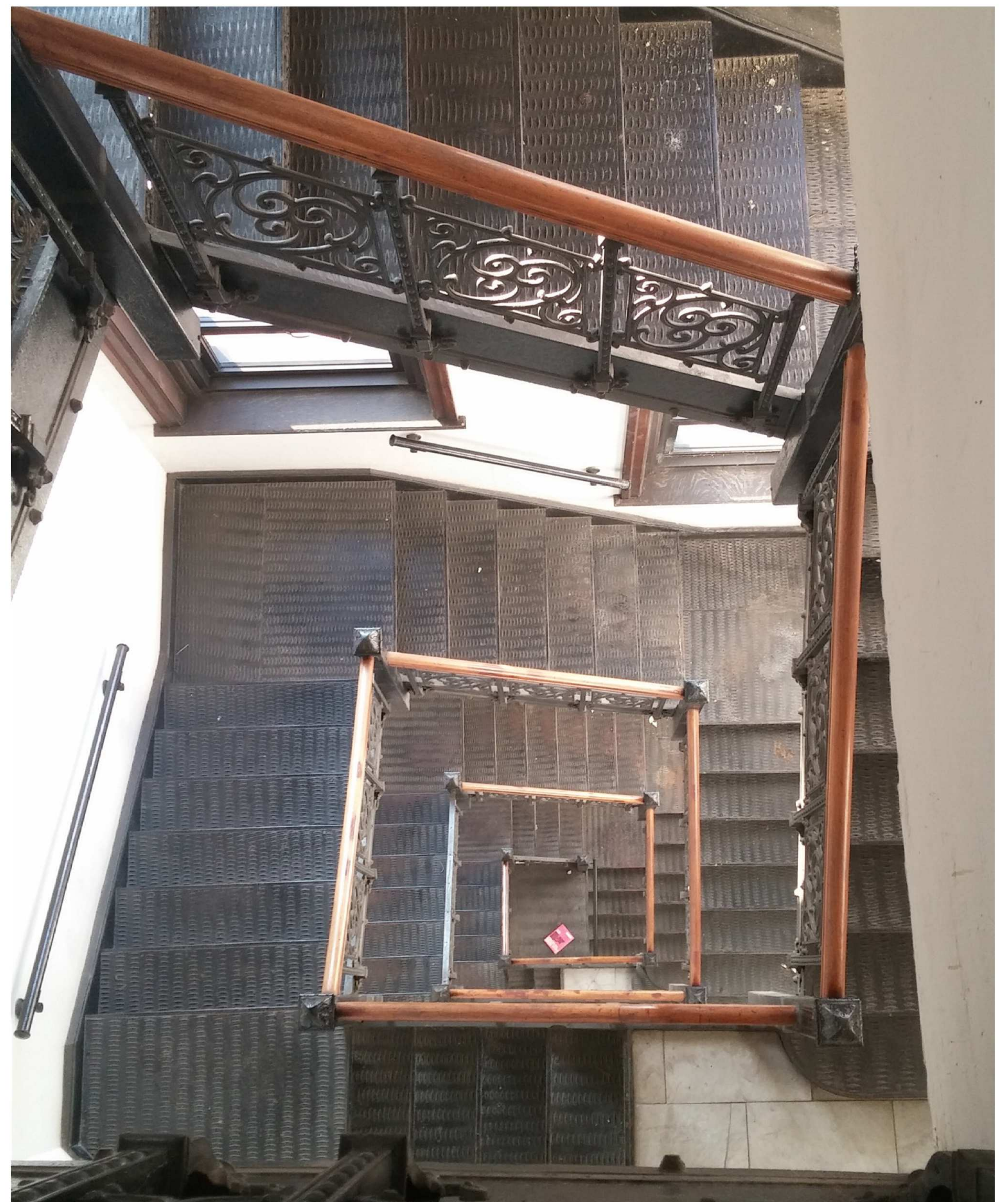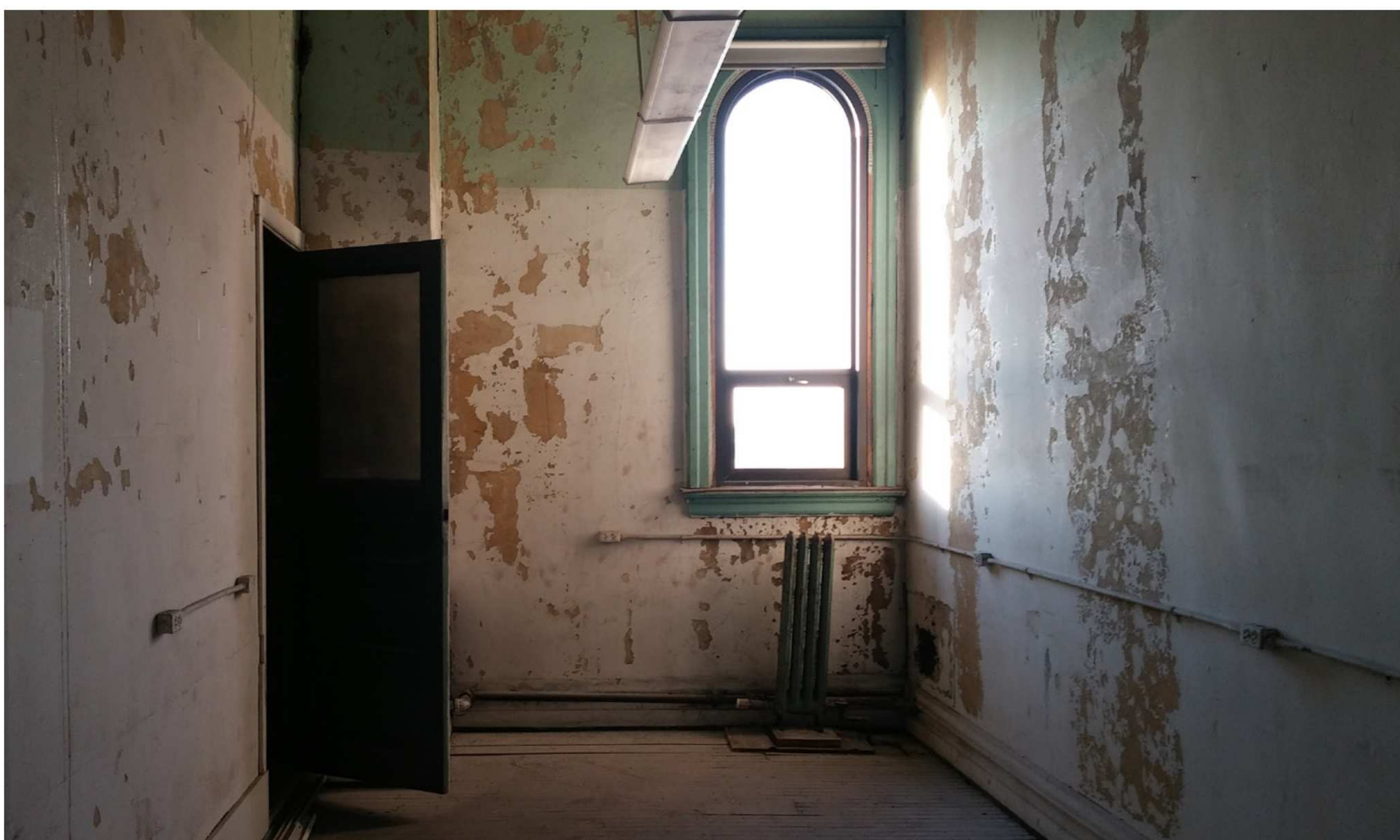
# A look inside Main Building prior to its renovation

In early 2016, plans were announced for a private developer to renovate Illinois Tech's historic Main Building, which was vacated four years prior following the discovery of major structural problems. As late as 2015, two student organizations (WIIT and Illinois Tech Model Railroad) were still allowed occasional access to equipment in Main Building that could not be removed when it was officially emptied. These photos, taken during those organizations' supervised trips, are some of the last to be taken before the beginning of Main Building's transformation into apartments.















*Photos by Soren Spicknall*

# Hawks Coffeehouse features student, professional performers for a two-hour Homecoming concert

**Reno Waswil**
DISTROBUTION MANAGER

In the cacophony of events that lined last week's Illinois Tech calendar in celebration of Homecoming 2016, Union Board's second fortnightly Hawks Coffeehouse performance was among the many notable and enjoyable festivities. On Wednesday, September 14, at 7 p.m., students gathered in the MTCC Welcome Center to sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's featured performers, accompanied by a Sodexo-catered spread of hot and iced coffee and brownies. This week was, however, quite special, in that, opposed to the usual hour duration of the event, this one went on for over two hours due to the abundance of performers resulting from a last minute booking error.

This night, student spoken-word poet Sanjin Ibrahimovic, the musical stylings of a collective of students Allen White, Jazz Kalingasan, Jose (Rafita) Vera, and Myka Chang, and professional guitarist/singer-songwriter Abe Parker all provided enjoyable showings of their talents-- all creating an equally emotive and yet profoundly different atmospheres.

Up first was the absolutely wonderful poetry of Ibrahimovic, backed by some low music care of Musingineer's album "Hiatus." His booking was the result of a cold calling by Union Board's music and dance chair, Citlali Bueno, to the fraternity colloquially known as "Skull House." His set began with a short summary about his poetry, which included a description of some of the outlets and places of available for other students who may wish to, themselves, write poetry, but who want some assistance. He also commented that he would be reading his poetry in chronological order of when he wrote it.

Ibrahimovic's poetry spoke to the beauties of love and loss, the concepts of cultural identification and family, his struggles with racism and immigration, and the present local and national state of politics, ignorance, and inequality. His performance was inspirational, and his fearless messages were touching and resonated with many in the audience.

Next was a grouping which was jokingly referred to as "Allen and the Allenettes." Their set was something of a technical abnormality for such an event, with 7 microphones, a piano (lovingly provided by IIT A Cappella), and other sound equipment, but nothing Alien Sound and Lighting's expert team couldn't provide. Only a few of their songs featured the full collective; most of them were subsets of two or three of the members. One of their performers, Kalingasan, actually was quite late to the show as he had to finish a lab beforehand, and so it was asked by White that, when he did arrive, a hullabaloo be made. This was accomplished and was actually initiated by Vera, who was in the middle of a song with Chang at that time of Kalingasan's arrival.

Their set ended with an impromptu performance of an elongated song they called "Milkshake," which involved White on keyboard doing improvised speak-singing while the rest of the collective were on backup, joining in on a chorus of just the word "milkshake" at the end. The song was a crowd favorite.

After these shenanigans, Parker, who is currently on a tour of primarily campus shows, went on to do his impressive set. He held a commanding stage presence, which included him dancing around, jamming on his guitar, and masterful use of a loop-pedal to record and loop many of his guitar riffs, allowing him to live play and sing on top of it.

Despite a certain fatigue of the members of the audience who chose to stay long after all of the coffee and food had been exhausted, those that did were pleasantly surprised by the his skill.

A few of the lines in his music elicited some sympathetic response, including one about buying all of his groceries from Aldi. He even took time to commit a few communal antics of his own; after noticing some of the members of "Allen and the Allenettes" dancing in the crowd, he even invited them up to the front and asked the audience to mimic their moves, which many of them did.

As a notable feature of the night, Rahul Wadhwani, last year's Student Government Association (SGA) President, made a surprise visit to watch the show and wished to make a statement on the TechNews record that "Illinois Tech Rocks."

Those intrigued by this article are invited attend the next performance, which will be held on September 28 at 7 p.m. in the MTCC Welcome Center, and will feature Nelly's Echo, care of National Broadcasting Company's (NBC's) hit television show "The Voice," along with coffee, apple cider, and yet another sweet treat.





*Photos by Reno Waswil*

# A true beach getaway, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

**Steven Moreno**
TECHNEWS WRITER

A short trip down the South Shore Line will take you to the neighboring state of Indiana, the well-known Hoosier State. Hidden along this rail is a little known park that is seldom heard of or talked about, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. This park is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with numerous events and recreational opportunities. It is the perfect place for those who have grown tired of the city and wish to get away from it for a while. Still, the mighty cityscape of Chicago does not elude the park, as the outline of the city's most famous buildings can be seen in the distance.

The park was created in 1966 by the United States Congress with the support of then President Lyndon B. Johnson. The park protects the remains of the unique coast line of sand dunes and the flora and fauna that call it home. The entire coast was at risk of being destroyed as the ports of Indiana and Gary, located at the opposite end of the park, threatened to develop the entire lakeshore. With the effort of local conservationists and their congressmen and women, over fifteen hundred square acres of land were saved from annihilation.

Today, the park is a popular spot for locals and tourists alike to kick back, relax, and enjoy majestic Lake Michigan and all it has to offer. Beside the beach and lake, the inland portion of the park has a lot to offer as well. Numerous trails stretch across the park's famous dune hills to show the beautiful scenery this coastline has to offer. Sunset at the park is a sight to behold, as the orange sky against the skyscrapers of Chicago make for a spectacular sight.
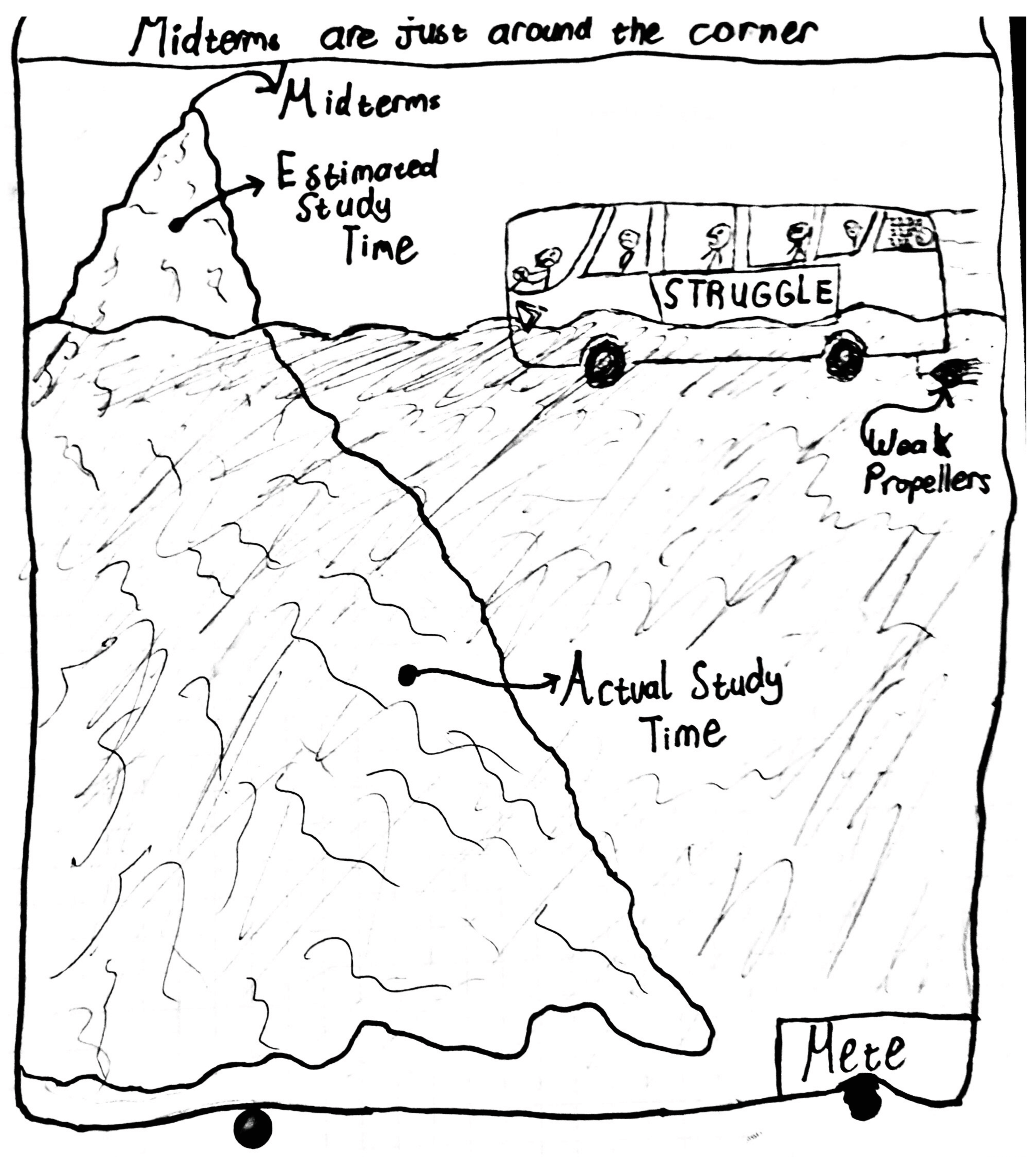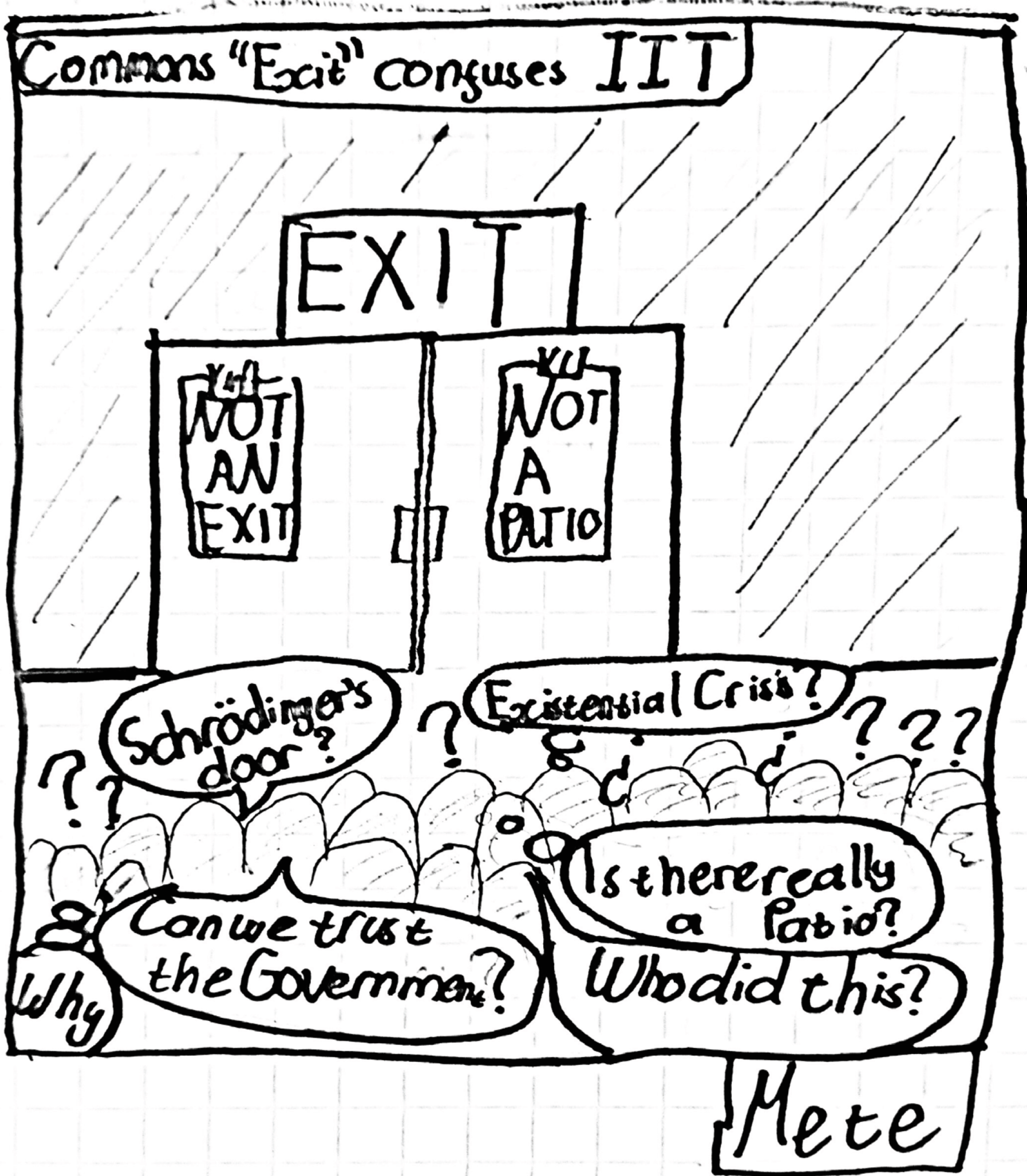
To reach Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, one must take the South Shore Line from Millennium Station to Miller Station outside of Portage, Indiana. A complimentary shuttle bus called the 'Dune Buggy' which runs annually from May to October, will then take passengers into the park. Shuttle stops include the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Marquette Park, Lake Street and Miller Beaches.





*Photos by Steven Moreno*

# COMICS



Commons "Exit" confuses IIT

EXIT

U R NOT AN EXIT

U R NOT A PATIO

Schrödinger's door?

Existential Crisis?

Is there really a Patio?

Can we trust the Government?

Who did this?

Why

Mete



Midterms are just around the corner

Midterms

Estimated Study Time

STRUGGLE

Weak Propellers

Actual Study Time

Mete

Knowledge is a necessity

For the puckered minds of curiosity

To quench this thirst with tenacity

With each simple

Lesson

Learned

The desire burns tremendously

To learn new things so carefully

The joy ignites vivaciously

Is this a

Blessing

or a

Curse?

*~Sonia Kamdar*

## Answer to last week's PUZZLE

**The World's Greatest Mini-golfer:**
    Answer: 2 putts. Nobody says the golfer must aim straight at the hole, if he putts 3.5 meters at just the right angle, he can then putt 3.5 meters a second time to get the ball in the hole. Who says geometry is useless?

## make history with
# TechNews

Join TechNews at our next Writer's Meeting!
## Wednesday September 21 @ 1PM
TechNews Office (MTCC 221)

Email editor@technewsiit.com with any questions or article submissions