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# TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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## Pass/Fail implementation, new degrees, more presented at latest UGSC meeting

**Soren Spicknall**  
COPY EDITOR

The work of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (UGSC), a body composed largely of faculty members representing each undergraduate academic department at Illinois Tech, is an important step in the process of creating or modifying degree programs, changing institutional academic policies, and setting general education requirements for undergraduate students at the university. While its decisions must be approved by the University Faculty Council (UFC), the UGSC toils independently to formulate important items that come before the UFC.

During its third meeting of the year on October 11, the UGSC considered a number of new and revised degree programs. While most of these programs were presented to the committee as information items (meaning that they would not require a vote), thorough discussion was still had about each in order to address all relevant information for representatives to take back to their departments.

The first new degree programs reviewed were the most unconventional, the result of a new affiliation agreement with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. That agreement offers guaranteed admission to LECOM for a limited number of Illinois Tech students who meet certain academic requirements, pursuing graduate degrees in

LECOM's medical, dental, and pharmacy programs. Each track is formulated for eight total years of college education (four at Illinois Tech and four at LECOM), with the exception of a special version of the pharmacy program which permits three years at Illinois Tech instead with some credits back-transferring from LECOM to fill out credit requirements here. A back-transfer agreement is not entirely uncharted territory for the university, since a similar policy already exists for an affiliated program with the Illinois College of Optometry (which takes up the former VanderCook campus to the east of Illinois Tech). An affiliate pharmacy program also exists already in partnership with Midwestern University, but that program does not bestow an Illinois Tech degree upon its students. The new LECOM-affiliated programs have already spawned relevant policies within the biology and chemistry departments at this university, and the track is expected to be available for students soon.

Next up on the day's agenda, the members of the UGSC turned their lens inward toward programs that exist entirely within the confines of Illinois Tech. A revised version of the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics was presented with changes to some electives, changes which had been prompted by criticism from members of the UFC when the degree was initially presented there the previous week. The newest version of the degree was

explicitly approved by the chairs of the biology, chemistry, and physics departments before being presented, hoping to avoid any further confusion or debate over its contents.

Finally, two new co-terminal degrees were presented for consideration before a vote scheduled for the next UGSC meeting, both of which result in an Master of Science (M.S.) in Biology for the health professions. The programs, stemming from B.S. tracks in biology or biochemistry, are intended for individuals who do not have the grade progress for admittance into medical school or another relevant professional school, providing an alternative by which they can build qualifications by completing a master's degree that will theoretically allow them admittance later on.

After discussing various degree programs, focus shifted to Aubrey Hall, a staff member from the Registrar's office who was present to answer questions and take input about the technical implementation of the university's new pass/fail policy, which was formulated last year in concert with SGA and has been written about thoroughly in previous UGSC coverage. The policy allows students to take a certain number of free and technical electives under pass/fail grading rather than the traditional letter scale, and will come into effect next semester. Under the currently planned system, students would register for a course, then submit a petition through DegreeWorks to request approval

for the pass/fail option, at which point the office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UGAA) would review and approve or deny the student's petition, changing their grade mode to pass/fail if approved. Hall fielded a number of questions about the visibility of each student's grading style to faculty during the semester, and reiterated an email he had sent to department chairs recently requesting a list of all courses in each department which will be able to be taken as pass/fail by students of the university. Some technical details still need to be ironed out, but the implementation of the policy largely aligns with its formulated goals even in its current state.

Just before the meeting's end, a representative of Lewis College spoke briefly about an upcoming faculty-led study abroad program in Scotland and Northern Ireland, which will take place over next summer and will cover certain core humanities and social sciences credits. The program is intended to be welcoming to all of Illinois Tech's majors, not just Lewis College students, and will be billed similarly to regular summer courses (excepting travel costs). Information about it can be found by contacting Elizabeth Hall (ehall9@iit.edu) in the Study Abroad office.

UGSC meets once every two weeks in Wishnick Hall. Full minutes of each meeting, as well as information about votes and membership, are available at [iit.edu/~ugsc](http://iit.edu/~ugsc).

## Illinois Tech Robotics breaks record at 12th annual Pumpkin Launch



Photos by Alexandra Detweiler (top left, right) Jamshid Tokhirov (bottom left)

# TechNews

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Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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# International Students Feature: Central Asia

**Alexandra Detweiler**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Central Asia, also known as Middle Asia, is a region in the core of Asia that is framed by the Caspian Sea in the West, China in the East, Afghanistan in the South, and Russia in the North. There are many students attending Illinois Tech that come from this group of countries. Madina Tahmas, a second year undergraduate student studying business finance, was born and raised in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan had previously been a part of the USSR, and in Tahmas' words, "it's very Russianized." Wayiti Kawasaier, a second year undergraduate student studying Mechanical Engineering, is from an ethnic minority group in China called the Uyghurs and attended school in Urumqi, a city in China near Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan's border. Because of Wayiti's proximity to Uzbekistan, when Waiti and an anonymous Uzbekistani student who wished to be referred to as Murod were interviewed together, the two were able to communicate in Uyghur and Uzbek because the languages sounded remarkably similar. According to Murod, Uyghur and Uzbek are about 80% the same.

One major difference between life in Central Asia and life at Illinois Tech is, predictably, the diet. "I miss my food mostly," Wayiti said. "Back home, we spend a lot of time cooking. My mom, she comes home from work and she spends 2-3 hours cooking." According

to him, the food back home consists of a lot of vegetables served upon noodles or rice. According to Murod, "the food is completely different."

Additionally, the three students remarked upon the absence on holidays and celebrations that they were used to at home. Tahmas first mentioned Navros, a celebration on the 21st of March that she said was, "basically new year's." Navros celebrates the beginning of the year, with spring as a fresh start. "On the night of the 21st," Tahmas described, "we make a special dish made out of seeds from a certain plant." According to her, the dish, called sumalack, is stirred constantly the whole night. At the end, the eldest of the family throws in a rock, and when the dish is distributed, whoever gets the rock will be the luckiest that year. The night is full of tradition, singing songs, and making wishes. In addition, Wayiti and Murod noted the absence of Eid, an Islamic festival in which the family sacrifices a sheep or a cow.

From an academic perspective, the differences are abundant. According to Tahmas, in Uzbekistan, the schools are "more focused on how the group does. It's more focused on overall achievements, overall success. It's very school oriented, nothing beyond that. Here, what I like is that ... professors have an approach for every single student [and] make sure you understand the material." School in Urumqi was very different for Wayiti, who went to a boarding school-style high school there. According to him, the rooms there were a little bigger than the ones at

McCormick Student Village, yet eight people lived in each one. Wayiti explained, there were "four beds, with one stacked on top of each." There was no shower in the building; students walked to a public shower instead. Wayiti remarked upon the fact that there weren't electrical outlets in the rooms, something he couldn't imagine living without now. Murod, a transfer student who attended university for some time in Uzbekistan, said that both high school and university held classes on Saturdays. Additionally, Murod claimed, the "teachers here act more friendly. It makes class more interesting." All three students had nice things to say about attending school in Chicago. "I like [Illinois Tech]; it's not that big," Wayiti said. "There are people from all over the world. I meet a lot of friends."

Another difference, according to Tahmas, was the "vibe itself. We treat each other as if we are family ... If you're on the street and you're carrying really heavy bags, someone will come up to you and say 'hey sister, can I help you with that?'" However, while the countries may be, as Tahmas said, "completely, 180 degrees different," when people from different cultures meet, they can learn a lot from each other. In Tahmas' words, "the more different someone is from yourself, the more you learn who you are. It makes you look at things from a different perspective."

Next week, watch for an international students feature focusing on various countries in Africa!

# Staff Spotlight: Thomas Henehan, Facilities

**Khaleela Zaman**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Meet Tom Henehan, currently Project Manager in Design & Construction for the Facilities Department on campus. If you have ever wondered what goes on in that building north of Main Building, Machinery Hall is the building that houses the Design & Construction components of Facilities, which is where Henehan's office is located. In his role as a project manager, Henehan is the contact person for contractors and architects on building renovation or new construction projects on campus. Henehan acts upon requests from users and departments on campus for building renovations by hiring an architect and engineers who produce the drawings that go out to contractors for bidding. He then looks at the bids, chooses a contractor, and then works hand-in-hand with the contractor managing the project.

This was not Henehan's first position on campus, however. Since 1980, Henehan has been working at Illinois Tech. His first job here was with the on-campus police, which was "exciting, because there was lots of crime back then." After getting to know some people working in Facilities, Henehan moved over to the housing side, spending most of his working hours "fixing what students broke" for over 20 years. In 2001, he was promoted to Facilities Supervisor. For a short period of time after this, Henehan attempted to leave Illinois Tech for a different job due to a big promotion accompanied by a big raise. However, his previous boss from Illinois Tech kept calling him to come back, and he mentioned that a position in Design & Construction was

open. Henehan ended up happily accepting the construction management position in Design & Construction at Illinois Tech after an unrewarding three months at the higher-paying job. As he reflects back on it now, in terms of the pay raise he received at the job where he lasted three months, he feels "sometimes that doesn't mean a lot." Since 2007, Henehan has held his current position as Project Manager, which he says is "absolutely [his] most favorite and rewarding job."

Henehan has truly enjoyed "seeing the biggest changes to the academic buildings since [he's] been here" at Illinois Tech for all these years, and he believes we are "finally catching up to being modern on this campus." He also knows "whenever you do something, you don't know how much students will like it." Therefore, when he "sees new things come here and students use them," that is one of the most rewarding parts of his job. For example, from all the feedback he has received, he believes the renovations to the Lewis Hall bathrooms in McCormick Student Village (MSV) "went over really well." Additionally, Henehan usually sees the E1 back lounge area filled with students, as well as the outdoor patio area of Life Sciences. With the campus being designed by Mies van der Rohe, and having such historical significance, Henehan says it is also always a highlight getting to work with historically significant architects. For the E1 renovations, he was in collaboration with Mies' grandson as the architect, and he worked with Harboe Architects on the renovations to Carr Memorial Chapel.

For Henehan, "the interaction with students" is his favorite part about working at Illinois Tech. He says it is "so nice, because

[the student body] changes all the time." Sometimes at graduation, he is able to meet students' parents, and his involvement with the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) student organization on campus allowed him to meet even more students and staff at Illinois Tech. Being a "big international university," Henehan thinks it could be easy to "question, what is our student body like here? And then you get to know them, and they are normal people." He thoroughly enjoys always seeing "that new excitement," getting to "hear what [students] are working on, what creations" they are producing. There really is nothing Henehan does not like about Illinois Tech.

If Henehan could provide any advice to students, faculty, and staff here on campus, he highly recommends everyone to "stay involved on campus, and things will happen!" He has witnessed many projects, and he knows "a lot has been done here based on student voices, committees they are on that drive things we do on campus." Recalling a student who actually was able to take part in the design process for the new chairs in the E1 classrooms, the student's design ended up being physically made by a furniture company and now so many other students can enjoy using the student-designed chairs. Both students and staff are encouraged to give their voice, like what staff might want to see in their offices or what faculty might want to see in their labs. And if you are ever looking for a smiling face to cheer you up, you can always stop by Machinery Hall and visit Henehan!



Photo by Khaleela Zaman

# ASB: A Unique Opportunity for Illinois Tech Staff

**Khaleela Zaman**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

As a student, staff member, or faculty member of Illinois Tech, you have probably at some point been asked by some friendly students on the MTCC bridge if you would donate to ASB by purchasing some item for a fundraiser. ASB is more than just an organization looking for money. ASB is short for Alternative Spring Break, and it is a student organization on campus that partners with Habitat for Humanity, participating in this non-profit, international organization's Collegiate Challenge spring break build. Each spring break, an extremely dedicated and passionate group of students, accompanied by a few staff and faculty members of Illinois Tech, spends that week in March volunteering and serving a community in the United States by helping Habitat for Humanity build homes—building homes and lifting dreams. When you give ASB money, you are donating to an amazing cause and sponsoring an amazing team, of which each member has gone through a rigorous application process to earn his or her spot and put in a lot of time throughout the year leading up to spring break.

Currently, Alternative Spring Break has their faculty and staff application open to any faculty or staff member who might be interested in being a part of the team for 2016-17. It might be helpful to hear from former ASB staff members about their experiences with Alternative Spring Break. Three previous ASB staff members were interviewed: Beth Conry, English Language Instructor in the English Language Services portion of the School of Applied Technology; Alexa Schutz, Assistant Director of Graduate Admission; and Joshua Marjenka, the current Housing Assignments Coordinator in Residence Life at Loyola University Chicago, and previously Operations Manager in Residence and Greek Life at Illinois Tech.

Beth Conry participated with ASB 2015-16, at first simply as a staff member, but she was quickly promoted to primary staff advisor when the position became vacant. Conry had ASB “on [her] radar the year before around trip time,” and when she saw the student application advertisement on IIT Today in Fall 2015, she talked to Alexa Schutz, who recommended that Conry absolutely should apply when the staff application soon became open. Schutz recalls that she “actually recommended Beth Conry to the organization [of ASB] and later that year she became the staff advisor and caught the ASB bug.” Conry truly felt it was “great to participate with students, and nice to work with more of the student population on a different level.” In her role at Illinois Tech, she sometimes feels segregated to working with mostly international students, so ASB gave her the opportunity to extend her interaction with more of the rest of the Illinois Tech student body. She also remembers how it was “nice to see the exec. board, watching [them] grow and learn, and just the process—the planning was well executed.” Witnessing those “ah ha moments” was a highlight for Conry,

in addition to seeing “students realize how to make a difference in the world,” since ASB allows students to help others while allowing staff members “to help not only students, but to help others” as well. For Conry, the most rewarding part of being an ASB staff member and advisor was “just working with everybody together.”

Alexa Schutz was a staff member for ASB 2013-14, and the organization's primary staff advisor for 2014-15. Through IIT Today, Schutz saw multiple fundraisers posted for ASB, which she soon discovered was associated with the larger organization of Habitat for Humanity. Since working with Habitat for Humanity was something she had always been interested in, she “randomly emailed the student organization on a Monday morning after seeing a post for a fundraiser to see if [she] could get involved in the future.” Although spring break was only a month away, ASB was down a staff member and driver, so Schutz was contacted, interviewed, and confirmed to be accepted to the team by that Thursday. This was the “best email [she] ever sent!” Since Schutz works in an administrative office on campus, she does not “get to personally interact very much with students, largely as the students [she is] mostly communicating with are international students applying to IIT.” Also, since Schutz is interested in working in higher education, “exposure to undergraduate students brings [her] much joy—their enthusiasm, positivity, drive, and creativity is infectious to be around.” Then, “after meeting the students from the 2014 trip, [she] fell in love with the student organization and how amazing every single student was.” She even goes so far as to refer to ASB as her “little family of undergrads,” holding ASB very close to her heart. When asked why she kept coming back to work with ASB, Schutz reflected that “having that one-on-one time with students who are giving their time and energy to do good and serve others is by far what keeps [her] coming back.” However, for Schutz “the most rewarding part of ASB is watching the students grow and develop along with making long-lasting friendships. Over the years, [she] has seen students break out of their shell and blossom after this experience.” She has also witnessed students “make mistakes and later grow from them and share that knowledge with next year's trip.” Finally, “seeing students work together for the common good to help address a societal issue is very touching” for Schutz.

Joshua Marjenka was a staff member on ASB trips in the spring of 2013, 2014, and 2015. He first found out about Alternative Spring Break through his former supervisor at Illinois Tech, Betsi Pinkus-Huizenga, when she was ASB's primary staff advisor. Many resident advisors he worked with also told him about the organization. Marjenka “kept coming back to ASB because [he] loved the experience of spending time with students giving back to individuals and communities through service and engagement.” Although he expected that helping people in the communities would be the most rewarding part about working with

ASB, he soon found this initial expectation overturned. Even though “that aspect of the experience was rewarding, the best part of ASB was being able to see student leaders develop over the course of a week, a year, and/or several ASB experiences.”

Conry, Schutz, and Marjenka would all strongly recommend other Illinois Tech staff and faculty members to apply to become a part of ASB. Conry “most definitely” believes that ASB is a “nice outlet for like-minded people to come together for one and a half semesters to make something happen.” The “shared experience” of working so closely with a group of dedicated, hard-working students was really “a great experience” for Conry. The trip provides staff members the ability to watch “students see more possibilities, more opportunities, within the university, the city, and life in general.” Additionally, since Alternative Spring Break is a student-led organization, Conry feels it is “good for people who are usually in charge,” since these staff and faculty members have to adjust to become more like “facilitators.” Conry also “really liked that [the team] didn't know exactly what [they] were coming to in North Carolina, and watching the students deal with that”—the flexibility that the students needed to exercise was phenomenal. For Schutz, she would “absolutely, without a doubt, recommend ASB to any staff or faculty member, especially for those who are seeking to connect with students” on a much more personal level. Since she had only been an Illinois Tech staff member for six months when she first travelled with ASB, Schutz understands that “for new staff or faculty members to IIT, [ASB] will perhaps be the most valuable experience you have with your university in the friendships—yes, friendships—you can make with these amazing students.” Staff and faculty members who become a part of ASB “have the opportunity to get to know [ASB students] and learn from them about their experience as a student while simultaneously seeing them grow as a person.” Even after the year of ASB is over, you won't be able to “walk around campus without bumping into an ASB student and their friendly wave and smile will always brighten your day on the way to a meeting!” It is hard to put the ASB experience into words, but Schutz knows “there is something truly special about this organization!” Marjenka simply reinforces everything already mentioned by Conry and Schutz. He was able to distill the experience into one simple statement of recommendation that “Illinois Tech staff should strongly consider applying to take part in an ASB experience because it is an unparalleled way to engage with students, foster life-long relationships with and between students, and the experience creates a meaningful positive impact on the world and on you.”

If Conry could provide any advice to staff and faculty members of Illinois Tech, she would “encourage staff and faculty to become more involved on campus, just like [she] tells students, since it is just going to enhance your experience.” Through the “shared experience” of ASB, a “friendlier atmosphere” is created

within the university, and staff and faculty are able to connect more with other staff and faculty, as well as with students (with whom that kind of contact is not very common). In this way, ASB succeeds in providing a “more fulfilling work experience.”

If Schutz could provide any advice to staff and faculty members, “whether you have thought about joining a student organization or not,” there is no need to look further than “to the best group of IIT students you could ever ask to work and volunteer alongside.” If you absolutely cannot get the time off over spring break to join the group, then she says to “be sure to support their fundraisers,” since she “truly cannot speak more highly” of ASB. You are not expected as a staff member to exercise a significant amount of responsibility throughout the Alternative Spring Break trip, since “ASB executive members take the lead on the organization, logistics, and fundraising, so you are simply along for their ride by providing any needed advice, support, and guidance.”

If Marjenka could provide any advice to all members of the Illinois Tech community, he recommends applying to ASB: “If you're thinking about applying for ASB but you're not sure, APPLY! If you're not thinking about applying for ASB at all, APPLY!” He understands that ASB provides a “unique opportunity,” allowing Illinois Tech community members “to go out into the world with people of different backgrounds, experiences, and expectations, but who share a common goal to serve equally diverse individuals and communities.” During your participation on the ASB team, “you will gain knowledge, experience, understanding, friendships, and a deeper appreciation for the world around you.” Although the ASB trip is merely a week long, “the impact of ASB will last many lifetimes (considering each participant and each person [they] serve).” Even though Marjenka is no longer at Illinois Tech, he still holds IIT ASB close to his heart as he works with the students of Loyola University Chicago. This spring, he will be leading a group of first-year students at Loyola on an Alternative Break Immersion trip and experience to Tennessee. Marjenka knows he “will carry the lessons and memories of #IITASB with [him] as [he observes] the development of this new group of leaders.”

The staff and faculty member application to ASB 2016-17 will be open until 11:59p.m. on Saturday, October 22. The link to the application is <http://bit.ly/2dtjDDF>. Further information and visual representations of the ASB experience are available at the same application link. If any questions, comments, or concerns happen to arise, please do not hesitate to contact ASB directly at [asb.iit@gmail.com](mailto:asb.iit@gmail.com). The Alternative Spring Break team of 2016-17 looks forward to working with staff, faculty, and students as fellow team members and generous financial sponsors as they prepare for their spring break experience serving communities with Habitat for Humanity in the spring of 2017.

## Local legislators and students gather to launch tuition-free college campaign

**Andrew Adams**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Tuition free college is within reach, lawmakers and activists say.

On Friday, October 14, over a hundred activists, leaders, and students gathered on the south end of the University of Illinois at Chicago's campus to launch a statewide campaign for free publicly funded college and university education. The campaign is being organized by Will Guzzardi, an incumbent Illinois State Representative who is currently running for his second term in office. The audience was made up almost entirely of people who are involved in political activism. The master of ceremonies, Erica Nanton, laid the goals of this campaign out plainly: “We want funding for MAP grants, access for undocumented citizens to grants and scholarships, and free access to higher education in Illinois.”

This political campaign is unlike most that people are familiar with, in that it isn't an individual's campaign for election, but rather a campaign to spread an idea. Germinating in the offices and among the constituencies of Guzzardi, this campaign is being proudly backed by several large groups in the Chicago political landscape, including Chicago Student Action, a branch of The People's Lobby.

The People's Lobby is one of the largest organizations in Chicago politics and has successfully passed statewide legislation and helped elect officials affiliated with the group. Other groups that were represented at the event included Chicago Votes, Young Chicago Authors, Illinois College Democrats, and the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans.

Illinois Tech was modestly represented at the launch event, having about a dozen people in attendance and one on the speaking lineup. Esau Chavez, a

current student, gave a speech speaking to his experience with the financial burdens of college, having attended Richard J. Daley College for two years before transferring to Illinois Tech. He also focused on the lack of resources allotted to city colleges.

Sanjin Ibrahimovic, an Illinois Tech third year student who is involved with Chicago Student Action, attended the event. When asked why he thought this campaign was important, he said, “When I imagine a more educated society, I imagine a more creative, aspiring, and collaborative society... We need as many minds as possible to solve the problems at hand - like climate change.”

Interestingly, this launch event featured more than incendiary rhetoric and electrifying speeches. About 20 minutes into the event, Nanton said that for her, “political events don't feel powerful until there is art involved.” During the course of the night, Nanton introduced two artists, a

vocalist and a poet, to perform. The vocalist, Daryn, sang a personal ballad recounting her struggles with college debt. The poet, Antwon Funches, performed a poem that directly attacked disenfranchised populations for further disenfranchising subsets of their own population. Funches, himself an African-American, finished with the line “I'm sick of Black Lives Matter. All Black Lives Matter.”

It is worth noting that the campaign will face harsh opposition from people on the right of the aisle and conservative Democrats alike. This is due to the plan for funding relying on three options for revenue streams: a progressive income tax, a transaction tax, or a surcharge on incomes over one million dollars.

More information regarding the campaign can be found at its website, [tuitionfreeillinois.org](http://tuitionfreeillinois.org).

# Finance Board holds their second open hearing of the semester

**Reno Waswil**  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Finance Board (FB) is the branch of the Student Government Association (SGA) that has the power to allocate money from the Student Activities Fund (SAF) to every student organization on campus. Every semester, they hold three proposal periods for the purposes of hearing student organization proposals for what they want to do and how much money they wish to request from the SAF. This period includes a week of advising, when FB members meet individually with student organization presidents and/or treasurers to talk about the proposals they wish to submit, and a full day of hearing, when the members get together to talk about and actually make decisions on how the money should be allocated.

The Saturday a week after the end of advising, just enough time deemed fit for each FB member to gather all of the information necessary to make a decision on each of the organizations they advised, the hearing is held. This year, the second of these hearing was held on Saturday, October 15. The requisite voting members of FB along with Sung Min Choi Hong, the FB Chair, and Ryan Miller, the Office of Campus Life (OCL) SGA adviser, met at 8:30 a.m. in the MTCC Executive Conference Room to begin their tedious day-long process. A couple of the members were considered the "Recorders," and kept a tally on the allocations and information.

The actual hearings begin at 9 a.m. and are completely open for attendance to the student body, even catering both breakfast and lunch for board members and those in attendance. This week, TechNews was the entity in the audience, arriving around 10 a.m. and staying until the end. Anybody is allowed to come in and observe the process, but is not allowed have influence over the decisions while they are being made, and are not allowed to speak or interact with the board unless during periods when the "floor is open" so that they do not bias any decisions.

Prior to the official start to the hearing, a quorum is held in which all of the members discuss and prepare some preliminary details about how the hearing will run. A general order of organizations have to be somewhat predetermined in this period. This is because not all members can be there the whole time and the member that did the advising for any specific organization needs to be present when that organization is heard. Hong, who was elected FB Chair at last semester's SGA elections and adorned with a dashing suit for the occasion, commented that he arrived as early as 7:00 a.m. that day to set everything up in anxious preparation.

Among the first tasks of members is to, as per FB guidelines, fund in full all operations budgets capped at 40 dollars per organization for those that proposed for one.

From there, the process of the hearing worked like so: according to the general order, one by one, each organization's proposals were looked at one proposal at a time. For each proposal, the FB member that

advised that organization would explain what it is, why they are proposing for it, and any pertinent information about the proposal. There would be a discussion and follow up questions to the proposing member and some research if any was necessary. Any of the members could then make a motion to what should and shouldn't be funded and by how much. Passing the motion requires a majority vote of the present members, with any ties being decided by the chair.

Some proposals naturally took much longer than others. Commonly requested proposals or ones that are clearly laid out in the guidelines are very easy to decide; standard food budgets for programming or general body meetings within the amounts specified within the guidelines would be approved "in full" almost immediately. Others in which there was clearly missing documentation provided by the organization to make a decision or the guidelines specified that it could not be funded at all or further than it had been funded previously were "cut to zero" fairly quickly. Larger and more expansive proposals, or ones in which the guidelines were less clear or there was simply less precedence for what to do often took a great deal of time to go through. Hong had to set a timer on many of the proposals, after which a decision had to be made.

Biasing was of huge concern. When an organization arose that any of the voting members were a considerable part of, they would dissociate from conversation and the voting so as to not unfairly bias the decision. FB maintains a commitment making their decisions strictly on precedence and guidelines.

During the course of the hearing, certain issues came up again and again to the point of requiring a larger discussion about establishing precedence. The funding of club shirts became one such issue. The guidelines specify that all non-uniform club attire would be funded at 50 percent, and the precedent was that proposals up to and around 10 dollars was an appropriate per-shirt cost to fund in this way. However, throughout the meeting, concerns arose over whether that was a truly achievable goal by organizations not ordering cheaply and in bulk, and whether proposals for short sleeve and long sleeve t-shirts should have different caps on them, or whether such a precedent would be abused. Eventually, it was noted that this current funding limit was unrealistic, and it was decided that 20 dollars was a much more appropriate cap on per-shirt funding. Whether this would make it into FB guidelines was not a certainty, though, as there needed to be more consensus discussion among members. As a side note, after the hearing, Hong, looking over the notes from the previous hearing that semester, noticed that there was actually some talk about changes to club shirt funding that was never actually acted upon.

Because of this insistence of precedence in all funding decisions, if a decision is made for one organization that changes a precedent for whatever reason from what it was in a different proposal passed that day, FB would go back and adjust funding accordingly.

Other recurring issues included how to deal with the funding of lodging and transportation (which are capped at 75 percent), often with regards to conferences and competitions when the cost for their registration (which is fully funded) includes lodging. Others included how to go about funding sound equipment when Alien Sound and Lighting was available for free, the line between giveaways and essential items or "prizes" for events, and having "one quote" for multiple different, but similar proposals, such as multiple public speakers or shirt proposals that were expected (but not confirmed) by the organization to be the same exact cost.

One sizable discussion surrounded the instance of an organization that was not totally ready for their advising, asking if they could complete it with everything later on that week. They were allowed, and were told to contact their adviser when they were ready, but never did although their proposals were submitted. It was likened by one member to 'asking your professor for an extension on an exam, them allowing you, and then coming in a few days later and telling them that you finished the test outside of class.' It was chalked up to miscommunication and their proposal was discussed, but Hong instructed that it not happen again.

Of the almost 200 and growing student organizations that exist on campus, this hearing only saw about 120 proposals, not too many of them being too complicated at that. This is a result of the fact that some of them are frozen (so they cannot propose for funding), some don't see a need for proposing at that time or at all, and still others may wish to propose for funding but never came in for advising. The second hearing tends to be the smallest of the semester, and this one might have been on the lower end of that. Hong referred to it hearing as "the calm before the storm," and foresees a huge proposal on the horizon at the last one this semester (which will be funding for next semester).

When the hearing finally concluded at almost 4 p.m. (note that this is much shorter than typical) there was a brief demonstration of the process and the formalities of crediting student organizations' HawkLink accounts for the members that hadn't learned that yet, followed by an open floor discussion. These included discussing topics brought to FB about possible considerations and changes to their policies and practices.

The first topic discussed was the increasing number of VanderCook organizations proposing for funding. Hong said that although it is policy that organizations complete their proposals online through the FB budgeting system prior to attending advising, for such organizations, due to the accessibility limitations of VanderCook students have with online Illinois Tech services, advising periods should include FB members helping them put their budgets into the system. It was suggested that advising time in these cases should be longer than the standard for other organizations to account for this.

Next, a conversation was held about FB's policy not to fund fundraisers with the

SAF. Fundraisers are held when organizations want to raise money that they can use outside of FB guidelines, and it is generally considered wrong to use the SAF to explicitly fund such events. It is deemed that many of the organization that regularly hold fundraisers have access to money from previous fundraisers with which they can use instead, as well as there being methods of fundraising that do not have outset costs, such as "Penny Wars." The major concern was that organizations that have never held fundraisers would have a hard time putting them on if they did want to. The discussion went on with several new ideas proposed and concerns levied, but no new policy was set in stone.

Also discussed was a suggestion that FB publish how much money they are giving each organization for all students to see. Toward this, many of the members agreed that transparency was generally a good practice. However, the members were concerned that just seeing the numbers out of context of what had been discussed would be misleading, and that this was the reason that the hearings were completely open in the first place. They therefore decided against it.

A last topic was brought to Hong by Career Services regarding informing them when organizations propose bringing assumedly career specific public speakers to the school to talk--who, when, and where they will be on campus--so that they do not inadvertently double-book these sorts of events. Considering that many of these events are even funded in part by the department, making sure that Career Services isn't funding events that take place during other events they specifically put on themselves was also a related issue. FB decided that, considering how difficult this would be and how much of a burden to student organizations, exploring whether Career Services could provide updates on their events would be a better course of action. Additionally, more strictly upholding that organizations who plan on getting funding from Career Services show proof that they visited them before advising was deemed a good course of action.

Due to the stress and tension on many of the members during the course of the meeting, during breaks and open-floor periods the group tried to lighten the mood as much as possible. These included watching hip hop artist Lil Dicky's videos on YouTube in light of one of the greek houses proposing to bring him to campus, and amusedly watching videos of John Cena which would play on Hong's computer when he tried to access certain FB proposals due to some sort of malware.

Although it was a stressful event laden with difficulties, issues, and regular complaints, the members of FB legitimately care and try to do the best work they can, working hard and under high pressures to do so. Those interested in seeing for themselves what this team does should make arrangements to attend all or part of the last hearing of the semester on Saturday, November 19.

## The Bog re-opens on Saturdays in reversal of previous decision

**Reno Waswil**  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article about the Illinois Tech bowling alley, bar, and casual hang-out area The Bog closing on

Saturdays this semester. Since this article, there has been an update to this story.

Earlier this month it was announced in an email sent out through Hawklink that "Due to popular demand, The Bog will re-open on Saturday, October 8, from 5 p.m. - 1 a.m."

Nothing is known further about

the order of events that resulted in The Bog reopening, or whether the article in any way affected it. Nonetheless, even after being closed for some time, a notable number of students could be found in the Bog utilizing the space.

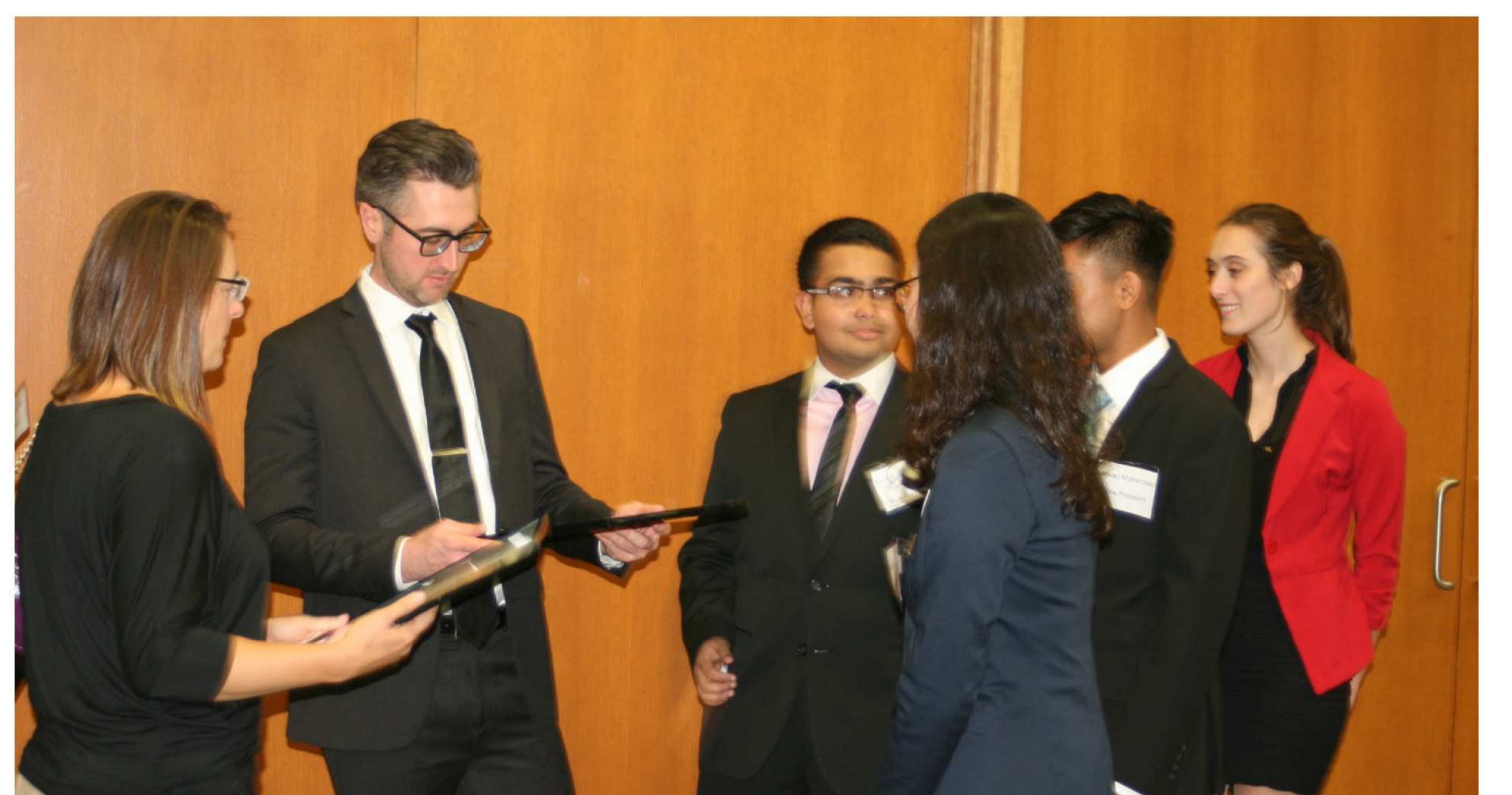
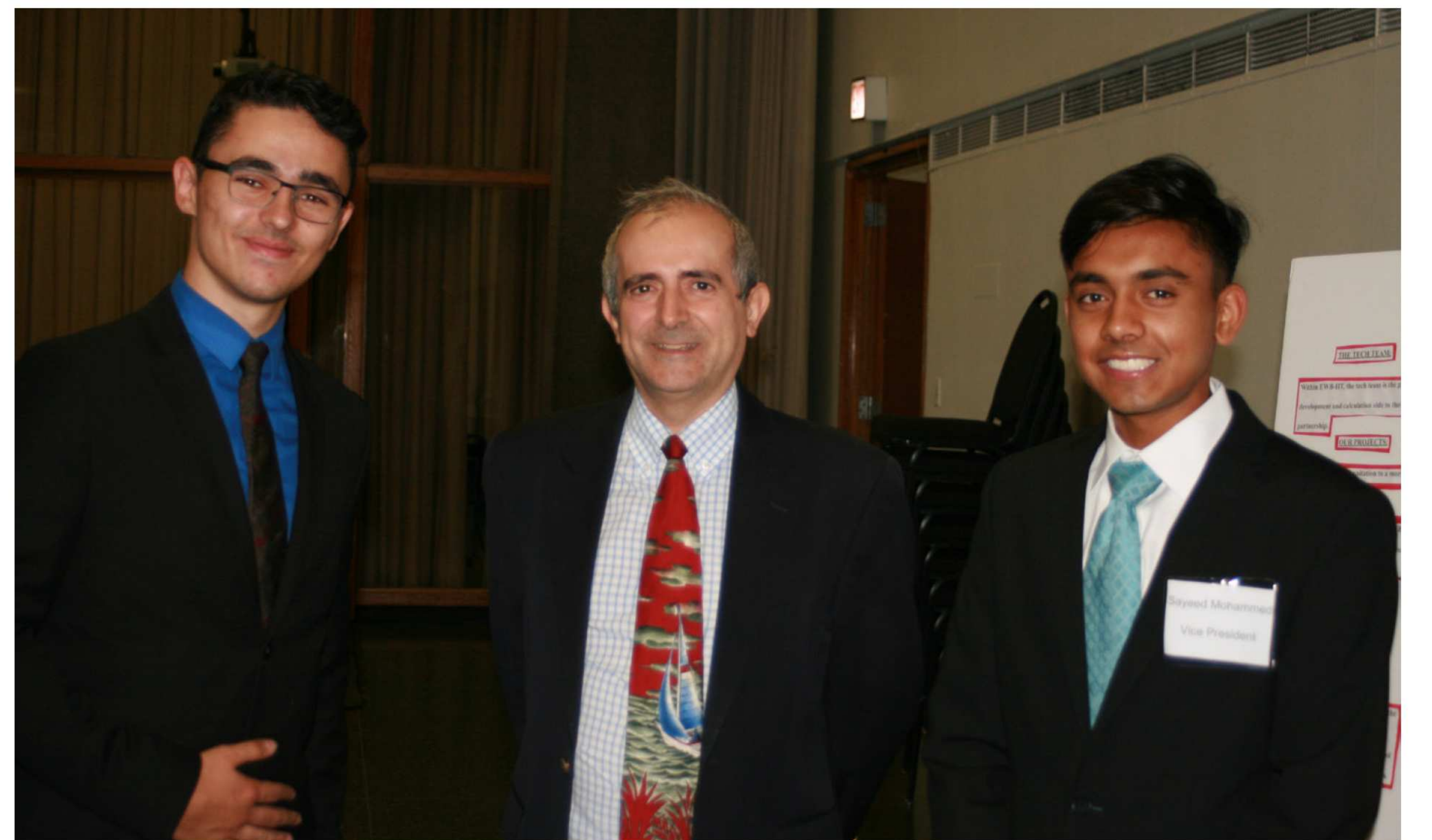
This past Saturday, the first Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Chicago Cubs baseball

game was even projected in the bar area, inaugurating what hopes to be continual work to make the area a fun place to be for students on campus on Saturday evenings.



Photos by Reno Waswil

# Engineers Without Borders hosts annual gala to fund Nicaragua project



Photos by Jamshid Tokhirov

## SGA Communications Committee makes a push for community service

**Ethan Castro**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Although its direct impacts on campus life are not as readily tangible as its fellow Student Life and Academic Affairs committees, the Communications Committee of Student Government Association (SGA) is nonetheless a vital component of SGA's branding and operations. From building a solid social media presence to creating regular TechNews articles, Communications is all about ensuring that the student body of Illinois Tech is aware of who SGA is, what SGA does, and how SGA can help each and every one of us. One way Communications hopes to accomplish this is by identifying with Illinois Tech students and organizations on a baseline level-through a common pursuit of community involvement. Thus, one of the more recent additions to the Communications repertoire is an involvement in community

service projects such as toy drives, volunteer days, and local children's events.

The origins of SGA's role as a community service advocate lies in the tenure of last year's Vice President of Communications, Subarno Saha. It was under Saha's leadership that community activity became a main priority of SGA operations. "I really began to see the scope of how SGA could bring not only the students but also different departments together through service," Saha stated in an interview. "I really wanted the SGA to have a very successful semester school-wide service events and so I took the project under ComCom's [Communications Committee's] wing. I had a wonderful team working on the projects with the help of many students and several departments, we had a very successful toy drive in the Fall and Big Event in the Spring." Indeed, last school year, the Communications Committee facilitated SGA involvement in two different service initiatives. The Fall 2015 semester saw the first iteration

of the Holiday Hawks toy drive. Under this program, Illinois Tech united with Peter Cooper Elementary School to match local elementary school children with on-campus organizations. These organizations were tasked with providing holiday gifts for these children in a campus-wide display of charity and holiday giving. The end result was over 100 local children received a gift from the Illinois Tech community. Similarly, SGA partnered with the Office of Campus Life (OCL) in the Spring 2016 semester to garner support for the Big Event. Within this event, teams of Illinois Tech students were dispatched across the city to local volunteer sites in a wide-reaching day of service. It is the hope of SGA that such projects become a mainstay of SGA operations in order to better integrate the entire Illinois Tech community in a collective pursuit of service learning. Subarno Saha himself reflects upon this project with his desire to "see the Community Service project become its own dedicated committee that would have amazing

impacts in unifying the campus community, and improving the Chicago community, through service."

Although not quite ready to become its own committee, community service is still a main priority of current Vice President of Communications, Jelani Canty. Personally making connections to local volunteer organizations, specifically the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago, Canty is confident that SGA will continue to remain an advocate both for uniting the population of Illinois Tech through this noble pursuit and for promoting positive change within the entire Chicago community through such projects. Any student organizations already pursuing such projects are encouraged to reach out to SGA and specifically the Communications Committee for possible collaborations and promotions through Student Government Association's vast web of connections and competencies.

*Imagine your name*

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# Tech Review: Google pushes Pixel pre-orders

**David Sobel**  
COPY EDITOR

If you're in the market for a new smartphone and have a need for the latest device, then the new Google Pixel may be for you, offered in standard and XL variants with "Very Silver," "Quite Black," and "Really Blue" color options. Before I add in my opinion about this release, here are the specifications for you, which are essentially the same between the two aside from battery and screen size/quality:

Pixel  
Dimensions: 143.8 x 69.5 x 8.6 mm, 143 grams  
Display: 5-inch Full HD AMOLED, 441 ppi, Gorilla Glass 4  
Battery: 2,770 mAh, fast charging  
Pixel XL

Dimensions: 154.7 x 75.7 x 8.6 mm, 168 grams  
Display: 5.5-inch Quad HD AMOLED, 534 ppi, Gorilla Glass 4  
Battery: 3,450 mAh, fast charging  
Both Models  
Processor: 2.15GHz Snapdragon 821 (quad-core, 64-bit)  
RAM: 4GB  
Storage: 32GB or 128GB  
Camera: Rear – 12.3MP, f/2.0, 1.55um, OIS. Front – 8MP  
Other features: fingerprint scanner, USB Type-C, NFC, 3.5 mm headphone jack  
OS: Android 7.1

Unlike the previous generation, which included the Nexus 5X and 6P, the specifications for the small and large device are functionally the same, meaning that for most users the only major difference will be screen size. The extra screen space comes at a cost of \$120, however, with a base cost of \$650

for the Pixel. In addition, getting the 128GB storage model adds another \$100 to the cost, so for a maxed-out Pixel XL you would be paying just under \$900, which doesn't even include the insurance or the obvious carrier costs. On that note, Google struck a deal with Verizon Wireless on this one, meaning that Verizon will have their own edition of the Pixel devices, which is at their own discretion in terms of updates and the number of pre-installed applications. Those who remember the Galaxy Nexus will remember the last time Google allowed Verizon to have their own edition of a device, which turned out horribly, often making users miss out on some updates altogether. Verizon has claimed in the past week that they will not be holding back updates; however, concerned power users should know that the bootloader is not unlockable, so it's advised that they buy the Google Store version. I will be clear, though: this is an expensive device, but the cost is no different than what you'll see from the iPhone or Samsung Galaxy series. I don't agree with the expense, but I'm not especially surprised. As with the 5X and 6P, there is no carrier subsidization, so if you're currently pressed for cash, then you can opt for 24-month financing through Google, Verizon, or Best Buy. A pre-order of Pixel from Google nets you a promotional code for a free Google VR headset, while any purchase through Best Buy comes with a \$100 gift card and a Chromecast. So, what of the design?

What technology news sites and Google will generally tell you is that Pixel models are entirely Google-made, from the ground up, due to the line being branded solely with the "G" and "Made by Google" logos on the back. This is essentially half true, because the actual device builds are from HTC, who, aside from their own current phones, are the

makers of the first Android handset to hit the market and the designers of the 2010 Nexus One. Google is using HTC as an original device manufacturer (ODM) this time, which means that Google is the main designer, but HTC is the manufacturer. The only logo present on the device is Google's this time, versus the Nexus line, which would have logos from companies such as Samsung, LG, and Huawei on them alongside Google's. Logos aside, you can take to essentially any tech site or Facebook and find complaints about how this device looks, most notably things like "it looks like an iPhone" or "Pixel is Google's iPhone clone." On their own, these are flawed statements, but not entirely wrong. If we're talking ideologies alone, the self-branding alongside different sized devices with nearly identical hardware certainly make Pixel "Google's iPhone." To most, it will probably be a jarring device to look at due to the two-toned, multi-material backside. As it turns out, the glass upper part is not for show, but is rather meant to allow for better reception due to being a more penetrable surface. I've personally always had phones that were deemed "ugly" by other people, so I'm honestly quite indifferent about the physical look.

At a price that is notably higher than the Nexus line of phones, what does the Pixel provide that other current smartphones don't? Well, honestly it does not bring a whole lot to the table in terms of hardware, and to be honest, phones like the OnePlus 3 I would suggest over it, especially at almost half the price unlocked (provided you aren't on Verizon like I am). I would say that where the hardware shines most looks to be the camera, which has been rated as the best smartphone camera on the market based on benchmarks by DxOMark Mobile, and features decent optical image

stabilization (OIS). Whether this justifies the cost of the Pixel vs the OnePlus 3 and similar devices, well, that's up to you. If that minor benefit is not enough for you, then it will come down to the software shipping with the Pixel. Exclusive to the device on release will be the integration of the new Google Assistant into the OS as a whole, replacing Now On Tap, Google's first context-sensitive search assistant. If you're familiar with any recent Android developments, Google has put its Allo app on the Play Store, which features a sandboxed Google Assistant that can interject with helpful tips based on your text conversation with someone else, such as directions or local restaurants. This will be function system-wide for Pixel's version of Android 7.1, and as of this writing there are already Android developers porting the feature to previous devices. In addition, the fingerprint sensor, called Pixel Imprint (previously Nexus Imprint) can be used to show notifications if you swipe down on it, which is interesting. One last nice feature is an included adapter which will allow you to transfer all your old device's data to your new Pixel via direct connection. This includes transferring from an iPhone that's using iMessage as well.

With the new Google Pixel, we're seeing high level specs, a few exclusive and nifty software additions, and a hefty price tag. If you have a device that is about two years old, it won't be a bad upgrade. If you have anything newer like a Nexus 5X or 6P, I would wait for the expected second generation of the Pixel series. However, as mentioned before, if this is a case of wanting the newest technology, then this device will not disappoint. According to Google, pre-orders will ship within the next four to five weeks.

## Exploring Springfield, the often ignored capital of Illinois

**Steven Milan Moreno**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Many people don't realize that the capitol of the great state of Illinois is not the city of Chicago. Despite Chicago being the state's most vital economic powerhouse and tourist destination, the Governor of Illinois and the state legislature do not meet and work here, but rather in the much smaller town of Springfield. The town of Springfield, which is the sixth most populous city in the state, was chosen to be the state capitol due to its much more centralized location in the state than Chicago. Prior to Springfield, the state capital had been located in towns near the Mississippi river due to the river's easy access to other parts of the country. But with the advent of the railroad, the need for river access became much less of a concern for political leaders.

The choice to move the capital of the state to Springfield in 1839 was championed by several political leaders in Illinois, including future president Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln and his associates argued that the increasing industry near the Lake Michigan would become much more important to the state in the near future and that a capital closer to this region would be a wise move to make. This realization was proven to be correct, as a large portion of the population of Illinois live in Chicagoland as opposed to the rest of the state. Even many state political leaders have their official offices and residences in Chicago instead of the smaller capital city.

Regardless of the location preference of politicians for Chicago, the state capitol building still stands proud and tall in stark contrast to the small and humble town that surrounds it. Springfield is home to both the current and previous state capitol, both of which are open for the public to see. The older

capitol was the one used during the time of Abraham Lincoln, where he served as a state representative and which he would later use as a starting point for his run for the presidency as Barack Obama would do over a hundred years later. When the new, bigger capitol was completed in 1888, the old capitol was repurposed as the county courthouse, which it was until its closure and transformation into a museum in 1966. The museum is open daily from nine to five, and has free admission.

The newer capitol building is work of art in itself. The building was constructed in the French renaissance style of architecture and was meant to show the wealth and power of the state to all who bore witness. The elegant dome which tops the capitol is the tallest in the nation, surpassing every other state capitol dome and even the federal capitol dome in Washington D.C. by several feet. Inside, the walls and floors are covered in the finest marble the state could get its hands on and the ceilings

are covered in fresco paintings and gold leaf. Many of the structure's finest works are found in the chambers of the House and Senate, where stained glass ceilings and numerous crystal chandeliers hang for all to see. Despite strict security, tours of the building are given daily every half hour and are free for the general public.

These two magnificent and historically valuable sites are some of the greatest tourist attractions that state has to offer outside of Chicago. This is not all this surprising little city on the prairie has to offer, however. The next issue of TechNews will include look at the town's numerous ties to the 16th President of the United States: Abraham Lincoln, and the sites open to tourists which commemorate that man's significant impact on the state.



Photos by Steven Milan Moreno

# The Goodbye

The heart is a fickle thing  
 That flirts with pain and pleasure  
 Once flying high with euphoria  
 Now kidnapped by the devil  
 The nurtured love that used to be  
 Slips quietly away  
 Time, distance, and sadness calls  
 Drip, drip--leaving day by day  
 To hurt or hurt is judgement's call  
 Is it love or just temptation




To fill the void that beckons on  
 Heart be healed with restoration  
 Please guide me with what's right or wrong  
 As a flurry wars within  
 I'm giving up, soon moving on  
 Frustrations just might win  
 The Goodbye

*-Hina*

# NANOGRAMS

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## Basic Rules

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



# WORD SEARCH

## US States Territories and District

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I M I W G P K I O R G J S P V S M V S W J T B F Y K H A S T T E S U H C A S S A M S Z V Z C A V J Z B E X U W J  
E J P G G S  
D M D B G T A P G Z F X T A P L X S E E C O N N E C T I C U T P F P K A N Y X Q M M X Y C X Z E A C V K I J L V H B  
O E G F X M N Y H Z F A M Q Q R J U F N H D T P O J T O O H L Z W Y L I Y C V V M J T A T O K A D H T R O N M S V B

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

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

## 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."



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

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

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