CAMPUS ASE **SPORTS TUESDAY** There's something for Read about IPRO 333's trip Was Black Swan the best? Or everyone at Keating. to Uganda for Crop to Cup! the worst? Find out inside. January 18,2011 Pg. 11 Pg. 3 Pg. 8 Volume 170 | Issue 1 technewsiit.com Opinion 2-3 Campus **3-4,6** A&E 5,7-8 The Slipstick 9 Sports **10-11** Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

TechNews: past, present and future



By Karl Rybaltowski

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With a quick glance outside, the name may be deceiving, but the spring semester is here. And while it may seem cliché at this point, this semester is going to be a time of transition. Students are graduating, organizations are picking new leadership teams, and IIT staff are implementing changes. TechNews is no different, and we are looking forward in determining how to best improve the newspaper. That said, this is a perfect time to reflect upon what we've already done, and assess how well we have served you and the IIT community in our efforts.

You've probably had your fair share of it: the surveys, feedback forms, and evaluations for IPROs, professors, student organizations and even the overall IIT experience. Behind each and every one of those pieces of paper or online forms is a group of people that, in their own way, is attempting to improve the university experience for everyone.

There's one other important thing to keep in mind when averting your gaze from surveytakers or deleting e-mails asking for feedback: this stuff works. It's for you. Fall may have been for collecting feedback, but spring is the time of change. It's time to walk the walk, now that we've got your talk. University departments

are coming up with action plans for improving service to students, while organizations are hard at work affecting change themselves. TechNews is part of this process, too, though much of it has been under the hood, so it's worth going over in a bit more detail.

Content

We're constantly working on getting quality content to IIT students. Our staff made the decision to more aggressively pursue events coverage pre-emptively, rather than exclusively reviewing what has already happened. To provide more guidance to writers, we developed an editorial calendar. We made a greater effort to communicate effectively between our talented staff and writers. We've also introduced features such as the Person You Should Know series, work on IIT's community involvement, dedicated space for SGA news, and made Sex-Tech an actual advice column. We introduced How To Chicago (a city events calendar) and playlists from readers, writers and staff. In short - we've been busy.

Presentation

was unveiled, and reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. In the past semester, we also made the greatest effort to date of eliminating errors, and owning up to them when they did slip through.

Web Presence

We moved our website off-site in order to get online ad revenue, in the process deciding to rebuild it from the ground up. Not only did we want to make it look nicer, we wanted to make the entire experience - whether just reading articles or submitting them - more intuitive and interactive for the user. As with any entirely new venture, there have been some snags in the updating process, and we're currently working on getting those fixed.

Organization

Between tightening up internal communication (providing all staff with a Google Apps account specifically made for us), revising the production cycle and workflow, and completely overhauling our advertisement process, we've been busy in terms of our organization. The result is, we'd like to think, a much more responsive staff. But there's plenty more to go the payroll system can still be frustrating, and we're always looking for ways to run things more smoothly.

The Fun Stuff

We've hosted contests in the newspaper It's been about a year since the new layout and introduced The First Day of the Rest of My Life, a comic that hopefully better resonates with (and entertains) students. We started a Photo of the Week competition (which you're welcome to submit to). We've worked on maintaining visibility on campus. This semester we'll additionally be co-hosting a Bog event

and trying even more new things.

Now that you've got it all in front of you, TechNews wants to hear from you. Below is a link to a feedback survey - help us out, be honest, and watch as the paper gets even better just because you voiced your opinion. And if the satisfaction of doing your part is not enough, there are prizes: T-shirts, buttons and more!

Thanks for supporting TechNews - we do it all for you.

TechNews wants



http://tinyurl.com/tn-survey Take the survey. Win prizes. Feel good.

Robotics kicks off at IIT

By Ryan Kamphuis STAFF WRITER

Over 500 high school students were on campus the morning of Saturday, January 8 as IIT played host to the 2011 Chicago FIRST Robotics Competition Kickoff.

The FIRST Robotics Competition is a robotics league where teams of high school students work together to design and construct a fully-functional robot in six weeks. These robots compete against each other by playing a game that changes every year. The game is announced simultaneously to all teams through a live satellite broadcast that is viewed at Kickoff events worldwide. The Chicago-area kickoff was attended by teams from Indiana, Iowa, and all across Illinois.

At the kickoff, teams gathered in the Hermann Hall auditorium to watch the live unveiling of the 2011 FRC game. When the broadcast was over, the teams broke apart and took part in brainstorming sessions and educational workshops that were held in the HUB and Wishnick Hall. During all of this, teams were able to pick up kits of robot parts that all teams receive as part of the competition.

This year's Chicago FRC Kickoff was organized and run by members of the Illinois Tech Robotics student organization. Members of the group began planning the event in late November, and worked up until the night before to ensure that everything was ready for the event. This included everything from lining up speakers, ordering catering, building a full scale mock-up of the game field the robots will be playing on, and preparing the HUB to handle the hordes of people that would be attending Kickoff.

The Illinois Tech Robotics organization was founded as an outreach group to allow IIT students to support FIRST in the Chicago area. It does this by organizing and hosting events

like the Chicago FIRST Robotics Competition Kickoff and the Illinois State FIRST Tech Challenge Championship. It also does this by connecting IIT students with robotics teams throughout Chicagoland to assist them in building their robots. As it gained members, Illinois Tech Robotics also began building its own robots and taking on new projects, such as organizing a brand new college-level robotics competition that will take place in St. Louis this April.

After the kickoff event teams will spend six weeks building their robots, and then join again in late March to compete against each other in an attempt to win a trip to the national competition. The regional competition takes place at UIC because of lack of space at IIT, but Illinois Tech Robotics still plays a major role in organizing the regional and helping things run smoothly during the competition.

TechNews

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Seeking His Spirit: defining "worldview"

By Hannah Rosenthal

TECHNEWS WRITER

BUZZ! BUZZ! I switched off my alarm and clumsily headed towards the bathroom, stretching for my contact case before I stumbled out of my dorm room. The hall was blurred and I nearly slipped on a dirty sock someone had unintentionally stored in the hallway. My fingers groped for the handle and I soon faced myself in the mirror in all of my morning glory. I quickly rinsed my hands and opened wide my right eye. Plop! In went the right contact. Plop! In went the left. I blinked twice as the lenses settled around my pupils. My reflection came into focus. Now I could face the morning.

Contact lenses are hardly visible within my eyes, and yet they determine the clarity with which I see reality. The correctness of my lenses either helps or hurts my understanding of the world around me. The same is true of a worldview. It acts as the lens through which one views the world. Everyone has a worldview. Sometimes we are aware of it and think critically about how it affects our lives. Sometimes other people give it to us and we never investigate it fully.

As human beings, we instinctively ask five basic questions concerning our origin, identi-

ty, meaning, morality, and destiny. Our worldview determines how we answer these questions. Each idea has consequences, because ideas are considered by people and people have the ability to perform physical actions.

In a pyramidal model similar to the food pyramid we learned in United States grade schools, our worldview is the foundation (the layer designated for grains), our values stem from that foundation (fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy) and our actions rest at the top (desserts). Actions do not shape worldviews, they merely reveal them. For example, my ideas about identity stem from the worldview taught by Jesus Christ. Therefore, I value human beings regardless of their size, development, environment, or degree of dependency. This value leads me to action: joining a pro-life group on campus.

There is no such thing as a neutral idea. All information is made up of ideas and all ideas are made up of words. Therefore, the battle over ideas is a battle over the definition of words. We. have. defined. every. word. in. our. minds. Are they the correct definitions? What do you call it when a husband has sexual intercourse with a woman he is not married to? An affair? Adultery? What is inside of a mother's womb? A baby? A fetus? What is homosexual behavior? A sin? An alternative lifestyle?

If you do not define your own worldview, someone else will do it for you. When you turn off your mind, others will think for you. As C.S. Lewis once wrote, "the most dangerous ideas in a society are not the ones being argued, but the ones that are assumed." If you are a Christian brother or sister, I challenge you to think critically of all the information you learn. Are the ideas your professors teaching you in line with the worldview taught by Christ?

If you are not a Christian, I challenge you to investigate your worldview. What do you believe about your origin, identity, meaning, morality, and destiny? Why did you come to believe those ideas? Are they true? How can you be sure? If you are seeking truth, remember that Christianity stems from objective events in history. "You can test Christianity the way you cannot test other religions," said Sean McDowell, a published Christian apologist.

If you are not thinking critically of all the ideas you interact with, your mind will be taken captive by the assumptions of your surrounding environment. Your worldview will yield your values and those values will determine your actions. Ideas have consequences. Good ideas have good consequences and bad ideas have bad consequences. Be aware of your ideas. Be aware of your lens.



"I'm afraid we're going to have to let you go" Cartoon by Rob Bou-Saab (http://rbousaab.blogspot.com/)

Rebuttal to "Rationality vs. faith"

By Timothy Smith

TECHNEWS WRITER

Last fall, an opinion article attempting to demonstrate a conflict between rationality and faith appeared in TechNews. This article needs a rebuttal. The real conflict is not between rationality and faith, rather, it is between opposing worldviews and their efforts to explain the nature of reality, ethics, and knowledge (and by extension our ability to do science).

The author stated that he is "detached from any kind of religious belief." In fact, we all hold to a set of beliefs by which we interpret the world and which form a basis for our decisions. These beliefs are inherently religious, since we assume them to be true by faith. One might think of faith as the set of a priori, unprovable assumptions which ground a person's worldview. They range from beliefs about the nature of reality to how we can know right from wrong. Even agnostics have these religiously held beliefs; they may believe that there is not enough information to know whether a god exists. Taken together, these faith-based beliefs comprise an individual's worldview.

It is a fact that individuals with many differing and antagonistic worldviews do science. The question we must ask then is "Which worldview comports with the ability to do science?" Only within a worldview based on the Judeo-Christian God can the ability to do observable, testable, and repeatable science make sense. According to this worldview, God created the world in an orderly fashion, with natural laws, such as gravity and conservation of energy. These laws enable us to predict discrete future events from observed events in the past. This worldview alone provides a rational basis for the existence of the inductive principle, which is foundational to the scientific method.

Agnosticism, on the other hand, cannot provide meaningful reasons why the universe behaves in a regular way. If we are truly here as a result of random evolutionary processes, why is the law of gravity universally true? Why don't magnets attract or repel each other arbitrarily? Why can we accumulate scientific knowledge and use it to predict future events? Agnosticism cannot account for the scientific realities of our universe. This is not to say that agnostics cannot do science. In fact, there may be many brilliant scientists who identify themselves as agnostics. However, in order for the agnostic to do science, he or she must first assume the Judeo-Christian worldview to be true since his or her own worldview does not account for the regularity and order of the universe.

In summary, we all have our own belief structure by which we view the world. Only the Judeo-Christian worldview provides us with the framework by which we can make sense out of our ability to predict discrete future events based on scientific knowledge.

Sweet Pseudonym

SEXTECH EDITOR

C: I'm super shy, which is a huge hindrance when it comes to getting with girls. I've tried using a wingman before, but it never ends well. Any advice?

A: Two words: eye contact. It's super easy, get's the ball rolling, and you don't even have to speak to her (yet)! Find the girl you want to talk to at a party, and just make eye contact with her from across the room. Don't be creepy about it: when you catch her eye, smile, and look away. If you find her looking at you after that, take that as a galvanizing hint! She's obviously into it, so there's no point in being nervous. Go over to her and ask her if she wants a drink. Then just go from there and try and have fun!

I'm a girl who often takes the initiative with guys that I'm attracted to. I'm not afraid to ask them on dates, but it seems like my "aggressiveness" always turns them off. I'm beginning to think I'd be better off playing the demure little woman, but that's not really me. Help!

TechNews

A: Welcome to a world of gender stereotypes and double standards, my dear! Most people would tell you to stop being the aggressor if you actually want to land a man, but I disagree. I think the fact that you're comfortable enough with your sexuality says tons about you as a person, and if a guy can't handle it, he probably won't be someone you want to be with for long anyway! It's also important to consider the fact that courtship is a dance; nobody gets away with being too up front, because then they don't have any cards left to play. So, in a nutshell, my advice is to keep doing what you're doing; who wants a guy who can't handle a girl who's in control of herself anyway?

Submit your question through http://tinyurl.com/sextech2

Vis-à-vis: The lost art of songwriting



By Vlada
Gaisina
OPINION EDITOR

A quote by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow reads "The human voice is the organ of the soul." It implies that voice gives expression to what the soul holds: joy or contempt, wisdom or innocence, adoration, despair, gratitude, pride, etc. Perhaps few actually vest that much importance into the voices they hear daily, but taking Longfellow's words into consideration would help many a cause, prime among them – the music industry.

Yes, I am referring to the sad state to which song lyrics have come. If anyone has listened to the contents of chart-toppers lately, they would notice the lack of meaning, rhyme, meter, and proper grammar. Unfortunately, current trends seem to put rather lax requirements on lyrics; as long as there is a syncopated beat, some electronic elements, and a strained attempt at singing, the "song" can become a quick hit, especially if there is something scandalous about the performer.

It is no secret that a majority of all-time favorite songs are about love or relationships. With that in mind, I don't necessarily criticize the choice of topics, but rather the "Baby, baby, boom, boom" quality and the hidden or overt misogynistic messages in the songs. Don't assume it to be just rap and hip-hop music. For instance, take the hit "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars – a disgrace to Billy Joel's original song. On the surface, it appears inoffensive, if not flattering; however, every line in the song

HEY! THE SEIMESTER HAS STARTED!

WRITE FOR TECHNEWS ALREADY!

BECAUSE YOU KNOW THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO USE THIS SPACE...

refers to the woman's perfect appearance (save the one qualifying her laugh as "sexy"). Never once is there mention of her personality or intelligence. Obviously, none of that matters when "there's not a thing that I would change" about one's face. What is up with that compliment? Tell someone you don't think they need plastic surgery and see if you get a date.

A good counter-example of less surface, more interesting, though arguably naïve lyrics comes from America's sweetheart Taylor Swift. In "You Belong With Me," her arguments for compatibility include getting his humor, knowing when he's really upset and being able to cheer him up, and good communication ("I know your favorite songs, and you tell me about your dreams"). Sounds like a solid basis for a relationship.

Rihanna's recent single "Only Girl (In The World)," however catchy, has not escaped my questionable lyrics radar. The opening line goes "I want you to love me like I'm a fast ride" (with several websites actually suggesting "pie" or "guy" instead of "ride"), which is a poster child line for female (self!) objectification. The song "Whatever Lola Wants" from the 1955 musical Damn Yankees takes the opposite approach to the same sentiment: "Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets, and little man, little Lola wants you."

In the past few years, I've heard everything from creepy, like Clay Aiken's "Invisible," to

downright offensive, like "Don't Trust Me" by 3OH!3. Singing "If I was invisible, then I could just watch you in your room" can only result in a restraining order (not to mention it should be "were" and not "was"); and tell me if hearing "Shush girl, shut your lips, do the Helen Keller and talk with your hips" does not make you want to put the writers back in 4th Grade and make them redo their entire education.

Is the art of lyric-writing lost? Where are the Cole Porters, Irving Berlins, and Johnny Mercers of our generation?

At this point, you might be asking "Who?" These are the great lyricists who penned classics like "You're The Top," "Too Marvelous for Words," "Cheek to Cheek," and even "White Christmas," among others. Originally written in 1934 for the musical Anything Goes, the song "You're The Top" has since been performed by Ella Fitzgerald, Barbra Streisand in the movie What's Up, Doc?, and Patti Lu-Pone in a Broadway revival of the musical. It has some of the cleverest lyrics I've heard, referencing over 50 cultural phenomena from Mickey Mouse to the Mona Lisa.

If the lyrics snob in you squirms when you turn on the radio, I suggest you check out the songs mentioned above, plus classics like "Somethin' Stupid," "Strangers In The Night," "Woman in Love," or any Frank Sinatra song. And let today's song-writers learn from them, too.

CAIMPUS

IPRO 333 goes to Uganda

By Rebecca Waterloo

A&E EDITOR

The title "Building Sustainable Communities through Coffee" is an understated name for IPRO 333's class. The project started in the Summer of 2010 as a proposal for a banda (a hut) for coffee farmers in Uganda. Crop to Cup Coffee Company, a company that pays farmers 20% over market price for their coffee beans, approached the IPRO program with this project. Transparency is Crop to Cup's main goal, allowing the coffee drinkers to know exactly who grew their coffee and coffee farmers to know they are receiving fair prices for their crop.

Over the past few semesters, the project has expanded outside of the classroom. The group members sold coffee and Crop to Cup's story at farmers markets during the summer, and through partnership with IIT Dining Services, the on-campus café completely transformed their line of coffee, so that they now exclusively sell Crop to Cup. All profits from the market and \$2-per-pound coffee sold at Global Grounds went directly to the travel fund to send the IPRO 333 team to Uganda to do their necessary research.

After an unfortunate trip postponement during the summer, the team finally headed

out to Uganda a few days before Christmas to experience the culture of Uganda and obtain much-needed information. The trip was such a fundamental step for the continuation of the project, and it tripled the amount of work to be done since the team found potential opportunities to help the farmers in addition to the banda.

The trip abroad strengthened the relationships between the students, Crop to Cup and the farmers, turning the faces on the farmers' profile publicity cards into handshakes and friendships. The trip was spent mostly in Mbale, a town at the bottom of Mount Elgon, which holds the villages from which Crop to Cup buys a great deal of the coffee it exports. Not only were the students introduced to the farmers, but they also met the families and friends of the villages, spending Christmas with them at their homes.

Conversing positively with the head farmer, Geoffrey, regarding their banda design, obtaining site information, new contacts, and friendships, being exposed to the Ugandan culture, and learning about the coffee process brought an intense amount of excitement to the students continuing the project this semester.

Perhaps IPRO member and traveler Ryan Bloom (5th year architecture student) said it best: "Certain barriers occur when you don't



The IPRO 333 team in Uganda (Photo courtesy Rebecca Waterloo)

have tangible research from the actual location at which you're working: the community, the site, the feeling, the people. Visiting the farmers and the site on which we will be building broke down those barriers and opened new doors of possibilities for our team. It became a

fundamental step for the progress of our project."

The hope of seeing this banda built is rapidly becoming a reality. The team plans to return to Uganda to begin construction on it in summer 2011.

SGA status update:

Recapping fall, moving forward in spring

By Brian Kibbe

SGA PRESIDENT

Fall 2010 marked the end of the decade for most of us, but in the Student Government Association (SGA) there were many new beginnings. SGA is a collection of elected students from academic colleges, residences, and other student groups that work with the Illinois Tech administrators to improve our university. SGA Senators work in one of our three committees to collect the feelings of their constituents and enact change on their behalf. I want to go through each of our committees giving examples of what has been accomplished and what is left to be done this Spring.

Academic Affairs

The Foreign Language Program proposal team collected more data to guide recommendations to the College of Science and Letters under the guidance of Vice-President of Academic Affairs Paola Arce and Sarah Lim. The goal for this is to implement a program for students to receive a minor in a language in addition to their major curriculum by offering classes on campus. The hope is to allow students more ways to increase their foreign language skills. In the Fall the Undergraduate Studies Committee approved of the creation of the program. In the next semester SGA will work with CSL to find the best ways to achieve these goals.

The IPRO 2.0 pilot program completed it's first semester with approximately 100 students enrolled. Through student feedback and program evaluations, IPRO 2.0 is continually improving. The ultimate goal of improving the whole IPRO system to accurately prepare students for cross-curricular work environments is closer than ever before.

In continuation of efforts from the previous SGA Exec Board, this semester SGA will continue working with the academic colleges establishing College Student Councils to provide regular direct feedback on the performance of the colleges. These exist already in the College of Architecture and Armour College of Engineering, and the goal is to expand to the remaining colleges.

Senator Nathan Wicker brought the idea of universal office hours to SGA and administrators. The idea is to have a time besides lunch when classes are scheduled to allow students to meet with professors, hold student organization functions, participate in intramurals, or take care of administrative tasks. Surveys have been conducted, and in the spring we will continue to form ideas of how this could fit in the academic scheduling.

Senator Kelly Lohr voiced engineering students' desires for development artistically. The Architecture curriculum has several art classes such as sketching and painting, and she has worked with Senator Jonathan Shillingford and the College of Architecture to open some of those sections to non-architecture majors. In the future, this project could be expanded to include exchange programs with artistic schools such as Columbia.

Senator Clay Houser and the whole Academic Affairs committee took a physical count of classrooms on Main Campus that did not time, or a broken clock. Auxiliary Services is now working on updating all of those timepieces as a part of larger classroom maintenance.

Student Life

The Scarlet Hawk Central website was

completed in the Fall as a way to improve student access to important university services. The goal of the site is to make any department accessible in as few clicks as possible and to intuitively guide students to office that can help them with questions. The website is maintained by student Piyush Sinha, who welcomes your input.

Senator Kathy Rhee, in cooperation from the Office of Technology Services and the Banner Team, has established how IIT can switch email services for students to Google. The implementation is slated to be completed for the Fall 2011 semester.

The Student Life committee communicated with the Registrar's office to ensure that U-Passes would extend through commencement to accommodate seniors. This will allow students to explore the city after final exams have concluded.

Senator Ariel True interviewed Ray Martinez the Director of Public Safety for information on how the officers can further increase safety on campus. A General Assembly was also held to educate students on the services offered for them to take advantage of.

In cooperation with the Commuter Students Association, Senator Shirly Nwangwa wrote a proposal to Galvin Library and Campus and Conference Centers staff about relocating the Commuter Student Lounge in the library. SGA will continue to work on this rehave a clock, a clock not displaying the correct location until commuters have a safe and accessible space.

Communications

Vice-President of Communications, Elnaz Moshfeghian, coordinated senators to sit on the bridge once per week to gather the thoughts and feelings of the student body.

These "What's Your Issue" tables were the source of great ideas for projects, and allowed SGA to be aware of problems on campus sooner rather than later.

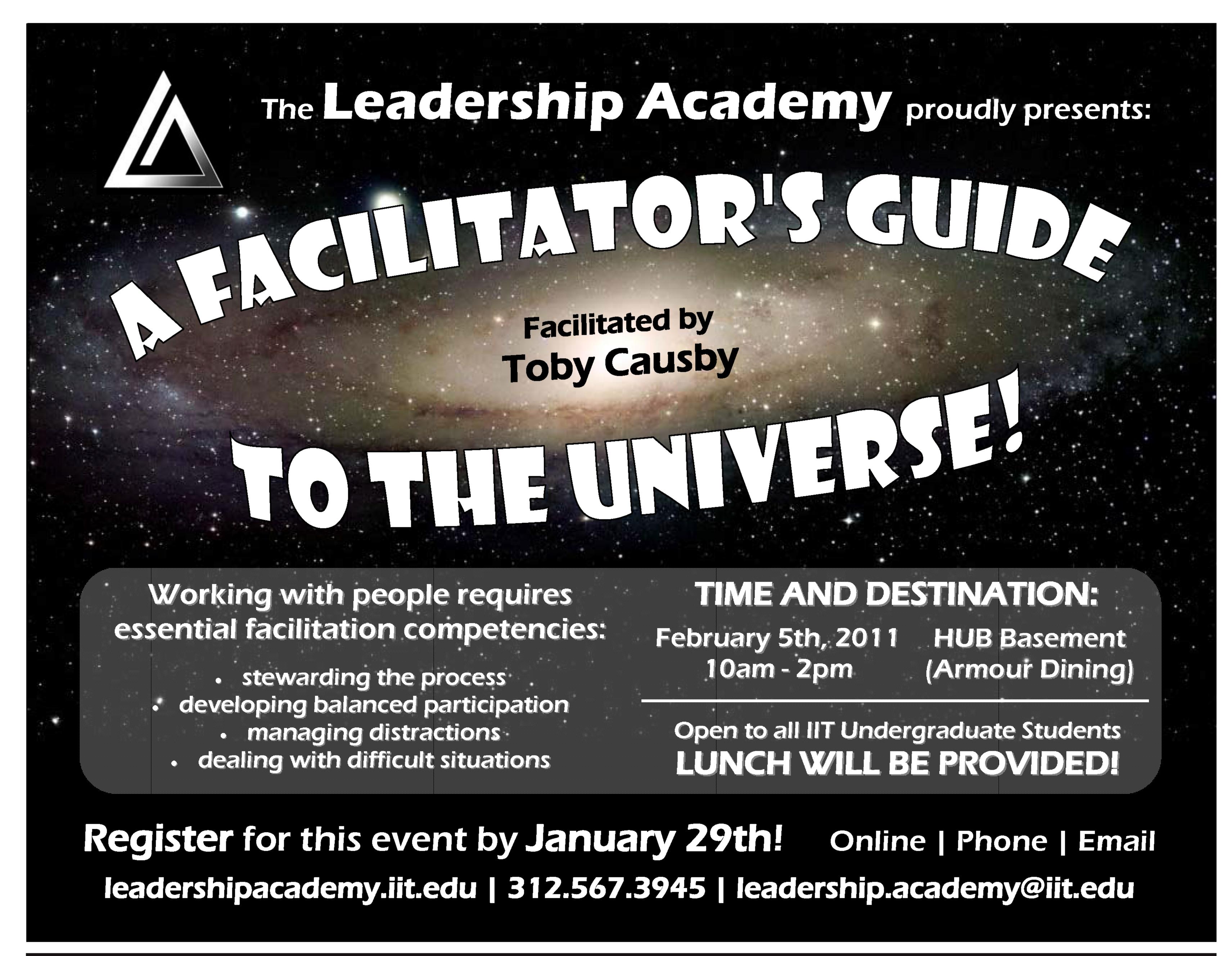
Senators Rani Shah and Harshish Chitkara worked on providing content weekly for the SGA section in TechNews. They created important updates for the student body and took the role of informing the broad community at

Kay and Grace Durbin worked with Elnaz to address the issue with publicity on campus by creating a universal calendar. This semester we will continue working to have university departments and student organizations buy-in to advertise every event in a single place on the IIT website.

Following the creation of Galvin 24/5 in Fall, SGA worked to ensure a successful turnout. Posters to raise awareness were spread around campus so students would know what resources were available to them.

All of this represents less than half of what SGA Senators worked on in the fall. Our agenda for the spring semester all depends on what you, the students, want changed in our University. If you have ideas for us to work on, e-mail sga@iit.edu.





A&E

The year in albums: Ten favorites from 2010

TechNews

By Karl Rybaltowski

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There is much to be said for the sheer variety of good (and popular) albums from 2010 - maybe it's a sign of a growing globalized musical worldview among the listening public, or perhaps an increased interest in certain less-appreciated genres of music. Whatever the trend may be, listed below are ten of my favorite albums from the past year (in no particular order). Some may be out of left field, while others might be pretty predictable to some, but they're all outstanding albums in their own right.

There are plenty more noteworthy releases to choose from, and the choice was a difficult one, to be sure. The list below, therefore, is by no means exhaustive, though it cover a broad range of styles, and hopefully it will spur some more musical exploration.

Have any of your own favorites? Sound off! The TechNews staff are always excited to hear about more music, movies, or other works of note from the past year, or those yet to come.

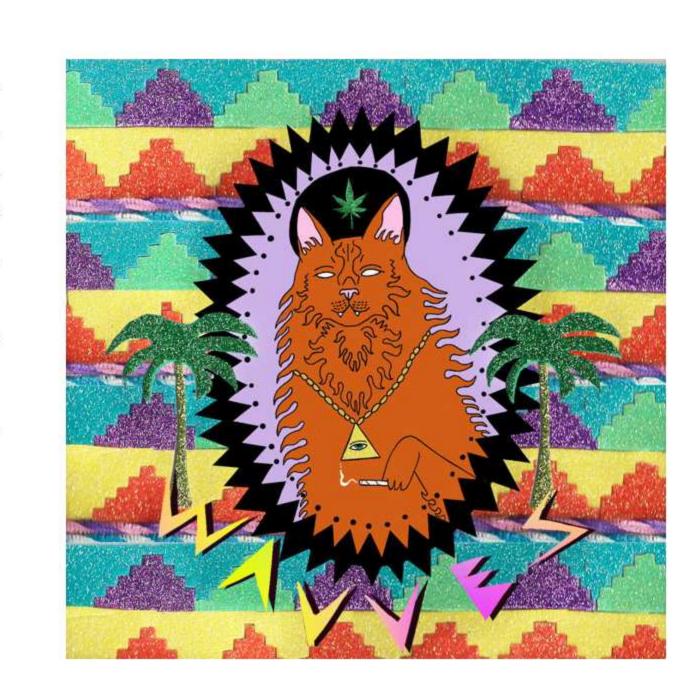


The Sword - Warp Riders

They may not 'dress' metal enough, or 'act' metal enough in public, but The Sword is a metal band; and they simply rock, even if it can be a bit tongue-in-cheek. Their latest release moves away from fantasy themes to an epic sci-fi story, with a concept just as epicseeming and instrumentation that's only improved with time. Heavy enough to appeal to metal fans, while rock-heavy enough to appeal to the casual listener, Warp Riders does not fail to deliver.

Wavves - King of the Beach

Rumor has it that surf-inflected rock is on its way out as far as musical trends go. With Wavves' latest effort, it's difficult to imagine that being the case. Unlike his previous efforts, self-recorded with bargain-basement equipment (and probably in a basement, come to think of it), King of the Beach is a full-on studio effort with a backing band, and rather than looking too polished or too detached, the result is a very good listen.



Owen Pallett - Heartland

Pallett has kept much of what made him unique during his Final Fantasy days, but everything on this album is grandiose. The concept album about a violent farmer in a fantasy world, controlled by a curious narrator and eventually conscious about the fact, is a lofty idea on its own. Paired with the Czech Symphony String orchestra and the St. Kitts' Winds, it's full of bombast. Couched in all of this, the album still maintains a strong pop sensibility (no small feat itself).



The Arcade Fire - The Suburbs

After the success of their debut, Funeral, The Arcade Fire's second album seemed like a let-down - it was good, but couldn't quite compare. With The Suburbs (an album about just that - suburbia), the band not only walked the tightrope between making the lyrical content either too detached or too histrionic, but they showed they can incorporate a variety of influences, from the down-tempo to the almostpunk numbers this album's soundscape spans. The result is a deeply satisfying listen from start to finish.



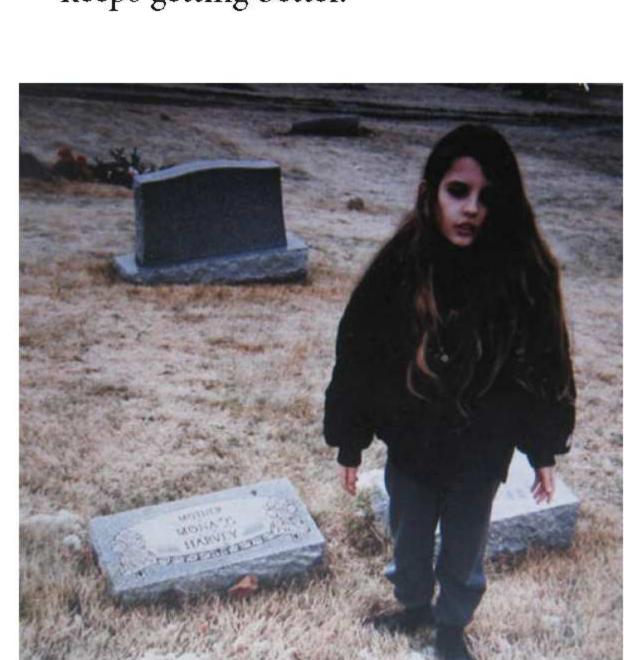
After their debut right around the turn of 2009, Titus Andronicus wasted no time resting on their laurels. They took their sound (one part Springsteen-esque rock, one part instrumental bombast, and a liberal sprinkling of adolescent insecurity) and polished it without diluting any of what made them so addictive in the first place. Those qualities include their raucous instrumentation, incorporating horns, and lyrics that veer from darkly humorous to despondent, with occasional poetic interludes. The Monitor, therefore, just feels like another step for a band that started out good and just keeps getting better.



Thisisan album by The Black Keys. The name of this album is Brothers.

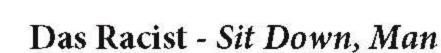
The Black Keys - Brothers

The Black Keys are not only prolific in their releases, but also willing to play around with their core sound - originally straightforward blues-rock, now a tougher beast to pin down exactly - that they avoid sounding repetitive. Brothers is a return to form in some respects, but showcases a few tricks from the two core members' side projects, their more out-on-alimb previous album, Attack & Release, and incorporates subtle echoes of that into their ultimately satisfying fuzzed-out blues rock sound.



Crystal Castles - Crystal Castles

After the controversy surrounding accusations of plagiarism and not actually playing their music, Crystal Castles had a lot to prove with their second official release. Could their brand of chiptune-heavy, abrasive electronic music rise above the scandal? The answer is yes. Not only has the album held up, it's managed to sneak in gentler pieces along with what fans have come to expect, showing off an evolution in musical tastes that only serves to enhance Crystal Castles' intensity and existing sound.



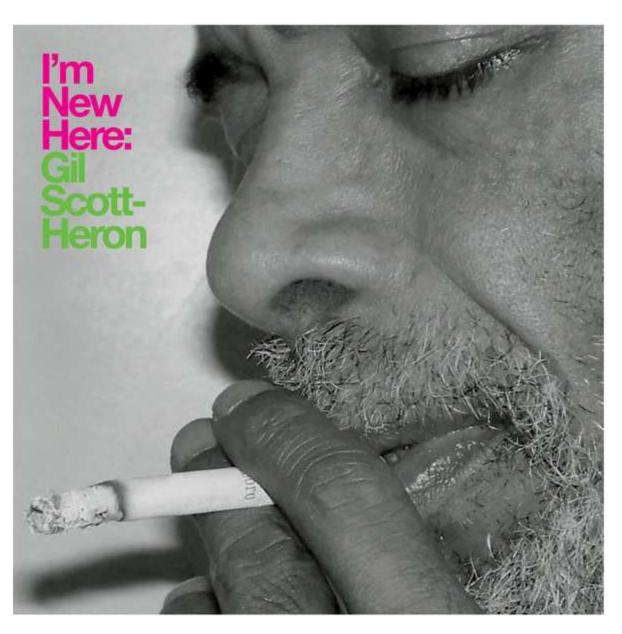
Back in 2008, when their single "Combination Pizza Hut and Taco Bell" came out, Das Racist was in danger of being consigned to the realm of joke rap. Thankfully, two mixtapes, of which Sit Down, Man is the more robust, proved to the world that yeah, they could be irreverent, witty, or just plain weird; however Das Racist has a way of sneaking some serious agitating into their songs, and if the name is any indication, race and its related stereotypes are a major theme. The result is one of the more unique pieces of rap to come out of 2010.



Janelle Monáe - The ArchAndroid

Janelle Monáe has an amazing voice, a fresh approach to R&B, and perhaps more conspicuous than all that; an eye for the avant-garde. Her debut full-length is a continuation of a story begun in her EP from 2007, Metropolis: Suite I: The Chase, a tale of a romance between a human and android in a futuristic art-decomeets-science-fiction setting. While the almost-prosaic content centers around 'otherness' and the echoes of racial attitudes inherent in the metaphor are hard to miss, making the album not only grand (with its orchestral interludes), but full of depth, as well.





Gil Scott-Heron - I'm New Here

Gil Scott-Heron has come a long way from his "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" days - both literally; traveling abroad due to a distinct lack of appreciation by US authorities for his support of black militant movements in the 70s, and figuratively; a struggle with drug abuse and watching hip-hop, a genre he's been credited with helping pioneer, become nearly unrecognizable. I'm New Here emerges as an honest and disarmingly personal account of his struggles and his pride, a distinct blend of spoken word and blues-inflected soul that only he could pull off.

University Calendar



Wednesday 1/19

CAIVIS

Structure-Function Relationship of Titania-Based Photocatalysts: An Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Study Chemistry Colloquium

3:15 p.m., LS 111

Lecture by Nada Dimitrijevic, Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Center for Nanoscale Materials, Argonne National Laboratory

Student Involvement Fair Office of Student Life

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., MTCC

Come check out our student orgs and have some fun!

HawkEYE Workshop: Frustration Free Financing Office of Student Life

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., MTCC Auditorium

Manage organization finances and spend money like a proafter some guidance on the procedures and policies.

Thursday 1/20

Fundamental Physics with Slow Neutrons Physics Colloquium

3:50 p.m., LS 111

Lecture by William Michael Snow, Department of Physics, Indiana University

Thursday 1/20

MSA's New Students Welcome Party Muslim Student Association

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., 3rd floor of Farr Hall Come join us for a presentation and food. Learn about the activities and organizational structure of MSA.

Friday 1/2]

Last day to add/drop with 100% tuition refund! Everywhere

Campus Sustainability Forum

Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability

12:00 p.m., - 1:30 p.m., MTCC Ballroom

Get involved. Attend the Campus Sustainability Forum. Learn about what's happening on campus and around Chicagoland.

Tuesday

1/25

C2ST Event: The Moon
Chicago Council on Science and Technology

5:00 p.m., MTCC Auditorium

Join us as we view Earth's closest neighbor, learn about our relationship with the Moon, and discuss NASA's near-term strategies for exploring the moon and why it can be a platform for the next generation of science. Cost: \$10 Advance, \$15 Door, \$5 Student. E-mail info@c2st.org.

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Master of Leadership Studies

Open House

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 5:30 p.m., North Central College

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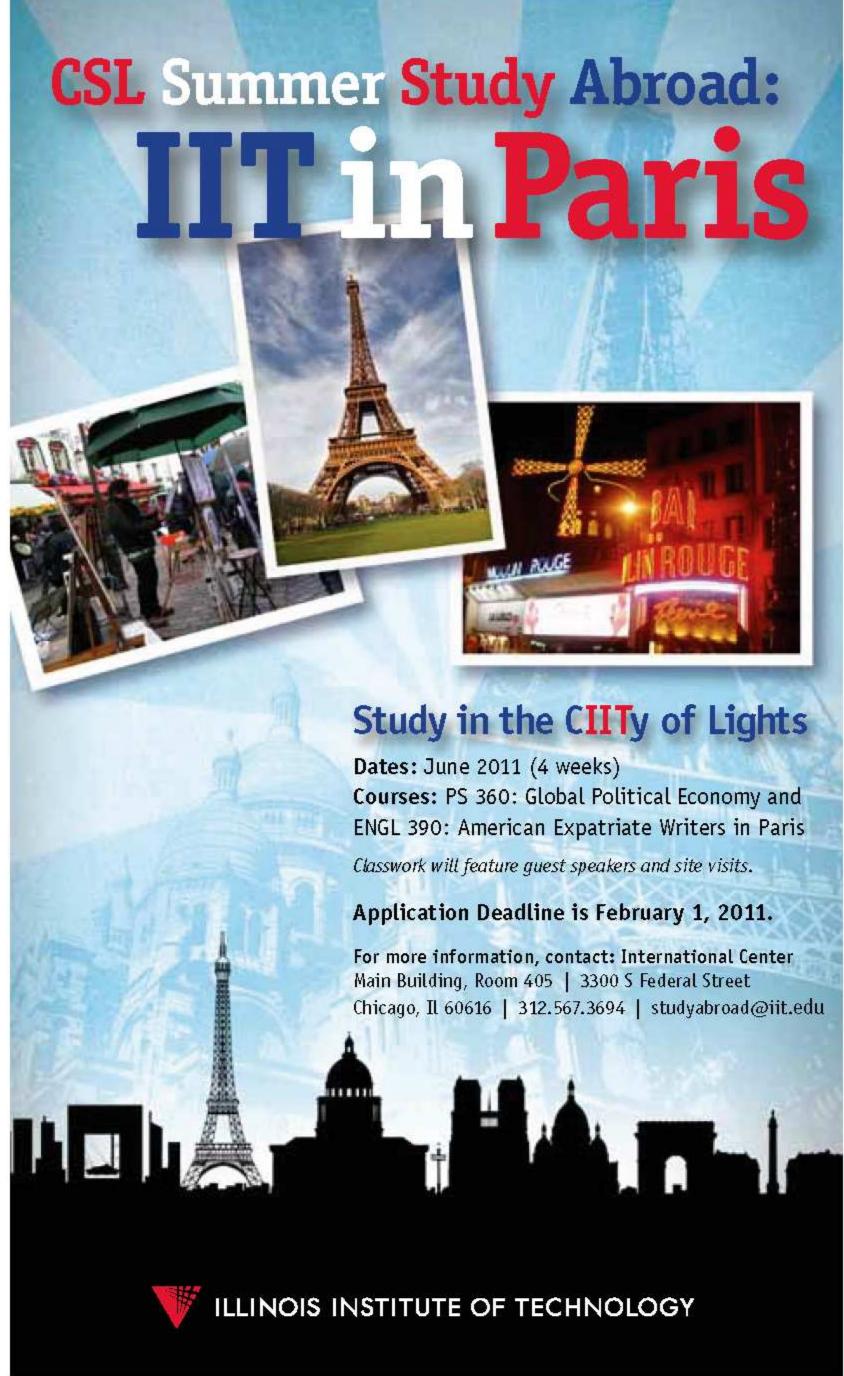
RSVP

for the Open House at northcentralcollege.edu/rsvp



what's playing on Vikram Ramanathan's playlist?







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DAAD RISE: www.daad.de/rise

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DAAD RISE

RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The good, the bad, and a movie: Black Swan

By Rebecca Waterloo

A&E EDITOR

You may have heard the hype about the new cinema hit, Black Swan. The reactions from viewers may have called it "disturbing", made them feel "uneasy", but definitely has potential to be an Oscar winner.

Natalie Portman dives completely into her role as a dancer in a production of Swan Lake. Many media artides have explained the dedication to her training; early 6 a.m. morning workouts and a small diet, very similar to those who dance as a career.

The story follows that of the Swan Lake ballet, and what painstakingly hard work goes into the show. The age is hard to tell of Nina, her skin as young and naïve as her personality. The New York Company Ballet director (portrayed by actor Vincent Cassel) announces their new production of the Swan Lake, dumping his "Little Princess" dancer Beth (Winona Ryder) for young Nina (Portman), expecting her to execute with the extreme dedication and seduction through her characters the White Swan (an enchanted woman in bird form) and her evil twin, the Black Swan.

The pressure builds up on the young dancer and things start to fall apart. Although she brings the necessity of perfection on herself, the psychological stress scratches at her skin (or she does?) and her body slowly transforms into the black swan, feathers and all. This film is not for the weak of stomach or shy of mind. The themes of naivete, life as a ballet dancer (cracked toes and fingers down the throat to regurgitate food), and having a smothering mother as protective as the stuffed animals around Nina's room are shown throughout the

Those with the darker, sinful mind may be pleased at Mila Kunis' role as Lily, a rancid dancer there to provide competition as well as corrupt Portman, encouraging her to seduce the audience. Multiple reactions are accepted while watching this; whether you're laughing or shrieking, this deadly serious film touches many subjects turning them from goofy to terrifying.

The ending is a twist, as expected, so catch Black Swan while it's still in theaters; it is everything it's lived



By Ryan Kamphuis

STAFF WRITER

In my mind, everything was coming together to create one of the best films of the year. Start with a story that takes something as classic as Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and updates it to the current era. Mix in Natalie Portman, an actress who is a master at playing serious roles with a naturalism that sets her above her peers. And to top it all off, bring in Darren Aronofsky, director of 2000's masterpiece Requiem for a Dream; a director who is not afraid to try new things, create deeply dark drama, and eschew common convention in order to create an amazing film.

I was really excited to see Black Swan. It looked like it was going to be one of those movies that you don't forget for a long time. Because in addition to the strong merits of the film, critics loved it. The movie had an 88% on Rotten-Tomatoes.com. Numerous critics called for Natalie Portman to win an Oscar for her role. Some even said that it deserved the best film award.

I wanted to believe. But after seeing Black Swan, I just couldn't. It had it's potential, but it all fell apart in the end. The opening half of the film introduces Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), a ballerina for the Manhattan Ballet Company who is awarded the role as the Swan Queen in the Company's upcoming production of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. The director of the company tells Nina that she can expertly dance the White Swan, a character that represents innocence and perfection, but that she can't handle the Black Swan, a character that represents lust, passion, and rebellion. To make matters worse for Nina, a new ballerina named Lily (Mila Kunis) joins the company who is the perfect embodiment of the Black Swan.

But, as the film progresses, the exciting groundwork laid in the first half degenerates into a tale of sex, drugs, and hallucinations, culminating in a lesbian-sex scene that has little relevance to the plot of the film. In fact, someone who walked into the theater half way into the film would probably have a hard time believing what happened in the first half actually happened; they are that unrelated.

The problem with Black Swan is that it tries to do too much. The movie would be fantastic if it stuck to being an

exploration of Nina getting in touch with her dark side. But it tries to do that while being an erotic thriller, a psychological drama, and at times, a dark comedy. The movie has an identity crisis, and decides to do a little bit of everything instead of doing one thing well. It makes for an over the top film that lacks flow.

In my mind, the one good thing about Black Swan is Natalie Portman's strong performance. It's a shining beacon in an overall disappointing film. Portman plays her character with a seriousness, gracefulness, and honesty that you rarely see. She does deserve an Oscar for her role, but it's the only Oscar the film should receive.

Black Swan is a real letdown. Not just because of the fact that it wasn't a very good movie, but because we might get more films like it. It sounds hipster, but Black Swan sells out its artistic integrity by focusing so heavily on sex. The movie could have done great things, but instead it sold out in the hopes of getting a few more guys' money in the box office. Here's hoping that more good films don't follow this trend.





Welcome back! Hope the first week of class was breezy. I need your help last semester I coordinated a weekly column for you called "How to Chicago: A guide to unlocking the city life." It was a weekly calendar with events happening around the city: some free, some with a bit of a cost. I want to know: is this a useful resource for you? Would you like to continue seeing it, or would you rather have another key somehow telling you what's happening in the city? Fill out the TechNews feedback form to let us know what you want in your A&E section!

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REBELLION BY MYLES MELLOR AND SALLY YORK

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- 14. Birthplace of Columbus 15. Parrot
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- 17. Mary
- 20. "Mârouf" baritone
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- 22. Gives up
- 23. Turn to crime? Row"
- 27. Treat for the idle rich?
- 29. Singer Lenya
- 30. "Encore!"
- 31. Harmony
- 32. Andy Warhol painting
- 35. Jack and Jill
- 39. Affranchise
- 40. Clip
- 41. Whimpered
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- 48. Traction aid
- 49. 2002 film
- 50. Baby's first word, maybe
- 51. Bow
- 54. Little Jack Horner
- 58. Cave
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- 60. Fiats
- 61. Meets
- 62. Gerbils, maybe
- 63. Senior member

Down

- 1. Eastern pooh-bah
- 2. Buffet
- 3. In a snit
- 4. "Sesame Street" watcher
- 5. Cry of disgust
- 6. Arctic
- 7. Wood sorrels
- 8. Law man?
- 9. Clock for the pocket 10. Radiant
- 11. Treat rudely, in a way
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- 18. Flamboyance
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- 27. Reprimand, with "out"
- 28. Arch type
- 29. "Blue Velvet" director
- 31. Trades
- 32. Aggressiveness
- 33. Away from the wind
- 34. Goes with mobile
- 36. Cut surgically
- 37. Cutlass
- 38. Sinuous dance
- 42. Conforms
- 43. Balcony section
- 44. Alliance
- 45. Metallic sounds
- 46. Mites
- 47. Move, as a plant 48. Barbecue fuel
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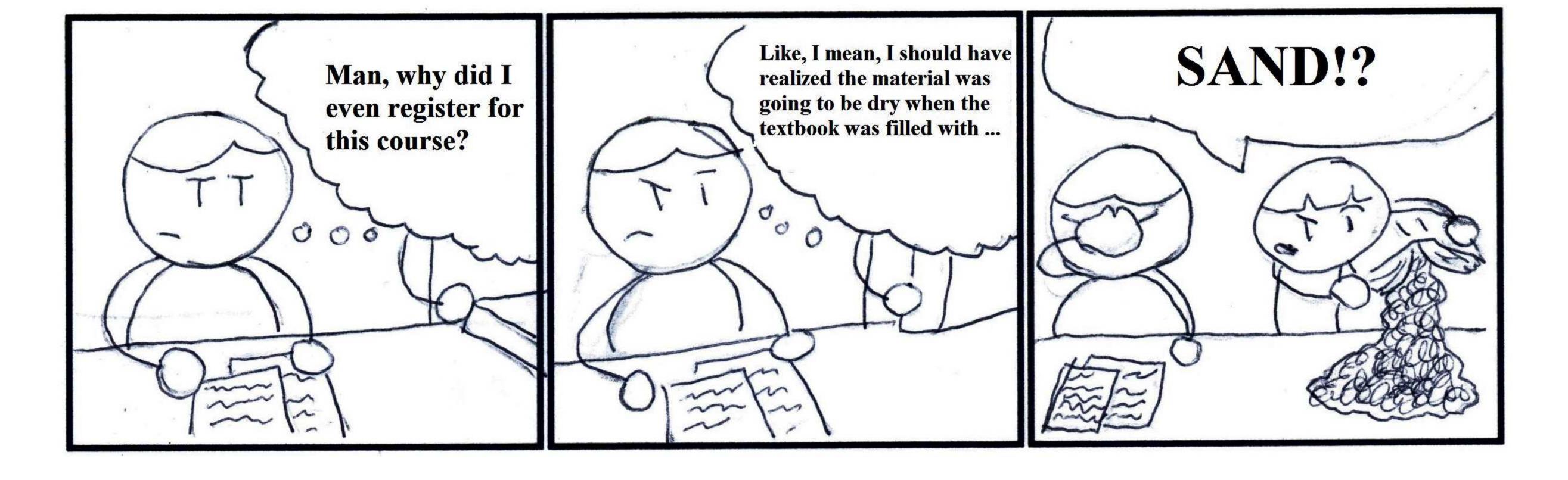


The word Sudoku, above, is actually the abbreviation of Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru, meaning "the digits must be single" or "the digits are limited to one occurrence." Source: Wikipedia

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The First Day of the Rest of My Life

By Adin Goings ART EDITOR



By Graeme Port

SPORTS EDITOR

Over the winter break, a number of IIT Men's and Women's soccer players were honored with national academic awards. In the Men's team, sophomore striker Liam Barrett won national recognition for his academic and athletic achievements throughout the year when he was made a member of the ESPN Academic All-American 3rd Team. In addition to this, Barrett, a Business major who currently holds a perfect 4.0 GPA, picked up a second award for his athletic performance during the fall semester when he was named to the 2010 NAIA Men's Soccer All American 3rd Team.

SPORTS

In the Women's team, seven players were recognized as Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes. In order to qualify for the award, a

student athlete must maintain a minimum 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and must have achieved a junior academic status. The ladies were lead by senior captain Emily Kunkel, a Chemical Engineering major with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She was joined by seniors Meagan Sarratt (Psychology) and Stephanie Salem (Business-Finance). And by juniors, Emily Tilton (Biology with a minor in Military Science), Samantha Cosenza (Mechanical Engineering), Diana Otero (Biological Engineering) and Noel Deis (Electrical Engineering).

Clockwise from top left: Diana Otero, Emily Kunkel, Emily Tilton, Liam Barrett, Stephanie Salem, Samantha Cosenza, Noel Deis, Meagan Sarratt

(Images courtesy Illinois Tech Athletics)



Tuesday, January 18, 2010

Keating Sports Center has something for everyone

By Jason Neal

HEAD OF INTRAMURALS AND RECREATION

I am excited about this semester. In addition to a full schedule for recreational fitness and dance classes, indoor soccer and basketball leagues are starting up again. Track & Field season is upon us, and I expect the throwers to make significant improvements over last year. IIT Rock Climbing, a club that existed in the past, has been reconstituted, and had its first meeting last week, and they will be planning an indoor climbing outing soon. New Velocity, an innovative new dance organization, has its first meeting this week, I believe. Union Board and the International Student Organization are working together to plan a ski trip, and my office is co-sponsoring that event. One new program that starts the first week in February is the Intro to Strength fitness class, which will use body bars, barbells, medicine balls, and kettle weights. Intro to Strength will be a small-group fitness program that will meet one hour three times a week for twelve weeks. Other initiatives that begin after Spring Break include a 5K training program for first-time runners, archery classes, and a powerlifting contest

There have been a few changes to the weekly recreational fitness schedule. Pilates has moved to Wednesday at 5:30pm, and be-

gins on January 19th. Argentine Tango, a popular dance class, has moved to Thursday at 7:30pm, and begins January 27th. Salsa with El Caobo (aka Earl Hall) has moved to Friday at 6pm. Based on student feedback, this class may soon be relocated to a ballroom in either MTCC or HUB. Co-ed Plyometrics will be offered on Tuesday night at 9pm, led by Tony Saddy. The times for Yoga remain unchanged, with Tuesday Yoga classes at 1pm with Helen Lee and at 7:30pm with Natasha Holbert and Katrina Ryan starting on January 18th. Thursday evening Yoga class at 5:30pm with Katrina Ryan begins on January 27th. There are still a few programs that we are working to bring back this semester, including Cardio Kickboxing with Suzanne Ko, Tai Chi with Paul Channic, and Belly Dance/ Zumba Fusion with Viraj Dhebar. Once we have confirmed days and times with

these instructors, I plan to add them to the

Our students do a great job of expressing interest in most of our programs, although many are afraid to commit. Some classes start with huge crowds and lose participants to other activities in the same time slot. This is true not only for fitness classes, but also for intramural sports. Last spring, we had nine teams start the season for the basketball league, but only seven played the whole season. In the fall, three of the teams that played in the indoor soccer league just disappeared halfway through the season. Sometimes people just get busy, and have to prioritize in order to get their grades up or work a part-time job. We understand that we fill "free time" that people have in their schedules.

I am a big believer in creating opportunities for our alumni to remain involved with

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE

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the university. This semester, the intramural basketball league will be run by a committee of students, and the referees will be distinguished IITalumni,

Joe Kirsch and Harry Tran. Our students felt this would help bridge the gap between current students and former students. Everyday, alumni return to Keating to work out, to play pickup basketball, to swim, and to use our lower courts for squash, handball, and racquetball. The handball players in particular have been coming to Keating for over thirty years, and we welcome them back every week. My hope is that current students will return when they are alumni, and that they will remain physically active throughout their lives.

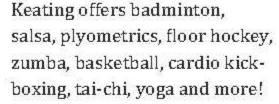
As the facility rental manager for Keating Sports Center, I try to balance the needs of our students with the needs of the community. We have positive relations with several groups who have no gym of their own, and we do our best to share the space in a way that fosters goodwill. Roosevelt University continues to practice and play basketball at Keating

TECHNOLOGY

Sports Center. Their schedule can be found posted at Keating and on Roosevelt's athletic website. Other basketball teams using the facility this semester include Perspectives Charter School, Ada S. McKinley School, and YCLA School. Keating is a popular choice for large-scale community-based activities, and in the past year we have hosted a science fair for In Search of Genius, a robotics competition for Chicago Knights, tumbling/gymnastics clinics for the Chicago Training Academy, and sports clinics for Swish Basketball. With so many users, it is important for us to continue to offer our peak hours and plenty of non-peak hours to our own students, and this is the case the majority of the time. This is why we offered gym hours over much of the Winter Break, and why we will keep the fitness center open during Spring Break. We realize that not everyone plans to leave campus, and we do our best to accommodate those who remain on campus.

In all things, we strive to achieve balance. From a programming standpoint, that means offering enough activities to get people moving and keep them engaged, without trying to offer too much. It's better for us to have ten programs that are well-attended than fifty programs that nobody has time for. There are only so many hours in a day, and we know that our students spend quite a few of those in class, in studio, in lab, and in study groups. Your free time should be used to help you relieve stress.

Physical activity is an excellent way to do that. I encourage you to come to Keating Sports Center. We have something for everyone!





Scarlet Hawks return to competition at U of C invite

By Melanie Koto
STAFF WRITER

The Scarlet Hawks Swimming and Diving team returned to competition after the holiday break with a two day meet at the University of Chicago. Friday evening, the team started off on the right foot in the 200 yard freestyle relay, with the Women's team taking 7th (swum by freshman Jillian Hamada, Aimee Dewante and Abby Maze, and junior Melanie Koto) with a time of 1:45.94. In the event, the Men's team took 3rd (swum by sophomore Eric Grunden, freshman Yoni Pruzansky, senior Mark Callan and sophomore Max Ramminger) with a time of 1:28.00 and 8th (swum by sophomore Matthew Rosenfeld, senior Tomasz Chojnacki, sophomore Michael Keane and junior Dylan Maus) with a time of 1:32.09. In the Women's 500 yard freestyle, Maze took 16th for the Women's team with a time of 5:43.06, and for the Men's team freshman Felipe Bergh took 2nd with a time of 5:01.34, while junior Ryan Tapak took 10th with a 5:33.75. Dewante took 14th in the Women's 200 yard IM finishing with a time of 2:19.68, followed closely by junior Morgan Curran in 17th with a time of 2:20.72. Muchna took 10th for the Men's team with a time of 2:04.52, followed closely by Grunden in 13th with a 2:05.91. In the 50 yard freestyle, Koto took 12th with a 26.43 and Hamada took 14th with a 26.46. Ramminger took 1st for the Men's team with a 20.90, while Keane took 11th with a 22.90 and Callan took 16th with a 23.19. Rosenfeld took 18th with a 23.36 and Maus took 19th with a 23.39. In the 400 yard medley relay, the team of junior Andrea Zuniga, sophomore Morgan Curran, Dewante and Koto took 8th with a 4:20.97, and the team of Rosenfeld, Grunden, Bergh and Ramminger took 6th for the Men's team with a 3:42.95 and the team of freshman Joe Lakner, sophomore Jeff Grindel, Callan and Chojnacki took 13th with a 3:59.35. On the one meter board for Men's diving, sophomore Ian Mc-Nair took 3rd overall with a score of 279.55, while senior Jeff Reilly took 8th with a score of 279.40 and freshman Jefferson West took 10th with a score of 271.75.

Day two began with the 200 yard medley relay. The Women's team of Zuniga, Curran, Hamada and Koto took 8th with a 2:00.83, while the Men's team of Rosenfeld, Grunden, Callan and Ramminger took 5th with a 1:39.94 and the team of Lao, Keane, Bergh and Pruzansky took 13th with a 1:47.03. In the 400 yard IM, Muchna took 7th (4:28.60) and Bergh took 10th (4:30.83). Hamada took 8th in the 100 yard butterfly with a 1:03.52 for the Women's team, and Callan took 5th for the Men's team with a 56.79 followed closely by Pruzansky with a 57.47, and Lakner took 15th with a 1:00.49. In the 200 yard freestyle, Dewante tied for 10th with a 2:03.24 for the Women's

team, and Chojnacki took 11th for the Men's team with a time of 1:53.71. Curran took 13th in the 100 yard breaststroke (1:14.39), and Ramminger took 1st with a 59.58 for the Men. Grunden took 6th (1:02.86), Keane 7th (1:03.06) and Grindel 14th (1:08.04). For the Women's 100 yard backstroke, Zuniga took 6th with a 1:05.77, as did Rosenfeld for the Men's team with a 55.90, while Lakner took 12th with a 59.28 and Tapak took 15th with a 1:01.80. The Men's 800 free relay of Muchna, Pruzansky, Keane and Bergh took 3rd overall with a 7:27.99.

For the evening session, Maze placed 16th for the Women's team with a time of 20:28.60, while Tapak took 10th for the Men's team with a 19:43.93. On the 3 meter board McNair took 3rd again with a 428.55. In the 200 yard backstroke Zuniga took 7th with a 2:21.91, Rosenfeld took 9th for the Men with a 2:06.67 and Lau took 14th with a 2:16.00. Ramminger took 1st in the Men's 100 yard freestyle (45.98), Pruzansky took 15th (51.22) and Maus took 18th (51.94). In the 200 yard breaststroke Bergh took 4th with a 2:15.43, Grunden took 6th with a 2:15.85, Keane took 8th with a 2:21.42 and Grindel took 17th with a 2:31.48. In the Women's 200 yard butterfly, Dewante took 3rd with a 2:19.42 and Curran took 6th with a 2:22.02, while Muchna took 2nd for the Men's team with a 1:58.64. The 400 yard freestyle relay Men's team took 3rd (Pruzansky, Grunden, Chojnacki and Ramminger) with a final time of 3:17.16.

Overall the Women's team took 6th out of 9, and the Men's team took 4th out of 9. The team's next meet is in St. Louis this Saturday.







Saturday, January 22nd
Men's Swimming and Diving
Lindenwood with
MO State & St. Louis University
1pm

Saturday, January 22nd
Women's Swimming and Diving
Lindenwood with
MO State & St. Louis University
1pm

Photos by Melanie Koto

University Social Calendar!

DODGEBALL WITH THE SIGEPS

Tuesday, January 18th 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm At Keating Sports Center

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT FAIR

Wednesday, January 19th 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm In the MTCC (Sponsored by Office of Student Life)

Check out our super sweet website @ http://ub.iit.edu or contact us at ub@iit.edu for details and more upcoming events!

SNOWBALL FIGHT

Wednesday, January 19th
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Meet at MTCC South Lawn for a fun time!

LATIN DANCE NIGHT- FIESTA NIGHT

Thursday, January 20th 9:00 pm - 1:00 am In the BOG (Sponsored by LIFE)

IGLOO CONTEST

Friday, January 21st
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Come to MTCC South Lawn to build then prepare for a fight!

SASA BOLLYWOOD KARAOKE/TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, January 21st 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm In the BOG.

Psstl Did you know? Student orgs can put up event info by submitting their events on the UB website! So go for it!

Wanna hang with the cool kids?
Program killer events? Check us out!



UB General Body Meetings

1:00 PM every Tuesday @ mtcc auditorium