

SGA update: Foreign Languages progress update



By Brian Kibbe
SGA PRESIDENT

Illinois Tech students are one step closer to having a pilot program of foreign language classes on campus to aid students seeking a minor. This weekend the Student Government Association submitted a proposal to the Dean of the College of Science and Letters, Russell Betts. This version of the proposal follows an endorsement from the Undergraduate Studies Committee in Fall of 2010. The committee voted in favor of pursuing the creation of systematic language classes and acknowledged budgeting concerns surrounding the hiring of necessary faculty.

The submitted document lays out a possible structure for a language program beginning with one language and adding more depend-

ing on demonstrated student interest. The class would be designed to qualify students for a minor in their chosen language with four sequentially difficult classes and a fifth cultural class totaling fifteen credits. Ideally these would also be paired with a study abroad experience to give students a meaningful ability in and understanding of their chosen language.

Members of Student Government will meet with the Dean and others in the college to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. Over this semester they will discuss how to change the proposal such that it can be submitted to Provost Cramb for approval and implementation. There is still significant work to be done, but time will show the longevity of the work students are putting in right now.

The Chase 2011 competition

By Jenny Beverage
TECHNEWS WRITER

In February, IIT will be hosting weekend-long events of the local Chase (the preliminary to the Final Chase in Fall 2011). All majors are welcome and, in fact, needed. It's free to participate and one has the opportunity to win cash prizes.

What is the Chase? It's an event designed to have students solve a real-world problem given by a sponsor at the event. 10 to 15 other schools will be participating simultaneously during the weekend at their own schools for the local Chase. The Final Chase will be held in Chicago in the fall, with the best team from each college competing against each other in a head-on entrepreneurial competition. To take part in the Chase, get a group of five people together and head to leadthechase.com by February 7.

During the Chase, "students will be racing to complete a series of entrepreneurial challenges (such as problem-solving, presenting an elevator pitch, writing a business proposal, creating a working prototype, conducting market research, resource-allocation, technical

knowledge testing etc.) that will be centered around a relevant problem or product," (according to their website). Worried you don't have the skills? This was factored into the competition.

During the competition, there are different paths that teams can take. A team could choose to have less time to work on their project, but attend a seminar from experts on the subject of, say, creating prototypes. The expert would show them how to create an effective prototype to show to judges or potential investors. That way, students without entrepreneurial training have the chance to learn something new and to win the competition.

Chase has a history with IIT. Originally started by two IIT students years ago, it has continued on to be bigger and better than ever, while still being student-led. IIT has a growing entrepreneurship program, with a scholarship program (KIEA), an Innovation and Entrepreneurial Academy (IEA) that hosts regular events, an entrepreneurship minor, and IPROs that teach students to create and develop products.

Wake up and smell the Coffee (Club)

By Harshita Iyer
TECHNEWS WRITER

You don't see them at the Student Organization Fair. You don't see them listed in the online list of Student Organizations on the IIT website. Maybe they're a myth, maybe a lie. But the truth is, they are among us.

Despite no official status as a club, Coffee Club is still a perfect example of to what clubs are all about. Every Saturday or Sunday, the club meets up at MTCC at 11 a.m., and leaves to visit a coffee shop. They go to a new place every time, unless a location has really caught the club's attention, in which case a second trip is made. When it was founded a year ago, in January 2010, it was just a way for people who liked coffee to join together, go out, and enjoy their favorite beverage, while discovering the atmosphere of little unknown cafes around Chicago. In the words of its founder, Kelly Lohr, (MMAE '13), "coffee club is a purely self-motivated club". There are no weekly 'meetings', they don't have any SAF funding, and find that they don't really need SAF funding. This is what makes the Club truly a success. It is free to grow whichever way it needs to without depending on any funding, which is very liberating.

When asked what her inspiration to start coffee club was, Kelly replied saying that she

had started to drink coffee towards the end of her sophomore year, to stay awake studying for her pre-ACTs. What started out as something she did because she had to soon turned into a passion. When she came to IIT, she found that most people didn't drink coffee. And so she got a group of people together and put the word out - the club was born.

The "executive board" (consisting of Kelly, along with Giorgia Grisot and Dmitriy Vysotskiy) discuss and decide the next coffee shop to visit and maintain a blog (coffeeclub.posterous.com). They get ideas from other people's recommendations and read about coffee shops online. The only problem with such a loose bureaucracy is that once the people who started it graduate, there may no longer be leadership for the club. To this, Kelly responds with a slight smile; she has thought about this as well, and hopes that it stays the way it is, even after her departure.

Coffee Club is the perfect break from the mundane and a great way to see the little places you might miss out on otherwise. So if you want to join in, just email iitcoffeeclub@gmail.com to be added to their mailing list. Or even easier, just show up at 11 a.m. at the MTCC, next to Global Grounds on a Saturday or Sunday, and tag along with the group of people you see, onto the next coffee adventure.

Photo courtesy Michael Simmons/flickr



TechNews corrections

In the Students Speak survey special issue we released in the previous week, TechNews incorrectly stated that Galvin Library's 24/5 hours were a direct result of the Students Speak survey. While the survey spurred some great new initiatives at the library, expanded hours at Galvin had been a topic of discussion before the survey.

TechNews regrets the error.

Public Safety update: tips for protecting your valuables

By Ray Martinez
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT



A while back, I wrote an article titled "Crimes of Opportunity" (Refer: <http://technewsiit.com/story/crimes-opportunity>, or the paper Edition of TechNews, Tuesday, November 16th, 2010). In that article, I stated that the #1 crime affecting the IIT community were crimes that were committed because conditions were right for the taking. These crimes involved theft of property which include but are not limited to; purses, book bags, wallets, textbooks, laptop computers, iPads, iPods, MP3 players, GPS devices and clothing.

The thefts occurred in a very simplistic way: they were stolen when the victim left their property unattended for a short period of time. The victim either left their property unsecured on a table, in a locker, in a classroom or in the cafeteria. The victim left for a short time to use the restroom or in some cases, left to attend class. When they returned, the items were stolen.

We live in a society where we have to take additional measures to safeguard our personal belongings. Although, we want to find the good in people and trust them, we still have to take reasonable measures to protect our possessions. The following are simple steps you can take to protect and safeguard your possessions while on campus, at home, or in your vehicle.

1. Always take your belongings with you. Whether you are going to the restroom for 2 minutes or are going to class, taking your possessions with you will ensure that you will not lose sight of them.
2. Wherever possible, secure your belongings with a lock. Several thefts have occurred at Keating gym where students have placed their belongings in a locker and have not used a lock.
3. Always lock your door when leaving your room. Although

you may know your neighbor, someone else may bring friends to the residence hall that may not be as trustworthy.

4. Always remove valuable items such as GPS units, cd players, loose change, purses, and bags from plain view in your vehicle. Thieves will search parking lots looking for vehicles that have items in plain view. Regardless if your doors are locked, criminals will take whatever measures to get to your valuables.

5. If you ever observe someone in your area that looks suspicious or appears that they don't belong, contact Public Safety immediately at 8-6363.

Keep in mind that Public Safety is here to provide a safe learning environment while on campus. Stop by our offices located in Farr Hall for additional information on Safety Awareness. You can visit our website at www.publicsafety.iit.edu

The Public Safety Blog is up!
http://blogs.iit.edu/public_safety/
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