

Knapp Entrepreneurship Center: A gateway to the business world

By Harshita Iyer
TECHNEWS WRITER

It is said that there are two professions that are very risky to get into – show business and real business. Neither guarantees a good result, but both can take over one's life completely. And yet, or maybe because of this, there is this inexplicable allure to them.

Well, acting is a different case, but for those IIT students who want to get into the real deal – entrepreneurship – there is hope. For some, the name Knapp Entrepreneurship Center may simply ring a bell, but for those interested in business and entrepreneurship, it could end up meaning a lot in the future. Whether you're someone who is hoping to run a business some day, or even someone who just wants to get involved in a co-op or internship, Knapp could be the answer for you.

The Knapp Center began operating in June 2005, and has since been trying to create awareness about opportunities for up-and-coming entrepreneurs. It is named after its main financier, Jules Knapp, who wanted to encourage the growth of entrepreneurial spirit in the IIT community. There are already many entrepreneurs in IIT's student body, but Knapp felt that more growth was necessary.

In the words of its Executive Director, Nik Rokop, the Knapp Center's main goal is to "support IIT-related entrepreneurs by providing effective, affordable, and expert resources to help create and grow successful commercial ventures". Knapp aims at helping students, alumni and faculty members gain access to the right resources and the right people to be able to start and grow businesses, which, as most people know, is not an easy task.

To do this, the Center organizes a wide range of events every semester, including networking events and educational seminars where entrepreneurs, lawyers and managers

from the business world come to IIT to talk to the students. They also have "Angel Network" events which aim to get great entrepreneurs to come to IIT and tell the students their stories of how they got to where they are, and what the essentials to making it as an entrepreneur are. For students not directly into business, there are "App Designing Competitions" at KnappLab where students design applications for phones and computers in the hopes of designing the best app.

This semester, Knapp has a whole range of opportunities for students. It recently inaugurated the Entrepreneurship Academy, which offers entrepreneurship minors to students, as well as EnPROs (which are basically IPROs in which there are some elements of business management involved), loads of seminars, the App Weekends (for students to come and try their hand at designing Apps), as well as "extreme entrepreneurship events" (you can have a look at their calendar at <http://knappcenter.iit.edu/calendar/>).

One gets exposed to a huge array of opportunities here that one would not experience otherwise. Through Knapp, one can also write for the Center, work with companies to do market analysis and create business plans, and even work with companies in internships and co-ops.

The Knapp Center's main goal is to make sure that your big ideas can grow into real big businesses, and it will try its best to help you every step of the way. If you want more details, visit the Knapp website at http://www.stuart.iit.edu/entrepreneurship_academy/. Anybody out there who doesn't want to sit behind a desk forever, and would like to be the boss instead, this is the place to be!

Summer classes at IIT? Read on!

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Many students must be considering the possibility of staying on campus over summer break. Being able to take classes while the weather is good, working ahead so that they could graduate early, retaking a class when they don't have too many other classes to worry about, or maybe getting some hands-on research experience are all good reasons. In any case, Chicago is an awesome city to live in during the summer, and IIT has a range of classes and services available for students from May through August. Smaller class size means closer contact with teachers and concentrated, fast-paced, to-the-point classes. For those with questions, there was a summer registration fair this past Monday on the MTCC Bridge. For those interested in summer courses who weren't able to make it, TechNews has collected the most important information from the session. It's helpful information, but for more specific questions, students are welcome to contact the concerned department by email or in person.

Housing

Housing and Residential Services will be keeping State Street Village open (semi-suites in SSV Middle) for students. You can learn more about it at <http://www.iit.edu/housing/summer/>. Up to 6 meal types are also available and required. Some great job opportunities are available for residents, such as Community Desk Assistant, Team Leader, Orientation Leader and Conference Housing Assistant – all with application deadlines in May. Housing Scholarships are applicable for some students. For more information, contact housing@iit.edu or call x75075.

On-Campus Jobs

Many openings are available on campus, be it at Keating Hall, Galvin Library or the MTCC. Students can check with the Student Employment Office for on-campus job oppor-

tunities and for professors interested in starting research internships. There are also many opportunities available for those able to work off-campus, including co-op programs, and the CMC is happy to discuss any possibilities with students. Contact cmc@iit.edu or call 312.567.8000. They are located on the Upper Level of Galvin Library.

Keating

Hours of operation for Summer 2011 are yet to be announced, though in the past there have been extended hours on summer weekends and recreation classes like Yoga and Tai-Chi.

Study Abroad

Always an unforgettable way to spend all or a part of your summer, there are a wide range of Study Abroad programs available. Classes may be taken anywhere (even a few blocks away from your home, far, far away from IIT!) and get transfer credit to IIT. The International Center (Main Building 4th floor) is a great place to learn about these programs, especially scholarships such as the DAAD Rise Study in Germany Scholarship or the Gilman Scholarship for Study Abroad for US citizens/certified permanent residents. Contact Ashley Sinclair, Co-ordinator of Study Abroad and Cultural Programs, at asincla1@iit.edu

The Office of Student Life (which is considering the option of organizing student activities with other summer programs in the city), Student Counseling Services, the Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Spiritual Life & Service Learning and Student Health Services are some of the other offices whose services will be open to students during summer term.

You can view which of your desired classes are offered during the summer on your myIIT portal and contact your advisor for your PIN once registration starts on April 4. Keep in mind there is a limit to the number of credit hours you can register for over summer session.

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

Chinese New Year around the world and on campus

By Tingting Han
TECHNEWS WRITER

春节

在华人社会, 春节是最重要的节日。在中国大陆、香港、澳门、台湾、韩国、越南以及马来西亚、新加坡、印尼等地, 农历新年均为法定假日。新春在各地皆以传统农历的一月一日(正月初一)为主。传统上, 每个农历年都有一只动物与十二地支对应, 作为当年的象征, 称为十二生肖。春节的准备, 准备鸡鸭鱼肉、蒸馒头、炸麻花、扫房子等。在中国大陆, 除夕晚上传统上和好饺子面切好饺子馅为初一包饺子做准备, 因为初一不可动刀。全家一定要团聚, 吃“团圆饭”, 出门在外学习工作的人要回家与父母一起过年, 看春节联欢晚会, 放鞭炮烟花, 熬宿守岁。接下来的15天, 活动相继有: 拜年, 发红包, 祭财神, 回娘家, 祭祖, 开市, 过人胜节, 闹社火, 祭星, 元宵灯会等。对于远在海外不能回家过年的华人, 在此佳节倍思亲。我们IIT组织了包饺子的活动, 让中国学生们感受到春节气氛, 让外国学生对东方传统有更多了解。

In Chinese society, the onset of spring is a very important holiday. In mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia, the Lunar New Year is a statutory holiday.

Traditionally, every Chinese New Year has a corresponding animal and the twelve Earthly Branches, as a symbol of that year, known as the Zodiac.

New Year's preparations include prepared poultry meat, steamed buns, fried twisters, etc. The family eats "reunion dinner" and people who study and work away from home come back to see their family.

Besides the New Year, the Victory Festival and the Lantern Festival are some of the other festivals celebrated.

However, many people, such as me, could not go home for Chinese New Year. and did not get to see their loved ones this holiday season. We at IIT, however, had our own small celebration amidst the blizzard, and we made dumplings, organized activities for Chinese students and recreated the atmosphere of the Spring Festival, so that foreign students could learn more about the Eastern tradition.



Photos by Ton Trieu