

CAMPUS

Put your hair where your mouth is (not literally) and help St. Baldrick's!
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How good were our Oscar predictions? Well, uh...
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ASB is throwing down! Are you just going to sit there?
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RHA Exec Board members reflect on their trip to the IRHA 2011 conference at Eastern Illinois

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

College doesn't have to always mean mid-terms, quizzes, projects, lab assignments, and essays. Without downplaying the significance of these, there is a student organization on campus which feels confidently armed enough after a memorable three-day experience that the definition of 'fun' on the IIT campus, and specially for the residents, can be extended to just more than those listed above. Yes, people here have priorities, but they aren't out to change them. Aiming to get residents more involved in creating a positive living environment, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) attended IIT's second Illinois RHA (IRHA) Conference on February 18-20 at the Eastern Illinois University in the City of Charleston, IL, and came back enlightened, entertained and transformed. More importantly, they came back after spending some unforgettable moments from other campus contingents, and are now raring to go to apply the skills and values learnt at these to try and create a fun residential experience. I interviewed two RHA Exec Board Members, Mansi Patel and Emmanuel Klu.

I've seen the brochure - and the first question that came to my mind is why was the theme 'students by day, leaders by night'?

IRHA has a theme every year, this year the theme was to honor visiting RHA contingents as superheroes - hence the theme. They organized activities and training sessions for us during the day and had events such as roll call and the banquet at night.

Any thoughts about the hosts and their campus?

That's what an actual campus feels like! It was really, really huge, and since they don't have the advantage of a city like Chicago amidst them, they seem to have created a small world where everything that a college campus should have (read: Taco Bell) was on the campus. The hosts were warm, friendly and welcoming. Even though the place was remote,

they didn't make us feel so.

Thoughts about other school contingents? How they were different or similar in any way to IIT's contingent? Anything specially worth noting about the IIT contingent?

Friendly, outgoing, really contributed posi-

far, the most diverse contingent as compared to the others, since we had India, Ghana, Hong Kong, Poland and America all represented! Some of them were kids who despite being freshmen were attending their third IRHA conference already, which really reflects on



(Photo courtesy Utsav Gandhi)

tively to the entire 'fun' atmosphere. They were so willing to open up so easily, it really made our friendships with them all the more endearing. Initially, they labeled us as the 'rich school' with 'free iPads' but we tried to change that somewhat biased perspective by being good representatives of IIT and trying to convey that IIT is not just about good grades and a good job. We really learned a lot from every contingent that was there, though; we realized sometimes letting yourselves loose is a great way to make new friends. There were colleges whose RHAs are more active than their SGAs, and it really reflected in the strength, preparedness and coordination between them. We were, by

the kind of involvement they have on campus, without de-prioritizing studies, of course. Not that we were any less - Gary So won a special award recognition for his services towards planning and organizing the event. IIT RHA will really try to produce more students here - because we believe that is the kind of college experience that really counts.

A quick round-up of your schedule of events (what you'll did, etc.)

Every moment was memorable, no kidding. Dance training sessions, bowling, movie shows, training sessions, ice breakers, the banquet, roll call, prize distribution at the end, everything was unforgettable. There's a national

conference coming up in Western Illinois University over summer, and a local one for the Midwest region, but we're so disappointed to know that we can't go!

How were costs met? How was the experience of fund-raisers on campus?

We must thank a lot of campus offices that came forward and generously donated as well as all those who made our fundraising efforts such as the bake sale and the Valentine's Day sale such huge successes. Over 70% of our target was met through these efforts; and we also have to thank the HRS Office for providing the necessary stationery and equipment. In fact, IIT RHA won the Philanthropy ward for maximum donations.

The RHA Exec Board members gained valuable lessons from this conference, and the immediate changes they suggest which they feel will get more people to be involved in creating a fun living community is to get them to attend meetings - and for this, they have vowed to make General Body Meetings (which all residents are welcome to attend) more fun and more interactive. Having successfully organized their famous Boat Cruise at Navy Pier and having recently opened up an fantastic collection of DVDs for residents to rent free of charge (check them out, 9-10 p.m. at the RHA Office opposite Lewis Hall in MSV!), the RHA is now looking at their next big event - Floor, or rather, Hall Wars. Keep your eyes open for an exciting day of fun and free food, and fight for your Hall's glory (however cheesy that may sound).

Finally, this is the cheer that resonated at the conference. If you see an exec board member passing by, request him or her to perform it for you. It's catchy, it's infectious, and it's completely original!

IIT is Red Hot (clap on the T)
We are the scarlet hawks
We are R-E-D (Red)
H-O-T (Hot)
Once we start we cant be stopped
Red hot (clap clap [break] clap x3)

TEDxIIT

A Platform to discuss Innovation

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

There's a quote attributed to Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. that says the following: "The human mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."

That's what the TED conferences do: they stretch the dimensions of your mind. Each TED speaker has about 20 minutes to present an 'idea worth spreading' in the most innovative and impactful way they can. Speakers range from Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, to a young man living in a remote village in Malawi who - at the age of 14 - built a windmill for his family, using an old textbook. Every talk is an outstanding example of the immense creative ability of the human mind, and really makes you think deep into your fundamental understanding of issues you may or may not have considered before, often letting you see previously unseen viewpoints.

A group of passionate IIT undergraduates are organizing a TEDx conference at IIT's Downtown Campus in March. Speakers

include Michael Hettwer, photographer with National Geographic and Leonard Reiffel, a widely recognized scientist, educator, and inventor/entrepreneur. The event will be held on the 26th of March, 2011 from 10 AM to 7 PM, and there are about 50 seats left for the IIT Student Body. For more details and to apply, visit www.tedxiiit.com.

The idea for TEDxIIT was inspired by the organizing students' motivation to give the members of the IIT community—students, faculty, and alumni—a place to share their ideas with each other and the world. The inaugural TEDxIIT is organized around the theme "Break Through," and features speakers who have yet to break through onto the world stage, as well as those who have broken through before. TED's media initiatives include TED.com where new TEDTalks are posted daily, and the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as the ability for any TEDTalk to be translated by

volunteers worldwide. TED has established the annual TED Prize where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world are given the opportunity to put their wishes into action; TEDx, which offers individuals or groups a way to host local, self-organized events around the world; and the TEDFellows program, helping world-changing innovators from around the globe to become part of the TED community and, with its help, amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

Becoming a member on the TED.com website is free, and gives access to hundreds of complete TED Talks. Mobile Apps are also available.

TEDxIIT
x = independently organized TED event