

## CMC's Leslie Anderson bids adieu to IIT after 8 years

By Utsav Gandhi  
CAMPUS EDITOR



For many IIT students, getting a job ranks very high on the wish list. Co-ops, internships, even small openings on campus that have nothing to do with a particular major are highly sought after by students of all ages and nationalities. If you have taken the effort of visiting the Career Management Center to either fine-tune your resume, or to seek help with a particular job application, you probably recognize the lady smiling in the picture, even if you can't recollect her name. Leslie Andersen has for the past eight years served as an advisor at the CMC, specializing in as many as nine different majors, and provided innumerable students invaluable help in pursuing jobs and careers – rendering her as someone not many students who have been fortunate enough to receive her guidance are likely to forget for a long, long time. During her time at IIT, Leslie has conducted workshops on job search strategies and skills and has developed special career management programs in collaboration with other departments. It was with bittersweet pleasure that the CMC bid adieu to Leslie as she left IIT to accept the position of Assistant Director at the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago where she

will continue to serve students in career services. Everyone who knows her would probably join me in thanking her for all the kind advice that she gave in an always-spirited, enthusiastic demeanor and wish her all the best in her future endeavors. I had an opportunity to ask her a few questions on her penultimate day in office.

**My first question is kind of obvious – what are your feelings at this point in time?**

Well, I know for sure I'm definitely going to miss a lot of students who I've built relationships with over my time here at IIT. My experience has been incredibly rewarding – and I've also loved working with colleagues all over campus in different departments.

**8 years is a long enough time to form some great memories. Do you have any special recollections to share?**

Bollywood Night! Really, that was unforgettable!

On a more serious note, it was actually this one experience that comes to mind. It was the first day of classes one particular year, and as I was walking around campus, I noticed this student who was obviously new to IIT – nervous, hesitant – trying to find his way around the buildings. I remember walking up to him and helping him out. Today, he's at a co-op in a big institution and it's incredibly rewarding just to see this transformative experience – which is really what I love about my job.

**How much has IIT really changed over the years you've been here?**

Well, physically it has, quite a bit! What I appreciate the most is the effort towards sustainability, and the many new programs that have been introduced, opening up new opportunities for students.

**Any final message for students?**

As I always say, never think twice about following your dreams! Go confidently on the path you want to choose. Even if you can't seem to figure out a particular goal or dream, it's okay to lose confidence – as long as you made a sincere attempt to pursue what you really want to do. It's important also to develop a network of people who might help you in times of need – and sometimes it's only through a failed attempt that you get to expand this network. You should be open to new experiences – because learning about yourself and your dreams is a constantly evolving process.

## Help shape diversity at the Unity Banquet

By Teresa Moreno  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WOMEN SERVICES

The Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion is kicking off a new program, the Unity Leaders at the 2011 Unity Banquet. Unlike ever before, the Center, along with the University, is supporting students as they take reins on how to uplift diversity on IIT's campus. The Unity Leaders Program, which gets its official kick-off during this year's Unity Banquet, allows students to take action and voice how they envision diversity on their campus. With institutional support and resources, students propose and create a program to heighten and showcase diversity through one of the following categories: Culture, Leadership, Research and Respect. These student-led projects, while

unique, lead to a collective contribution made by students to add to the rich vibrancy of IIT.

Students can work as student organizations or unaffiliated teams to propose and bring a unique program to campus. The unveiling of the program, which will include more details about how to propose and what the program is about, will be shared at the Unity Banquet.

The Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion hopes that you can join them as they introduce this new program. The 2011 Unity Banquet will be held on April 14 in the Hermann Hall Ballroom with the reception at 5:00 p.m., dinner and the program at 6:00 p.m. and the after-party beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is no cost to students to attend – one only needs to RSVP by Monday, April 11 to [scdi@iit.edu](mailto:scdi@iit.edu).



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Career Management Center

### Etiquette Dinner

Date: April 7, 2011

Time 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Where: Hermann Hall Expo

Cost: \$10 non-refundable

*Please Note: All attendees must be in business casual attire.*

## Interfaith discussion tomorrow night

By Alex Miller  
STAFF WRITER

At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, students from most faiths represented around campus will gather for an interfaith discussion with representatives from each of the five major faiths represented on campus. With speakers representing Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Atheism, and Buddhism, the hope is that students will leave the presentation with a more well-rounded perspective on each of the belief systems.

Set up as an academic lecture, each speaker will start the night with a five-minute presentation on the basics of their religion. Each religious representative will then discuss the basic tenets and sects of the religion. There will also be discussion about the relationship between religion and science. The night will end with the opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

"While it's being called an 'Interfaith' panel, I think it's more of an 'Interreligion' panel. While 'faith' is a very subjective experience, this panel is attempting to present an objective, educational opportunity for the IIT community to learn more about the different religions practiced by students on this campus," remarks Erin Jones, the representative for Hillel. She stresses, as do the other organizations, that the event is not meant to be a debate between the religious associations, but instead a productive event with the intention of educating each other about the differences

between each religion.

As seen throughout history, education about opposing viewpoints helps alleviate tensions between groups. As chair of the Department of Religion at Kenyon University, Joseph Adler attributes the study of other religions to the desire to learn of other cultures in the globalized era. He remarks, "On one level, given our evident interdependence, we simply need to be able to communicate with our neighbors in the world. But, as many trade and investment negotiators in China have discovered, communication is not a simple matter of translation; it requires an often subtle understanding and appreciation for different cultural rules and values, different conceptions of individual and collective responsibility and identity, and so forth. The deeper these points extend into the assumptions that form the framework of the culture, the more they are connected with the culture's religious beliefs and values. At the same time, we should acknowledge that cultural diversity, whether at home or in the world, is not something to be merely tolerated; it is something to be encouraged and celebrated."

Looking at this event, we can see that it strives to do exactly this. All different beliefs are coming together for one night to celebrate their differences with one another, with the hope that better understanding and communication may emerge. This event, sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life, Hillel, Muslim Students Association, Atheists and Allies, and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship is open to all students. Food will be served.

## Financial aid packages available

By The Office of  
Financial Aid

Financial aid packages are now available online for students who have completed a 2011-12 FAFSA. Students can view their package and outstanding requirements on the MyIIT portal on the Finances tab. Scholarships for 2011-12 will be listed on student accounts in the Offered status instead of the Accepted status. Students are required to acknowledge the scholarship amount and accept it on the MyIIT portal themselves, just like federal

loans and federal work study. For students selected for federal verification, a financial aid package will not be available to view until required documents have been submitted, reviewed and satisfied by the Office of Financial Aid.

Selected students will be notified via email by the Financial Aid Office beginning this week and continuing as we receive FAFSAs for 2011-12. All questions can be directed to the Financial Aid Office at [finaid@iit.edu](mailto:finaid@iit.edu) or 312-567-7219. We are open Monday - Friday from 8:30am-5pm.

## International Corner



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