

# Diary of an ASB-er: days 1 and 2

By Alex Miller and Utsav Gandhi  
STAFF WRITER AND CAMPUS EDITOR

Well, to put it simply, we were super excited for this trip as soon as we were chosen to be a part of it. And this was sometime in October. Every subsequent meeting, as fundraising ideas were thrown around, as we played 'bonding' games to get to know each other, as March kept coming closer, as fundraising targets were being reached, as we finally got to know everyone's names, and as the EPIC spreadsheet kept getting tabs added to it, the excitement level was going up. For some of us who were returners or for some, who, like me, had worked with Habitat for Humanity in other places around the world, we knew what to expect physically. Waking up at seven in the morning, strenuous physical activity that we're not generally accustomed to, packing your own lunches and long hours without a shower - sounds exciting, right? Well, obviously this was not it. We also made some lifelong friendships, got to meet some fascinating people from different parts of the country, got the chance to explore some of the bay area's most interesting places and more important than anything else, got the opportunity to serve humanity in a special way.

Midway Airport on that eventful Sunday morning was an interesting sight. Daylight savings had just kicked in and yet the endless murmurs, jokes and chatter outnumbered the stifled yawns. Oakland was misty and rainy, though refreshingly humid, and the sight of green mountains all around the airport was a rare luxury we don't have here in Chicago. After a short journey in our infamous rental cars we were given a short introduction to the First Presbyterian Church in San Leandro, which we were to call home for the next few days. Fully equipped with an industrial kitchen, an indoor basketball court and gym, a reading room and a games room with a small DVD collection, we were most excited to see the giant room where we would all be sleeping - really the kind of place that would inevitably lead to some great friendships (over free, professional massages and games of Monopoly and UNO). Over Subway misadventures (applicable only to the vegetarians) we learned that the next day was going to be an exciting day of exploration. And so it turned out to be.

Monday was our adventuring day. It started with a trip down some very confusing roads that ended at a rocky beach and building entitled "The Warming Hut." Here, we met Bob, an IIT alumni and the official photographer for the Golden Gate Bridge. Eating lunch outside along the beach, chasing seagulls to share our lunch, and taking pictures through the heavy fog of the bridge and city was just the first of many adventures to

come. Taking a group picture, we then moved on to the next part of our journey: a tour of the Golden Gate Bridge. With presentations by leading engineers in charge of maintaining the bridge, we learned about how the bridge is maintained, and how it has evolved slowly over time.

Following that incredible presentation, Coach Jason Neal suggested that we go to Muir Woods. Driving over the glorious Golden Gate that we had just had fabulous presentations about, we proceeded to drive down some of the curviest and hilliest roads I have ever been on (and being from New England, that's

impressive). Arriving at Muir Woods, we hiked through an impressive canopy of trees, taking pictures in some trees with "caves" built in. Knowing our hard work would start the next day, we decided to go on one last adventure for the day - heading over to the cross streets of Haight and Ashbury, the center of the "hippie revolution" of the 1960's. Splitting up to try a variety of restaurants, perhaps the peak of the night was afterwards while exploring the little shops and murals of the neighborhood. As the sun set on our first full day on the west coast, excitement began to arise for the first few days on the job site.



The team at the Golden Gate Bridge (yes, it's really there behind all the fog) - with the Chief Photographer of the bridge, an IIT alum (Photo courtesy of Utsav Gandhi)

### Summer 2011 Co-op & Internship Timeline

All students applying for Co-ops &/or Internships must take **Introduction to Co-op & Internship Workshop before applying**  
Check CMC website, [cmc.iit.edu](http://cmc.iit.edu), for workshop schedule

April 4, 2011	First day students can start submitting their Work Term Evaluations and on-line applications for <b>Co-op Renewals &amp; Extensions</b> , to the CMC. ( <i>renewals are for co-ops only</i> )
April 11, 2011	First day CMC advisors will begin meeting with students who are applying for <b>new Co-ops and Spring Internships</b>
April 25, 2011	<b>Recommended</b> deadline for submitting on-line Renewal and Work Term Evaluations to ensure work without interruption after spring semester coop ends on May 14 (this is <b>not the final deadline</b> but the date that CMC recommends students submit their applications in order to get approval if they wish to continue working without interruption on May 16)
May 16, 2011	<b>Earliest date to start</b> Summer 2011 Co-ops and Internships
July 16, 2011	<b>Recommended deadline for submitting Co-op Renewal applications and Work Term Evaluations</b> to ensure approval for registration by the <b>July 9 registration deadline</b>
May 23, 2011	First day of Summer semester 2011 classes
June 1, 2011	<b>Co-op &amp; Internship Registration Deadline</b> —last day to meet with CMC advisors to get approval and register for spring semester Co-ops and Internships. (last day to add/drop classes)
June 2, 2011	Latest date to submit applications for Summer 2011 <b>CPT/Work Authorizations</b> to <b>International Center</b>
June 24, 2011	<b>Latest date to begin</b> working Summer 2011 Co-ops and Internships
July 23, 2011	Last day of summer semester/ <b>last day of work for Summer Co-ops and Internships</b> . Note: <b>Intern</b> applicants can request later end date (up to August 20) at time of application.
August 15, 2011	<b>Earliest</b> date students can start Co-ops & Internships for <b>Fall, 2011</b>
August 23, 2011	Fall 2011 classes begin