

AIChE heads to regional conference

By **Ton Trieu**
TECHNEWS WRITER

Ten people from IIT's AIChE chapter were selected to attend the regional at Michigan Tech University. Eight of them are from the organization's exec board, including: Carol Mak (AIChE IIT chapter president), Tracey Martinez (Vice-President), Say Yeong Siah (High School Outreach Coordinator), Ariana Mayorga (Outreach Coordinator), Ton Trieu (Webmaster), Liam O'Rourke (Internal Liaison); there were also three other active members (Faisal Alraslany, Joe Farkas and Matthew Chaffee).

We started by splitting into 2 groups, leaving

at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday, April 8. It was about an 8-hour long drive. The AIChE IIT chapter stayed at a nicely-located Travelodge. On the first day, we checked in with the Michigan Tech volunteer staff, who were helpful and showed us where all the events were to be held. Me and a few other members attended very interesting workshops about viral nanotechnology and future transportation hosted by Dr Ching-An Peng and Chris Gosling.

The AIChE IIT chapter also joined the ChemE Jeopardy event which was held at the ChemSci Building. The chapter had a score of 800 and was in 4th place, after the Purdue University chapter, which had 1600 at the pre-final round. Thus, our internal liaison took a step

up and decided to bet all the score for the last question. Unfortunately, Purdue University also successfully raised their score so IIT chapter settled for 4th. The weather was warm and sunny, so we decided to take a walk around the bridge next to the river and downtown area in Houghton, MI, right after lunch.

Finally, the award banquet dinner was hosted in Rozsa Lobby at 7 p.m. to congratulate all the winning and participating teams. The IIT Chapter had some social time with other AIChE chapters participating in the regional after the banquet ended. We left beautiful Houghton and headed back Chicago around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

IPRO 361: Lego Art shows their craft

By **Becca Waterloo**
A&E EDITOR

This past Sunday afternoon in the Technology Park atrium, IPRO 361 - Lego Art, had an art exhibition for their Lego Arts participants from the Louis L. Valentine Boys & Girls Club in Bridgeport. As you may or may not know, IPRO 361 started a pilot program implemented at the club, created by 5th-year architecture student Lee Fink, for young students to express their creativity through Lego Art and introduce them to the fundamental building blocks every child should be exposed to: Legos.

The purpose of the award ceremony and art exhibition on Sunday was to recognize the 20 students that were involved in the program, and also gave the opportunity for their parents, family and friends to witness them accept the trophies made of acrylic with each participant's name and piece of art etched into it. Students were seated at different tables decorating photo albums for them to take home and stuff with pictures from the pilot program. Each student was recognized, which was a huge goal of the award ceremony and open house. The kids also got a demonstration of the laser cutter in the IIT Idea Shop.

Inside of the Idea Shop, the students' work was displayed from the third phase of the program, which gave the young ones the opportunity to create work of their own. There was a broad variety of Lego art, which ranged from a monkey in a tree to a skyscraper.

The party planners made the environment bright and colorful with their table clothes, balloons, and photo album decorations. All of the kids were having a great time expressing their new creative side and accepting a personalized trophy for it. It was a great finale to the start of this innovative program. The food was generously donated by Connie's Pizza, Mother Butter's, Jimmy Johns, and the event had a surplus of Sunny Delight and Capri Sun. If you're interested in seeing this Lego art, it was said it will be displayed within the next couple of weeks in the MTCC.

For more information on IPRO 361: Lego Art, or information on getting involved, visit <http://legoart.org/>

Fly me to the moon Spring Formal 2011



Student survey reveals pros, cons of on-campus technology

By **Ryan Kamphius**
CAMPUS EDITOR

The seventh annual IIT Student Technology Survey has come to a close. In comparison to 2010, this year's results show a fairly consistent student opinion on technology services. However, some aspects exhibit a mixed response.

Just over 1,270 Main Campus, Stuart School of Business, Chicago Kent and Rice Campus students took the 2011 survey, which is a 15% response rate. This response was slightly lower than last year, but it was sent to a larger student group and reflects what students think of technology at IIT.

The percentages reported here are based on the five-point scale that was offered in response to many of the questions on the survey (ranging from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'). The 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses were tallied as an indication of student satisfaction with various services. 'Neutral' replies were not omitted from the overall pool of responses, but they were not counted toward student satisfaction or student dissatisfaction, thereby lowering the overall affirmative or dissenting response.

Computer Labs and Printing Services

As illustrated by the OTS Computer Labs and Printing Services graph, the hours of the OTS computer labs were met with greater approval, with 65% of students stating their satisfaction.

This is largely due to the OTS Night Owl Lab moving into Galvin Library where students have an all-night dedicated study space that meets their technology needs.

This year, students expressed a slightly lower level of satisfaction with the number of PCs and software available in OTS computer labs. 72% of students are satisfied with the number of computers available. Additionally, 75% of students expressed that the software in the computer labs met their academic needs.

Student satisfaction with the quality of printing in the computer labs was met with a slight increase from last year, with 69% of students expressing satisfaction. Given that available software and printing services continue to be the main reasons that students are drawn to the computer labs, this is an important improvement in satisfaction to note.

Computer Labs and Printing Services Enhancements

The summer before the 2010-2011 school year, OTS enhanced some of the software available in the computer labs in response last year's Student Technology Survey. The Adobe suite software in all of the labs has been upgraded to Adobe CS4. Additionally, Mathematica is now available in all OTS labs on campus, and students can download a free version to their personal computer (for more information, visit the OTS Downloads channel under the Training and Support tab in myIIT).

Beginning summer 2011, OTS and Housing & Residential Services will be adding Remote Printing Stations in SSV and Gunsaulus Hall that will be available 24/7 for residents with access to these buildings. Additionally, eight new computers will be installed in the MSV lounge area for use by residents. With the addition of these resources, and due to limited

use and access to the OTS computer lab in the basement of MSV East, the lab will be closed beginning summer 2011. However, the remote printing station in MSV, near the vending area on the main level, will remain available.

Blackboard

Out of the students who have used Blackboard, 72% were satisfied with the system, which is the same satisfaction rate as last year. 72% of students would like to see Blackboard utilized for more courses, down from 75% in 2010.

Blackboard Enhancements

For the 2010-2011 school year, OTS and the Offices of the Provost and Undergraduate Studies, introduced Blackboard Mobile Learn, providing IIT classes with a Blackboard mobile web page. This application brings the Blackboard teaching and learning tools to a mobile device, giving students and faculty access to their courses wherever they are. Students can view their class announcements and grades and use collaborative tools such as blogs, journals and discussion boards. Blackboard's unique two-way teaching and learning system also allows faculty to view and update their course content remotely.

Email

Regarding email storage space, OTS has seen a steady decline in satisfaction over the past two years. This year, 41% of students indicated satisfaction with the current IIT email storage capacity, down from 43% in 2010.

OTS is taking this and past years' feedback regarding email capacity into consideration for modifications that will be implemented during summer 2011 as detailed below.

Email Enhancements

OTS, in collaboration with the Student Government Association is pleased to announce that IIT student email will be moving to the Gmail platform. This will allow for increased utility and compatibility with other Google services as well as significantly increased email storage space. This upgrade will take place during summer 2011 and the new platform will be available through the myIIT portal by fall 2011.

IIT Network

Student responses appear to have declined across the board with regard to the IIT wireless network. Student satisfaction with the reliability of the IIT network on Main Campus decreased from last year, with a 39% satisfaction rate.

Similarly, satisfaction with the speed of the wireless network has declined, with 40% satisfied.

Student satisfaction with regard to the IIT's Main Campus wireless network coverage decreased to 43% expressing satisfaction. On-campus resident satisfaction with the IIT network is slightly lower than last year, with 36% indicating that the network in their residence is sufficient for their needs.

IIT Network Enhancements

During summer 2010, OTS upgraded certain areas within Main Campus from Wireless G to Wireless N to offer improved wireless service to the IIT community. OTS recognizes that the upgrade has not been a smooth transition and will ensure that wireless service is sufficient in the Residence Halls before further expanding to additional academic buildings and the rest of the campus.