

**CAMPUS**

IIT Robotics team takes  
first at design competition!  
Pg. 4

**A&E**

A word... with Donald  
Clover!  
Pg. 9

**SPORTS**

Get in shape this spring  
with dance lessons!  
Pg. 11

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Opinion 2-3  
Campus 4-7  
A&E 8-9  
The Slipstick 10  
Sports 11

## Admin, SGA host Student Forum



(Photos by Jean-Emmanuel Guebey)

**By Karl Rybaltowski**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hermann Hall played host to a sizable gathering of students on March 10 for a student forum on tuition increases and the financial state of the university. For an hour, President Anderson and Provost Cramb directly answered students' questions on these and other matters while students enjoyed a free lunch. Staff members were also in attendance, and at a few points during the forum were asked to step in to answer students' questions on specific departments. Though the starting topics were financially related, questions ranged from WiFi quality in MSV to student health to job placement after graduation.

Starting the forum off, President Anderson offered some opening statements, admitting that in past years the school has been running deficits (at the time of his hiring, the budget was out of balance by around \$24 million), but that the administration had been consistently narrowing the deficit and the Board of Trustees had just approved a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year. He also invited students to attend a talk with John Rowe, chairman of the Board of Trustees, on the afternoon of April 21. The floor was then turned over to the students and their questions.

Elaborating on the balanced budget (in answer to the first question, regarding spending cuts), Provost Cramb made clear that there were no cuts made to student services - in fact, departments such as OTS and Galvin Library

saw their budgets increase. "My thought is that there should be no measurable impact of any service to students in next year's budget," the Provost said. He also offered insight into the process of determining tuition percentage increases - examining a basket of universities that are similar to (and compete for students with) IIT and looking at their tuition rates in order to determine where the university can sit comfortably while still affording value to students.

Asked what the university was doing to improve research, the strong push toward hiring more research faculty was explained, as was the fact that IIT is becoming a much more research-intensive university, but that more investment in research - not just financially, but from students and faculty - is still necessary. "You're known by the research you do," Anderson said.

Jean Bingham, VP of Housing and Auxiliary Services, was on hand to answer a question about the recent switch to Connie's pizza in Center Court (and the associated increase in price), while a question about emergency services and difficulties getting walk-in attention from Student Health Services was fielded directly by Katie Stetz, Dean of Students. The still-controversial issue of iPads came up in another question, with Provost Cramb pointing out that, aside from the marketing value, the day of the bomb threat on campus was the perfect example of the hardware's use: "the fact that iitAlert popped onto the front of every iPad, and everyone immediately knew there

was an issue on campus made that worthwhile to me as an investment."

The last questions of the forum brought up a common misconception - that the iitAlert system sent out the bomb threat alert after the supposed time of detonation - and the issues with quality of wireless internet in the MSV dorms. The iitAlert rumor was debunked by Provost Cramb immediately - on the day of the threat, he received the alert early enough that he was able to commute to IIT from his home on the north side of Chicago in time. The President and Provost admitted that the wireless service was sub-standard, but explained that creating a wireless system was a less expensive alternative to re-wiring the entirety of MSV. The wireless service was installed by a company that had not fully taken into account the construction of MSV, and this company was now taking great pains to improve the wireless reception at the dorms. At the same time, added OTS CIO Ophir Trigalo, the university was bringing in independent consultants to assess the specific issues at MSV that were degrading wireless service.

After closing statements from SGA President Brian Kibbe thanking administration and university staff members, the event ended. Overall response to the event was positive, not just from students, but from the administration as well. "I think this is the best [forum] we've had yet," said President Anderson. "The students asked a lot of tough questions."

## Outstanding IIT women honored with Beveridge Awards

On March 10, the Julia Beveridge Awards Ceremony took place in the MTCC Ballroom. The awards are given to women who have made a mark on the IIT community, whether staff, faculty or alumni. With Elnaz Moshfeghian presiding as Mistress of Ceremony, the ceremony opened with remarks by Teresa Moreno (Assistant Director, Women's Services) and President Anderson. Afterward, Helen Oloroso, currently in the administration of Northwestern University, spoke to the audience. Following this, the four awards for 2011 were given.

The Faculty Award was presented to Katharine K. Baker, currently a professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law. Baker has clerked for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, worked as a trial attorney for the Department of Justice, and been a visiting professor to such schools as Pennsylvania Law, Yale Law, and Northwestern Law. Her professional work focuses on sexual violence and women's issues, and more recently on family law issues, and she has taught courses on topics as diverse as environmental law, domestic violence, and property law.

The Alumna Award was given to Pamela A Paziotopoulos, a 1990 graduate of Chicago-Kent. Starting out as a prosecutor for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, she was recruited in 1997 to head that office's new Domestic Violence Division. In that role she monitored over 100,000 domestic violence cases a year in Chicago, also creating a Career Resource Center and "Adopt a Shelter" program to help victims of domestic violence, on top of many other achievements, both in the public and private spheres.

Teresa Moreno won the Staff Award for her tireless efforts - not only in advocating for women and students of color, but in pushing the initiative to bring courses on Gender Studies and Women's Studies to the university. She mentors various student groups, even receiving the Staff of the Year award from LIFE and SHPE in 2009 and 2010. Outside of IIT, she also teaches women's studies and gender studies and has lectured on women and performance.

The Students' Choice Award went to Joyce Hopkins, a professor in the College of Psychology. Joyce has served as the University of Chicago Medical Center's Co-Director of the Parent-Infant Development Service, and authored or co-authored several book chapters and 25 peer-reviewed publications. She has also acted as a mentor to 18 doctoral students within the College of Psychology.