

CAMPUS

TEDxIIT is back!

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cookin'?**SPORTS**Cross country conquers in
Wisconsin.**TUESDAY**

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Campus 2-3

A&E 4

The Slipstick 5

Sports 6-7

TEDxIIT inspires students to 'gain momentum'

**By Utsav Gandhi**
CAMPUS EDITOR

Victor Hugo once said “There is one thing more powerful than all the armies in the world. It’s an idea whose time has come.” That’s what TED conferences are about: ideas that stretch the dimensions of the human mind. Each TED speaker has about 20 minutes to present an ‘idea worth spreading’. Speakers on the TED website have ranged 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.

A group of passionate IIT undergraduates are organizing a TEDx

conference at IIT’s Downtown Campus in March. TEDx events are independently organized TED events – students have the license from TED to use their logo and access their organizational material, and TEDx events are structured in a similar way to actual TED conferences - except, of course, for their independent organization. Putting together a successful TEDx event is a deeply fulfilling experience, simply because of the exposure received to some phenomenal brains and the larger-than-life feeling that always accompanies a TED conference.

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 was organized around the theme “Break Through,” and building up on that, organizers are looking to revolve the next conference around the theme of “Gaining Momentum.” Speakers at last year’s events included Michael Hettwer, photographer with National Geographic and Leonard Reiffel, a widely recognized scientist, educator, and inventor/entrepreneur.

Preparations for TEDxIIT 2012 are currently underway! March may seem far away, but an event of this scale needs a lot of work behind it. If you are interested in helping out, the TEDx team is looking for committee members. Weekly meetings will occur every Friday between 2 and 3 p.m. in the MTCC. So,

regardless of how much or however little you feel you can contribute, feel free to take part in this endeavor. You will not be obligated to attend every meeting. The organizers just want you to help out in your own ways with whatever time you feel you can commit to the event.

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

To view last year’s TEDxIIT videos, search for the “TEDxIIT” playlist on Youtube.

For more information on TED and TEDx, visit www.ted.com and www.ted.com/tedx respectively. To get more involved with TEDxIIT 2012, email texiit@gmail.com.