## Dandiya Dhamaka Festival dance hypnotizes campus

## By Pranamee Sarma

TECHNEWS WRITER

The word 'Festival' was first coined as a noun in 1589, now it is more of an adjective with celebrations, gifts, food, dance and reunions. India is one country with a festival for almost every month, at times even for every week in a month, representing the vast diaspora of communities present.

One of them is the much awaited 'Navratri' or the' Festival of Nine nights' where the Goddess Durga is worshipped in different ways in different parts of the country. Without

going into the details of the worship one thing that this festival brings with itself is lights in the dark sky and merriment among people. Although we see colors, gaiety and well-dressed people (custom for almost every festival in India) in every part of the land the best part of this festival is the particular dance enjoyed by the young and old equally.

This dance form is called 'Dandiya' which is an Indian folk dance using two sticks and needs no formal training. It's the fun and enthusiasm in a form that brings out the steps innately! The only thing required is the spirit of the dance.

The form is actually a heavenly one, why I say so is because of the links with Lord Krishna, a charmer himself with his special dancing skills, which is called the 'Raas' (in simple words - his 'style of wooing the damsel'!) Everybody glitters in their traditional 'raas' attires with a 'pump-it-up' attitude and an ebullient aura.

An amazingly interesting and hypnotic dance form enjoyed by people of India and now coming to Illinois Tech, for one and all.

The event is being organized by the IIT- Indian Student Association at Hotel

Mariott, Chicago Downtown this Thursday, the 21st of October as a mark to celebrating the festive month with much hoopla and energy. The event ticket itself portrays the beauty of this event and the ethnicity that Indian culture offers.

The ticket sales are on and there are about 300 to go, available with OSL for 15\$ and 20\$ (non-IIT, one per student). This includes a grand buffet dinner at the hotel. Believe me, you cannot miss 'The Event of the Year', which is bigger and grander than last year! Register at tinyurl.com/iitdandiya2011. Hope to see you there!

## Chicago Ideas Week fuels innovation, creativity, competition

## By Utsav Gandhi

**CAMPUS EDITOR** 

Despite a typically wet, cold, windy Chicago morning, many roads let to the Idea Shop on Thursday, 13th October, 2011 for the IPRO Initiative with Chicago Ideas Week titled "Feuling Innovation." It included an open house with IPRO exhibits, rapid prototyping lab tours, and a talk by Jeremy Harris from IIT's Institute of Design. There was a lunch mixer with representatives from local companies and then formal IPRO presentations from the five participating teams, which provided great insight for students looking forward to join IPROs in the upcoming semester. The student speaker was Edward Suda, (Architecture, 2009) and Co-founder, eMotion, where he detailed the role of the Idea Shop in enabling his new venture. The Keynote speaker was Mead C. Killon, (Math, 1970) CTO, Etymotic Research. Other distinguished speakers included Jeanne Arens, Associate Vice President for External Affairs and Mike Gosz, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, along with Matt Blakely, Director of Motorola Solutions Foundation. The importance of innovation was highlighted multiple times during the day, with a focus on designing, learning, brainstorming, prototyping, experiencing, experimenting and storytelling.

A synopsis of the five teams who presented (source: the individual description statements):

311: Polar Power

Sponsor: McGill Arctic Research Station, Axel Helberg Island, Canadian High Arctic and the Canadian Space Agency

Faculty: Blake Davis (INTM) (davisbl@iit.edu)

The McGill Arctic Research Station is located at 79-degrees north latitude. Power here is provided using solar panels which take advantage of the many hours of sunlight. During the winter, data from the site is transmitted via satellite to researchers at McGill University in Montreal by the Canadian Space Agency; however, the sunlight is inadequate during the middle of the winter to power the satellite transmitter/receiver at the station, and data transmission ceases for several months. The IPRO team will be working to design a wind turbine generating system to power this satellite transmitter during the winter months when the solar power system becomes inoperative.

335: Redesigning the Primary Educational Experience in Haiti through (One Laptop per Child OLPC)

Sponsor: Haiti Ministry of Education Faculty: Laura Hosman (SOCSCI) (lhosman@iit.edu)

Description: The Haiti Ministry of Education is deploying 10,000 laptops to pupils from grades 2 to 5 (or 6) in about 40 schools located in 4 regions of Haiti, in this first phase of the project. This laptop project is, in fact, part of a larger, nationwide program to modernize and improve the quality of primary level education across the country. The Ministry

of Education in Haiti has been partnering with the IPRO program in order to help address these challenges.

362: M.O.R.E. (Mobile Operating Room Engineering) Life

Faculty: Linda Pulik (Institute of Design) (pulik@id.iit.edu) and Monica Chadha (ARCH)

M.O.R.E life (IPRO 362) is to be able to design a cost-effective mobile operating room that can be easily deployed and transported into disaster relief situations in order to provide a sterile and sanitary surgical environment for the victims of these. Excellent progress has been made in the Spring 2011 semester, which will make building on this work easier for future sections. The current class intends to do at least one round of prototype testing with the assistance of a collaborator in Uganda, where everyday conditions in medical environments mimic disaster relief conditions more closely than in Chicago.

361: Lego Art & Virtual Gallery: Exploring Creativity & Self Expression for Urban Youth Development

Faculty: Jim Braband (SSB) (braband@iit.edu)

As a result of the significant reductions in funding for music and arts programs in the Chicago area, inner-city children have fewer resources available to them to channel their creativity in a positive manner and be recognized for their achievements. The proposed Lego Art Program would use

outside funding and volunteers to introduce a new, emerging art form using Lego bricks which would be incorporated in afterschool and summer programs and promoted through a virtual gallery. This program aims to provide a positive outlet for a child's energy, offer a unique form of self-expression and encourage recognition of individual achievement that is often missing.

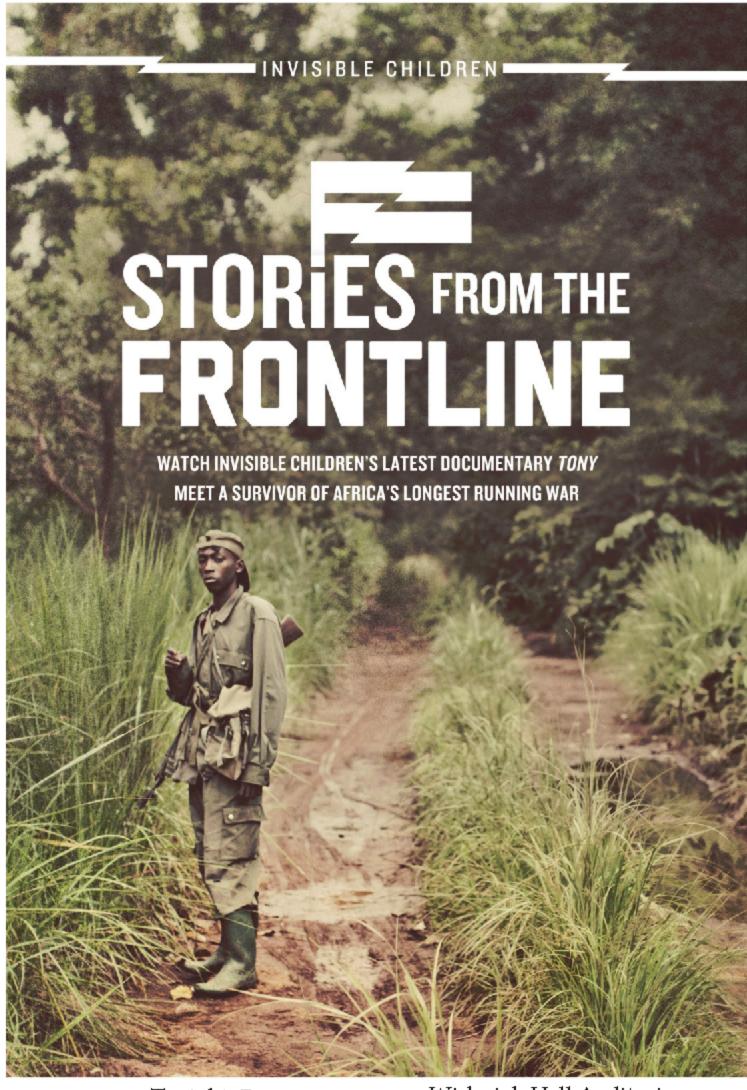
365: Simply Park: Innovating Solutions to Enhance the Driver

Faculty: Blake Davis (INTM) (davisbl@iit.edu)

Description:

Parking garages are congested, confusing, inefficient and expensive. It is difficult or impossible to differentiate one garage from every other parking garage. Since everyone pays the same amount, space is used inefficiently. Parking operators haven't had the incentive to take advantage of the latest telecommunications improvements to offer customers things like reserved parking. Lack of technological improvements have prevented different business models from being applied to garages to create a better customer experience and improved profitability. Simply Park is a set of technological improvements which increase the throughput in existing parking garages, create customer loyalty and brand identification, provide better utilization of the garages, and allow operators to develop pricing schemes to satisfy the financial and convenience needs of their customers.





WHEN: Tonight, 7 p.m. Wishnick Hall Auditorium