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TUESDAY

February 7, 2012
Volume 172 | Issue 3

technewsiit.com

TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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C²ST, WISER present 'Sustainable Energy' lecture on new, attainable resources

By Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C²ST) in association with Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research (WISER) at IIT hosted a mind-boggling lecture on "Sustainable Energy: Fact or Fiction".

Researchers, technologists, and students gathered at the Illinois Institute of Technology's McCloska Auditorium in the MTCC to discuss best practices, new technologies, and ideas that are making "Sustainable Energy" a reality.

The lecture was presented by George W. Crabtree, Senior Scientist and Distinguished Fellow in the Materials Science Division at Argonne National Laboratory, and Distinguished Professor of Physics, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering at University of Illinois at Chicago.

The lecture started with current challenges to sustainable energy, i.e., oil, economy, and carbon dioxide. Explaining the real meaning of sustainability; various alternatives and roadblocks of sustainable energy formed the epicenter of lecture. The dependence on oil and other fossil fuels for over 80% of our energy and the continued emission of carbon dioxide threatening our stable climate are captured in a single term: sustainability.

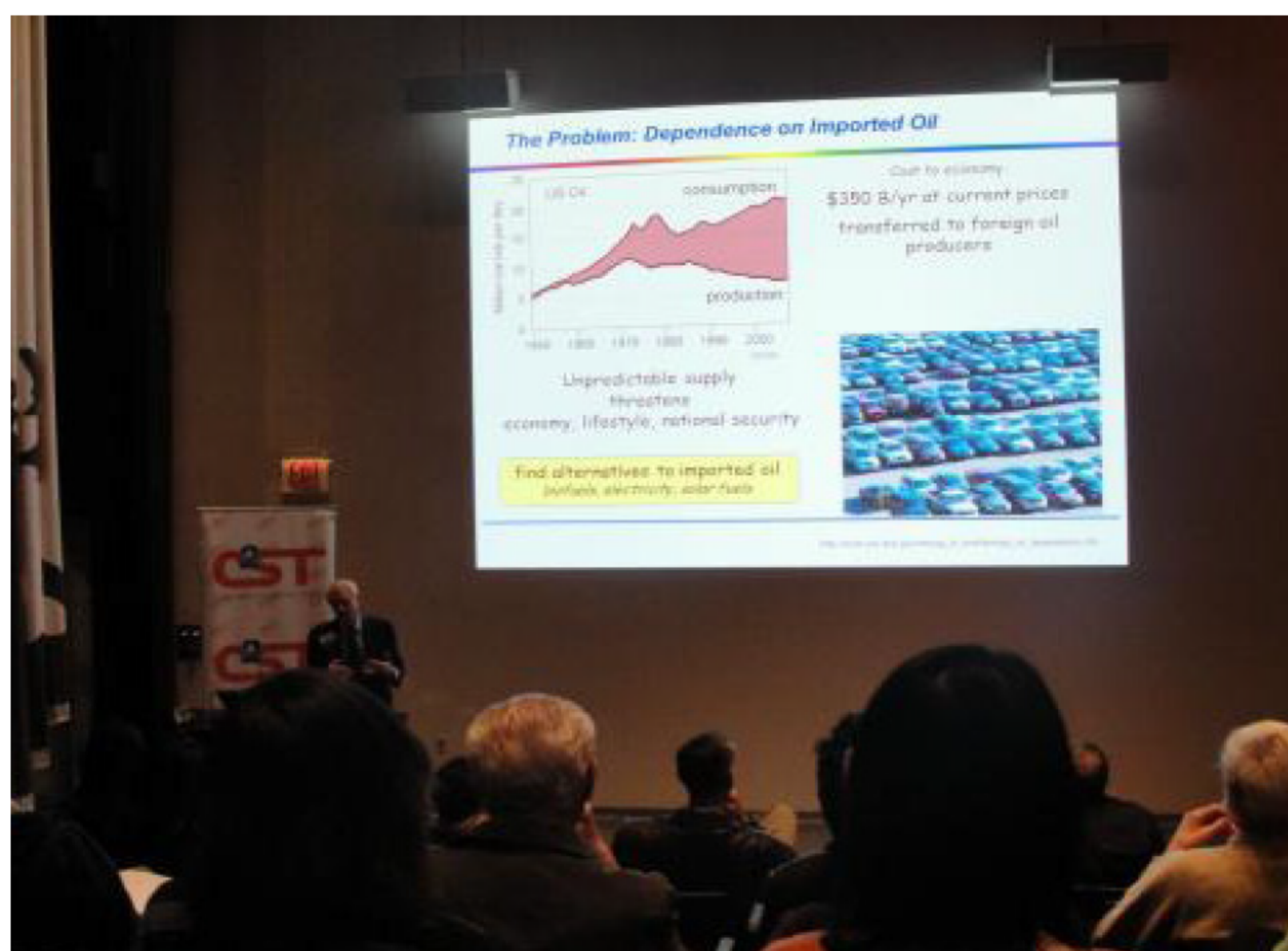
Although we generally agree that sustainability is valuable, there is less agreement on how much sustainability is necessary or desirable. In this talk, three criteria describing increasingly strict features of sustainability were presented and applied to evaluate the alternatives to oil and carbon dioxide emission.

These included tapping unused energy flows in sunlight and wind, producing electricity without carbon emissions from clean coal and high efficiency nuclear power plants, and replacing oil with bio-fuel or electricity.

The implementation of these sustainable alternatives will require new cost effective nanoscale materials. The successful development of such materials will have a marked impact on the production of energy in a sustainable and environmentally benign fashion.

Dr. Crabtree emphasized educating the next generation for energy literacy. This includes scientists and engineers, regulators, government officials, businessmen, urban planners and finally, private citizens, who are the ultimate decision makers. Extensive research is required for the development of more sustainable technologies in the form of materials of greater complexity and functionality.

There should be a unified view which incorporates renewable energy, fossil fuels, nuclear science, electricity, transportation, economics, sociology, policy and urban planning. Finally, the lecture concluded with exchange of ideas between Dr. Crabtree and researchers.



Photos by Swasti Khuntia & Karthik Kumar

The Bog

Campus bar extends hours to create new commuter student lounge

By Elnaz Moshfeghian
SGA PRESIDENT

Starting Thursday February 9th, The Bog will open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday as a commuter lounge in addition to its regular Thursday to Friday 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. schedule.

Commuter student needs were the primary motivation for this initiative but all students are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of these new hours.

The idea to use The Bog as a lounge originated from an SGA VoteBox post and is one of ten completed VoteBox projects since the site launched last semester.

Undergraduate student, Piyush Sinha was the author of the post that sparked this idea.

"There aren't too many places on campus where you can relax until your next class," said Sinha. "Why not turn The Bog into a lounge for students during the week days? It has everything you would need."

Campus and Conference Centers (CCC) Director Kelly Schaefer noticed the post on VoteBox and responded enthusiastically to the suggestion.

Director Schaefer outlined the next steps and reached out to the Student Government Association (SGA) to gauge the broader student interest and begin implementation with the help of the rest of the CCC team.

The Bog is now set to begin its lounge hours on February 9 with a grand opening celebration scheduled on Monday February 23. Amenities of the lounge will include a refrigerator and microwave for public use, in addition to lockers available for rent. Furthermore, student organizations can use the Bog Programming Fund to host events during these new hours. Student organizations can contact Vince Poczekaj, Union Board's Vice President of The Bog, at ubBOGvp@gmail.com for more information.

As with the current Bog hours, pool, ping-pong, video games, and other items available at the recreation desk are free. The exception is that during the 11a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday "lounge hours," the bar and kitchen area, as well as the bowling lanes, will be unavailable.



Image courtesy of The Bog