

# TEDxIIT gaining momentum

By Harshita Iyer

TECHNEWS WRITER

Many of you have probably heard of TED - Technology, Entertainment and Design. For those of you who have not, TED is an international organization with speakers from all over the world who speak on various topics. The goal of TED is talking about "ideas worth spreading". TED speakers talk about topics ranging from science, to engineering, design, leadership and a variety of other things. The first TED event at IIT was organized last spring at the Kent Auditorium with the apt theme of "Breaking Through" by TEDxIIT, the IIT student organization with a special license from TED. This spring, the theme, building upon last year's, is going to be "Gaining Momentum".

At the first TEDxIIT meeting on last Friday, and as expected, there was a lot of excitement. Amy Lee Segami an IIT alumna and former TEDxPeachtree speaker was present for the meeting. Students participated in a number of brainstorming activities, one of which was to write down words representing the vision for the next TEDxIIT event.

Among the most resounding were inspiring, global, huge and connecting. Judging by the kind of vision that was seen at the meeting, it is safe to say that the TEDxIIT event is going to be a huge success when it happens

on April 14th, 2012.

The event is planned to last all day at the IIT Tower, with seating for 100 people, according to TED regulations. Entry will be free of cost to IIT students, but those interested in attending will have to submit why they want to attend the talk.

Only those with solid reasons will get to gain entry, since this is organized to be a high profile event with eminent speakers flying in for the day. The event will also be streamed live globally, so everyone can still watch the magic on their laptops. This may not be as cool as actually being there, but it certainly is not a bad bargain!

A few weeks prior to the talks, there will be small events at the Bog to get the student body excited for the full event, so if you are interested, watch out for those! Everyone should apply to go, because not only will this be a fantastic learning experience, but it is also going to be a great networking event with important people from IIT as well as the community attending. So watch out for the application when it opens, and maybe you will get to go! If you want to get more involved with the organization aspect of TEDxIIT, watch out for timing announcements on IIT Today, and on Facebook.

It is an honor to have a TED event here on campus, and a fantastic chance to watch some of the best speakers around in action!



Photos by Harshita Iyer

## State of the Union Board Address

By Harshita Iyer

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As the group of people attending the Union Board General Body meeting walked down the stairs to the MTCC Auditorium that relatively warm Tuesday afternoon, one could feel it in the air that something was different. Everything seemed the same, there was great food, but then Union Board always has great food and the presentation was set and ready to go, as always. But this was different. This was, in fact, the meeting where the President, Miriam Schmid, was to deliver the very special "State of the Union Board Address".

Much like the actual State of the Union Address, this is the meeting where the President delivers a speech about everything that Union Board has achieved so far. At the meeting, the current Executive Board was introduced and their roles explained for the benefit of anyone who might want to apply for a position, since applications are open. The various programmers were introduced as well, and given cool tees that said UB in the front and "Programmer" in the back.

This semester, most of the Union Board general body meetings will be held on the Bridge in the MTCC, so if you have class around lunch time on Tuesdays, you should check them out! They even have the Scarlet Fever department doing some crazy stunts for your enjoyment! Some of the big Union Board events this semester include Spring Formal, musicals almost every Thursday evening, a game of assassins on campus, and a pillow fight among many others. So you should look out for these and mark your calendars!

If you are interested in finding out about events by Union Board on campus, just look at the UB calendar at their website, at ub.iit.edu. If you want to get more involved or just do not want to go on the website, just stop by a general body meeting Tuesdays at lunchtime on the bridge at MTCC and find out how you can help or apply for an Executive Board



Image courtesy of Union Board

## Recyclemania returns to IIT, aims for 1st place

By Brock Auerbach-Lynn

TECHNEWS WRITER

February has arrived and with it, the usual freezing cold, snow and grey skies ... wait, it's 50 degrees outside and there's no snow in sight! However, there is at least one thing we can count on with the start of February; Recyclemania.

For those new to IIT, Recyclemania is an 8 week international contest among universities to see who can recycle the most (per capita and total volume). Recyclemania starts Sunday February 05 and runs through Saturday March 31. Each week, IIT's waste and recycling hauler Waste Management will measure the overall weight of trash and recyclables collected to give a total recycling percentage. IIT's ranking among universities will be determined by our recycling percentage averaged across these 8 weeks.

IIT has been a very strong competitor in Recyclemania in years passed. 2 years ago, IIT was placed first in the state of Illinois while last year, we were second to UIUC.

Every IIT student, staff and faculty member can play a role in helping us achieve success in Recyclemania. Recycling is quick and easy, requiring only a moment of attention when you go to dispose of anything. Red and Black hawk bins with both recycling and trash compartments are located in every building on every floor across the university. Regardless of where you are, there are likely 2 recycling bins within 40 feet of you!

Recyclable material includes all papers, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, glass, plastic bottles and containers, metals and aluminum cans. Around 70% of the items disposed of on campus are recyclable - yet IIT's recycling rate continually hovers around 30%. Our goal is to achieve 45-50% recycling which would put IIT as one of the best schools in the nation! And while electronics cannot be recycled in the normal school bins, we will be having several electronic-waste collection days in March.

Recyclemania efforts are being spearheaded by student groups Engineers for a Sustainable World, Net Impact and US Green Building Council with support from the Office

of Campus Energy & Sustainability. Keep an eye out each week as they update you on how we are performing in Recyclemania as well as providing tips on items that are recyclable as well as those that aren't.

Recyclemania is a chance for IIT to prove we are a leading, progressive and environmentally conscious university and the best part is that recycling can have a massive impact. For instance, recycle911.com, a recycling-focused website shows that we use 80 billion aluminum soda cans each year, but that making cans from recycled aluminum uses 1/20th the energy compared with virgin material. Furthermore, recycling one ton of mixed paper saves the energy equivalent to using 185 gallons of gas, which is about 4 months' worth for an average American.

No matter your motivation or level of environmental consciousness, recycling makes a huge impact. So help IIT regain the Recycling Crown and make a positive environmental impact by doing your fair share. For more info on Recyclemania, check out [www.recyclemania.org](http://www.recyclemania.org).

## Students dance without music at Bog disco

By Will Syvongsa

TECHNEWS WRITER

Some IIT students have a Friday night routine. They don't want to leave campus but feel like adventuring out of their rooms so they decide to visit the Bog. For those of you that are unaware, the Bog is a bar and recreation area, equipped with pool tables, ping pong tables, and a bowling alley, as well as a bar and kitchen, conveniently located in the basement of Hermann Hall. The Bog typically has events Thursday and Friday each week from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. These events range from comedians, to musicians, to hypnotists and magicians, as well as dance parties. The Bog is something that is unique to IIT and is unheard of at other college campuses.

But I digress; back to my story. The students' Bog routine may consist of corralling friends to head down to the Bog where they will walk past the luxuries the Bog has and head to the bar area to order food or a round of drinks, where they will sit and ignore whoever is on stage and quietly complain that IIT doesn't have anything to do. Their normal routine is interrupted though. They are given a set of headphones before entering the bar area and when they enter, something is different. Students are dancing. But there is no music playing. And everyone appears to be dancing to a different beat. The Bog is having

a Headphone Disco.

Headphone Disco is described as the silent dance party. There are two DJs, two different styles of music playing at the same time without any of the loud-speaker noise. Dancers are equipped with two-channel headphones that tune into one of two DJs who are spinning tracks side by side. Two friends could be dancing to two entirely different songs and still be having a great time. This trend has been popular overseas in Europe and is slowly sweeping our nation (The DJs that night were brought from overseas).

IIT students were skeptical. The night started out slow with only ten dancers at most on the dance floor at the beginning of the night (The event started at 9:00 P.M.). The strange thing was, everyone was wearing headphones, listening to the music. Even when the dance floor started to get crowded around 10:00 P.M., individuals were still sitting down listening to the music and dancing in their seats. Those brave enough to get on the dance floor had an experience like no other.

The DJs alternated between modern music and the classics, ranging from the Party Rock Anthem to the YMCA. And if someone wasn't feeling a song, all they had to do was switch and their friends didn't have to know. Group dances, like the Wobble or the Cupid Shuffle, were popular among the crowd but for those that didn't feel like synchronized dancing

could still keep dancing to a different song. The silent dance party isn't just for the dancers either. A spectator commented that they liked the idea of a silent dance party because the dancers could enjoy themselves while he was still able to have a conversation with their friends at the bar. Spectators were also able to laugh or join in when the dancers decided to sing a song out loud (To a spectator, it appears as if the dancers are just a really out of tune choir). The party was a great way to spend a Friday night in the Bog.

This event was even noticed by students from different schools. Individuals from another Chicago university were spotted dancing and having a great time with IIT students. One student was shocked that our campus had a bowling alley and bar right on campus and said that they should come here more often. If an outsider can see the enjoyable aspects of IIT, why do IIT students have such a difficult time having fun?

The Bog recorded 144 visitors Friday night. Headphone Disco, the company who set-up the silent dance party, had 300 headphones to give away. There were at most 60 people on the dance floor. A lot of individuals were sitting with their headphones in, too afraid to take a chance of looking like a fool. But at least the 60 fools on the dance floor enjoyed their Friday night and won't regret their time at IIT. Where will you be the next time IIT has a big event?