

# AIAS annual global FORUM coming to Chicago in 2013

**By Ryan Gann**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Around 9:00pm on Sunday, October 8th, 1871 a fire started southwest of Downtown Chicago. Firefighters did everything they could to fight the blaze, but strong winds whipped the fire into an uncontrollable state, which soon engulfed the city. Tuesday morning, October 10, some much needed rain helped to stop the blaze, but unfortunately, the fire had destroyed over 18,000 buildings and left a third of the city's population homeless.

Fast-forward 142 years and 81 days to December 28th, 2013. Thousands of students will arrive in the great city of Chicago for FORUM 2013, expecting a week of excitement and opportunity - a week they will not soon forget. FORUM 2013 will be a chance for every member of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) to explore the

world of architecture in Chicago.

The city's architectural heritage is considered to be among the finest in the world. Arguably the birthplace of the modern skyscraper, Chicago has been surpassing its limits ever since its destruction in 1871.

FORUM is the annual meeting of AIAS and the premier global gathering of architecture and design students. Each year, FORUM hosts over 1000 students from around the country and around the world (Puerto Rico, Canada, and Dubai).

The conference provides students with opportunities to learn about important issues facing architectural education and the profession, to meet students, educators and professionals with common interest, and to interact with some of today's leading architects through keynote addresses, tours, workshops, and seminars.

Every year, FORUM is held over the New Year holiday, hosted by chapters from

around North America that have been voted upon two years in advance.

iitAIAS bid to host this conference this past year at FORUM 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona. Through a bid packet, presentation, and advertising material, the Council of Presidents voted upon Chicago as the location for FORUM 2013! This will bring vibrancy to not only the organization but to the College of Architecture and University. This conference will bring emerging professionals and relevant discussions to IIT's campus and the city of Chicago. As architects fight to define the importance of architecture in the urbanized environment, AIAS works to define the involvement of students in this change.

Daniel H. Burnham once said, "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that noble, local diagram once recorded will not die."

## Career fair (continued from page 1)

chance to get a position.

4) What advice would you give to students before they come to the career fair? How can they prepare themselves?

Shirlean also encourages the students who are not seeking a job or an internship to attend the career fair. She feels that it is a great opportunity to network and also gives you an exposure towards what employers are seeking in their potential candidates. She jocularly mentions that a lot of companies give out freebies, which is another incentive.

The Career Management Center has done a commendable job by bringing these opportunities to IIT students. There are jobs for every major, from engineering to humanities. We, as students, can do our part by attending the career fair. A good turnout would encourage the companies to come back and hire more of our students in the coming year

If you are interested in helping with the planning process please email [aias@iit.edu](mailto:aias@iit.edu). Be sure to check out our blog for continued updates and information, [iitaias.wordpress.com](http://iitaias.wordpress.com)

## IIT students design new exhibition space at Farnsworth House

**By Utsav Gandhi**  
CAMPUS EDITOR

On September 14, 2008, rain poured down on the Fox River valley in Plano, IL, causing the river to spill its banks and flood Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House. The flood damaged the house and the furniture within, specifically a large wardrobe that was added to the house at the request of Mies' client, Edith Farnsworth. Unlike the other, smaller pieces of furniture in the house, the 12 foot by 6 foot by 2 foot wardrobe is too large to be removed from the house in case of another flood.

With the existing visitor center not able to accommodate this large piece of furniture, a need exists for additional exhibition space

to temporarily display this historic piece of furniture until a mitigation plan can be implemented which offers permanent protection for the house and its contents.

To solve this problem, Whitney French, director of the Farnsworth House, sought the help of a design-build professor at Mies' own Illinois Institute of Technology. Professor Frank Flury has led many successful design-build studios at IIT, including the recent AIA award-winning Field Chapel in Boedigheim, Germany.

Professor Flury presented the project to his students, and over the past two semesters the team has designed an adaptable exhibition space that addresses the Farnsworth House's need to display the wardrobe and can also be used for events, such as lectures and exhibitions. Early concepts for the design were rectilinear

and simple, drawing on the Farnsworth House for inspiration.

After many iterations, critiques from their professor, and advice from practicing architects and engineers, the team decided it would be more appropriate to design in the local vernacular, something more similar to the farm buildings that are scattered over the landscape.

Since the new exhibition space is situated about a half-mile from the Farnsworth House, adjacent to the visitor center and visible from the road, a farm building seemed appropriate. Another problem the design team looked to solve was how to provide handicap accessibility to the Farnsworth House. In the end, the studio designed a contemporary round barn with a new gently sloping path circling the "Barnsworth" on its way to the Farnsworth House.

The design is simple and compact; the round floor plan creates a natural exhibition space. The interior walls are segmented while the exterior walls feature vertical board and batten siding to create a continuous curve. The walls are free from openings, providing extensive display space while a simple and elegant lantern sits atop the space to allow the penetration of natural light.

Permit drawings have been submitted for review and now the team is seeking in-kind donations of construction material and equipment, as well as monetary donations. For the monetary donations the Barnsworth Studio has also set up a kickstarter page: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/barnsworthstudio/barnsworth-exhibition-center>

## Applied Math Colloquium analyzes social lives of zebras

**By Swasti Khuntia**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Applied Math Department at IIT hosted an interesting colloquium, "Computational Insights into the Social Life of Zebras (and other animals)".

The lecture was presented by Dr. Tanya Berger-Wolf, Associate Professor, Laboratory for Computational Population Biology

in the Department of Computer Science at University of Illinois, Chicago. In this invited talk, she showed how computational approaches can be part of every stage of the collection of photographs, thus designing a novel computational framework for analysis of dynamic social networks.

The lecture started with the basic concept of Dynamic Networks: How do diseases/information spread through individuals' interactions?, How do they emerge? How do

structures (communities) change with outside circumstances? She emphasized on the need to change the way we study nature.

Recent technology, sensors, images and genotyping are giving biologists access to data about social interactions, which are orders of magnitude richer than any previously collected. Such data offers the promise of answering some of the big questions in population biology: Why do animals form individuals as leaders and to what degree do they control the behavior

of others? Unfortunately, in this domain, our ability to analyze data lags substantially behind our ability to collect techniques used in their research.

The various research projects undertaken by her students in the US as well as abroad (in Africa) was a subject of interest in her talk.

How the method affects the life of the zebra was very well explained in due course of the talk. Dr. Tanya insisted that computational methods must be concurrent.

## SGA VoteBox: Keeping track of trending topics, updates

**By Kelly Lohr**  
SGA VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

Building upon the tremendous initial response, VoteBox, the online suggestion toolbox launched last semester by the IIT Student Government Association (SGA) continues to receive a high level of traffic. It is slowly, but surely, cementing a method for students to directly convey the changes they wish to see on campus.

With the SGA executive board closely monitoring the popular suggestions and following up by contacting the associated departments, never before has student voice made such a strong impact on literally all levels of administration. As was announced by SGA President Elnaz Moshfeghian in a previous TechNews issue, VoteBox achieved its first major victory recently—a simple suggestion to convert The BOG to a commuter lounge during the day is now a reality, with a grand opening ceremony planned on the 23rd of this month.

SGA Communications Committee hopes to make an effort to highlight some of the most popular trending topics on VoteBox every week in a bid to encourage more student voting and input—after all, these changes are for the benefit

of the students more than anyone else.

Student Nathan Howard shared the following idea in late October 2011 and it has now been given a "completed" tag by Elnaz, with an indication that the associated administration has been contacted.

He suggested getting "spot lights on Seigel Field – it is used by most of the athletic clubs on campus, including Ultimate, Soccer, and Greek Football, but there are no lights to allow playing at night." To this, Elnaz responds, "There are plans to turf Stuart Field, which already has lights, so it can be used for intramurals as well as varsity sports. We've heard to expect the turf in Fall 2012 but we'll keep you updated." Keep reading TechNews for more updates!

Another popular suggestion, garnering 25 votes, was to make it easier for IIT students to come in as guests into dorms. The suggestion was to install a dual scan system where the resident scans their card first (with the CDA then hitting a "Guest" button on his computer) and then the guest proceeds to scan their ID. This would allow the computer to register them as a guest and also check them out on their way out. This eliminates the current procedure of entering in information and getting a photo taken.

Gokul Butail, VP of Student Life, labeled the project as "Planned" and said that "the new software on the front desks of various dorms is not working as it is supposed to be. It is designed to store pictures of the guest accompanying the resident. As soon as the software gets fixed, guests wouldn't have to get their pictures clicked again and again." But the practice of getting the photograph taken is in the interest of security and hence will not be discontinued completely.

Another anonymous user suggested that the university establish a 72-hour email response policy. This would make it a requirement for professors, departments, and offices to respond to emails from students within 72 hours. The SGA believes this is a fantastic suggestion and urges the student body to vote for this suggestion—after all, is there anything more exasperating than endlessly expecting a reply to a super important email, only to receive it too late or, worse, never? To vote for this suggestion, go to [sga.uservoice.com](http://sga.uservoice.com) and type "Establish a 72 hour email response policy" in the search box in the right hand corner. Once enough votes are received, they promise to pursue this matter further!

An anonymous user posted in early November of last year, "Make the campus more

pedestrian friendly - simply enforce the rule that the cars must stop for pedestrians crossing State Street." Accompanying suggestions included installation of flashing lights, a sign saying "motorists must stop when flashing" and the declaration of the campus as a speed trap (with the help of the CPD) so that motorists have to slow down out of fear of being ticketed. Elnaz responded with a photograph, which accompanies this article. It shows a sign you may have seen while walking around the campus yourself.

Finally, a suggestion was shared by Dorian Karter, an SGA senator for the College of Sciences and Letters who is responsible for setting up VoteBox, to establish AirPrinting in order to allow printing from the iPad. He believes that the challenges associated with this could include installing a printer in each building or making the existing printers visible as AirPrinters. The iPad, however, would be needed to be connected to MyIIT in order to deduct money from the printing credit account. Vote for this suggestion if you think the OTS should take up the project!

*Keep reading TechNews for more updates and go online to vote/suggest changes that YOU want to see! Remember, it is [sga.uservoice.com](http://sga.uservoice.com) and any/all suggestions are welcome!*