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TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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Sustainability forum covers alternative transportation

By Elizabeth Mauban &
Brock Auerbach-Lynn
TECHNEWS WRITERS

The monthly Sustainability Forum, hosted by the Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability on Friday, February 24, provided an interesting perspective of future models for sustainable transportation.

Said Al-Hallaj, co-founder and Chairman, AllCell Technologies, presented options for a model of transportation based on cleaner personal vehicle transport. Even though the United States currently has a lower dependence on foreign oil than in the past, gas consumption is rising and prices continue to fluctuate, generally moving higher. As oil is a finite resource, this is troubling for our future.

To ease this "oil addiction," we need to explore a wide variety of alternatively-fueled vehicles. Fully electric vehicles or those using a combination of gasoline and a rechargeable battery are commercially available and the purchase of those vehicles is on the rise. Even cars earlier considered "micro-hybrids" which shut off when the car is stopped, can reduce oil consumption by 5-8%. Small vehicles, such as scooters, can be used for shorter trips which do not require a full-sized vehicle.

As an expert on fuel cells, Al-Hallaj discussed a project he worked on in Jordan utilizing solar energy to put less stress on the power grid. While it worked well in that environment, it is not an easily commercialized concept—especially in locations with less sun.

On the other side of the debate, John Lankford, coordinator of the Neighborhood Bikeways Campaign at Active Transportation Alliance, suggested that we invest in a future less dependent on cars by using alternative transportation, biking and walking. However, we must design our cities accordingly so that these activities are easy and affordable. We can start by making streets which are less devoted to cars and more focused on pedestrians and bikers. A study done in Portland showed that 60% of people would rather use their bikes than drive if it was safer and easier to do so.

Chicago has, in the past, implemented protected bike lanes (those that are curbside, with a buffer of road markings/poles and parking separating them from traffic) and buffered bike lanes (those separated by signage between traffic and curbside parking). Another idea is to use neighborhood greenways—residential streets having markings, signage, and traffic-calming tactics that make car traffic unable to pass through every street and easier for residents of the area to simply bike from place to place. The idea is to make a safe corridor for bikes to cross.

Striking a balance between these two models is probably the best option going forward. In situations when one absolutely requires a car, such as for moving or traveling long distances, Lankford suggested that we use electric vehicles. While integrating cleaner cars is certainly a good start, we must begin building infrastructure which reduces our need for cars and price correctly in order to inspire a change in people's mode of transportation.

The next sustainability forum will be held Friday, March 30, 2012. The topic will be the water-energy-food nexus. For more information, please email campussustainability@iit.edu and keep reading TechNews!



Photos by Christina Noonan

SGA Votebox: motorcycle parking, Reading Week

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

The Illinois Tech Student Government Association (SGA) would like to thank the TechNews readers for responding to last week's article, "SGA VoteBox: Keeping track of trending topics, updates," and for continuing to provide some excellent input regarding projects you think the SGA should take up! VoteBox (sga.uservoice.com) continues to receive a high level of traffic and a lot of excellent suggestions made it onto the radar of the executive board, as well as the concerned IIT administration. This is an excellent example of student input directly bringing out campus-wide administrative and policy changes, for the betterment of the student body itself.

In late October of last year, Nick Pangere suggested the following: "I want motorcycle-only parking spaces in the main lot. Then motorcyclists won't take up a whole space

in the lot. There is a huge diagonal line area by the L stop that is perfect, but when I park there I get an "invalid space" type parking warning. Just spray-paint a little motorcycle there, stop ticketing us, and both commuters and bikers will be happy!" An entirely valid point there, the SGA believes—which is why three votes were all that was needed to invoke a response from the SGA President, Elnaz Moshfeghian. She announced the great news: "The Parking Office will be putting a couple of motorcycle spots in lots D1, D2, and A3 come April (once the weather is nicer!)"

A hugely popular suggestion was the introduction of a "Reading Week" on campus. This would be a week off prior to finals for the purpose of studying or completing final projects. How awesome does that sound?! Students often complain that the crucial moments of the penultimate week are spent completing homework assignments or turning in projects. Eyoel Asfaw, VP of Academic Affairs, responded: "The IIT academic calendar is set 4 years in

advance, so before a change like this can be made, many factors have to be taken into consideration. In order to have a week of no classes before finals, it would either require moving the start/end date of classes, or removing some vacation days from the semester. Some suggestions to think about are having a reading period which would be one or two days before finals, making it easier to accommodate. It's also possible to request professors not to assign work during the last week of class. We are meeting with the registrar to discuss these ideas and will let you know as the conversation progresses. Until then, let us know what your thoughts are and if you have any alternative ideas." As he said, any and all suggestions are welcome!

The SGA wishes to highlight the following two suggestions, as they are especially worthy of being followed up and will surely provoke more input. The first is an idea shared by Anthony Sulli, which has received 33 votes in a matter of just two days. He suggested, "Al-

low Greek's student IDs to scan in MSV and SSV as guests without sign in process." If you are Greek yourself or are a resident in the halls with Greek friends, you will likely echo his suggestion. Get online to vote! This would be a matter which can be possibly followed up with Housing, the Greek community and Access (Hawcard) Services, so just a few more votes will set this rolling.

Katie Peters suggested, "Change the MyIIT Portal pictures. The pictures currently on the portal are of students or professors most people do not recognize. Instead, the pictures should be changed to recognizable pictures of the school, featuring events or places that make our school quirky and unique." Agree with Katie? We certainly do!

Any of the issues highlighted above can be found easily on the VoteBox website. Visit sga.uservoice.com and type the keywords of the issue you wish to provide input on in the Search box on the main page.

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SUBMISSIONS

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Ethiopian Expedition:

Getting there is half the battle

By Sebastian Morales Prado
TECHNEWS WRITER

After what has definitely been the longest and most stressful trip in my short but very appreciated life, I finally find myself in the crib of human existence. Where the time is weird, the calendar is weird, the language is weirder, and for the first time, there is not a trace of Mexican culture anywhere I look: Mother Ethiopia!

But first, let's go a back in time, just enough to see myself missing my plane in that beautiful city with horrible weather; London. If there was any doubt that I was about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime, it was destroyed when I realized I had just under three hours to change airports and make my connection flight to Egypt. All hope to make the connection disappeared with my luggage, and when the luggage finally appeared, that three hour connection had transformed into an hour-and-a-half-long sign of desperation. Luckily for me, a Dutch woman was in the same - and with 'same' I mean similar - but much better situation. We decided to share a taxi to our connection airport and subsequently save 49 pounds.

Remember the movie "Snatch" and their description of London? "London. You know: fish, chips, cup 'o tea, bad food, worse weather, Mary Poppins. LONDON." Well, they forgot to mention the really annoying traffic when you are in a hurry trying to reach Heathrow airport from Gatwick airport to catch

your flight to Cairo.

Upon arriving at Heathrow, I heard the announcement, "next plane leaves at two," which meant I had a couple of hours to relax. And by relax, I mean stress out and make sure I got a seat in that plane. Hours passed, and the only seat it seemed I would be sitting on was my luggage. Managers spoke to managers, who then spoke to more managers. My hopes of getting to Ethiopia on time were still high, but only in the sense that I have high hopes that one morning I will wake up understanding every language.

"Give us 75£ and we'll get you in the next flight," might not sound like a great deal, but considering that they were asking for almost one eye (in pounds), I found myself running through the airport trying to change all my dollars into pounds just to get onto the plane that would let me see the Great Pyramids from the sky. With empty pockets, but a full smile, I was now running towards gate E-40, which obviously happened to be the last one in the terminal.

Without wondering too much about how the people helping me at the airline's desk had teleported to the gate, I decided to make myself comfortable in my new seat on the airplane, sleep, and maybe wake up for dinner. And what a dinner! Just when I was convinced that no one could make carrot cake like my mother, they put a layer of white chocolate on top. Barriga llena, corazón contento (full stomach, happy heart)... and back to sleep.

I awoke as whispers turned into mumbles,

which then turned into shouts of excitement. Through the window, right under our wing, shining on top of what appeared to be an infinitely dark sea of oil, we saw the Great Pyramids of Giza!

More than 36 hours had passed since I was first riding on the Blue Line to O'Hare. My coat was now gone, but my excitement was still very present. I was finally in Addis Ababa, except for the 20 dollars that kept me locked away from freedom. I needed to get my visa, and with the ATM not working, I couldn't get it. Lucky for me, the money exchange in the airport was still open. But, my story couldn't finish so easily: after converting all the currency that I managed to dig out of my pockets and harassing my fellow passengers, I ended up getting only 17 dollars, 13 birr and 100 pesos. Thank God this is Africa, though. I was able to skip immigration, go out of the airport, meet my dear friend Eyu, get some extra cash from home, go back into the airport, pay my fees, get a my visa sticker on my passport, and finally walk out of the airport with my luggage. I felt, as I imagine an ex-prisoner would, finally walking out of the gates of hell towards a new life of freedom and wealth. Well, maybe I exaggerated a bit with that last description, but I hope to never find out (unless of course for some reason I end up in prison).

This is the first of three installments covering Sebastian's summer trip to Ethiopia. Do you have something similar to share or an opinion to declare? Email opinion@technewsiit.com for more information.

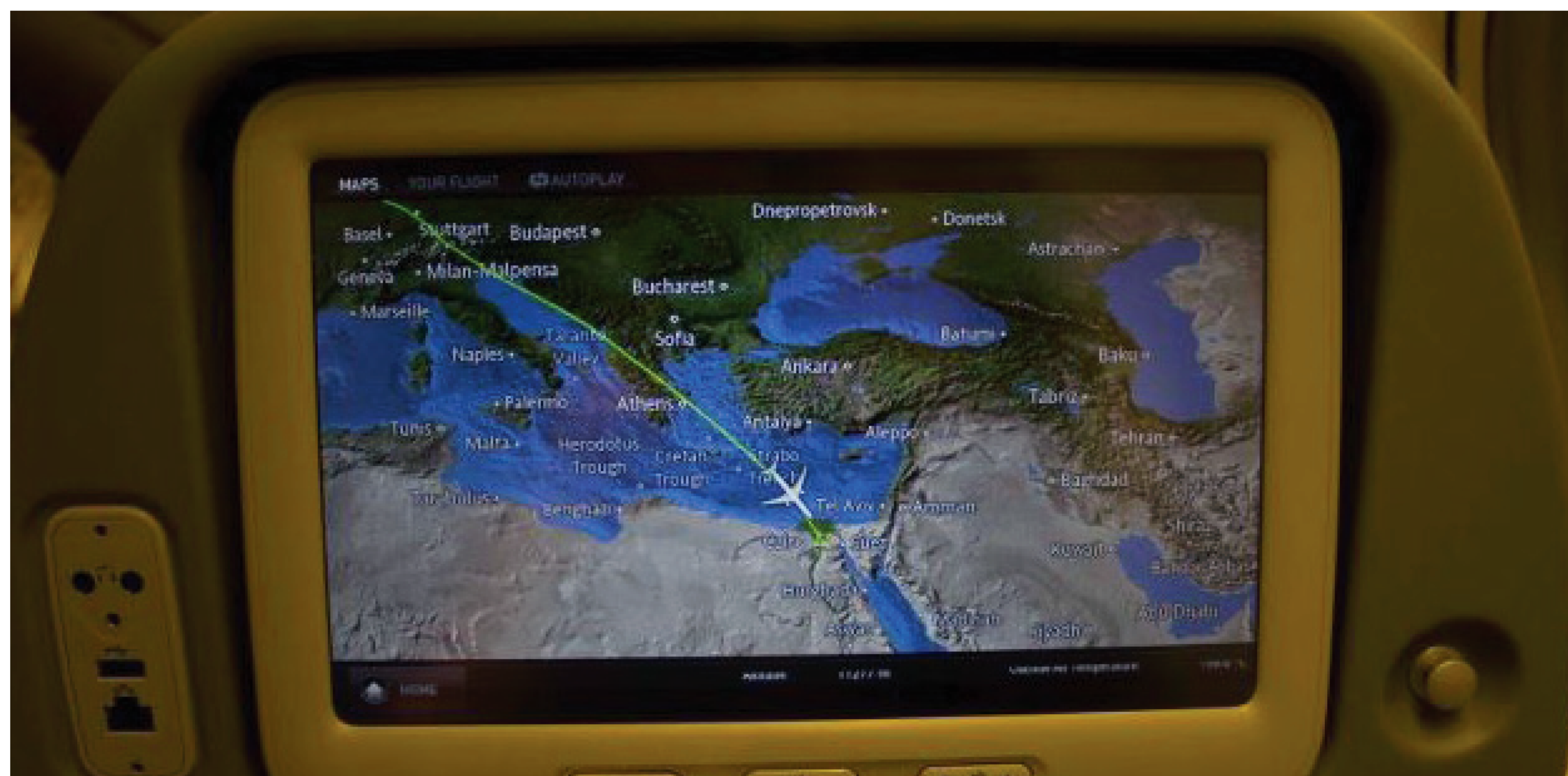


Photo by Sebastian Morales Prado

Informal, proper use of language, punctuation changing

By Chris Roberts
COPY & LAYOUT EDITOR

I came across a comment a few days ago which has left me troubled: "Email in my opinion is not electronic mail, despite its etymology; it is just that: email." Statements like that make me question why I bothered to become literate.

First off, there is the missing hyphen in "email," but I will get to that later.

Secondly, how could someone have the fluency in English needed to construct that sentence while at the same time specifically believe that "email" has no relation to what it actually is?

If "email" is not electronic mail, can anyone tell me what it is?

The more significant issue here is the popularity of spelling e-mail as "email." Try to pronounce "email" as it is written here. Personally, I end up with something that sounds like "em-ale."

Incidentally, did you notice the hyphen that I used there, to convey that the two parts are intended to be pronounced individually? Written language has mechanics which convey to readers how the text is supposed to be interpreted, since the author is

not present to clarify what was or was not meant.

Some people object to such precision use of language with the fact that language usage changes over time, as though that, in and of itself, counters any criticism that could ever be made.

Despite how pedantic this article may come across as, this is not an objection to two words being fused into one word. For starters, "e" is not a word; it is a representation of the word "electronic" that has been shortened through the use of a hyphen. If people want to make e-mail one hyphenless word, it would be electronicmail. This is about acknowledging that written language has mechanics for a reason.

Commas differ from semi-colons; exclamation points are not the same as periods—although, judging from some Internet posts, maybe that idea has not gotten around yet.

I would not be so bothered by this informal alteration/misuse of a term if said misuse was not being considered correct. People frequently misspell words, but no one concludes that since an error is happening often that the error must be correct.

However, as you will see in this publication, "email" is used constantly. This is not because copy editors are slacking on the job. It is because the stylebook of the Associated

Press, adhered to be nearly all newspapers, changed its formal standards to accommodate spelling e-mail as "email." This change is not because electronic mail somehow mutated between printings of the stylebook. It is because of the sheer, overwhelming use of "email" in online writing. There have been pages calling for the stylebook to change its logical and fully justified use of e-mail in favor "email," what is essentially a popular typo in my opinion, "like a normal person."

This sort of argument never happens in other intellectual systems. Math professors do not read errors in equations and change textbooks to redefine the errors as formal proofs because they are close enough.

At what point did formal use of language, much less a single keystroke, become such an intolerable mental hurdle that the very meaning of a term can be completely disregarded?

Until humans develop telepathy, can we at least humor the idea that language needs consistent rules and mechanics in order to be used effectively, especially in an increasingly diverse society in which common ground, unspoken cues, and other informal tools cannot be relied upon?

Then again, maybe it's just me...

Active Minds presents 'Heard Speaker: An Open Conversation'

By Elyse Doll & Kyle Panchar
TECHNEWS WRITERS

When you hear the words "Mental Disorder", what comes to your mind? When you hear that someone has a mental illness, how do you view them?

Unfortunately, our society paints a negative image about people who suffer from mental illnesses. However, there is a movement to fight against these stereotypes and prove that being diagnosed with a mental illness does not mean that you are or should be considered any less of a person.

Today's reality of the world suggests that discussions on mental illness are strongly in need of a spotlight. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) found that one-in-five Americans experienced some type of mental illness in the past year alone.

In the IIT undergraduate community, that is 460 friends and fellow students who

are suffering in silence – and the numbers are getting higher each day. Suicide, one of the most traumatic tragedies that can strike a family or community, is the second highest cause of death among the college population. The most dangerous aspect of mental illness, however, is the stigma associated with having been diagnosed. A mental health diagnosis is loaded with judgment and a misinformed public, causing some people to never seek help at all when it is so obviously needed.

However, is having a mental illness any different than having a physical illness? It could be life-long, or it could be short-lived; you might need to take medication or see a doctor, but those are all the same things you would normally do if you felt that you were getting sick.

Like any physical illness, if you ignore your symptoms, they are going to get worse. However, being educated about the symptoms of a disease helps to prevent it or detect it early, whether it be physical or mental.

Active Minds is a national organization that is committed to the promotion of mental health issues on college campuses (taken from their national mission

statement). As the IIT Chapter of Active Minds, it is our job to spread awareness, support and education of mental illnesses and to provide resources and outlets for any who need help.

Currently we're looking for new members who are interested in and/or feel strongly about reaching out to students with mental illnesses and to create an overall awareness about mental illness and what people can do to help.

For this semester, we're focusing on not only creating a broader outreach to all students, but we're also recruiting more members! As such, we've got some pretty cool events to look forward to – one of our biggest events this semester is coming up pretty soon. Keep reading for more details!

Heard Speaker: An Open Conversation about Mental Health (March 15)

The Heard Speaker event is focused on providing an outlook on the college life of an individual who has a mental illness - their struggles, their triumphs, and give a real picture of what it means to have a mental illness while in college.

Our speaker will be Active Minds national program manager Margaret

Bertram, and she'll be giving her speech in the MTCC Welcome Center from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend! Sponsored by SAF and brought to you by Active Minds and GLAM.

In addition to that we'll be hosting a National Stress Out Week (April 15th-21st) during which Active Minds will be presenting awesome events on campus - to not only provide information on Mental Illnesses, but to relieve some stress in the face of oncoming exams! Some of our events will include:

A Star Jar: Receive some nice quotations/sayings to get you through finals or other stressful moments

Play with Clay (You pretty much get the idea)

Movie Night! (This will sum up the week, and we'll be having a debrief afterwards about the realities of mental illness versus Hollywood)

In short, we have some pretty cool stuff planned and we'd like you guys to attend some events and become more aware of mental illness.

If you'd like any more information, please email us at activeminds.iit@gmail.com or visit our website at omega.cs.iit.edu/~am/

Humanities Department sponsors undergrad writing contest

By Lewis Department of Humanities

Full-time IIT undergraduate students are invited to enter the 47th Annual Writing Contest, sponsored by IIT's Lewis Department of Humanities. (Full-time is defined as being enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in the Spring 2012 semester.)

Winners will be announced Wednesday, April 4, on the Humanities Website at <http://goo.gl/KCGyS>. Please do not call the Humanities Department to inquire whether you have won.

Contest Rules:

- Entries may include fiction, poetry, plays, nonfiction (such as essays, reviews, and technical or scientific papers), and essays by freshman. Nonfiction (including essays by freshman) should be readable by an educated person with no special training in the subject of the essay.
- All entries must include an entry form as a cover sheet attached to each entry. Forms are available in 218 Siegel Hall, or you can download one on the Humanities Website at <http://goo.gl/KfOm3>.
- All entries must be submitted in duplicate. One should be keyboarded, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 paper. Do not put your name on the paper copy itself or any of its pages. Deliver paper submissions to Susan Mallgrave at the Lewis Department of Humanities, 218 Siegel Hall.

Prizes will be awarded in four categories:

	First	Second	Third
Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Fiction	\$300	\$200	\$100
Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Nonfiction	\$300	\$200	\$100
Freshman Essay Prize	\$300	\$200	\$100
Mollie Cohen Prize for Poetry	\$300	\$200	\$100

Reception for all entrants, with awarding of prizes: Wednesday, April 11, 2012.

Deadline for submissions: 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2012.

The second copy should be submitted as an MS Word .DOC or .DOCX file to iit-writingcontest@gmail.com. The file name should be Lastname.Nonfiction.doc, Lastname.Poetry.doc, Lastname.Fiction.doc, or Lastname.Freshman.doc, depending on the category it is to be entered into.

- You may enter several categories, and you may submit more than one entry in a category. **Limit of one prize per category to any one student.**
- You are encouraged to submit work that has been the subject of a class assignment, but be sure to send a clean copy,

free of any comments, marks, or grades.

- Entries will not be returned, so keep a copy.
- All submitted short stories and plays will be considered for the Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Fiction.
- All submitted poems or groups of poems will be considered for the Mollie Cohen Poetry Prize, which seeks to honor the effort to master the art of poetry rather than the exhibition of emotions. You may submit all the poems you wish; however, multiple poems by the same student will be judged as a single entry.

- All submitted nonfiction will be considered for the Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Nonfiction.
- All submitted freshman essays will be considered for the Freshman Essay Prize. Freshman is defined as any student who is in their first year of full-time college enrollment.

- Authors retain all rights to their works; however, the authors grant IIT, the Humanities Department, and TechNews the rights to publish their works for one calendar year, from April 4, 2012 - April 4, 2013.

Academic departments host educational colloquia at IIT

By Swasthi Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

Last week, IIT witnessed a series of colloquia organized by various departments like the Applied Math, Chemistry, Physics and Humanities.

Kicking off the series of colloquia, the Applied Math Department hosted an interesting lecture on "A Study on the Degree-Based Conditions for Hamiltonian Properties." The lecture was delivered by Dr. Shin-Shin Kao, Visiting Professor at University of Southern California. In this invited talk, Dr. Kao talked about the survey of some well-known theorems regarding graphs being hamiltonian or with stronger hamiltonian properties. Recently, it was found that most graphs satisfying the conditions in these theorems were indeed with the same Hamiltonian properties even when some faults occur. Namely, except for certain cases, these theorems imply graphs with fault-tolerant Hamiltonian, Hamiltonian connected, or r^* -connected accordingly.

Graph terminologies which were thought to be jargons were well introduced and audiences without any background were welcome to attend the colloquium. The response was very good. Dr. Lulu Kang, Assistant Professor in the Applied Math Department coordinated the entire event. The Chemistry Department at IIT presented this week the topic "New C-C, C-N, and C-O Bond Formations via the N-O Bond Cleavage and Rearrangement of O-Vinyl Oximes and Hydroxylamine Ethers".

The invited talk was delivered by Dr. Laura Anderson, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry at University of Illinois, Chicago. Dr. Laura's research group is interested in expanding the scope, tolerance, and application of known pericyclic transformations as well developing and controlling new types of pericyclic reactions.

The goal of her research group is to design new methods to provide general solutions to practical problems using both physical organic and organo-metallic mechanistic studies in order to fully understand, control,

and exploit the transformations we investigate.

In her talk, Dr. Anderson talked about sigmatropic rearrangements of allyl vinyl ethers that are used extensively for the stereoselective preparation of new C-C bonds. Citing her interest in exploiting the analogous transformations of O-vinyl oximes and O-vinyl hydroxylamines to develop the synthetic utility of these compounds as valuable new intermediates for the preparation of challenging C-C, C-N, and C-O bonds, she presented the use of the sigmatropic rearrangements of O-vinyl oximes and O-vinyl hydroxylamines for the facile synthesis of pyrroles and α -oxygenated ketones.

A health conscious colloquium was organized by the Physics Department at IIT on "Risks of Cancer Associated with Ionizing Radiation". The talk was presented by Dr. Otto Raabe, Professor Emeritus, Center for Health & The Environment at University of California- Davis. He talked about his analysis of the human radium cases and of internal emitter studies with beagles, show that cancer risk associated with a protracted ionizing

radiation exposure is a non-linear function of lifetime average dose rate to the affected tissues with a virtual threshold at low doses.

Cancer induction risk for a protracted ionizing radiation exposure is not proportional to cumulative radiation absorbed dose. In sharp contrast published studies of about 80,000 Japanese survivors of the atomic bomb explosions at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 characterize the observed increases in population cancer rates as linearly associated with ionizing radiation absorbed dose.

This linearity has been the basis for assuming that radiation induced cancer follows a linear no-threshold (LNT) dosimetric relationship. The LNT hypothesis has been used in establishing ionizing radiation protection standards and for risk assessment.

At the end, Dr. Raaabe emphasized that an understanding of these apparently conflicting phenomena leads to a surprising new interpretation of these results with important implications for radiation safety standards and risk assessment.

EWB promotes social justice with week full of events

By Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

Social Justice Week (20th – 25th February) kicked off with an Engineers Without Borders (EWB-USA) General Body Meeting at IIT. The theme of the meeting was "Everybody Without Borders - The Power of Zero".

Dhara Shah, Directors of Projects at EWB-USA, IIT and IL State Representative, EWB-USA delivered an impressive presentation about the "United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDP)" and some other topics related to social justice around the world. Starting the talk with health issues around the world, she explained the inter-relation of health, sustainable development and lifestyle. "The majority of the world's designers focus all their efforts on developing products and services exclusively for the richest 10% of the world's customers. Nothing less than a revolution in design is needed to reach the other 90%", she emphasized.

The key-points of her presentation were: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health,

combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for development.

Speaking about the universal primary education, the goal is to educate 11.3 million children who do not attend school every day. Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education will help in lowering the illiteracy rate in women worldwide. On a sadder note, 7.6 million children die below the age of 5 per year because of malnutrition, disease, etc. The goal of the UNMDP is to reduce this rate by 2/3rd by 2015. In addition to the above note, only 53% of deliveries worldwide are attended by skilled health workers. So, achieving universal access to reproductive health is another important goal to be fulfilled by year 2015.

Developing a global partnership by addressing the specific needs for least developed communities, landlocked countries, and small island developing states is a major goal under UNMDP. The EWB members also organized other events like a screening of Iron Jawed Angels, an excellent film about women's suffrage in early 20th century America. The week wrapped up with a social gathering at the BOG on Friday.

SWE regional conference promotes professionalism

By Laura Casas Gurri
STAFF WRITER

Part of our college experience, one of the keys to be prepared for the future, is not gained in class.

This kind of experience which companies care about is related to our involvement in extra curricular activities, such as student organizations. Last weekend, the regional conference of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) took place in Madison, Wisconsin. For two intense days IIT students had the excellent opportunity to network and participate in workshops with professionals and students from different colleges.

The first activity of the weekend was a welcome dinner for graduate students. Professionals were also invited for this event, with the objective being to break the ice, some initial networking and help students prepare for the transition from graduate studies to the professional world.

The second day began early with a new opportunity to meet other students over the course of breakfast. At this time, the student chapters of Purdue, Michigan and Minnesota, defended their candidatures to host next year's regional conference. The three chapters demonstrated their respective involvement and presented their main ideas as to why they wished to be chosen.

It was an interesting competition where we could see how the other chapters work. After voting for the best presentation,

each college as a group had to make a decision. The winner was the chapter from the University of Minnesota.

The day continued with different workshops, catering to varied interests, including a useful one about the do's and don'ts in an interview. All of us know that an interview requires a lot of preparation and each tip someone collects can be really important to help prepare. After the morning sessions, a networking lunch was next on the agenda with some companies.

This was a great opportunity which some of the students were waiting for; to demonstrate their skills, aptitudes and interests to the companies. Not every day do students get the possibility of meeting professionals working in the field they are working towards a degree in, and establish a relationship which can potentially bring them a mentorship or even a job offer!

Right after the lunch, the small but rather less crowded career fair began and lasted pretty much the entire evening. Again, another opportunity to show ourselves to companies, talk and discuss with them all we had in mind.

The long day ended with a dinner where we could share and talk about experiences and thoughts - the conference did not leave anyone indifferent. Each one of us learnt something about this event. This episode allowed us to develop some skills, meet new people, make some friendships and network with professionals. A very productive day indeed!

Financial Aid award package updates

By IIT Office of Financial Aid

Beginning March 1, the Office of Financial Aid will make available student award packages for the 2012-13 academic year. Only students who have completed a FAFSA (fafs.ed.gov) will have a federal aid package. Students will receive an email when their award package is available to view on the portal. The Office of Financial Aid will not send a paper letter to continuing students so check your IIT Hawk email address for this notification.

Students selected for verification for the 2012-13 academic year will receive a notification that their FAFSA has been received and that additional documentation is required before an award can be finalized. Specific requirements for individual students selected

will be found on the portal in the Outstanding Requirements section.

Students may have other requirements on their account even if not selected for verification so all students should check to see what is requested for them on the portal. The Office of Financial Aid will begin collecting any required documents immediately; however our processing time will not be until May due to the preparation required for incoming fall students. That being said, we encourage students to submit documentation as it becomes available to them.

If you have not completed a FAFSA and are eligible for federal aid, please do so by IIT's priority deadline of March 15. If you have any questions about this process or your specific awards, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at finaid@iit.edu.

SigEps represent IIT at CLA conference

By Mike Purdy
OPINION EDITOR & DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

The Greek community at IIT was well represented by Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers at the esteemed Carlson Leadership Academy (CLA) this past weekend. After gaining national recognition for outstanding scholarship and manpower on campus, members of the Illinois-Beta chapter engaged with other SigEps from around the Midwest region in valuable leadership training. SigEps brothers from IIT departed from this great experience with newfound motivation and insight which will help propel their chapter to new heights.

Held annually, the Carlson Leadership Academy is implemented to provide high-caliber officer training to Sigma Phi Epsilon undergraduates from across the country. This year's Midwest-region academy was held at the Westin Hotel and Conference Center in Lombard, IL, and was the largest ever with nearly 750 SigEps brothers in attendance. Facilitated by prominent SigEps alumni and regional volunteers, CLA is focused on developing individual leadership strengths which will benefit the core executive teams from each chapter. Specific leadership training was provided for chapter positions, and consisted of large and small group exercises, goal-setting sessions, and professional networking experience.

The II-Beta executive board showed up in full force for the weekend, along with many other experienced as well as newly-budding leaders from the local Chicago chapter here at IIT. Those exec-board leaders in attendance were: Clark Zachoki - Chapter President, Carlos Vargas - Vice President of Programming, Dan Zweig - VP Member Development, Nick Shattuck - VP Communications, Mike Purdy - VP Recruitment, Daniel Cruz - VP Finance, and Chaplain Jake Deters. Exhibiting stellar leadership potential throughout the weekend were new members Jerrod Harris, Joannas Joseph, Neil Griffin, Dane Christianson, and Dan Meves. Also in attendance were seasoned SigEps leaders Frank Morris - Scholarship Chairman, Jefferson West - House Manager, Jeff Bednarz - Greek Council President, and Joshua Buck - previous Chapter president and program volunteer.

The team of Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers from IIT was one of the largest groups at CLA, and provided significant energy and insightful participation to many of the training sessions. Proudly displaying the advantages of Greek life at IIT, these

SigEps brothers added depth and breadth to many leadership conversations, which can be attributed to a tight-knit, diverse brotherhood whose commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed. At the awards ceremony, SigEps from Illinois Tech were recognized with the distinguished honors of the Manpower Excellence Award and the Grand Chapter Scholarship Cup.

The Manpower Excellence award is given to those chapters who have the most manpower on campus among fraternities for an academic term. With 59 members in fall 2011, SigEps II-Beta was definitely deserving of this award. The Grand Chapter Scholarship Cup was awarded to Illinois Beta for an outstanding academic performance during the fall semester; with an overall 3.16 grade point average, the SigEps fraternity at IIT maintains not only the highest GPA of fraternities on campus, but one that is higher than the all-campus undergraduate average of 3.098.

Under the guiding principle of "Building Balanced Men", Sigma Phi Epsilon is dedicated to the development of both a sound mind and sound body while developing a brotherhood based upon the highest ideals of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. National leadership conventions such as CLA help to instill these values while encouraging chapter progress and consistent local and national achievement.

SigEps brothers from II-Beta returned to campus late Saturday night with a renewed vision of success for their chapter and University. Armed with a plethora of new ideas and inspirational perceptions, these brothers will provide a newfound energy and enthusiasm to a rising SigEps chapter as spring, and Greek Week, quickly approaches. The executive board will get straight to work, crafting important chapter goals and implementing much of what was learned at CLA in its leadership strategy.

One of these goals is to obtain a Buchanan Cup, SigEps' most prestigious national award given to those chapters who excel in every area of operations and represent the best-of-the-best around the country.

With increased philanthropy efforts, campus involvement, and academic success, the brothers from II-Beta are working hard toward gaining this recognition while improving the IIT community at the same time.

Although there is still much work to be done, Sigma Phi Epsilon is proud of its current position in manpower and academic excellence atop the Greek community at Illinois Tech.

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Tech[nology]News:

Pantech Element tablet impresses

By Tom Borg
TECHNEWS WRITER

At a school dominated by iPads, sometimes other smart tablets do not get the attention they deserve. One such tablet is the Pantech Element, an Android 3.2 tablet with an 8-inch screen. I have spent two weeks playing around with and using the Element for a variety of tasks, and here are my initial impressions.

The Pantech Element is exclusively carried by AT&T, one of the nation's largest wireless service providers. The tablet used in this review had a 4G LTE mobile data plan from AT&T, which proved to be a lot faster than I expected. The 4G service was quick to load Web pages and the tablet never had to buffer a movie or a song on the Pandora app.

The 4G service was tested in multiple places in Chicago, including Bridgeport, IIT campus, and downtown, near the lake. 4G LTE service had full bars the entire time, which was pleasantly surprising. Because of the fantastic coverage in this area and reliably fast data speeds, I highly recommend AT&T if you are looking for a service provider for a new tablet.

As far as the physical aspects of the tablet go, it has an 8-inch screen with no physical buttons on the front. On the side/top (depending on how you hold it) is the volume rocker and lock button. Viewing the tablet in portrait orientation is much more pleasant than the iPad.

Having owned both, I can safely say that while the iPad feels clunky and large while

holding it in portrait orientation to read eBooks, the Element is quite the opposite, feeling natural and well-fit to my hands, which are on the small side.

The tablet sports a rather unusual 1,024x768 resolution, which is a 4:3 aspect ratio. Because of this, the tablet uses letterboxes for widescreen content. However, the 4:3 ratio is also a blessing in disguise, because the Element performs well in both orientations. Most 16:9 tablets (including the iPad) tend to feel long and skinny when held in portrait orientation, so the Element is more comfortable to rotate and use in either orientation.

Another feature worth noting is that the Element is submersible in water up to 1 meter. Although the touchscreen is inoperable while water is present, the waterproofing can be useful if you use the tablet near a pool or other body of water, because most electronics these days are extremely hydrophobic. The Element's waterproofing can bring you some peace of mind that your beautiful piece of technology won't be ruined by a rain shower.

The Element was also impressive in its performance. It is powered by a 1.5GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon S3 processor, which is more powerful than almost every other tablet in its class. It also comes loaded with a full 1GB of RAM and 16GB of internal storage, so keeping your entire music collection or maybe a few HD movies loaded on the internal memory is entirely feasible. There is also a slot for a microSD card, if you are craving more storage for media.



Image courtesy of whowired.com

Graphically-intensive games, HD video content, and lossless audio all performed perfectly on the Element. Also worth noting is the Android 3.2 operating system. It is mostly untouched by Pantech, and the Honeycomb build of Android performs well. The subtle, quiet robotic sounds that come along with a swipe to another home screen were undeniably cool, and the haptic feedback of the tablet was incredible, sporting a variety of different vibrations for different actions.

Front and back cameras, at 2MP and 5MP respectively, both took acceptable quality pictures. The LED flash was surprisingly good for a tablet camera, lighting a medium-low light

situation quite well. Altogether, the Pantech Element is a solid contribution to the world of Android tablets. Its strong performance, good physical build, and lightning-fast 4G LTE service make it a pleasure to own and operate.

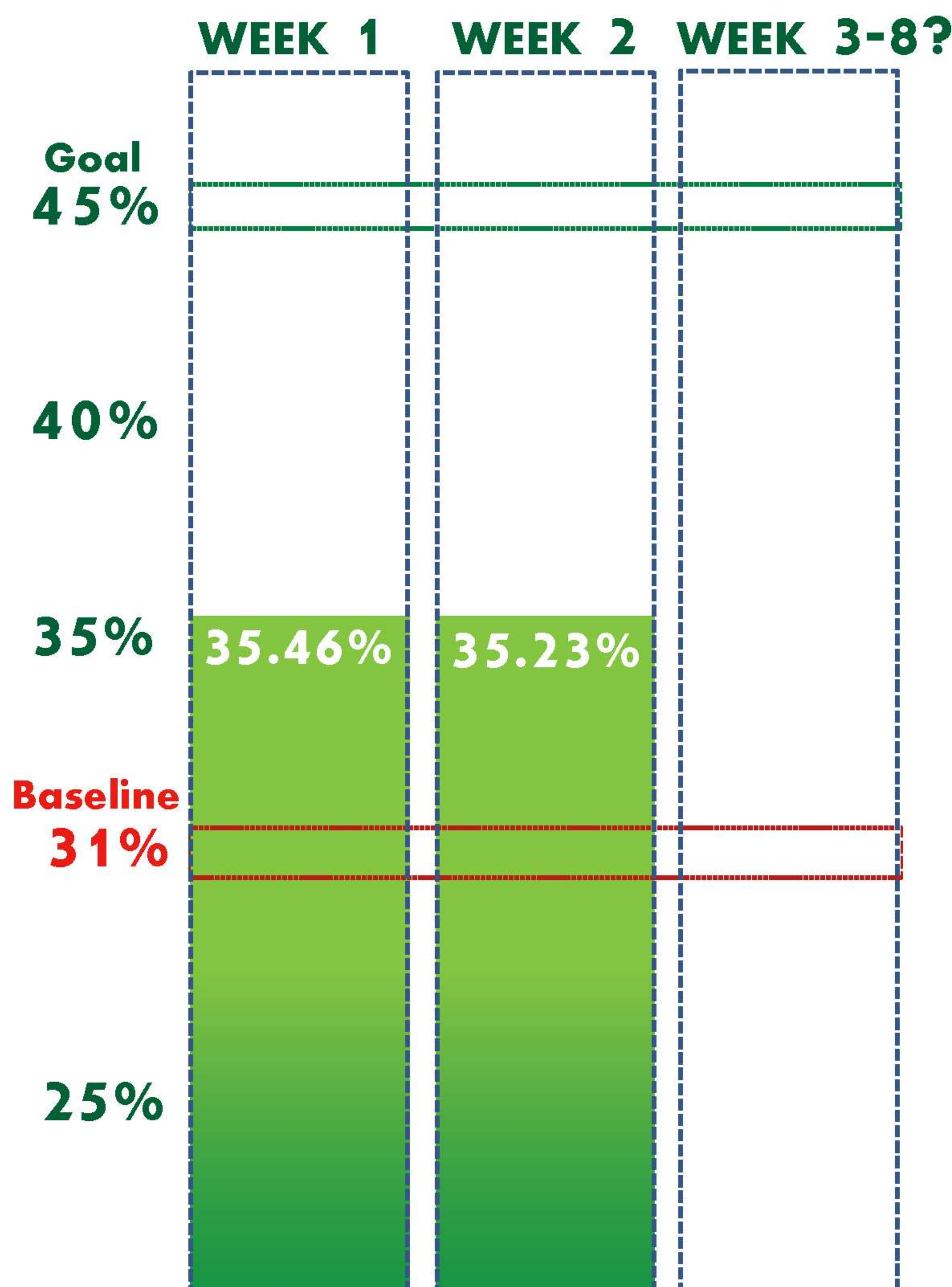
Being a former iPod touch, iPad, and Mac owner, I can safely say that transitioning over to my Android phone and tablet (and Windows PC) was a fantastic technological decision. I highly recommend the Element to anyone who is looking for an iPad alternative, because it goes above and beyond the iPad in usability, power, and speed. If you're on the fence about switching over to Android, consider trying out the hardware in an AT&T store before you buy.

Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability

campussustainability@iit.edu



IIT'S RECYCLEMANIA RESULTS

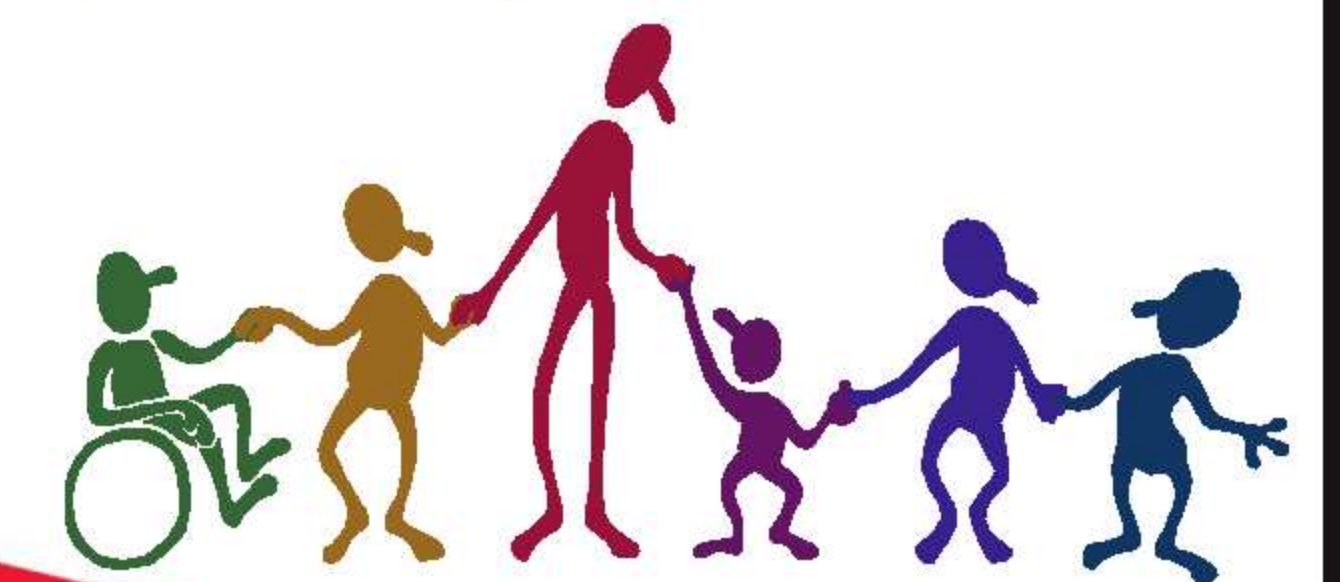


ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Office of Campus Life

Let IIT know about your experience with diversity while on campus. Sign up for the IIT Diversity Forums!

RSVP by going to:

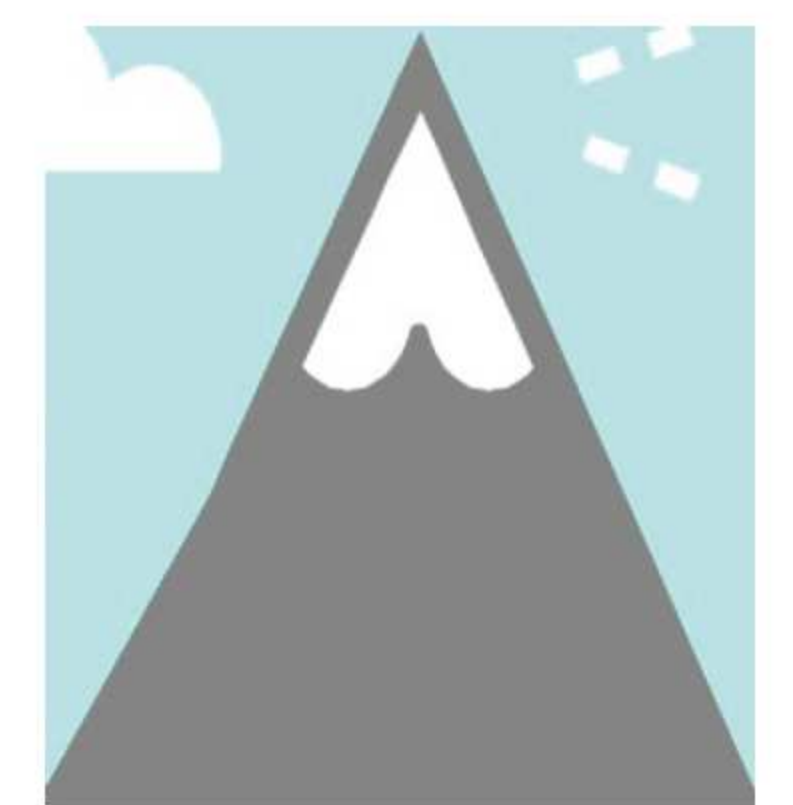
<http://tinyurl.com/IITDiversityForums>



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMPUS LIFE

Come to Campus Life for a **free** pennant! (limited quantities)

RSVP for the Student Leader Summit today! Network with other student leaders and talk about challenges and solutions. For more information, go to: http://iit.edu/student_life/leader_summit



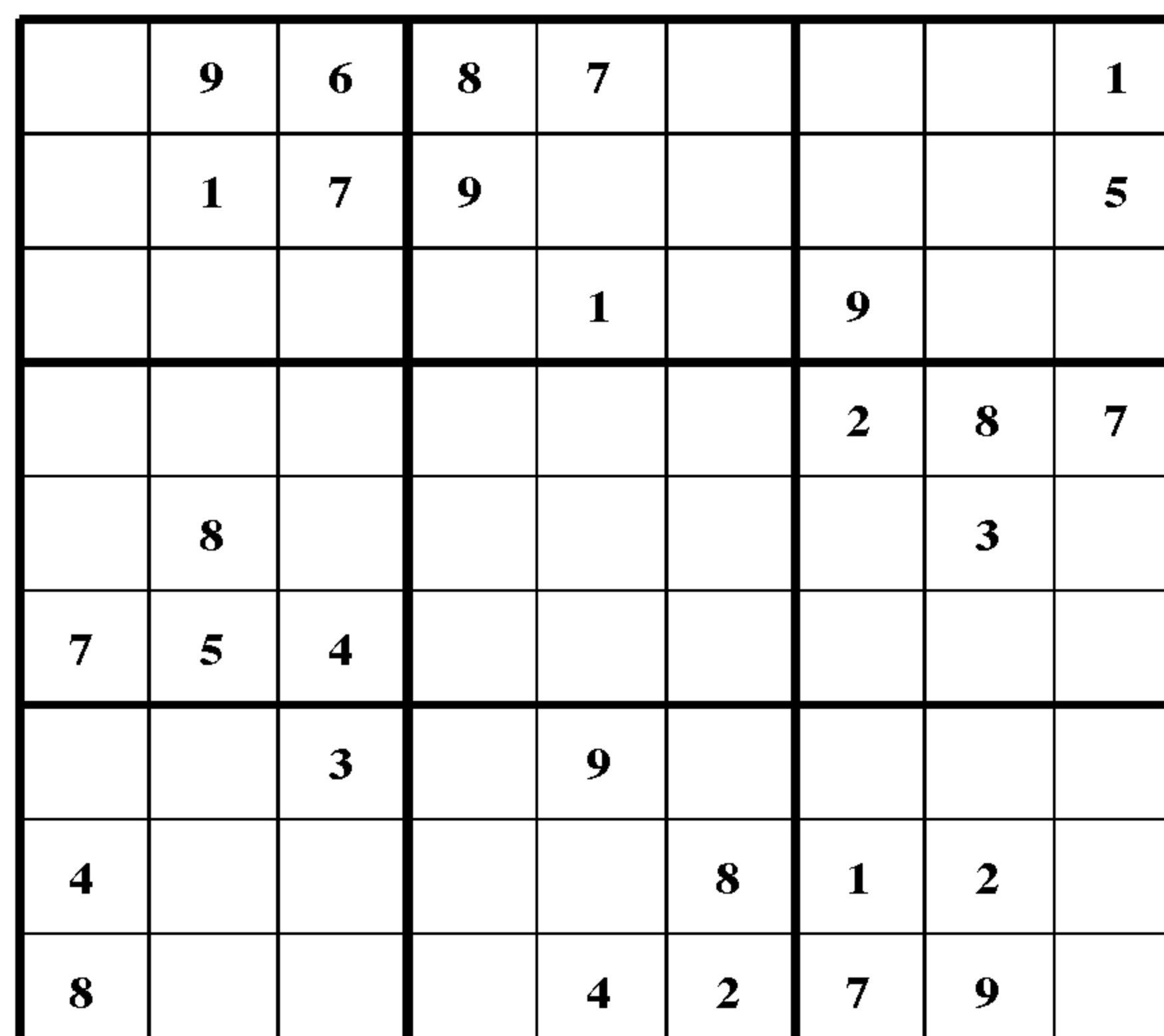
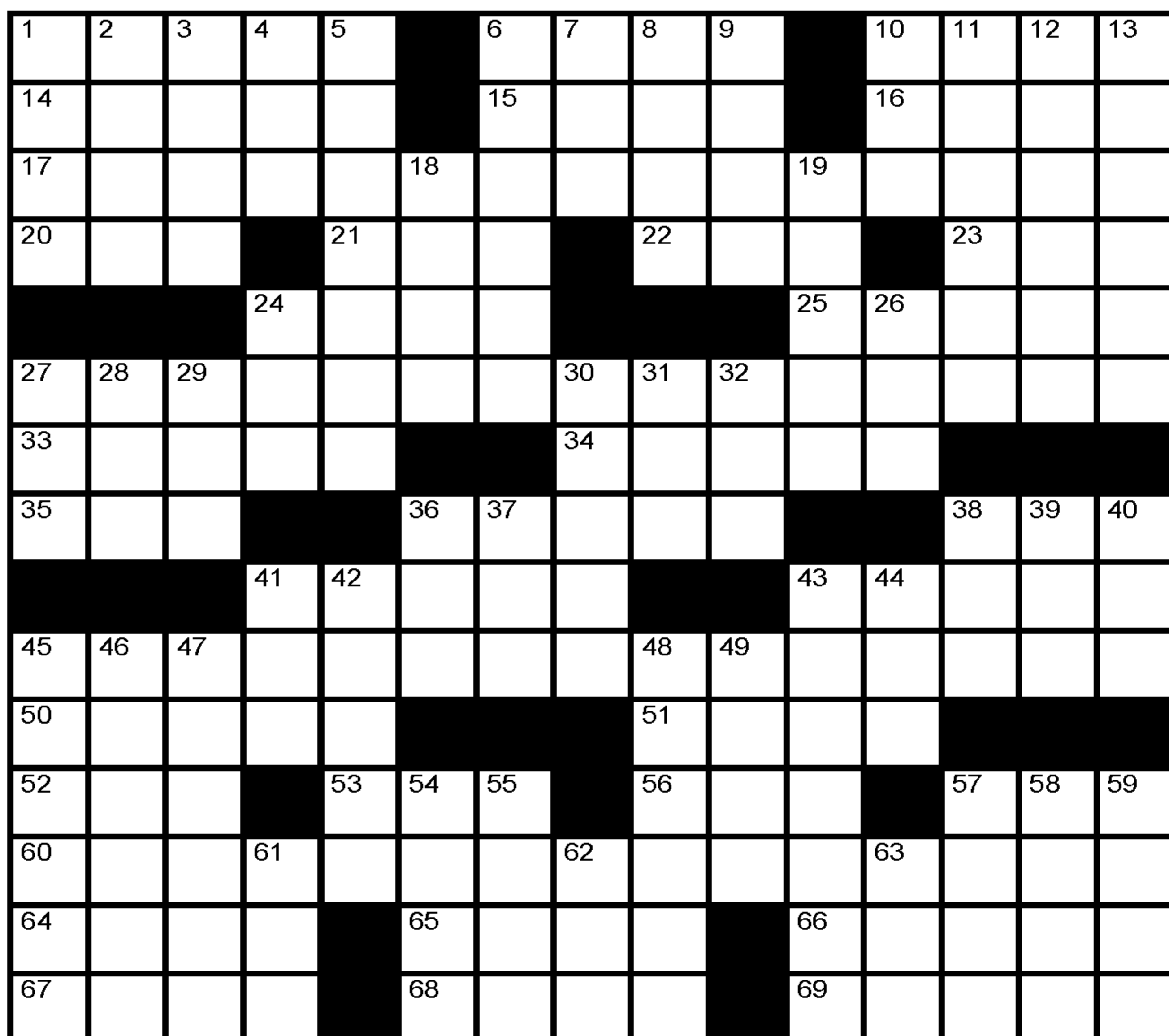
Orientation Leader Applications are now available! Visit <http://www.iit.edu/orientation/> for more information about how to apply and other important information. Applications are due **Wednesday, March 21!**

Tricia Berryhill, Coordinator, Organizations # - G
Ryan Miller, Director, Organizations H - M
Alex Garrett, Coordinator, Organizations N - Z

Office of Campus Life
www.iit.edu/campus_life
campus.life@iit.edu

Day in Court

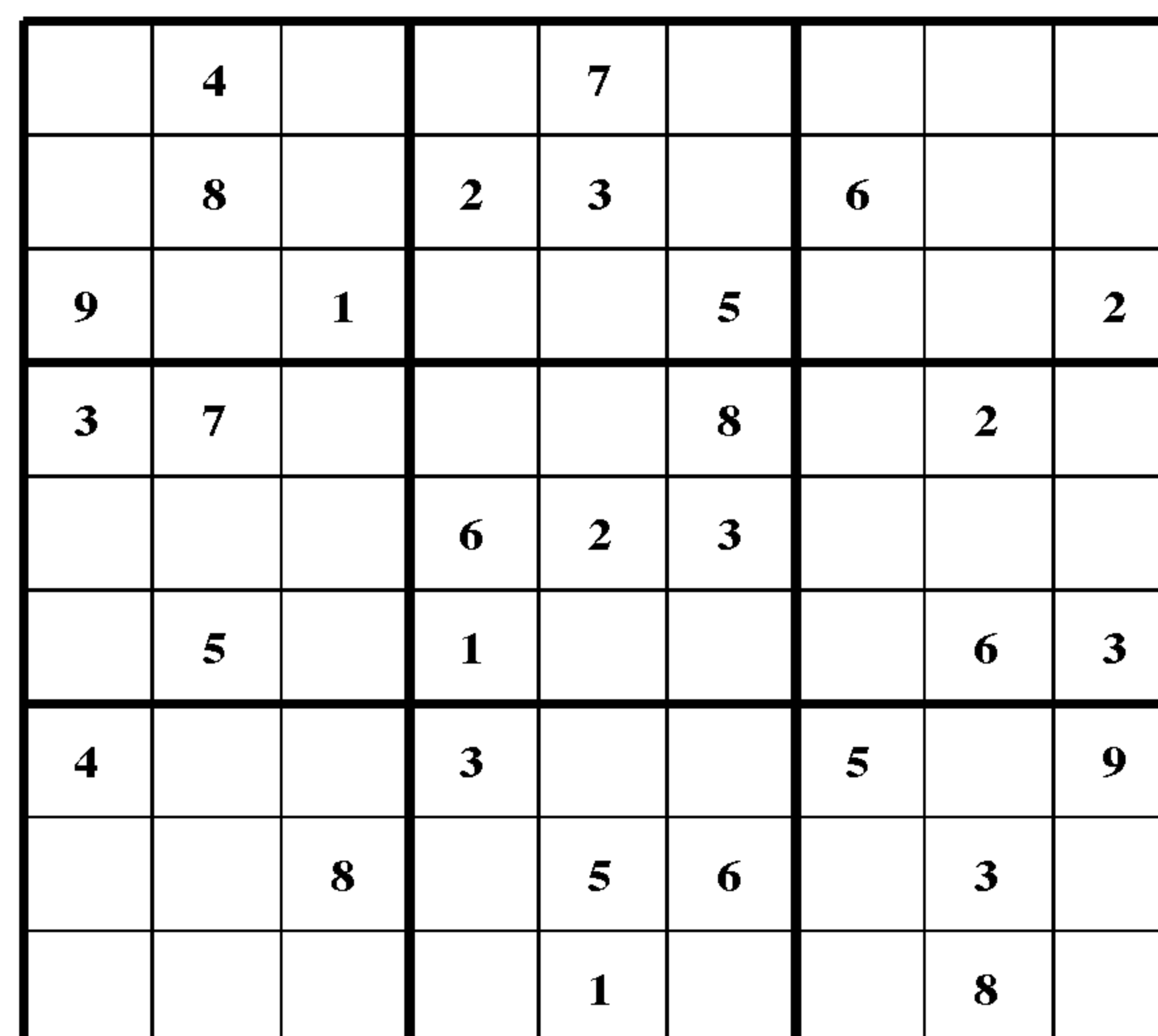
By Myles Mellor and Sally York



数独

The word Sudoku, above, is actually the abbreviation of Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru, meaning "the digits must be single" or "the digits are limited to one occurrence."

Source: Wikipedia



Across

- Recipient
- Winston Churchill's "___ Country"
- Be a kvetch
- Flip
- Latest thing
- Carbamide
- Cross query
- Misjudge
- Emolument
- ___ out a win
- Not req.
- City in Central China
- Stage item
- It's given on the stand
- Long bones
- Flat-bottomed boat
- Fancy neckwear
- ___ box
- Didn't hold
- 100 kobos
- Approval
- No cross allowed for him
- Furnace button
- Berry
- Hotel sign
- Rel. leader
- Affect, with "to"

Down

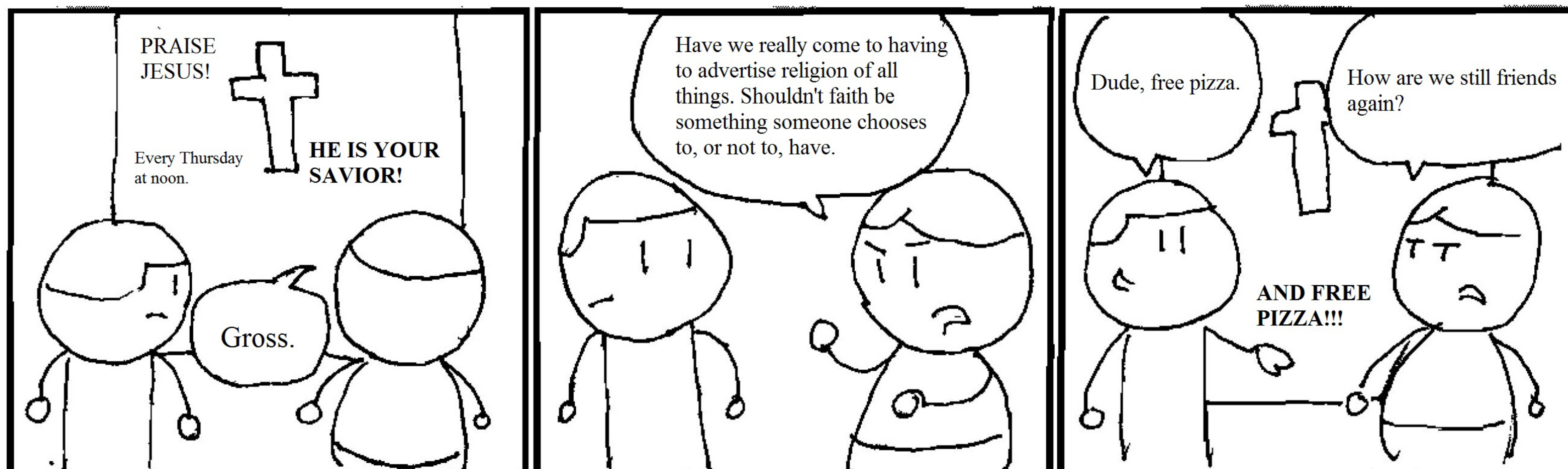
- Cry softly
- Takeoff artist
- Four quarters
- Word with loose or back
- Skyscraper, e.g.
- Silver, in heraldry
- Query list, for short
- Fit of fever
- Need a bath
- Injured
- Melodic passage
- Look into again, as a cold case
- Buttery
- Kempt
- Printing flourish
- Swell place
- Global fin. overseer
- Name

28. U.N. working-conditions agcy.

- Messenger ___
- Swift work
- Word with bum or bunny
- Square one?
- Central
- Web browser entry
- Kvass ingredient
- Balaam's mount
- Figs.
- Watchman ___, Chinese Christian author
- Bone cavities
- Booster ___
- Singer DiFranco
- Gelid
- Enumerate
- Gets revenge
- Black Marias, e.g.
- Locks up
- Irascible
- A constellation
- Pastry dough
- Buck passers?
- Part of A.M.
- German spa
- Nave bench
- First prime

The First Day of the Rest of My Life

By Adin Goings
ART EDITOR



Scrubs, Rockers top Intramurals and Recreation

By Jennifer Agosto
STAFF WRITER

The Intramurals and Recreation department is looking to continue to bring students together through a multitude of sporting events. With five more tournaments left this semester, there is still a chance for you to get involved!

Over the past two weeks, two tournaments—one for flag football and one for volleyball—were hosted by Keating staff

for all to enjoy. The two tournaments proved successful and all the players expressed their enjoyment of the game and these types of events.

Flag football brought in 30 students, with the winning team taking the last game with a close score of 30-24. The team, named Scrubs, consisted of captain Eric Nichols, Nate Schueller, Lindsay Drabek, Sean Gallagher, April Hlad, Rutul Patel, and Mike Evans, all members affiliated with IIT Research Institute.

The volleyball tournament brought in approximately 25 students. The winning team,

the IIT Rockers, consisted of captain Kushal Shah, Harshil Patel, Het Joshi, and Niraj Desai.

The next tournaments will be dodgeball and indoor soccer. The dodgeball tournament will be held Thursday, March 1. It will be a six-on-six person match-up with a max of seven per team. The registration deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 29 at 6 p.m.

The next tournament after that will be the indoor soccer tournament and that will take place March 8 and 9 from 7-11 p.m. It will be a five-on-five match-up with a max of six per

team. This event is open to the first 20 teams to register. The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 7, at 6 p.m.

Registration can be done online at www.illinoistechathletics.com, in the Intramurals and Recreation section.

All tournaments take place at Keating Sports Center and are open to IIT, Shimer, and Vandercook students and faculty.

Check for updates and information on the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IITIntramuralsandRec.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Agosto

Scarlet Hawks prep for indoor track nationals

By Erin Vincent
STAFF WRITER

This weekend members of the Indoor Track team will be travelling to Geneva, Ohio, to compete at the NAIA Indoor Nationals. To earn a spot at the meet, a competitor must run under a certain qualifying time some time during the regular season. The "A" standard qualifies automatically and guarantees a spot in the field; the "B" Standard is also enough, but a team can send no more than three competitors that have only hit the "B" standard.

For the third year, the event is being held at the SPIRE Institute's GaREAT Sports Complex (Geneva Area Recreational, Educational, Athletic Trust). The men's lone qualifier, sophomore Phil Cano, will be competing in the 1000 Meter Race. He ran a time of 2:32.93 at the UW Parkside Classic Open, which satisfied the "B" Standard of 2:33.80. Going into the meet, Cano is ranked 23 of 32, with 14 "A" qualifiers.

Freshman Abby Jahn also qualified for the

1000 Meter Race, running a time of 3:02.71 at the UW Parkside Classic Open as well. Jahn came in under the "B" time of 3:04.00, and just off of the "A" time of 3:02.00. Twenty-five women qualified in the event and Jahn ranks 19, with 17 under the "A."

The women's Distance Medley Relay also qualified, with Jahn, junior Veronica Hannink, sophomore Jordan Kelch, and freshman Courtney Rouse, in a time of 12:44.54 at the Chicagoland Championships. The team was just 0.55 seconds off of the "A" standard, ranking them 24 of 34.

Many of the other schools in our Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference also qualified individuals and relays, including St. Xavier, Olivet, and St. Francis, proving the strength of our conference. Last year's national champions were Shorter University (men) and Oklahoma Baptist (women).

To stay updated on our team and all of the results, visit www.naia.org.

Hawks go to national meet

By Melanie Koto
SPORTS EDITOR

It is the final countdown for the Swimming and Diving team, which left today (in fact they are probably on a plane as you read this!) for Oklahoma City to compete in the NAIA National Swimming and Diving Championship meet. The meet, which will span Wednesday through Saturday March 3 will be a prelim-final meet in which competitors will swim or dive in a preliminary morning session in an attempt to qualify (place top 16 in their event) for the final session.

Those who qualify return in the evening session for a chance at glory and fame, along

with team points and national records.

The Scarlet Hawks qualified eight male swimmers, two male divers and six female swimmers for the championship meet, those athletes include seniors Carlos Tejero, Jeff Reilly, Morgan Curran, Julia Duarte, Melanie Koto, and Andrea Zuniga; juniors: Eric Grunden, Matthew Rosenfeld, Ian McNair, and Aimee Dewante; sophomores: Yoni Pruzansky, Felipe Bergh, Michael Bodzay and Abigail Maze; freshmen: Billy Bafia.

Live results will be posted on the NAIA website (www.naia.org) for any that want to follow along, and if you see any of those athletes next week be sure to congratulate them on their success!

Athlete Spotlight : Jeff Reilly

- **Name:**
- Jeff Reilly
- **Year:**
- Fifth Year
- **Major:**
- Physics
- **Sport:**
- Diving
- **Event(s):**
- 1 and 3 meter spring board diving
- **Favorite thing about your sport:**
- The adrenaline rush while and
- after doing a dive!
- **Pre-meet ritual:**
- Ibuprofen, Heat, stretch. Use the
- bath room... twice!
- **Favorite thing you've done on Campus since you came to IIT:**
- Made nationals my senior year! Not to mention had some awesome Ultimate Frisbee
- games!
- **Best tip for anyone who wants to be great at your sport:**
- "If it feels wrong, it is probably right!"



Club basketball ends first season

By Jennifer Agosto
STAFF WRITER

IIT's club basketball team looked to close out their season with a few more wins. Unfortunately, even with their best effort, the Hawks could not get another win.

The Hawks finished the season 1-11. Despite their record, the Hawks have proven that they have heart and enjoy what they are doing, which is ultimately what will lead to their success.

Last Tuesday, February 21, the Hawks took on Prairie State College. The game started off well, with the Hawks trailing a bit in the beginning, but their score was never too far behind their opponent.

All that changed about midway through the first half. Prairie State College took control of the game and began outscoring the Hawks in both halves, leading to the Hawks loss. Thursday, the Hawks faced Elgin College,

and Saturday, they faced Malcom X College, both resulting in losses as well. The leading scorer for the past three games was Trevor Townsend, scoring 11 points Tuesday, 27 points Thursday, and points 12 Saturday.

Catching up with Townsend after the Hawks last loss, he commented on the team's progress.

"The season could have been better—it was just a lack of chemistry, dedication, and commitment this season and hopefully it's better next season.

I think that it's partly my fault in motivating the guys to be dedicated to the game and sometimes this team fell apart, especially in the last two games, and as a coach it is my responsibility to pull the team back together.

But, like I said before this team has the talent to be a legitimate team, and we had to face the perils of being a new team and trying to figure everything out, and I believe next year will be a lot better."



UNIVERSITY SOCIAL CALENDAR

Penny Wars

February 17- March 5th

IIT Alternative Spring Break

Each team will have a jar on the welcome desk of MSV in order to compete against each other for a prize! Winning team gets an ice cream party!

Zombie Hunt 2012

Monday, February 27 - March 5th

International Students Organization (ISO)

The Zombie Hunt is a campus-wide game of tag with two teams: Humans and Zombies. For more information and to sign up, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/iitapocalypse>

UB General Body Meeting

Tuesday, February 28

MTCC Auditorium @ 1- 1:30pm

Join Union Board as we announce the 2012-2013 Executive Board! Find out how to get involved and what events we have coming up! Food will be provided until it runs out!

Bulls vs Pacers Ticket Sales

Tuesday, February 28 @ 1pm

<http://tinyurl.com/bullsvspacers2012>

The game is on March 5th at 7:00PM. Buy your tickets as soon as the sale begins as there are only 25 tickets available!

The Feminist Freak Show

Wednesday, February 29 @ 6:30 - 9:30pm

IIT Feminists United with Jennifer Baumgardner

Author, filmmaker, and professor, Jennifer Baumgardner will discuss the issues of rape culture and screen a part of her upcoming documentary, "It Was Rape." Refreshments will be offered.

Charity Casino Night

Friday, March 2 @ 7:30-10:30pm

Alpha Epsilon of Phi Kappa Sigma (Skulls)

To ease the suffering of others, a charity casino night to benefit the Chicago Food Depository will be held at the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity house. Bring your canned goods and trade them in for chips. There will be Blackjack, Texas Hold 'Em, Roulette, and Craps. Prizes go to the top two winners and the top donator. Non-perishables only please, no cash will not be accepted for chips. Refreshments will be provided

Tyrol Basin Ski/Snowboard Trip Ticket Sales

Friday, March 2 @ 1 pm

Ski & Snowboard Club

Taking place on March 10, this trip will be an all-day event. There are 40 tickets available so get yours fast! It's sure to be a popular event.

For more info, check out our website ub.iit.edu or contact us at ub@iit.edu!

Psst! Did you know? Student orgs can put up event info by submitting their events on the UB website! So go for it!