Electronic waste recycling collects over 10,000 pounds

By Brock Auerbach-Lynn
TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT and the Office of Campus Energy & Sustainability (OCES) hosted three electronic waste recycling collection days throughout March and succeeded in collecting over 10,400 pounds of unwanted electronics.

Electronic waste includes any unwanted computers, phones, printers, copiers, cameras, fax machines or any other device with a plug. These devices often contain lead, mercury, and other dangerous substances that could harm human health and the environment if disposed of in a landfill or simply on the side of the road.

Despite these dangers, Americans throw away millions of tons of electronics every year. The problem is getting worse as our electronics are becoming obsolete faster,

which makes us buy more to serve new needs.

As of January 01, 2012, it was illegal to throw away electronics in Illinois. They were required to be recycled with a certified electronic waste recycler which would ensure that all electronic pieces are recycled in a safe and environmentally benign manner.

In an effort to comply with this new law and provide an easy means of doing something good for the environment, IIT held three electronic waste recycling collection days. The first two days, on March 14 and 15, were geared towards the IIT Community with drop-off locations in the Hub, MTCC and the Tower as well as at IIT's Downtown Campus.

The Downtown Campus event was the first ever event of this nature at this location and was organized by the student group Net Impact. The March 31st event was geared towards the community at large and 31 people from as

far south as Hyde Park to as far north as Lakeview came to drop off their unwanted electronics.

IIT partnered with certified electronics waste recycler Universal Recycling Technologies, which transported the collected electronics back to their sorting facility. All the electronics will be tested with those that are still functional being resold, those that have some useful parts being salvaged and those that are completely non-operable being recycled. All memory cards and hard drives are shredded. Universal Recycling Technologies recycles all the electronics within the U.S. so none of it gets shipped abroad.

The electronics collected also count as part of Recyclemania – the 8 week recycling competition going on from February 05 – March 31. Electronics is a separate category from general recyclables and we're hoping our e-waste numbers will put us top in the state.

Due to the success of these three

electronic waste recycling collection days, the Office of Campus Energy & Sustainability is looking at making them a regular thing every semester that will serve both the IIT Community and the general public. Currently, all IIT departments can get their e-waste collected by putting in a work order with facilities.

A special thanks to the volunteers Elizabeth Mauban, Nicole Glick, Matthew Maule, Kendall Granberry, Emily Bardsley, Frances Patterson, and Leroy Kennedy, whose help was invaluable in these events running smoothly.

To learn more about recycling and sustainability at IIT, come to IIT's April Sustainability Event, on April 19 at noon in the MTCC Ballroom where the Office of Campus Energy & Sustainability along with WISER will recap the progress towards meeting our 2020 Sustainability Goals as well as discussing IIT's energy future.

Photos by Elizabeth Mauban and Sebastien Magnan

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life speeds to IIT this Friday

By Melanie Koto
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in IIT history, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the surrounding community will come together to participate in a Relay for Life event. The event, which will happen on Friday, April 20 on the Quad from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m., is one of the most successful fundraising events in the world, coordinated through the American Cancer Society.

Team members take turns in the Relay, where at least one team member must walk, jog or run around the track throughout the duration of the event. Teams fundraise prior to the event and on site, with all money going to the American Cancer Society's mission to fund research, Road to Recovery, Hope Lodge, and other programs for those who are, or have been, affected by cancer.

Relay for Life started in May of 1985, when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma colorectal surgeon, wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office and to show support for all of his patients who had battled cancer. He decided to personally raise money for the fight by doing something he enjoyed – running marathons.

Dr. Klatt spent a grueling 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. He ran for more than 83 miles. That first year, nearly 300 of Dr. Klatt's friends, family, and patients watched as he ran and walked the course. Throughout the night, friends donated $25 to run or walk with Dr. Klatt for 30 minutes. His efforts raised $27,000 to fight cancer. (source www.relayforlife.org, "What is Relay for Life?")

In 1985 one man made a huge leap in helping to fund the American Cancer Society's mission to make the lives of those battling cancer a little easier, a little more comfortable, and a little more hopeful. Now, more than 20 years later, members of the IIT community have the same chance to make ground breaking strides to help support the American Cancer Society and make a long lasting tradition at IIT.

Please visit www.relayforlife.org/iitil or contact Melanie Koto at mkoto@hawk.iit.edu for more information or to become involved. Ways to get involved include:

- Signing up as a participant, survivor or caregiver
- Donating to a friend who's participating or to IIT's event in general
- Purchasing a Luminaria to celebrate or remember a friend or family member who has endured the fight against cancer

Even though the event is three days away, it is not too late to participate!

Images courtesy of Relay for Life