From the Pacific Ocean to IIT: the octopus has arrived

By Miriam Schmid
TECHNEWS WRITER

For most students at IIT, Wednesday, February 15, 2012 was just another ordinary day of class, work, and meetings.

For six undergraduate chemistry, biology, and psychology students, this was no ordinary day, but the start of an adventure in marine research.

Early that morning they received a text message: "He's here!" Our giant pacific octopus (Enteroctopus dofleini) had finally arrived at Illinois Tech via overnight FedEx from Canada and was ready to settle down into his new home in the CRAB Lab.

In order to see the newest resident of Illinois Tech, you can access a live streaming Octo and Lab Cam on the CRAB Lab website found below. The octopus is most active during his daylight hours from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Now that the octopus has settled into his new home at the Illinois Institute of Technology, it needs to be named.

All members of the IIT community are invited to cast their vote for their favorite at http://is.gd/crablab.

Currently, the front-runners include Poseidon (Greek God of the Sea), Manotas (big hands), Doug Octopicka, and Ollie.

Name suggestions will be reviewed, and a final voting round of top candidates will determine the name.

Despite not having a name, the octopus has created a whirlwind of activity in the CRAB Lab, from the chemical ecology study using octopus water to begin collecting results and the Psychology department's project tracking his behavior.

In addition to conducting experiments in the lab, the undergraduate researchers in the CRAB Lab presented their hypotheses and preliminary data at the Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium on Saturday, March 3.

Representing the chemical ecology project were Ciaran Shaughnessy, Mariah Kuitse, and Miriam Schmid. On behalf of the cognitive science group Ruth Jimenez, David Burchell, and Tim Carsel presented their poster.

Through their presentations, they were able to share the initiatives of the CRAB Lab with the greater Chicago community.
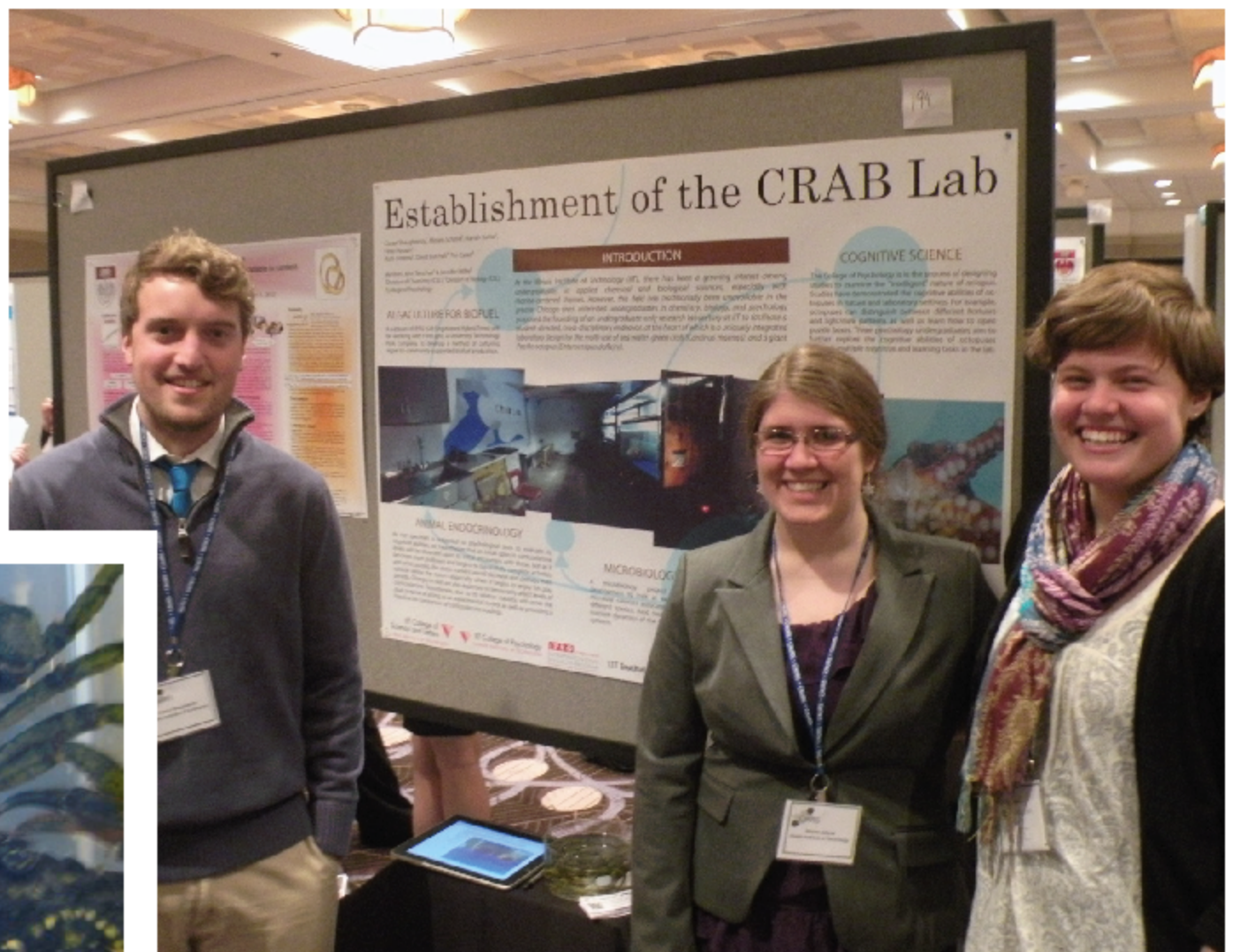

Image and photos by Mariah Kuitse

SGA UCal Updates

By Matt Otten
SGA SENATOR

When you are looking for something to do on campus, where do you go to get information, especially if you need it instantly?

The best place is the new University Calendar. The University Calendar has been updated to a Google Calendar, allowing easy updating and integration with the new IIT Google Apps account.

Departments, offices, and student organizations can easily add their events to the calendar by simply adding calendar@iit.edu as a guest.

Adding an entire calendar is simple as well: just share the calendar with calendar@iit.edu.

For full instructions for adding events to the calendar, see the IIT Today article at http://www.iit.edu/news/iittoday/?p=1055. For an interested student looking for something to do, the University Calendar offers several ways to view the events on campus.

The calendar is available for viewing at http://www.iit.edu/about/calendar.shtml. On this site, you can add the calendar to your personal Google calendar, which will automatically be updated with all of the events on campus.

Events shared with the University Calendar will also appear on IIT Today on the day that they are occurring.

For example, there were a lot of events on Tuesday. The IIT Today for Tuesday, February 28, lists all of the events for that day, as well as their time and place.

This information is taken directly from the University Calendar.

This tool is an easy and effective way to find something to do on campus, and will be invaluable to any students who find themselves looking for ways to get involved.