

Sophomore Leadership Retreat guides ambitious students, fosters teamwork

By Katie Peters
TECHNEWS WRITER

Loud yells of

Loud yells of team chants filled the air that smelled like sweat and bug spray. Challenges were chosen and records were set as the first full day of Sophomore Leadership Retreat began. Many upperclassmen had experienced this retreat before, but over the last two weekends, 177 more IIT students were able to check off another box on the new, official IIT Bucket List. According to Leadership Academy Program Director George Langlois, the retreat was originally designed as an opportunity to, "coalesce the sophomore class, help them to define a sense of identity, and think about leadership."

The weekend included Team Olympics, three or four pre-chosen activities, and a leadership seminar. The Team Olympics featured nine teams competing in a series of team-building exercises such as the Blind Obstacle Course and Group Juggling. Pablo

Gutierrez was tested the most by a challenge that required balance, one of his underdeveloped skills. "It was a very humbling experience to have to wait for my team to lead me through it like a child," said Gutierrez, whose team successfully completed the challenge. Other teams' cooperation was tested later in the day with daredevil activities such as low ropes, high ropes, and rock climbing, or a water sport like kayaking or canoeing. The low ropes courses required teams to work together to complete a specific task like the Human Spider Web or a fifteen-foot climbing wall with no handholds, activities that ultimately required trust in every teammate. The high ropes course was completed with a partner, and was made up of extreme tightrope-like elements twenty to thirty feet above the ground. "I really needed Liz [Zielinski] up there coaching me, or else I would have decided to come down," admitted Kaylynn Barker.

Half of the weekend's participants were able to learn to properly use canoes, sailboats, and kayaks, and then utilize their newfound skills in a race. The retreat concluded with a life-mapping seminar led by Langlois and Program Manager Megan Wheeler. Humanities professor Jack Snapper also participated as a chaperone and photographer because he likes how he can, "interact with the students, not instruct them." The seminar allowed the sophomores to reflect on their personal and career goals, values, influential relationships, and future legacy, and then write a personal mission statement.

Langlois, Wheeler, and Snapper all found the retreat to be very successful, citing, "better numbers and very engaged students," "people willing to come out of their shells," and "superb weather and a great environment," respectively.

Even with less sleep and more bug bites, most sophomores would agree that the Sophomore Leadership Retreat would be one of the most valuable experiences they will have at IIT.

ASB in full swing, recruiting students

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Every year, a group of IIT students partners with Habitat for Humanity at one of their site locations around the country to build homes for the less fortunate. Providing a unique mix of service learning experience, hands-on construction work, the opportunity to meet students outside the classroom and create new friendships and unforgettable memories, as well as the opportunity to travel during spring break, Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is an oft-recommended IIT bucket list item. Past ASB trips have gone everywhere from Texas to Alabama, and California to Georgia.

Habitat for Humanity seeks to eliminate homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. To accomplish this goal, they invite people of all backgrounds to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Today its volunteers have collectively built over 350,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.75 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

Recruitment for ASB 2013 has already started! The first step towards joining the team is to attend any one of the following mandatory info sessions, where executive board members and previous trip members will be present to provide more information about financial, time, and fundraising commitments, along with preliminary details about team logistics. The link to the online application will also be given to you once you sign in at any of the info sessions. The dates, times and locations for the info sessions are as follows:

Sunday, 8/26: 8pm

Tuesday, 8/28: 12:45pm

Wednesday, 8/29: 8pm

Thursday, 8/30: 12:45pm

Wednesday, 9/5: 12:45pm

It is encouraged that you bring your own lunch, along with any and all questions you may have, to the lunchtime info sessions. All info sessions except the last one on September 5 will be held in MTCC Executive Conference Room, which is located next to the WIIT Radio Station. Please look for individuals wearing ASB shirts or ask the CCC Assistant at the front desk outside the Pritzker Club if you cannot find the room. The Info session on 9/5 will be held in Pritzker Club Room 605.

Any and all questions about the info sessions can be directed to asb.iit@gmail.com. If you cannot make it to any of the scheduled times but are still interested in ASB, you can also use this email to let ASB know.









Photos by Katie Peters & Kaylynn Barker

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E-mail: editor@technewsiit.com Website: http://www.technewsiit.com

TECHNEWS STAFF

Ryan Kamphuis **Editor-in-Chief** Hannah Larson **Assistant Editor**

Campus Editor Utsav Gandhi Ryan Hynes **A&E Editor**

Copy Editors Kori Bowns Kristal Copeland

Layout Editors Kori Bowns Karthik Kumar Swasti Khuntia

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Apple, Samsung trial highlights software patent issues

By RohitVandanapu

opinion@technewsiit.com

TECHNEWS WRITER

One of the most anticipated patent trials in the past few years, Samsung and Apple have been facing off against each other in a San Jose courtroom for weeks. The trial ended on Friday, August 24 with the nine-person jury unanimously finding Samsung guilty of willingly infringing upon Apple's patents, and asked Samsung to pay \$1.5 billion of damages. Samsung did escape any successful allegations of patent infringement committed by its tablets, but on the smartphone front, they really were destroyed by Apple's allegations that Samsung copied critical features of the hugely popular iPhone. Here are some of the allegations Apple levied against Samsung:

The designs created by Samsung for their phones before the iPhone was launched were all different from the ones they created after the launch of the iPhone. Once the iPhone was successful in the market, Samsung made a paradigmatic shift focusing heavily on full-touch devices. Samsung tried to argue that their F700 model phone resembled the iPhone, but was designed before the iPhone. However, in order to side with Samsung regarding this patent, the court wanted to see that prior art, which is the term used to describe images of a device shown to the public before the launch of said device in a market, was displayed for the F700 before the announcement of the iPhone. It then came out that the F700 had no prior art shown to the public until after the iPhone had launched, and Apple hammered on this point.

Trade dress is the way a product is "branded" using its design elements, so that consumers know who makes particular product. Dilution is a fancy way of saying a product damages another product's famous brand because it looks very similar. The Samsung phones have made Apple iPhone less distinct, diluting them and blurring the distinctiveness between both the products. The phones include iPhone, iPhone 3G/S, iPhone 4. The trade dress features are as follows:

a) A rectangular product with four evenly rounded corners.

b) A flat, clear surface covering the front of the product.

c) A display screen under the surface.

d) When the device is on, a matrix of colorful square icons with evenly rounded

corners within the display screen.

When the device is on, a bottom dock colorful square icons evenly rounded corners set off from the other icons in the display, that do not change as other pages of the user interface are viewed. Trade dress

is generally looked at on a holistic basis, and based on the Apple's trade

dress; Galaxy S and Galaxy S2 are possibly in violation of copying the designs. Not only has Apple state that the iPhone's trade dress is being diluted, but they have stated that iPhone's trade dress is "not only protectable, but famous."

A design patent, by comparison, is a way to protect unique ornamental elements of a product.

Design Patents are the biggest part of Apple's case against Samsung's smartphones. Apple alleges two hardware design patents for the iPhone and one software GUI design pattern for the iPhone were infringed by Samsung.

The design patents infringed are:

Design patent D'677, which covers a phone with a rounded rectangular shape, edge-to-edge glass, a thin bezel, and a horizontal speaker.

Design patent D'087, which covers a phone with a home button, rounded corners, and a front edge border. This design depicts the shape of the iPhone. Design patent D'305, which covers a

software interface with a grid icon layout, and an icon dock at bottom. This design depicts the software UI of the iPhone.

These utility patents were also infringed:

Claim 19 of the '381 patent, which depicts the bounce-back or rubber-banding, includes Galaxy Tab 10.1, Droid Charge, Epic





Image courtesy of lxbn.lexblog.com

4G, Fascinate, Galaxy Ace, S2, Nexus S 4G.

Claim 8 of '915 patent, which depicts the distinguishing between one-finger scroll and two-finger zoom.

Claim 50 of '163 patent, which depicts the double-tap to zoom, includes many Samsung phones in this.

Samsung filed a countersuit against Apple that brought up questions about the UMTS standard and Apple's infringement of Samsung patents by using the UMTS standard, but the jury ruled completely in Apple's favor on this issue.

Samsung has already announced that they plan to appeal this decision, and it is unlikely that Apple will be interested in compromising in exchange for Samsung foregoing this appeal.

If the decisions of the court stand through the appeals process, Samsung will firstly need to remove all of the software functions from its phones that were found to infringe upon Apple's software patents.

Upon doing that, Samsung will secondly need to evaluate the future of the Touch-Wiz UI, the software overlay they use on their Android smartphones, and the general hardware design of its phones.

Something you'd like to get off your chest? Email opinion@technewsiit.com to submit a Letter to the Editor, or an opinon piece.

Reduced printing credits promotes sustainability, technology-based reading

By Hannah Larson

ASSISTANT EDITOR

As if printing your 13 page research paper right before class starts wasn't enough trouble, printing credits are about to get a whole lot stricter.

According to IIT Today, free printing credits are being cut in half from 500 to 250 each semester, with credits rolling over until the end of the summer term.

Though reducing student paper use is a great way to further our sustainability goals, IIT Today tried to make me feel guilty about printing copious amounts of reading materials. Listing off the stats on campus paper use like: 2.8 million sheets, which would be 121 feet shorter than the John Hancock building, administrators are taking us all on a guilt trip.

While that is a lot of paper, it's not out of the question for a university. It's ironic that we pride ourselves on being a technologically advanced school, yet still use so many hard copies. This means one of two things: that hard copies are much more important than electronic copies.

Hard copies can be critical to understanding a subject, especially for students who are being submersed in entirely new subjects. According to a New York Times article, "Room for Debate: Does the Brain like E-Books?"] a panel of brain specialists all agree that utilizing electronics devices to read and remember information is incompetent to using hard copies. I agree with this whole-heartedly.

While electronic versions can be useful to copy problems from an e-textbook, reading 30 pages about the New Deal for my history class requires a little more concentration and it's always beneficial to actively read, i.e. taking notes, writing in the margin. I know there are plenty of applications and whatnot to actively read, electronically, but it's not the

The average American spends up to eight hours a day staring at a screen (cell phone, iPad, computer, television, et cetera) and it can be hell on your eyes. I spend the majority of my time on my computer laying out TechNews, on Facebook and Twitter, goofing off, listening to music, and reading blogs, so I've started to wear magnifiers to take the strain off of my old, failing eyes.

With these new printing rules, I'll

have to start wearing them while reading hard copies for class. I just printed a 34-page reading, with four pages of reading on each piece of paper, back and front, black and white. My head is already spinning. This is not including the fact that when I opened my account, I had almost \$22 in printing credits, now I'm down to \$20.

This brings me to another point, I've added almost \$30 worth of printing credits at my time at IIT, and I have a printer at home, but I use the campus printers to save money, and for the convenience.

I wouldn't be as upset over the printing credits if the printing stations were a little more accessible. In my perfect world, there would be remote printing stations in every academic building, (which would be a great thing to try to implement, are you reading this SGA senators? Votebox?) and I wouldn't be running to Galvin or the MTCC every time I needed to print something for class. But we're a distance from that.

I'm not trying to criticize our sustainability efforts, I'm just trying to be a good student!

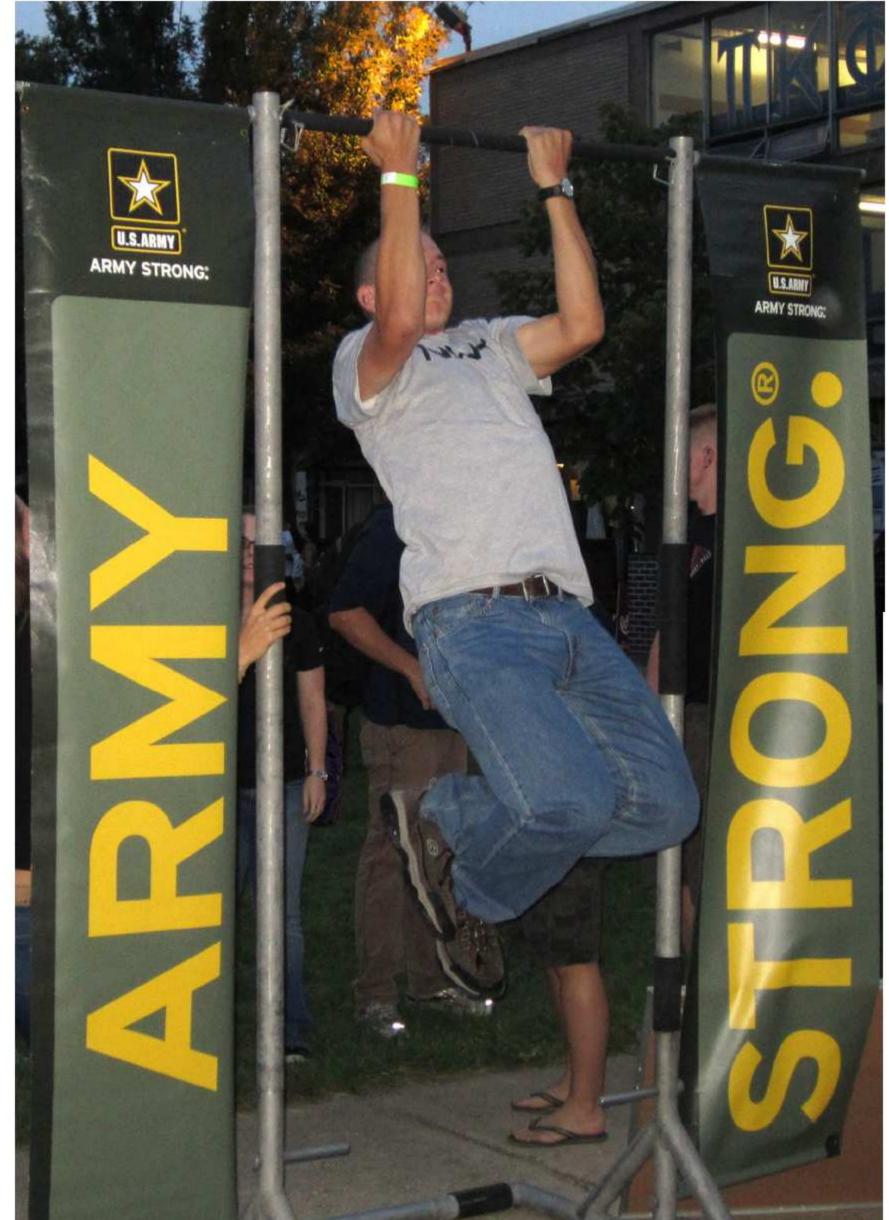
Something you'd like to get off your chest? Email opinion@technewsiit.com to submit a Letter to the Editor, or an opinon piece.

Welcome Week 2012: Discover IIT!

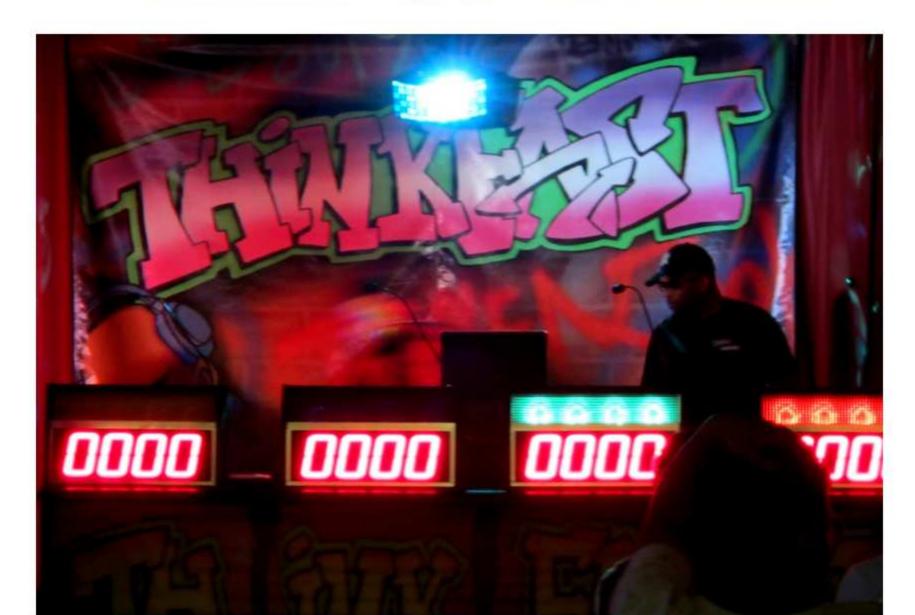




















SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2012

Questions? eswiit1@gmail.com

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4TH 31st Street Beach Clean Up

11:30 - 2:30 pm @ 31st St. Beach

Hosted by Engineering Themes & Engineers for a Sustainable World & Engineers without Borders

Come help clean up our local beach, get water samples, and demographics of people while enjoying free subs! Busses in front of Main Building will leave campus at 11:15am and 12:40pm, and return at 12:40 and 2:30pm

Water Quality Seminar with Rod Beadle

6 - 7:30 pm @ Siegel Hall Auditorium

Hosted by Engineers Without Borders

Rod Beadle is the founder and president of Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA). He will be explaining the chemical, physical and biological components that help determine relative quality of water. He will also demonstrate means and methods to test for these parameters.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5TH

Green City Market Trip (and Zoo)

9 - 11 am @ 1790 N. Clark (Travel by CTA)

Hosted by the Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability

& Engineers for a Sustainable World

Check out the local produce at a popular farmer's market on the north side of the city! Students also have the option of getting dropped off at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Meet at Global Grounds at 9am to travel with the group!

The Market Andrews of the State of the State

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6TH Daley Plaza Market Trip

10 - 12 pm @ Daley Plaza (Travel by CTA)

Hosted by the Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability

& Engineers for a Sustainable World

Grab fresh fruit, vegetables, and lunch at Daley Plaza during this popular event! This market pops up every Thursday! Remember to bring cash!

Garden Party

12 - 2 pm @ Community Garden (Greek Quad)

Hosted by the IPRO U-Farm-IIT team & Engineers for a Sustainable World See what's going on with the community garden, how you can get involved, and taste a sampling of vegetables grown there this summer! Paired with a free catered lunch, you're sure to try some great food!

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7TH

TARP Tour

9am & 1pm @ Main Stream Pumping Station (Hodgkins, III)

Hosted by Engineering Themes & Engineers for a Sustainable World

Tour a water reclamation facility!

Busses will be provided. Students must register to attend. Email engineering@iit.edu

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Review: Sony Xperia Ion

A&E

Bulky design, outdated software overpowers design

By Ryan Kamphuis

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It was with great excitement that I got a hold of the Sony Xperia Ion to review. For years Sony has released cell phones as Sony Ericsson, a joint venture between Sony and Swedish telecom Ericsson. The Xperia Ion is one of the first smartphones produced by Sony after buying out Ericsson's stake in the company and going out on its own.

Billed as Sony's first LTE device and the perfect device for HD content, the Xperia Ion is sold as a top-tier smartphone to compete with the likes of the HTC One X and the Samsung Galaxy S III. On the hardware side of things, the Xperia Ion is a sleek, black phone with a 4.6" HD display, a 12-megapixel camera, and a front-facing camera. The Xperia Ion's display is drop-dead gorgeous; it is amazingly clear and detailed, and the colors it produces are vivid and vibrant. When I compared the Xperia Ion's screen with that of the Galaxy S III, the Xperia Ion won out.

The camera on the Xperia Ion was also very good, snapping photos that looked just as good as those taken by an iPhone 4, which is widely regarded to be the best cell phone camera available. The 12-megapixel camera also has a cool panorama mode that allows the user to take panorama pictures simply by sweeping the camera through the air. Despite the excellent screen and camera, the rest of the Xperia Ion's hardware doesn't measure up.

The design of the phone is quite awkward, which makes the phone very uncomfortable to hold. I found that if I held the phone for any longer than 15 minutes, it began to hurt my hand. This became extremely annoying when I needed to respond to many emails, or when I wanted to watch a TV show or movie on Netflix. The location of the headphone port on the Xperia Ion is also very awkward—it

is located on top of the phone, exactly in the middle of the device. This makes holding the phone in the landscape orientation unbearably uncomfortable if you have headphones plugged in.

Let's move onto the software on the Xperia Ion. The Xperia Ion runs a Sony-customized version of Android 2.3 Gingerbread. The customizations that Sony has put onto Android work to boost Android's media offerings and make Android look more HD. Most of the additions that Sony adds are pretty cool. They add an interesting Social Network aggregator, several services for obtaining music and movies, and an application that allows you to view all of your media on an HDTV using a micro HDMI port on the phone. Despite these cool additions and the standard features given by Android, I still found myself extremely underwhelmed by the software experience on the Xperia Ion. The fact of the matter is that Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich is now the standard for Android devices, and it is simply unacceptable for top-tier smartphones to be released based on Android 2.3 Gingerbread. The added features and performance boost provided by Android 4.0 are amazing; in fact, many of the features that Sony added to Android 2.3, such as the panorama camera mode, became standard features in Android 4.0. It really amazes me that when HTC and Samsung are releasing phones with Android 4.0 on them, and when Android 4.0 has been available to OEMs for over 8 months, that Sony would still release a phone with Android 2.3. Frankly, it comes off as very lazy. They are deliberately weakening their phone by releasing it with Android 2.3 on it, making it impossible to compete with the likes of the HTC One X and the Samsung Galaxy III. The software experience on the Xperia Ion is not particularly bad; it just pales in comparison to that provided by other phones that run Android 4.0.

There's a lot to like about the Sony



Image courtesy of noypigeeks.com

Xperia Ion; it has a gorgeous screen and an excellent camera, but between hardware and software missteps, it doesn't even come close to its competition. At this point in time, buying a phone still running Android 2.3 is about the worst thing you can do, making the Xperia Ion an extremely tough sell. It becomes an even tougher sell when you consider that it costs \$99.99 from AT&T on a two-year contract. That same price can net you a HTC One X or a Motorola Atrix HD, both of which run Android

4.0 and are guaranteed to give you a far better software experience because of it. The fact of the matter is that I feel guilty recommending any phone with Android 2.3; Android 4.0 is here, and buying a phone running anything else is just locking yourself in the past. If Sony wants to compete with the big boys like HTC, Motorola, and Samsung, they're going to have to realize that they can't power their top-tier devices on a version of Android that is out of date.

Review: Plantronics BackBeat Go Headphones

Quality practical use, improvements needed

By Ryan Kamphuis

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

While Bluetooth headsets have become very popular in past years, stereo Bluetooth headsets—their music playing brethren—have never been able to catch on quite as well. Plantronics plans to change this with the release of their new BackBeat Go earbuds.

The BackBeat Go is comprised of two fairly large black earbuds connected by a flat wire with an in-line microphone and control unit. The design of the BackBeat Go is both fantastic and annoying. On one hand, the earbuds look good and are very comfortable to wear, on the other hand, connecting the two earbuds with a flat wire kind of makes these things pointless. The whole reason to buy a pair of stereo Bluetooth headphones is to cut cables, and these earbuds have one that is almost more annoying than a standard cable. Almost every time the cable connecting these earbuds rubs against something like your shirt or your skin, that rubbing sound is easily heard by the wearer. The cable is also needlessly long, making it uncomfortable. I wish Plantronics had either found a way to make the earbuds wireless from each other or had connected them using solid plastic, turning them into a pair of headphones.

Utilizing Bluetooth technology, the Backbeat Go earbuds allow the user to connect to their phone or tablet to make phone calls or listen to music. Audio quality is very good during calls. Calls are crisp, with almost no

static or background noise. It can be a little interesting listening to phone calls in static, but this is a very minor complaint.

When I asked people I was talking to how I sounded, they said that I came in clear, that my voice sounded a little bit like I was talking on a speaker phone, but that it wasn't a detriment to our conversation. When listening to music, the sound quality is passable. While the music comes through very clear, the music's treble and bass are very weak. This doesn't really have anything to do with the earbuds themselves, but with stereo Bluetooth technology. Stereo Bluetooth just doesn't have enough bandwidth to allow for the kind of data transfer necessary for exceptional sound quality.

In the end, the Plantronics BackBeat Go does its job well. You can make phone calls and listen to media with them, and the sound quality while doing this is pretty good compared to other stereo Bluetooth headsets. Really, the only caveat to the BackBeat Go is the cable connecting the earbuds; I can't express how strongly I despise this cable. It is the only thing holding me back from calling these earbuds perfect. The cable is just too long, annoying, and detrimental to the overall experience provided by these earbuds.

Hopefully, Plantronics realizes this and finds a new way to connect the BackBeat Go's earbuds and releases an updated product soon—they'd have a real winner on their hands if they did. The Plantronics BackBeat Go earbuds are available at many electronics stores and wireless retailers across the country and retail for \$99.99.



Men's Basketball starting season, looking for players

By Mike Vander Heyden
IIT Athletics Department

The Men's basketball informational meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4th in the MTCC Executive Room from 7:00pm - 8:00pm for those interested in trying out for

the team.

All prospective student athletes must have the following prior to the informational meeting:

- Copy of current class schedule
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the fall semester
- Unofficial transcript
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Completed registration with the NAIA eligibility center http://www.playnaia.org/psaRegister.php

Complete a men's basketball recruitment form available under the men's basketball linl

Participants will be required to have a current physical and sign an insurance waiver that releases IIT of any liability for injury that may occur during tryouts. For additional information please contact Director of Athletics, Enzley Mitchell IV at emitche2@iit.edu.

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Tuesday: Live Tweeting of the UB and SGA Meetings (Follow @IITCampus Life)

Wednesday: RenRen vs. Facebook
@ 1:00 pm in MTCC Auditorium

Thursday: Update your Social Media Profile Picture! 9:00 am—5:00 pm in MTCC Welcome Center

"Tweet Treats" given out! (Follow @IITCampusLife)

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Don't forget the upcoming Finance Board deadline! All budgets are due by 11:59 pm on September 8, 2012!





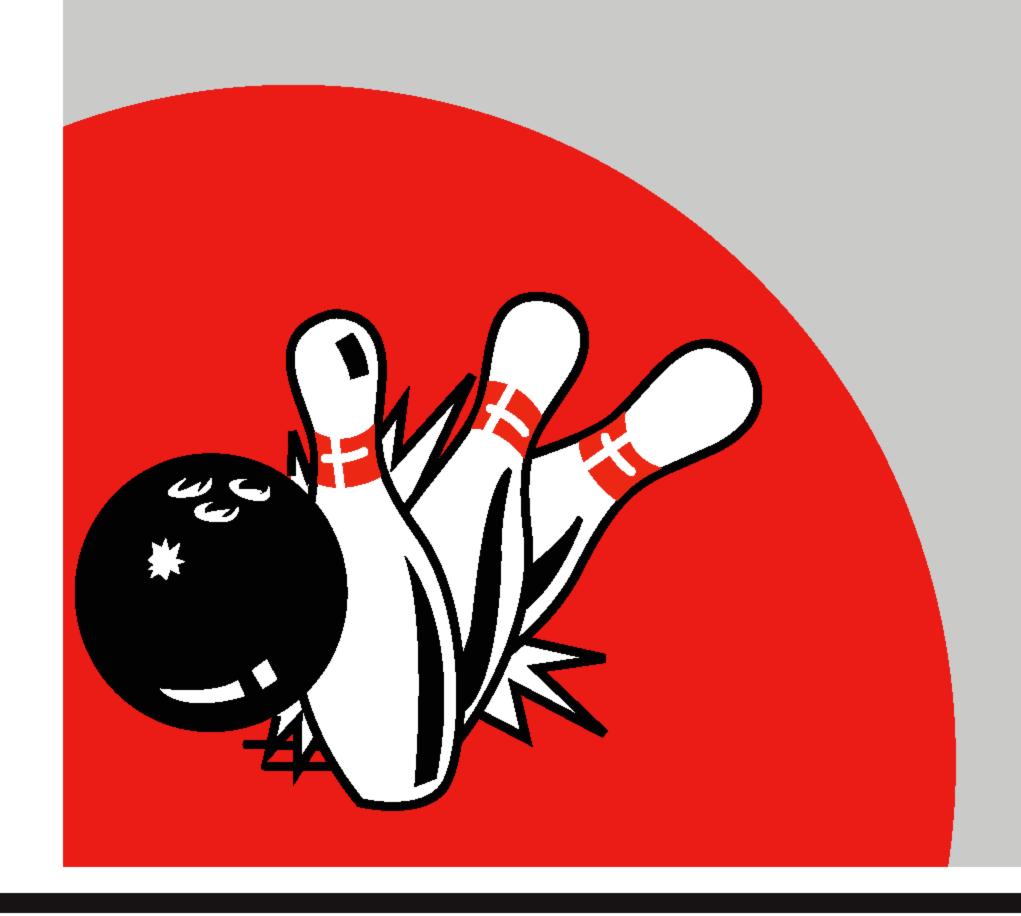
The Office of Campus Life will host a meet and greet for student organization advisors on **September 5 from 8:30am-10:00am** in the MTCC Ballroom. Please encourage your advisor to stop by and say hello!



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our answer.

GLAM IIT is IIT's LGBTQ student organization. We welcome EVERYONE.

*** & follow @GLAMIIT



Meetings start Tuesday, September 11, 2012 @ 7PM in the MTCC, Room 516 next to the Post Office

who needs emunusm?

Our first meeting of the semester is on Tuesday, September 4, at 9PM in the MTCC, Room 516 next to the Post Office

Feminists United promotes equality between the sexes on campus. Everyone is welcome.

Find us on or email iit.feministsunited@gmail.com