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OCES 'recycling ambassadors' aid in sustainable efforts during Homecoming

By Brock Auerbach-Lynn
TECHNEWS WRITER

Homecoming Carnival is one of IIT's largest and most popular events each year. The music, attractions and free food draw more than 1,000 people to campus. However, all these people eating and drinking with only disposable products tends to produce a mountain of waste.

After witnessing the sheer volume of trash in years past and the fact that much of it includes recyclable bottles and cans, IIT's Office of Campus Energy & Sustainability decided to use this year's Homecoming Carnival as the first major event outside of IPRO Day with recycling stations.

Throughout the carnival, attendees may have noticed the eight recycling stations scattered throughout Morton Park - each

comprised of 3 trash bins: one for recycling, one for composting and one for garbage. Each bin was labeled and had pictures of the appropriate items that could go in it. Every station was manned by a volunteer recycling ambassador who helped people dispose of their trash into the appropriate container.

Attendees seemed a little perplexed at first that someone wanted to help them with throwing stuff out but they quickly caught on how to separate their trash appropriately. Even the more complex cases involving multiple plates (trash), leftover food (compost), napkins (trash), wood skewers (compost), cups (recycle) and forks (trash) were handled quickly with a little instruction from the volunteer recycling ambassadors.

The volunteer's efforts to green Homecoming were met with very positive results and many commented to the volunteers

as to what a good idea this was and how it was about time!

At the end of the day, the recycling stations and the efforts of the volunteer recycling ambassadors helped achieve approximately 45% recycling, 45% trash and 10% compostable material from the carnival, in contrast to previous years when 100% went to trash. A huge success!

The Office of Campus Energy & Sustainability will learn from this event and build on its' success in expanding IIT's Event Recycling Program. If you have an event you would like help with, please email campussustainability@iit.edu.

A special thanks to the volunteer recycling ambassadors, Daniel Medrano, Leslie Villanueva, Siyi Chen, Muddasar Munir, Anqi Liu and Jinjin Huang, without whom this success would not have been possible.



Photos by Brock Auerbach-Lynn

Changes @ Galvin Library

Imagine, 293 straight hours of study-time, access to text books, group study rooms, quiet study areas, computers, printers, scanners, and copiers before final exams...

Well, now it's reality.

Galvin Library will now offer "Study Week," starting Sunday, November 25, the library will open at 12 noon, and remain open until 5 p.m. Friday, December 7.

Both the upper and lower levels will be open during this time.

What do you think of the Fatboy bean bag chairs in Galvin Library?

New ones are soon on their way, but first, we want your input on styles & colors. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/9uvbahp> to help us in our decision.



SGA, EWB hold annual retreats

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

One of the priorities for student organizations to function more effectively and sustainably on campus is to make sure their members are meeting at least once a year beyond the general body meetings to set goals and decide upon achievable actions in order to achieve those goals. Towards this regard, two major student organizations organized daylong retreats on Saturday for its members to get together, hear from the exec board for the plans for the semester, and chalk out details for their roles in the functioning of the organizations.

With the recent Finance Board budget cuts and the new elections of Senators from last week's Student Government Association elections, it was an important time for the SGA to regroup and discuss how business was going to be carried out this semester. Members from all three branches gathered to talk about possibly setting concrete guidelines as to how new student orgs will be approved at Senate and to promote collaboration among student orgs to more efficiently use Finance Board budget allocations. Senators also talked about how to hold student orgs accountable with attendance and success at their events and its consequent effect on their future budget proposals. This included a suggestion welcomed by TechNews wherein student orgs could actively write follow up articles or submit photographs from their events to showcase and verify its success. Some other ideas thrown out were the possibility of existing student orgs "endorsing" new ones to provide legitimacy, and student orgs being required to fill out post-event and post-conference summaries to elucidate how similar future opportunities would help them. After this, the three different branches broke off to discuss individual plans before heading out to dinner in Lincoln Park followed by a hilarious night spent at Chicago's famous sketch improv comedy show, The Second City.

The Engineers Without Borders retreat caught everyone up to speed on everything EWB was doing and was an excellent opportunity to get a better understanding of the foundation, mission, and vision of EWB-USA. The event featured a variety of presentations by professionals related to the model of EWB. The day started with a presentation by the President Sara Glade talking about the starts of her personal involvement in EWB; her experience of going to Haiti for a water supply and distribution project; with an additional focus on education and electrification in schools. The Haiti project is currently closed but she mentioned that the team is currently looking for help in research on new projects. She also spoke about other opportunities to get involved with EWB outside of projects, like fundraisers (including a Coffee and Bagels Fundraiser on Wednesday morning in the E1 lobby!), social events and conferences. This presentation was followed up by a talk by the President of the EWB Chicagoland Professional Chapter Emily Wigley; who spoke at length about the projects she had been involved in Africa and Central America. She stressed on the critical

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