

College of Engineering wraps up Themes Month

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

The Dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Natasha DePaola, wrapped up the Engineering Themes Month, which the College organized in September, and which students may have seen a multitude of events and field visits being organized around. The college announced that over 250 students have officially kicked off their "Experience Indexes" – an online record of their participation in co-curricular activities in the Themes of Water, Health, Energy and Security and which can be a tremendous boost to any job application.

The attendance at the wrap-up workshop was faculty, administration and members of the Engineering Themes Student Council. Some members from related student organizations such as ASHRAE-IIT and ASME (which is planning an "Engine Week" in March in partnership with the Themes) were present as well, along with SGA President Kelly Lohr.

There were several suggestions thrown forward by students; such as Professors offering extra credit to students for attending events; sending out more

personalized emails about Themes events rather than the generic all-College mailing list ones which students wouldn't read in the flood of emails they get each day; and having mock interview sessions/job shadow days to learn more about real world scenarios.

Kelly Lohr spoke about the role of the Student Government in promoting collaboration and communication between student orgs on campus to co-partner on events and add to the Themes experience.

The Dean resonated that feeling by telling the crowd that she can also rally faculty to lead and co-lead Themes experiences. The Dean said that the Themes has identified a series of classes and IPROs which already fit into the Themes umbrella; so as not to add to the already heavy engineering curriculum at IIT.

Electives and research opportunities are also being considered for the same purpose (Vice Provost Mike Gosz spoke about the real world exposure provided by the IPROs and how it ties in neatly with the Themes initiative.) The College is working with the CMC to spread awareness amongst possible Themes experience so that they can come better prepared for events such as Career fairs. For now, the College wants

students to provide regular feedback as the initiative kicks off. They want students to register with the portfolio system online and use it – students have nothing to lose that way.

Email iitengineeringthemes@gmail.com with any event ideas you wish to propose a co-plan with the Themes.

For more information and to stay up-to-date with the Themes, I encourage you to check <http://blogs.iit.edu/armour/> on a regular basis.

To take the momentum from the Month forward, the Council is hoping to start collaborating with as many related student organizations on campus and partnering up with them to add to the Themes experience on campus.

As a Council they have dedicated teams for Communications/Publicity (both within and beyond IIT), Finance (to help student orgs with additional funding outside of the SAF), Records (to keep track of attendance) and Operations (for event planning and logistics); so the writer (speaking as Director of Internal Communications for the Council) encourages you to reach out to them whenever you feel like additional assistance from their side would help your event.



Dean Dr. Natasha DePaola,
Armour College of Engineering
Photo courtesy of IIT Magazine

Greek community comprised of strong students, campus housing policies limit participation

By Dan Zweig
STAFF WRITER

Everyone thinks they know what Greeks are all about, they've heard stories, seen movies, and read articles about what the college Greek experience is and has been for the past few decades. Most people have no idea what Greek life is like at IIT, or that it exists at all.

IIT Greeks do not throw keggers, they do not haze, and they do not streak across the quad to the gymnasium. IIT fraternities and sororities are organizations that teach their members values that they may not learn in the classroom such as leadership, time management, respect, and accountability. Greek chapters all aspire to be the best academically, while balancing that with other ideals and virtues, and encourage members to attend their classes, participate in community service events, and show their pride at campus spirit and social events. If nothing more, fraternities and sororities are the family that a student needs while he is away from home, a network of diligent students to motivate, lead, and share memories with.

To Faculty, Greeks are the students who sit in the front row of your class. They have the courage to ask questions and contribute to discussions. They offer critical advice and opinions. They organize study

groups to stay up late hours, helping other students succeed in your class. They are the students who attend classes not only because they need it to get their degree, but also because they see the value that it will offer them during and after leaving campus.

To Staff, Greeks are the students who look you in the eye and smile when passing by or speaking with you. They are those sociable outgoing students who offer constructive feedback and opinions when asked. They are the students who start organizations and lead them from nothing to successful. To Administration, Greeks are the students who lead the campus, from SGA to numerous organizations. They are the students who attend workshops and lectures regarding real world issues. They are the students at career fairs who present themselves as knowledgeable, attentive, diligent students and professionals. They are the students who get summer internships and jobs immediately after graduation. They are the alumni who return to campus five years later, or 50 years later, with stories and memories that encourage them to donate to sustaining the IIT mission. Perhaps not every Greek student is the student listed here, and there are many IIT students who achieve these attributes without the guidance or motivation from a fraternity or sorority. However, the Greek system is here to help more people reach their potential.

For everyone who does not live in the dorms and may not know, IIT first year students are required to live in the dorms or with their parents for the first year. Also, anybody who lives in the dorms, except for Gunsaulus, is required to have a meal plan. The cheapest required meal plan costs \$2,102 for 175 meals; simple math makes that \$12 per meal. Students have the option of exchanging these meals for bonus points, \$7 per meal that may be used only at select venues on campus, where prices are relatively unregulated. This means a student must eat his meals at the commons per his meal plan or change his \$12 into \$7 of premium priced merchandise.

For the last few decades male students have had the option to join fraternities and move into the fraternity houses immediately, paying a prorated fee for the days they were in the dorms, and otherwise cancelling their contracts hassle free. This allowed students to not be restrained by the strict meal times and policies of the school and housing (an SSV resident scans their ID four times before getting to their bedroom) and places them in the community mentioned before, surrounded by fellow students who motivate academic and leadership success.

In addition to the rooms for students, most chapter houses usually offer a living room, dining room, recreational room,

study room, kitchen, laundry room, and sometimes facilities such as offices, studios, or weight rooms. This new community is as safe and maintained as the dormitories, and provides students with ample place to live; notably they offer a place on campus that a student can cook his own meals, and store food in abundance; but most importantly a community where students can thrive as leaders and students. Greek life at IIT offers a development for its members that pushes towards an ideal the school and the fraternities agree on, and having freshmen move in immediately fosters this mentorship.

A new IIT policy does not allow for students to move out into fraternity houses for the first semester, making mentoring harder for the most critical semester for an IIT student. Greek life is continually scrutinized by the IIT administration, and has been victim in the past few years of several changes in policy that influence the Greek community to believe they are under attack by the school. Greek life is not something the administration should be attacking, but encouraging and helping and not stifling. The administration and Greek community should be looking for ways that they can work together to make the IIT experience better and the mission more attainable.

Galvin 24-hour study week returns

Student competition offers 'Finals Week Survival Pack' through Facebook

By Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Galvin Library is still promoting the new Study Week, 24-hour access on both levels of the Library that begins on Sunday November 25. In an effort to promote the information and build interest, we partnered with a few departments to offer a Finals Week Survival Pack. From those folks who "like us" on the new Facebook page set up by Galvin

Library, we will randomly choose 4 winners to receive a Finals Week Survival Pack that is full of all of the necessities for finals week: a scarlet hawks t-shirt, lots of snacks, fruit, energy drinks, breath mints, re-useable drink bottles, hand sanitizer, pens, post-its, and more.

As you look ahead to Study Week and Finals Week, working long hours around the clock, do you anticipate long sleepless nights, with no time to eat or do laundry?

Do you worry about finding a seat at Galvin Library during finals? All you have to do is "like" Galvin Library's Facebook page and you will be entered for a chance to win a Finals Week Survival Pack!

To recap, to win a Finals Week Survival Pack:

- You must "like us" Paul V. Galvin Library on Facebook to enter
- You must be an IIT student to win
- You can reserve any seat of your

choosing (study carrel, table, bean bag) just once

• Seat has to be reserved 24 hours before use

Thanks to Undergraduate Admissions, Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability, Student Health and Wellness Center, and Campus Life for their contributions to the Finals Week Survival Packs. Happy Studying!