

CAURS extends professional ventures to IIT students

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Formal presentation of ideas and work is a recognized way of boosting confidence, enriching the in-classroom academic experience and developing communication skills. For budding scientists and engineers, the opportunity to conduct and present undergraduate research gives a valuable sense of belonging to the scientific community. These skills are transferable to graduate school, various jobs and even other areas of life. Undergraduate students (especially at IIT) certainly take advantage of networking opportunities via professional involvement at conferences, but very often these involve high costs and inconvenience of missing classes, etc.

To work around this problem, the Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium (CAURS) was founded in 2005 to 'promote, encourage, and celebrate the efforts and dedication of undergraduate students conducting research at institutions in and around the Chicago land area'. What started as a small conference with only 70 presenters has grown

to what is now one of the largest undergraduate research conferences in the country. Organized as a day-long, student-managed event, the annual research symposium event follows a model that offers a unique blend of networking, event management, and minimal financial or administrative costs to partnering institutions. This year, the event will be held at IIT's own Hermann Hall on Saturday, April 6th, 2013. Students from a wide variety of academic disciplines are encouraged to present or at least attend the symposium, which is free of cost.

The daylong event consists of two poster sessions (morning and evening) featuring all student participants, as well as oral presentations from students selected to give 10-minute talks. In addition, a dedicated time for poster-viewing, a networking session with graduate school representatives, and informal roundtable discussions with various other academic and industry representatives provide students ample opportunity to discover the work being done by their peers and to network.

The event concludes in the evening with dinner, a keynote address from a distin-

guished researcher from one of the CAURS member institutions, and an awards ceremony recognizing the achievements of the day's outstanding presenters. One award is given per university and thus this also serves as a platform to show some school spirit!

Judged by graduate students and faculty members, the event frequently sees conversations on topics such as underrepresented minorities in science, the graduate/professional school application process, internships and stepping into academia.

Registration for student presenters, faculty, judges and student observers is now open for CAURS 2013. No matter what department or academic field you belong to, there is an opportunity to learn for everyone; ranging from the natural sciences to engineering to applied math to social sciences to psychology. You can look up <http://www.caurs.com/registration.html> to register for the event.

Please contact one of the IIT student board members on the CAURS team, Tamara Gedankien (BME 2nd year), at tgedanki@hawk.iit.edu if you have any questions.



Photo by Utsav Gandhi

Art galleries, shows in IIT's backyard

Dan Zweig
STAFF WRITER

If you've ever had a class with Professor Snapper you would have heard about the Zhou B Art Center on 35th and Morgan. The Zhou Brothers are prominent contemporary Chicago artists, originally from China, who are internationally acclaimed as perhaps the most accomplished artists today. Together they started the Zhou B Art Center, "to promote and facilitate a cultural dialogue by organizing contemporary art exhibitions and programs of international scope."

The Art Center, most notable for its 3rd Fridays, is open 5 days a week; check their website for more information. On the 3rd Friday of every month, the galleries open a new exhibition with an exciting reception to see the new art of the exhibition, meet the artists, and discuss art with critics. Most notably, you can visit the studios and galleries of artists who work, and maybe even live, in the building. While visiting the galleries on multiple floors, you experience an array of different work, including photography, painting, and sculpting to name a few.

The reception runs from 7 to 10 p.m. on the third Friday of each month and admission is free. A small café/bar at the entrance offers drinks and an exciting atmosphere before entering the large gallery spaces of the ground floor.

The first and second floors contain most, if not all, of the exhibition, and the other floors are comprised of the studios and exhibit spaces of local artists. At these studios everyone is invited to explore and ponder the artists' work, while many of them even offer food and drinks for guests and critics to enjoy while they stay.

Chicago is full of opportunities to experience the art and culture of the city, and IIT is lucky enough to be only a few blocks from such an exhibition space as the Zhou B Art Center. The Fine Arts Building in Chicago also does similar open studios every so often to meet and mingle with artists and their work. Opportunities such as free admission to the Art Institute for the entire month of January and part of February was also a gift for experiencing Chicago for free; it will continue to be free every Thursday from 5-8 p.m. weekly. The Museum of Contemporary Art is free Tuesdays and the Museum of Contemporary Photography is free every day. Last but not least, the Chicago Cultural Center, which shows a variety of professional artwork and installations, is always free. All of these locations are easily accessed via UPass and underappreciated by most of Chicago and IIT.

One of IIT's new student organizations is also continuously updating their club on upcoming art events and opportunities, as well as curating the Galvin Library gallery's new exhibitions. Contact smallroomgallery@gmail.com with any questions.



Images Courtesy of Zhou B Art Center

YouTube competition continues

Lewis College of Human Sciences

The college wished a special thank you to all those students who submitted videos for their competition and to everyone who voted online for the winners. We had several creative, entertaining submissions and judging was very difficult. Please continue to view and share these videos with your friends.

1st Place Video 6,332 views

Stephen Huang

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrY6ojboN48&feature=plcp>

2nd Place Video 2,688 views

Travon Cooman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W0tjPO4ce>

3rd Place Video 1,247 views

Rani Shah

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQpQDZEeGtQ&feature=youtu.be>

Other Entries 1,030 views

Jeffrey Wolfe

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsfPpS-RJ8&feature=youtu.be>

Second Round judging deadline was February 11, 2013, 12:00 p.m. central standard time.

The College wished to advise that anyone can enter their new competition and win big cash prizes. See details at www.iit.edu/psych/events. The new competition offers students the opportunity to get a camera, some friends, and let your creative juices flow. The idea is to make a short two-minute video about anything. As long as you mention humanities, psychology, or social sciences and IIT you are golden; just keep it clean and follow the rules. The deadline is April 15 12:00 p.m. CST; the official rules can be found at www.iit.edu/psych/events/youtube_competition.shtml. The sponsors are the IIT Lewis College of Human Sciences and BMO Harris Bank.

Travon Cooman, one of the participants, remarked: "One would have expected Huang's video to at least get more views than what it got since he was using Psy's famous 'Gangnam Style' track to facilitate the video going viral. Despite the creativity that all participants displayed in their videos, I believe that the desired level of promotion which the new college at IIT was seeking was not achieved. However, it is encouraging that the videos were viewed by people outside IIT too, including those who had never heard about IIT. Although the competition is over, students are still encouraged to promote the University by sharing the videos. Why remain quiet about what you are proud about?"

