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TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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Union Board's Late NIITe gaming levels up MTCC



Photos by Kevin Zheng
Want to give feedback on your experience at Late NIITe?
Visit <http://tinyurl.com/latenitesurvey>

TechNews

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A perfect college summer

Dan Zweig
STAFF WRITER

Spring break is quickly approaching and if you haven't already made plans, you probably won't be able to pull off anything spectacular; sign-ups for ASB's spring break with Habitat for Humanity or the Rock Climbing Club's trip to Kentucky are long over, most airlines have already jacked up their prices if you were thinking about Vegas, California, Florida, or Cancun, and most of the academic conferences are booked and registered. That doesn't leave much besides going home if you live close, or sticking around in Chicago if you don't. Although many of spring break's opportunities seem to have already passed, summer's opportunities have not.

Now is the time to start planning for vacations in summer; the career fair has passed and soon you'll know if you have that summer internship, job back home, summer classes, or any other solid plans for the three months off. My recommendation is to use any extra time

to try getting away with an extreme, once in a lifetime, college experience.

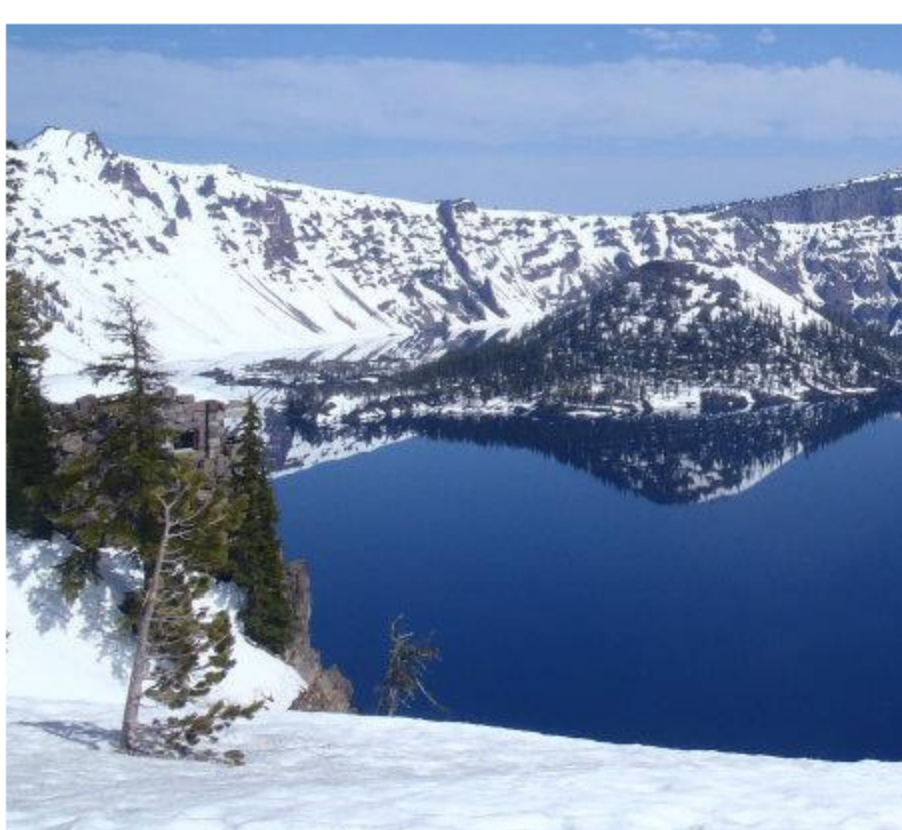
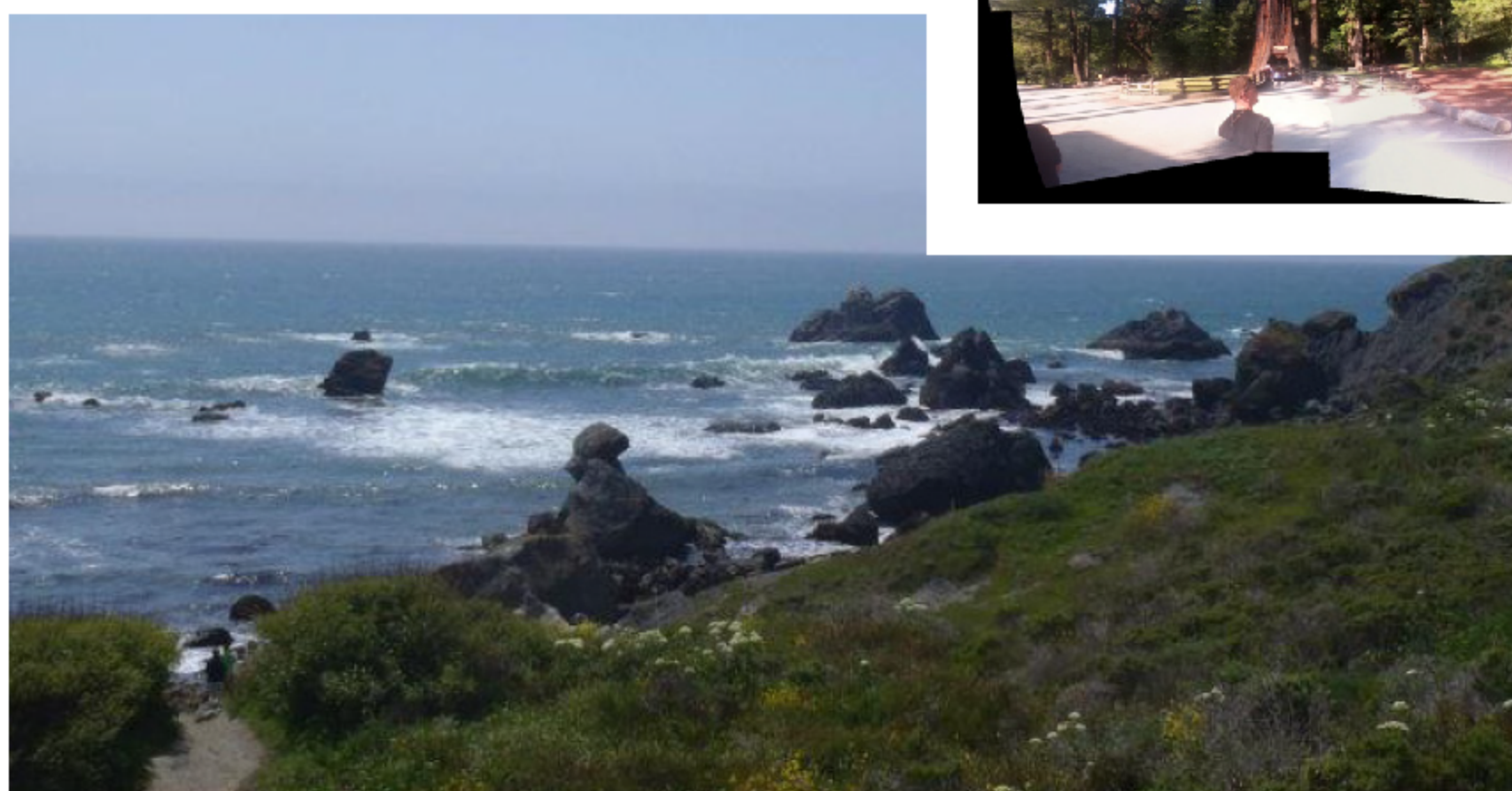
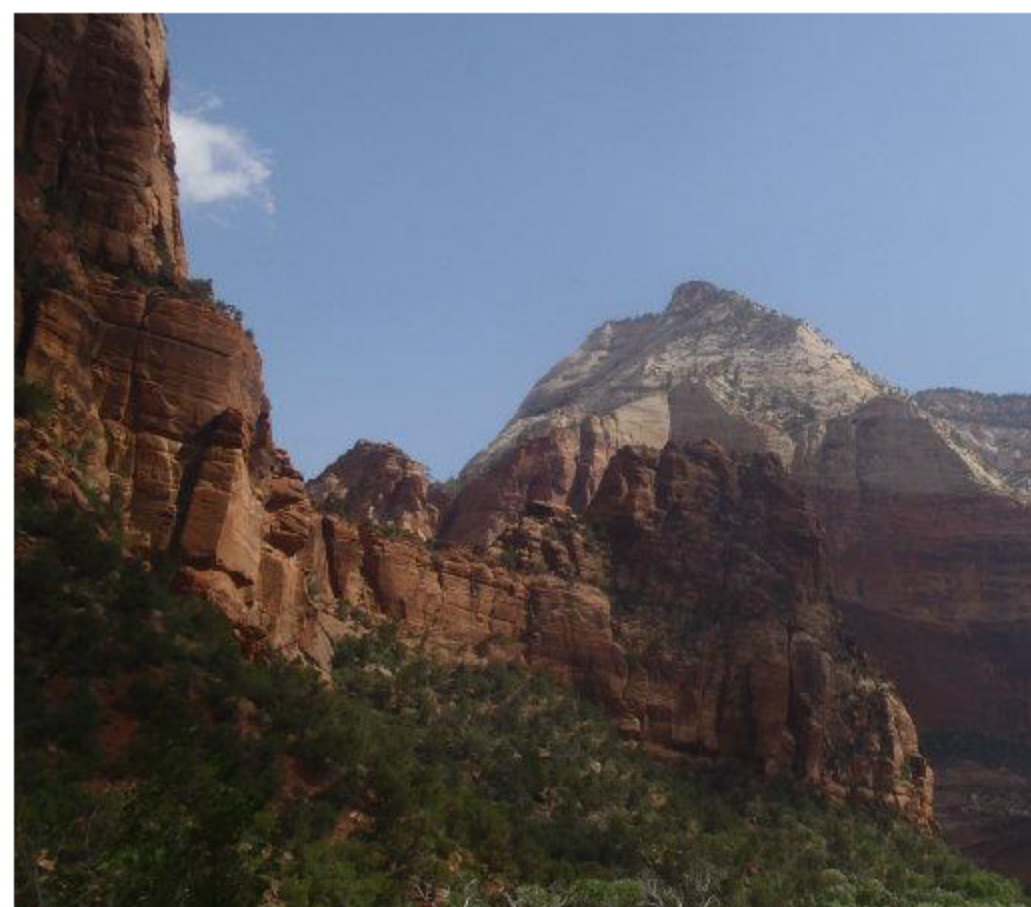
Last summer, I had the honor of riding along with friends from Chicago to California and back over four weeks. We left Chicago after finals, stopping for a few days at several different National Parks and cities along the way. Camping or staying at friends' houses, we were able to complete our trip even on a tight budget. We purchased a National Park Pass for \$80, giving us access to each of the 59 National Parks for an entire year. Even if you are only going to visit a few parks, this pass is well worth the fee, especially when split between 4 people.

On our journey across the country we visited 11 National Parks (Badlands, Yellowstone, Glacier, Crater Lake, Redwoods, Joshua Tree, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches, and Rocky Mountain). We camped for almost the entire trip and even found some random free camping on BLM (Bureau of Land Management) property for a few of the nights. IIT has an intense international population, but also an impressively diverse national student population, with students (or recent alumni)

from many, if not all, of the states. If you were to connect the dots between all of the friends you have around the country, you may find that there is a large network of cities to explore and friends to visit.

Roadtrips allow students to experience the country and its National gems in a way most people never get the chance to: while we are young enough to endure it, yet old enough to handle it. Our trip included camping, hiking, exploring, climbing, and photographing in 15 states, and hardly cost us anything as we split the gas between 3 or 4 drivers.

We experienced everything from deserted hiking trails to the hustle and bustle of cities like San Francisco, Portland, and Los Angeles. We were in 15 feet of snow one week and 90 degree weather the next. With a trip like this, you can really get as much variety as you want. I wish I had the opportunity and time to make a 4 week journey across the country every year, and I know that I will try to make it happen, especially while I'm still in school and not working 50 weeks per year.



Photos by Dan Zweig

ASB-IIT completes another successful fundraising season

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

As spring break draws closer and closer, a group of twenty one students and three staff members are eagerly looking forward to culminate their annual fundraising efforts and take a road trip down to Albany, GA (about two hours' drive from Atlanta) for the annual Alternative Spring Break - Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Spring Break challenge. Each year, a group of students coordinate and lead a team of students to a Habitat for Humanity site in an effort to volunteer over spring break. These trips are usually memo-

orable experiences for the participants, teaching them valuable lessons in team building, effective communication, mentorship, travel and giving back to the community. Previous years have seen teams travel to California and Alabama too.

To make the trip possible, the team has to fundraise effectively throughout the year in order to substantiate the remainder of the Finance Board proposal. Over the past year, the team has held some very successful fundraisers to establish their presence on campus. Last semester these included a booth at ISO's Taste of IIT (including an award for the best designed booth!), the popular Pie-in-the-Face as well as traveling to North-

western University to work at their basketball games. A big shout out also to the fundraising startup, GetPear.com, where some inspired encouragement from their campus representative Rani Shah allowed us to raise enough money to buy our own t-shirts. The winter break saw the fundraising efforts continue with gift wrapping at a local Barnes and Noble bookstore. This semester the group executed a spaghetti lunch, partnered with Illinois Tech A Capella to deliver Singing Valentines, had a successful Bake Sale on Valentine's Day and will wrap up the semester with another spaghetti lunch, this time at a local church.

There is still another opportunity to contribute to ASB's cause, though! This com-

ing Thursday (2/28), the nearby bar/restaurant Rocky's on 31st and Wells will have a College Night while screening the Chicago Bulls' game vs. the 76'ers. All tips will be matched and all proceeds will go to Alternative Spring Break! And even if you won't get to be a part of IIT ASB for this year, don't worry! Another student org, EWB-USA, IIT will be hosting a one day community service effort this coming Saturday, March 2nd, at Habitat for Humanity's local Chicagoland chapter in Elgin, IL. Transportation will be provided and the trip will run from 8:30am to 4pm. Contact ewb_group@iit.edu for more information and to sign up.

Entrepreneurship Academy, WISER bring successful alumna to campus

Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

The IIT Entrepreneurship Academy in association with Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research (WISER) hosted a talk by Alumna Cynthia (C. J.) Warner. While WISER invited Ms. Warner as a part of their 2013 WISER/Galvin Center Seminar Series, IIT Entrepreneurship Academy invited her for a talk on the story behind her successful career as an energy executive, and to network with fellow IIT students, faculty and staff.

Cynthia (C.J.) Warner holds a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University and an M.B.A. from Illinois

Institute of Technology. Mrs. Warner joined Sapphire Energy, Inc. in February 2009 as President, was named Chairman in May of 2010, and CEO in April of 2012. She brings more than 27 years of experience in the energy, refining and transportation industries. At Sapphire Energy, Ms. Warner is leading the company's ongoing technology development and transition into commercial-scale crude oil operations.

During her talk at the WISER/Galvin Office Suite, Ms. Warner spoke about the topic "Growing the World's Fuel". Discussing energy production as one of the most challenging issues facing scientists and engineers today, she mentioned how her company, Sap-

phire Energy, is at the intersection of cutting edge biotechnology, energy, and agriculture research. Sapphire has headquarters in San Diego, California, an R&D facility in Las Cruces, New Mexico; and is currently operating the first Integrated Algal Bio-Refinery in Columbus, New Mexico. She also spoke about how she sees her company's product, Green Crude, changing the world's petrochemical landscape. Green Crude is a renewable and sustainable form of crude oil; breaking down many of the barriers that were once thought to hinder algae-to-energy technology with advances in biology, chemistry, and engineering.

Finishing her talk at WISER seminar, she joined the IIT Entrepreneurship Acad-

emy for a networking session with fellow IIT students. Nik Rokop, Managing Director of the Jules F. Knapp Entrepreneurship Center at IIT, introduced Ms. Warner to the crowd and encouraged everyone to be prepared with questions after the talk. Ms. Warner spoke about her transition from an executive with energy industry giants British Petroleum, Amoco Oil Company, and UOP to a start-up company, Sapphire Energy. Interacting with the audience, she answered many questions starting from funding her own start-up to landing an internship at her company. Overall, it was an interactive and interesting talk, which was enjoyed by the audience.



Photo by Swasti Khuntia

SWE post Career Fair tips

Rachel Woodall
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Society of Women Engineers recently brought in an alumni speaker, Julie Hill (MMAE '07), to prepare their general body for the career fair and helping them achieve your career goals. The foremost piece of advice she had to give was to be confident to get noticed. If you're wondering what to wear, just keep in mind that you need to dress to impress. When choosing between business casual and business professional, she felt that the ones in the latter are more motivated and more ambitious because they took the time to research what is acceptable and more noteworthy. Presenting yourself, no matter how nervous you may feel, is easy with a nice smile, strong handshake, good posture, and clear speaking.

Practicing in front of a mirror always helps. When people who are dressed professionally walk up to you and extend their hand, say 'hello', smile, and say clearly "Hi, I'm [XYZ], a [senior mechanical engineering] major at Illinois Tech," recruiters already want to hire them and hope that their resume matches their professionalism.

Besides a strong GPA, research experience (I PROs included), and extracurricular activities (esp. leadership roles), what impresses companies is when students write them a thank-you note and make sure they follow any instructions given (like applying online for internship opportunities).

Research the companies you spoke to at the career fair. If you have a certain field you want to work in but the company says they are not hiring in that area, you might want to look at other companies. For example, you are interested in the health care field and are looking at a company currently working on health related projects, but they told you that they are not hiring in that area of their company. If you really did your research it can never hurt to say "I know that [this company] recently developed a drug that targets ... can you tell me more about that division/project, etc."

But saying, "I know [this company] specializes in healthcare...can you tell me more about that division" isn't really showing that you did adequate research. Recruiters will know that you are not experienced and maybe haven't had time to consider all possibilities.

Fueling Innovation continues

Betsy Hughes
VP, INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Friday, February 8, 2013 was a memorable day for me at IIT. Standing at the top of the stairs in the MTCC with President Anderson, we were overwhelmed by the crowd of students, faculty and staff who turned out to hear the news about Fueling Innovation: The Campaign for IIT. Thank you! I also want to thank Kelly Lohr, SGA President and Will Syvongsa, Union Board President for speaking at the event about the impact the campaign already is having in terms of scholarships, faculty support and facility improvements.

Our goal is to raise \$250 million—from June 2010 to December 2016—and as of February 8 we had achieved \$131,791,822. This represents gifts large and small, from 8,931 donors! The remaining funds will come from alumni and friends of the university, and will be directed toward scholarships, faculty support, improvements to existing facilities, general operations of the university and building of the Innovation Center.

The money also will come from current students, through the Student Gift Campaign which this year will support modular furniture in the Galvin Library. This year's Student Gift Campaign, led by Ropo Sanni (ARCH '13) and Bhavna Hosakere (EE '13) has the added benefit of a challenge gift from our campaign co-chair, Bud Wendorf (ME '71). You can find out more about the Student Gift Campaign at alumni.iit.edu/2012gift and about the campaign priorities at fuelinginnovation.iit.edu.

At the event last week we announced that an extraordinary gift of \$12 million has been received from Caryl Pucci Rettaliata, wife of former IIT President John T. Rettaliata. Ten million dollars of this gift will go toward the renovation of Engineering-1, a building that was built during Dr.

Rettaliata's presidency, which will now be renamed the 'John T. Rettaliata Engineering Center'. Renovations will begin this summer and are expected to continue into fall of 2014. The remaining \$2 million fully endows the John T. Rettaliata Endowed Chair in the College of Engineering, held by Dr. Hassan Nagib.

This wonderful gift brings the number of campaign commitments in excess of \$10 million to four. The others were received from Craig J. Duchossois and Ralph Wanger, both members of the IIT Board of Trustees who did not attend IIT, and John P. Calamos Sr. (ECON '63, M.B.A. '70), the largest alumni donor in this campaign to date.

Philanthropy has long been an important part of IIT's success and at the Campaign Launch we also celebrated the 76 families who have contributed \$1 million or more to the university. Named in honor of Philip Danforth Armour, the university's founding donor, the Armour Society donor wall was unveiled last week as a tribute to these families. I encourage the campus community to visit the beautiful new installation in the MTCC, and to use the iPad display to read about Armour Society members and their connection to the university.

Finally, I want to ask the campus community to help share our "What Can't We Do?" video with your family and friends. Students and alumni have told us that watching the video has made you proud to be a part of IIT. If you haven't seen it yet, please take a look at fuelinginnovation.iit.edu. I ask you to share this to help raise the visibility of the university outside of campus. We don't have as many views as IIT's Harlem Shake, but maybe we'll catch up!

As the campaign progresses, look for news in IIT Today and in TechNews. If you have any questions for me about the campaign, I can be reached at hughes@iit.edu.

EWB-IIT brings U-Chicago GlobeMed to campus

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

As part of social justice month commemoration, EWB-IIT invited fellow student leaders from the University of Chicago's GlobeMed chapter to speak about their efforts with tuberculosis education and a unique, sustainable grassroots partnership with ASPAT; a nonprofit based in Peru working to achieve the same goal.

Presenters Cindy and Ethel (the internal co-Presidents of the chapter) spoke about a student's approach to Global Health problems plaguing our world today. They mentioned that this model of sustainable partnership is similar to EWB's and that collaboration between a predominantly engineering student group and another pre-medicine or global health group could work wonders in the fight towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Tuberculosis (TB) was the leading cause of death 100 years ago, though antibiotics have today helped to eradicate in the US, whereas the problem persists outside. A third of the world's population is still affected by the disease in their lifetime and failures to infiltrate medicines into the developing world have largely remained difficult. Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, "TB is the child of poverty, but also its parent and provider." Keeping this as their motto, GlobeMed U-

Chicago ties in their vision for a socially just world into their work in eradicating the cycle of disease and poverty.

The presenters shared two stories from GlobeMed UChicago's recent history: one was about Laura (name changed), a student at U-Chicago, who caught TB while on a visit to Peru. She was prescribed a one-year mandatory drug regimen while trying to reenter the USA, and there were no other side effects. Her biggest grouse today is that the vaccines and medications prevent her from consuming alcohol. The second story was about Raul, who lives in a poor locality of Peru; is aged 29, has 3 children, and is currently undergoing symptoms for the same disease which struck Laura, simply because he doesn't have access to vaccinations and medications in Peru. The few medications available are too expensive, and he has been rendered the sole breadwinner of family since his wife left him after he was diagnosed.

These two stories show the glaring social justice disparities: a life turned around completely by a disease and a life relatively unchanged, simply because of the varied levels of access. This is no longer a matter of disease, but a matter of justice and power. "There will be no justice without a social movement," says Joia Mukherjee from the Harvard School of Global Health. There are imbalances in the dynamics of power between the poor and the rich, and the people must work together with the government to end these disparities.

Addressing the MDGs has become even more crucial than before: touching areas like sanitation, basic health education, income generation, grassroots partnerships, as well as developing student leaders in global health and other developmental initiatives so as to sustain the movement.

The U-Chicago GlobeMed chapter information is a roster of 43 active members, and the chapter itself was founded in winter 2010. There is a strong focus on leadership and effective communication in keeping every member of the organization on the same page.

Then there was the case of Melecio: a budding pilot, who developed TB after high school. The glaring symptoms meant that he couldn't attend university, and had to undergo lung surgery. Not eligible to become a pilot, he instead chose to found ASPAT, the grassroots organization which is now working with U-Chicago GlobeMed (including weekly Skype calls). The organization is very active in Peru and Melecio was recently appointed to the regional committee in the Central American WHO branch. The GlobeMed chapter helps in jewelry making seminars and supplying nutrition baskets - with the aim of self-empowerment, structural leadership, and an entrepreneurship-training program.

The chapter said that challenges remain. It can be difficult to enforce mutual responsibility, and this is where partnerships come in to magnify our abilities. Working on getting the entire chapter onto the same page

and inter-chapter learning means continuous opportunities for growth. Current opportunities identified are the Grassroots Outside Work (GROW) internship every summer spending time with ASPAT, attending meetings with the community and local government to help pass legislation regarding TB.

The chapter is currently working on health clinics that don't have Internet access (so, by extension, an effective way of tracking inventory.) The chapter is now building a mobile phone inventory program and is working with the government to implement it. The chapter is also currently featured on the GlobeMed national website! (<http://globemed.org/impact/university-of-chicago/>)

EWB-IIT and the Engineering Themes need to be credited for organizing an event of such deep reflection and collaborative learning with student leaders from neighboring universities.

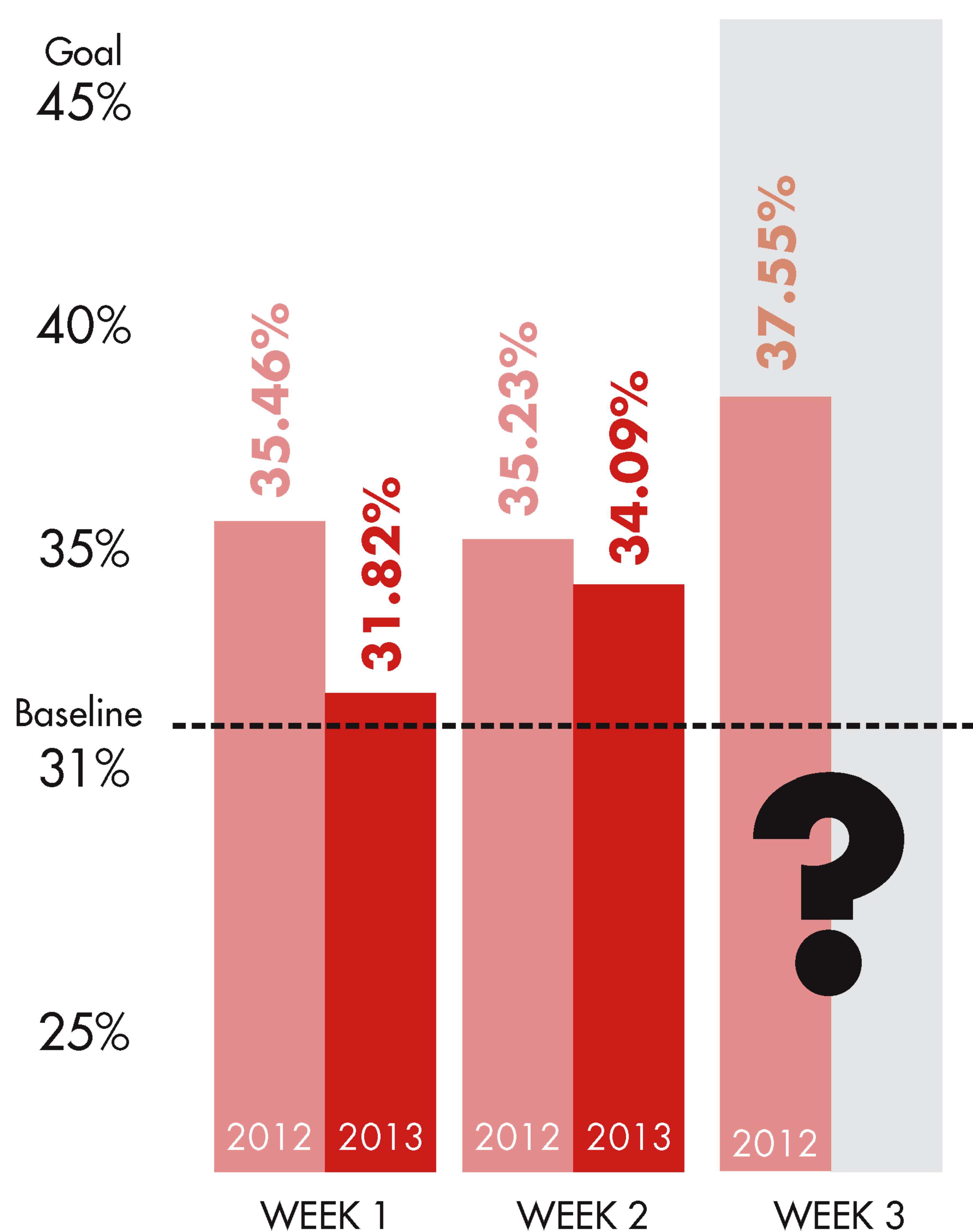
There are many lessons to be learned from the work of our peers, and students working united to bring about positive change can really make an impact if they work collaboratively.

Inspired by EWB's efforts and want to join in the fight? They will be hosting a one day community service effort this coming Saturday, March 2nd, at Habitat for Humanity's Chicagoland chapter in Elgin, IL. Transportation will be provided and the trip will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact ewb_group@iit.edu to sign up or for more information.

RECYCLE MANIA

What's Next?

Will you help our rate by recycling this week?



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Office of Campus Life

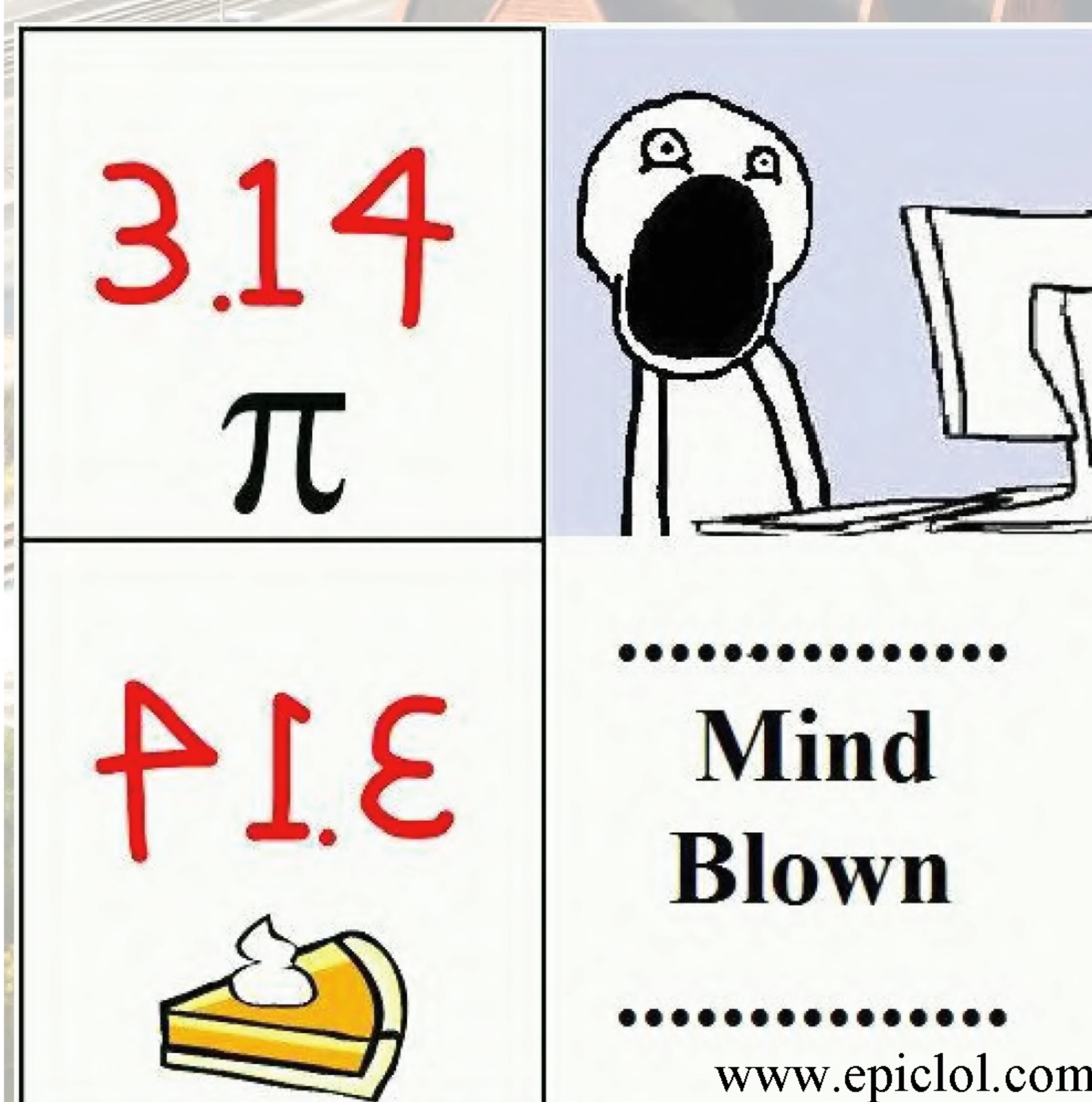
Getting ready to negotiate a salary for a new position? Attend the Start Smart information session! February 27 from 5 pm—8 pm RSVP at

tinyurl.com/StartSmartIIT

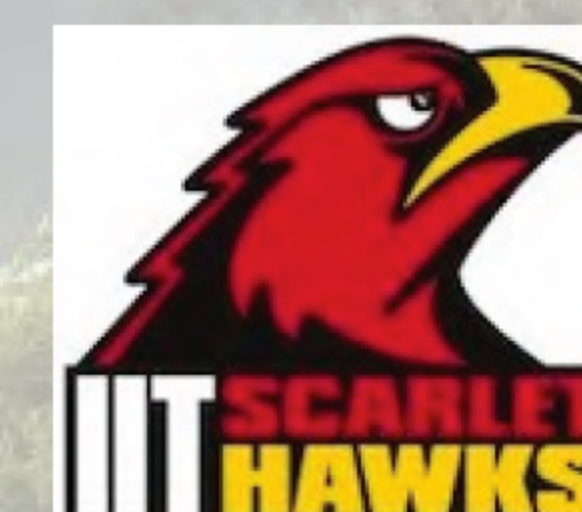


$\Delta T \Delta$

Congratulations to Delta Tau Delta Gamma Beta for being recognized as one of the top 20 Delta Tau Delta chapters in the country (among other awards)!



<http://www.facebook.com/IITCampusLife>



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Stages' unassuming appearance shrouds savory diner cuisine

Matti Scannell
A&E EDITOR

Until very recently, I had assumed that the pink sign with green letters that reads "Stages" was referring to a sort of mom-and-tots kind of program at the church next to the sign. I had somehow missed that underneath the name it reads "Casual Dining." I had also somehow walked past the diner building for an entire semester on my way to school without seeing it.

My lack of awareness was rectified by my landlady's twelve-year-old daughter, who asking me as we passed it "Have you eaten at Stages yet? It's my favorite breakfast place. Their blueberry pancakes are really good." I

had the following near-simultaneous thoughts including: a) My landlady's family is Catholic so they probably don't eat at a Lutheran church b) They don't have any kids that qualify as "tots" in their family c) my taste in breakfast foods has never evolved beyond that of a twelve year old girl (read: sugar) so I should probably take this kid's advice.

I decided to go on a weekday with my friend Holly in order to avoid the weekend crowd. We were hoping to arrive in time for the early bird special before 8:30 a.m. but didn't quite make it as we arrived slightly after 9:00 a.m. For those readers who are timelier and more money conscious, their advertisement on the fence next to the building advertises a \$3.99 early bird breakfast special, which

is what Holly and I wanted.

Now I have a theory that coffee always tastes better in diners, so my taste in this area is possibly not to be trusted, but my friend—who is more discerning—agreed that the coffee was better than average. Both Holly and myself ordered off of the specials menu. Holly chose a spicy omelet with chorizo that was too big to finish before we had to leave for school. I—a little less wisely I think—got what was titled "The Eskimo." This breakfast was as healthy as it was politically correct (not very).

What the menu promised was this: One large waffle surrounded by a protective barrier of whipped cream, topped with strawberries and chocolate syrup and a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Well, I received what I ordered

and it came with all the various accouterments that were promised, plus a small silver pitcher of syrup. It was...exactly what it sounds like. It was sweet in pretty much every way a food can be sweet.

Overall I would say it's the grossest thing I've eaten all semester. That's not, of course, to say that I didn't finish it. Overall, I'm a big fan of diner breakfasts and while I do love the occasional late-night or early morning trip to Bridgeport Restaurant, this was a nice change of pace (not to mention a little closer to IIT). My recommendation is if you go to Stages and you don't want to be in a sugar coma all day, stick with a savory breakfast option and try to make it for the early bird special to save a few bucks.



Movie Review:

'Side Effects' cast, plot make for true thriller

August Lysy
TECHNEWS WRITER

"Side Effects," Steven Soderbergh's newest film, just may be the most unsuspecting thriller of the decade. Like the slender blade of a knife, running out its sharpest point only at its very end, the film walks you unknowingly along the knife's edge.

The film follows Emily Taylor's (Rooney Mara) psychological descent following the recent release of her husband, Martin Taylor (Channing Tatum), from prison. As is evident by Martin's crime (white-collar inside trading), the young, married couple is well to do, and so Emily begins going to Dr. Jonathan Banks (Jude Law) for psychiatric counseling. All seems to be going well—that is, until the most unnerving and cringe-worthy scene focuses upon the screen (no spoilers: let me just say, psychological decay is a frightening state to observe).

That's the watered-down, no-spoiler synopsis; but as always, this hardly begins to convey the film's dramatically thrilling effect. While Thomas Newman's original score establishes a subtly ominous tone from the first scene, the true craft of this film lies in the screenwriting (Scott Z. Burns, "The Informant!" "Contagion"). I have always had a difficult time divorcing a film as the final product from its screenplay, but here one can

see (in hindsight) the intricately-weaved brilliance of the writing.

Above, I have chosen the simile of a knife—perhaps a chef's knife would be most apropos. I believe this communicates best the nearly benign significance the movie appears to garnish on itself, but also the latent threat it conceals from the outset; some knives serve harmless and beneficial purposes, but they all end in a point.

The cast is an unassuming lot, as well, but they stand out with performances that rival the Oscar contenders. Here, I am not just writing about Jude Law and Rooney Mara—although Mara's performance is the essential cog which turns this whole piece (and Tatum's, contrastingly, the cog that might just as well be a rubber band)—but also about the supporting actors and actresses, such as Polly Draper, Laila Robert, Peter Friedman, and Michael Nathanson (unknowns all, to me). The natural, understated deliveries of these actors and actresses added a breadth to the film that I do not typically find in most movies, and which rendered every scene a significant experience of artistry.

Honestly, "Side Effects" appeared dull in its theatrical trailer. However, for me, it turned out to be the superbly crafted, sleeper drama/thriller I had been hoping for a long while (I can't even recall one of recent—"Sleuth," 1972?). Worth every dollar (only \$7 if you go to AMC East 21 on Thursdays!), "Side Effects" deserves your viewing.



Image courtesy of impawards.com

Oscar-nominated shorts simple, sweet, entertaining

Melanie Decelles
TECHNEWS WRITER

Do you love movies, but aren't sure if you have the attention span to sit through a whole one? I mean, hell, some of them are 3 hours long now. Do you have trouble following over complicated plots with too many characters? Well then "Oscar Nominated Shorts 2013:

Animated" is exactly the movie for you.

Hosted by last year's winners the movie showcases all of the short animated films being considered for an Oscar. The hosts Bill Joyce and Brandon Oldenburg, fill the space between films with motivation for the young animator and tantalizing glimpses of their award winning movie—that they don't show you.

While most films being considered have little if any dialogue, the last film in the

series does everything it can to make up for that, featuring the vocal talents of various esteemed actors, who were paid to say roughly seven words each and grunt.

These films have everything you would ever want in a movie: romance, love at first sight, the bond between a man and his dog, surrealism, beloved characters, and a robotic genesis story.

Unfortunately, the movie doesn't tell you were the films first aired and how

they came to be considered at all, with a notable Pixar entry among the new surprises. The films, while wildly ranging in subject matter, were largely beautiful and entertaining. The mostly silent films were very peaceful when watched together, combined with straight forward plots, this movie is probably the most enjoyable one out there. Short, sweet and to the point.

Music Required: search for the best musical study buddy

Matti Scannell

A&E EDITOR

Over the course of my college career, the list of conditional requirements for successful studying has been whittled down to one essential precondition; I need to have music playing.

The man to the left of me on the bus may be telling the woman to the right of me how he could tell she was Scorpio from the type of shoes she's wearing in a doomed attempt to ask her out; but if I have my headphones, I'm in the zone, and the only thing occupying my thoughts is whatever biology content I've just reviewed with my flashcards.

Now, like many things in life, my music requirement is simple. I don't have many qualifications on the type of music that needs to be playing, but, in general, it has to be something that I don't know very well. If it has words, I can't know them or I will find them distracting and my studying will be less focused.

Enter two new apps on my iPhone:

SoundCloud and 8tracks. SoundCloud was originally intended to allow musicians to share recordings with each other, but it eventually allowed for artists to publish and distribute their music.

Contrastingly, 8tracks was intended more for listeners than artists. Listeners are able to create their own mixes, which must be a minimum of 8 tracks long, and then tag them with genre descriptions, names of artists found on the mix, or a psychologically descriptive term (e.g. sad, lonely, should find a therapist).

I've been an 8tracks user since this past August. I like the way in which it harkens back to the age of mix tapes/cd mixes and allows access to sets of music that has already been curated by someone that isn't me. In some ways, listening to an 8tracks mix is like listening to those "iTunes Essential" mixes; only 8tracks mixes are less pretentious and free.

That being said, there are several caveats for this review that I feel I need to mention. A large number of the 8tracks members seem to be either (a) high school girls or (b) people whose musical taste corresponds with that of high school girls. I'm talking about One

Direction and Justin Bieber mixes that have the tag "good music." I think that the lack of an "I only like those bands in an ironic way" facade shows the true naiveté of this kind of 8tracks user. Another issue with 8tracks I have is the same as the one I have with other music social networks: you are limited in the number of tracks that you can skip per hour. This problem is remedied by starting another mix, and then you are able skip music again.

I'm not married to any one format of listening to music. So when a friend asked if I had a SoundCloud account because he was looking for new music and wanted to check out my liked tracks, I decided to start one. I'm slightly less satisfied with SoundCloud than I expected to be, given that it lacks some of the problems that I listed above.

For starters, the lack of mixes and thus the inability to select a cover photo from tumblr or to share your emotions with an Internet community seems to dissuade the teen crowd from congregating in this corner of the Internet.

I think in general the idea is that you are supposed to find artist profiles on Sound-

Cloud and then "listen to their stream," but it seems that most users are people like me and my friends; not artists, just 20-somethings looking for new music.

This brings me to my problem with SoundCloud: specifically, my ability to listen to music while studying. There is a search tool on SoundCloud that allows users to search through sounds or people; thus, I can find friends and look at their liked tracks, or I can search for a specific song that I want to listen to, but the format of SoundCloud is such that I can't just press play once and be done. I can listen to all of the tracks that one particular friend liked, but the tracks are generally dissimilar and thus distracting to my studying. Unlike 8tracks in which I select a mix and then start studying, with SoundCloud I need to continually return and find a new track to listen to or a new friend's liked tracks.

In summary, I think that SoundCloud is useful if you have a particular song stuck in your head, but you can use YouTube for that. I will be sticking with 8tracks for now. SoundCloud 1/5 Stars; 8tracks 4/5 stars.

Movie Review:

'Beautiful Creatures' is a 'Twilight' knockoff, in the South

Melanie Decelles

TECHNEWS WRITER

"Beautiful Creatures" is reverse "Twilight." We meet a young man who has absolutely no distinguishing characteristics to his personality, but he reads a lot, so we can assume he's deep. He meets our young, supernatural protagonist who reads a lot as well, which implies she's brilliant. They fall in love but are pulled apart due to supernatural reasons involving a very involved supernatural

family.

Did I forget to mention this all takes place in the South? The accents are thicker than butter. The first time someone speaks, I promise someone in the theater will start to laugh.

If you do decide to see this movie though, you will be treated to some of the best insults to ever cross the Mason Dixon line. At one point someone is threatened that his hat will be stolen so that it can be put on a cat. Yeah.

The story follows Ethan Wate who

is the brilliant under-stimulated boy drowning in his oppressively small town. He is saved however by the arrival of Lena Duchannes, who moves to town to live with her reclusive, local, oddball uncle. Where "Twilight" just heavily implies a life of mediocrity would've swallowed Bella Swan up without Edward Cullen to give her the exciting life she deserves, "Beautiful Creatures" isn't that subtle.

When Ethan Wate is tricked into looking at his own future things turn unreasonably dark. He sees that, despite his plans to get as far away from his town as possible,

he never actually manages to leave, and then leads the most depressing version of small-town life possible, ending in his suicide.

While some might laud the gender switch on a wonderfully misogynistic tale, that doesn't seem to be enough to improve the premise of stories like these. A high school romance where one person literally saves the other from depression and an unlive, purgatory-like existence will always be a deeply creepy weight to put on a relationship that, if I recall correctly, consists mostly of hormones..

'The Motherf**ker with the Hat' delivers powerful, moving experience

August Lysy

TECHNEWS WRITER

"The Motherf**ker with the Hat" [sic], written by Stephen Adley Guirgis and currently showing at Steppenwolf Theatre, is a comedic drama that powerfully communicates the devastation relationships are exposed to when hampered by addiction and codependency. What's more, it conveys how the road to the freedom of healthy independence is a road sometimes walked alone.

The play centers on Jackie (John Ortiz), a recovering alcoholic and drug user with a violent past who was just released from a stint in jail. With his newfound freedom, he has acquired a job at an apartment building and is working to maintain his sobriety with the support of his AA sponsor Ralph D (Jimmy Smits).

However, when he discovers an unclaimed man's hat in his long-time girlfriend's

apartment (Veronica, played by Sandra Delgado), his confidence falters and his progress begins a spiraling descent, as he barely manages to stay sober.

This brief synopsis barely clips the tip of the iceberg for a play so poetically profound in its message. In addition to the cast above, the viewer is also graced by the talents of Gary Perez and Sandra Marquez, who play Jackie's Cousin Julio and Ralph D's wife Victoria, respectively. These two characters, while equally holding their own in terms of rich emotional depth, also allow the viewer to experience Jackie and Ralph D in a different, illuminative light; calling into question the former's toughness and the latter's good nature.

Altogether, the actors were compelling in their characters, but the way in which Smits and Perez embody the idiosyncrasies of their characters and how Marquez so intensely expresses her character's anguish are the true highlights of the ensemble.

In addition to the acting, Todd

Rosenthal's set design and Guirgis' dialogue both deserve distinguished mention. From the moment one enters the sanctum of the theatre, the imaginative set—with its missing fire-escape stairs and askew billboard structure—captures the viewer's eye and communicates the other-worldliness of the play's poetic delivery.

The blend of realism and surrealism is also mirrored in the dialogue. Often the viewer finds the characters speaking in uncharacteristic ways: moving from profuse profanity to poetic enlightenment within the same sentence. The embellishment of language elevates the characters from their reality and allows them to transcend their circumstances and utter profound truths in the grace and conciseness of poetry.

The language, just like the surrounding set, is captivating in its incongruity and in how it ennobles the characters themselves, presenting them not as mere two-dimensional caricatures of "addicts," but allowing them to

voice transcendent understanding of their existences even while they remain imprisoned by their crippling choices.

This dialogue seems to communicate right over the fourth-wall to the viewer, interspersing beams of truth through the murky language of confused lives. This play delivers not only entertainment but also many poignant truths of the human condition. That is the true aim of theater: not just to entertain, but to elevate and inspire. This play, bearing to us the reflection of our own debilitated society, shows us a lot from which we could learn. The question, then, is not whether you should see it, but will you?

Featuring a superb all-Latino cast and the direction of Tony Award-winning director Anna D. Shapiro, "The Motherf**ker with the Hat" is playing at Steppenwolf Theatre (steps from the Red Line North-Clybourn stop) now through March 3, 2013. Tickets are \$15 dollars with student identification (without seat restrictions, as far as I know).

App Review:

RedEye Chicago: more than a CTA tracker

Swasti Khuntia

LAYOUT EDITOR

If you are a Chicagoan using a smart phone, then the RedEye app must not be something new for you. No, we aren't talking about an app that removes red eye from a picture, but we are talking about the RedEye app that has features from the useful: CTA Bus and Train Trackers, RedEye news, to the playful: CTA Missed Connections and restaurant guide. Most of us would have seen the RedEye newspaper stand at almost every corner of the

city. Well, the app is the mobile version of the newspaper, along with CTA bus and train trackers, and other miscellaneous stuff.

I've been using the app on my Android phone for a long time, and I have a mixed reaction for this app. This is the ultimate app for those like me, (since I have a U-Pass) who really get around, and need to access CTA train and bus tracker times to navigate the city.

I can even access taxi companies, like Blue Diamond, Blue Ribbon, Checker, Chicago Carriage Cab, Yellow Cab, and Flash Cab to navigate around the city.

Finding a restaurant or bar near current location or CTA stop is an added advantage. Like Craigslist, you have an option of posting a missed connection for someone who caught your attention during the commute. Now, coming to the negative perspective, sometimes the bus times are wrong, but I can deal with that.

The real problem is that at some instance when I open the app and it says, "Unfortunately, the RedEye has stopped." Then it asks if I want to report it or ignore. I've reported it many times and nothing has changed. I hope they fix it in their next upgrade! Apart

from that, timings are accurate and the app is fast; however the latest version constantly uses GPS and is draining battery life. Being an Android user, it's very bad. I would suggest that they have an interactive system map in their next upgrade.

Either way, this app is fine, and I recommend it, since it's pretty easy to use and I can check out today's top stories in news and entertainment.

Got an app on your phone that you think other students should try? Send an email to ae@technewsit.com and we will review it!

Blackhawks go 13-0-3, celebrate historic victory

Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blackhawks set a league record for consecutive games with a point to open a season on Friday night. Skating to a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks at the United Center, Chicago went one better than the Anaheim Ducks, who began their season in 2006-7 with a 12-0-4 record. Chicago's streak has now lasted 35 days, which has seen them take on 12 different opponents, and has spanned a six-game trip.

There was more good news for the Blackhawks who saw Marian Hossa return from a head injury suffered during Tuesday night's victory against Vancouver. Hossa overcame a concussion to join the squad for Friday's historic match, and played a crucial role in the team's victory.

While the team has been playing with confidence and style of late, it was two fortuitous goals that gifted the Blackhawks vic-

tory on the night. Trailing by a goal, Chicago's Viktor Stalberg's shot rebounded off ex-Blackhawk Antti Niemi and into the net to even the scoring in the second period, assisted by Patrick Kane. Brandon Saad broke the deadlock in the final third when his shot ricocheted off the post and into the San Jose net.

As fans celebrated a historic victory, Niemi's pre-match interview seemed resoundingly prophetic. "Even when you are a very good team," he had said earlier in the day, "it is hard not to lose. The puck has to bounce for you."



Photo courtesy of nytimes.com

NBA Roundup: All-Star game winners, Miami leads

Nathan McMahon
STAFF WRITER

This weekend the NBA took their midseason break for the All-Star festivities in Houston. These festivities took place in Houston and included the Celebrity All-Star game, the Rising Stars game, the Skills Contest, the Three Point shooting contest, the Dunk Contest, and capped off by the All-Star Game. In order to encourage competitiveness, the results of each competition were

worth points.

The East and West faced up to each other and the winning team got money to donate the charity of their choice. The East was captained by Dwayne Wade and the West was led by Chris Paul. The winner of this overall competition will be decided after Sunday's All-Star game. Kevin Hart, for the second year in a row, claimed the MVP award in the Celebrity All-Star game and also beat Usain Bolt in a footrace.

The Skills Contest title went to Damian Lillard from Portland who in dominant

ing fashion won points for the West. Kyrie "Uncle Drew" Irving put on a clinic in the three-point shooting contest and gave the East their first win. In the dunk contest Terrence Ross from Toronto took the crown with a Vince Carter-like dunk and helped the East get some points as they go into the All-Star game that the West appears to have a significant advantage. Critics still are unhappy with the lack of star power in these contests and are calling for LeBron James to do as the greats like Michael Jordan did and win the dunk contest.

As the NBA gets into the second half of the season teams are looking to get into the playoffs. In the East, Miami is on top with Milwaukee four games out of the 8th and final playoff spot. In the West, San Antonio has quietly climbed to the top while the Lakers have failed to fulfill expectations this season and remain four games out of the playoffs as well.

Meanwhile trade rumors involving Dwight Howard from the Lakers for Rajon Rondo from the Celtics are swirling before the trade deadline.

SLIPSTICK

And now...a comic!

Sam Kepp
TECHNEWS WRITER



Tuesday

SGA Week
SGA

Main Campus!

Finance Board Forum

SGA
MTCC Welcome Center
1pm - 2pm

Managing your Online Presence

CMC

MTCC Executive Dining Room
5pm - 6pm

BP @ IIT

SHPE

E1 Auditorium
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Benjamin Franklin Lecture

IIT Dept. of Social Sciences
MTCC Auditorium
7pm - 9pm

Social Justice Month Event

EWB/Feminists United
Perlstein Auditorium
7pm - 8pm

Wednesday

Student Discount Fair

SGA
MTCC Bridge
12 - 2:30pm

Website Workshop:

Online Web Services/Tools
ITMO
Idea Shop
12 - 1pm

General Body Meeting

Ethics Bowl
Siegel Hall Room 218
12:45pm - 1:40pm

General Body Meeting

Undocumented Students and Allies
Herman Hall- Armour Conference Room
12:50pm - 1:40pm

Thursday

General Body Meeting

AICHÉ
Perlstein Hall Room-108
12:50 - 1:40pm

General Body Meeting

Graphic Novel Appreciation Society
Siegel 203
7:30pm - 9:30pm

President and Provost Forum

SGA
Hermann Hall Ballroom
12:30pm - 2pm

Guest Lecture: Aldridge Electric

CMAA
Wishnick Auditorium
12:40pm - 1:40pm

Hawk 101 - Getting an Internship

OCLE
Perlstein Hall, Room 108
12:50pm - 1:50pm

Prince Among Slaves screening

Spiritual Life and Service Learning
MTCC auditorium
3pm - 6pm

Friday

Weekly Meeting

TEDxIIT
IIT Tower
16th floor SW Conference Room
9:30am - 10:30am

Roundtable

New Programming Initiatives
OCLE
Executive Conference Room
1pm - 2pm

Weekly Meeting

JFAS
Idea Shop
2:30pm - 6:00pm

Saturday

Habitat for Humanity Service Trip

EWB
Northern Fox Valley Chapter
Elgin, IL
8am - 3pm

MSI Trip

ISO, ASME
Museum of Science and Industry
12pm - 5pm

Trip to the Adler Planetarium

Transfer Student Organization
Adler Planetarium
10am - 4pm

Monday

2nd General Body Meeting!

Engineers Without Borders
Perlstein Auditorium
12:40p

General Body Meeting

Ethics Bowl
Siegel Hall Room 218
12:45pm - 1:40pm

iitAQHQ

(IIT Arquitectos Officer Meeting)
IIT Arquitectos
MTCC Yellow Room
7pm - 8:30pm

Photoshop Workshop

IIT Arquitectos
Crown Hall Lab
7pm - 8pm

Sunday

TechNews Writer's Meeting

TechNews
MTCC 221 (Office of Campus Life)
3:30pm - 4:30pm

