

OPINION

Finding harmony in, and within each moment.
Page 2

CAMPUS

Rock Climbing Club visits Southern Illinois.
Page 3

SPORTS

Women's Soccer is holding tryouts.
Page 7

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OPINION 2
CAMPUS 3-6
SPORTS 7

Illinois Tech Robotics competes at RoboGames

Kori Bowns

BUSINESS MANAGER

It isn't too often that IIT students get to compete on an international scale through an extracurricular organization. This past weekend, Illinois Tech Robotics (ITR) sent eight of their members to San Mateo, California to partake in RoboGames (formerly known as ROBOlympics), the largest open robotics competition and exposition in the world since 2004.

Through over 50 different competition events and several exhibition opportunities, RoboGames aims to open the world of robotics to everyone across all fields within robotics, including mechanical and electrical engineering, programming, sensor usage, and aesthetics. According to the RoboGames website, RoboGames founder David Calkins "realized the need for cross-pollination between events, as too many robot builders over-specialized within a single field."

Eventually, he realized that the best way to bring all of the disciplines within robotics together would be to create a large-scale event that included all of them—from the mechanical expertise necessary in a combat robotics event to the programming skill needed in small scale humanoid soccer. RoboGames's various competitions also include maze-traversing robots, robot hockey, and an overall best of show competition.

In addition to the wide variety of events available, RoboGames is also open to anyone who wishes to try their hand at the competition.

Regardless of education, age, or affiliation, everyone is welcome to bring a robot to show off at RoboGames. Children often enter RoboGames's "Junior League," which is only open to competitors under 18, or they compete on their own in the larger events with people from a variety of backgrounds.

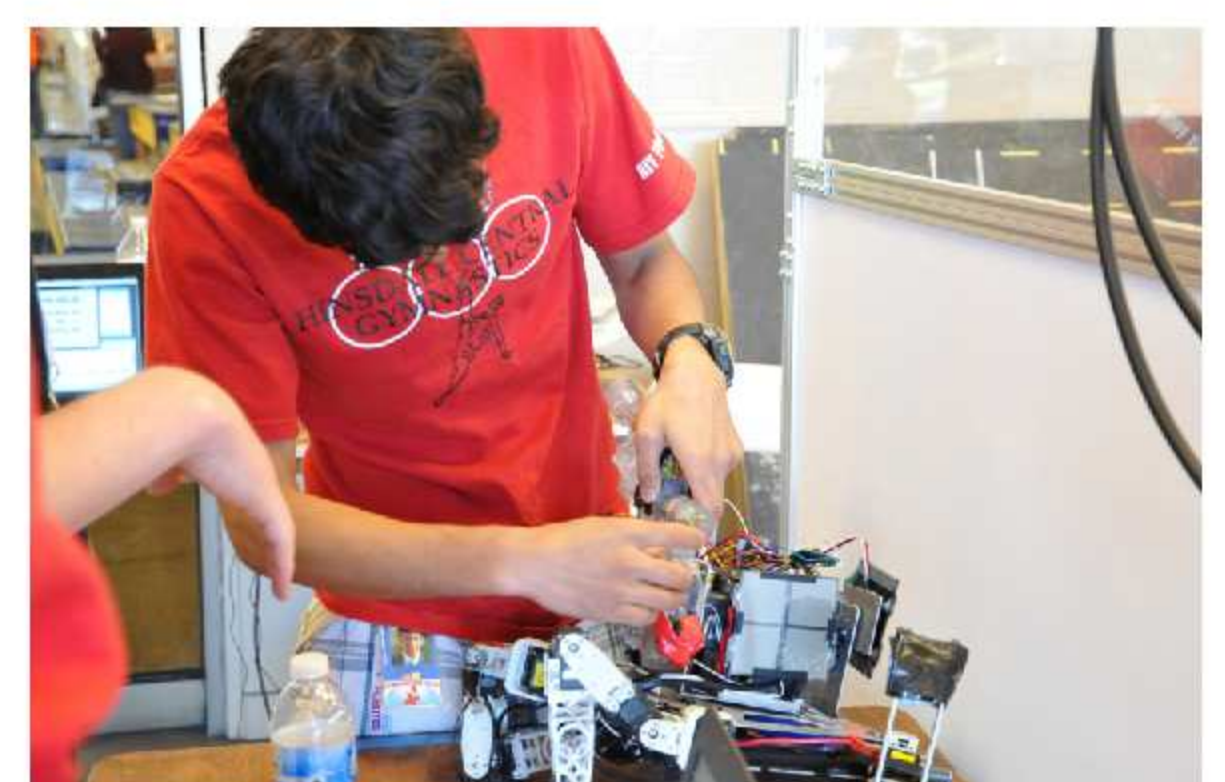
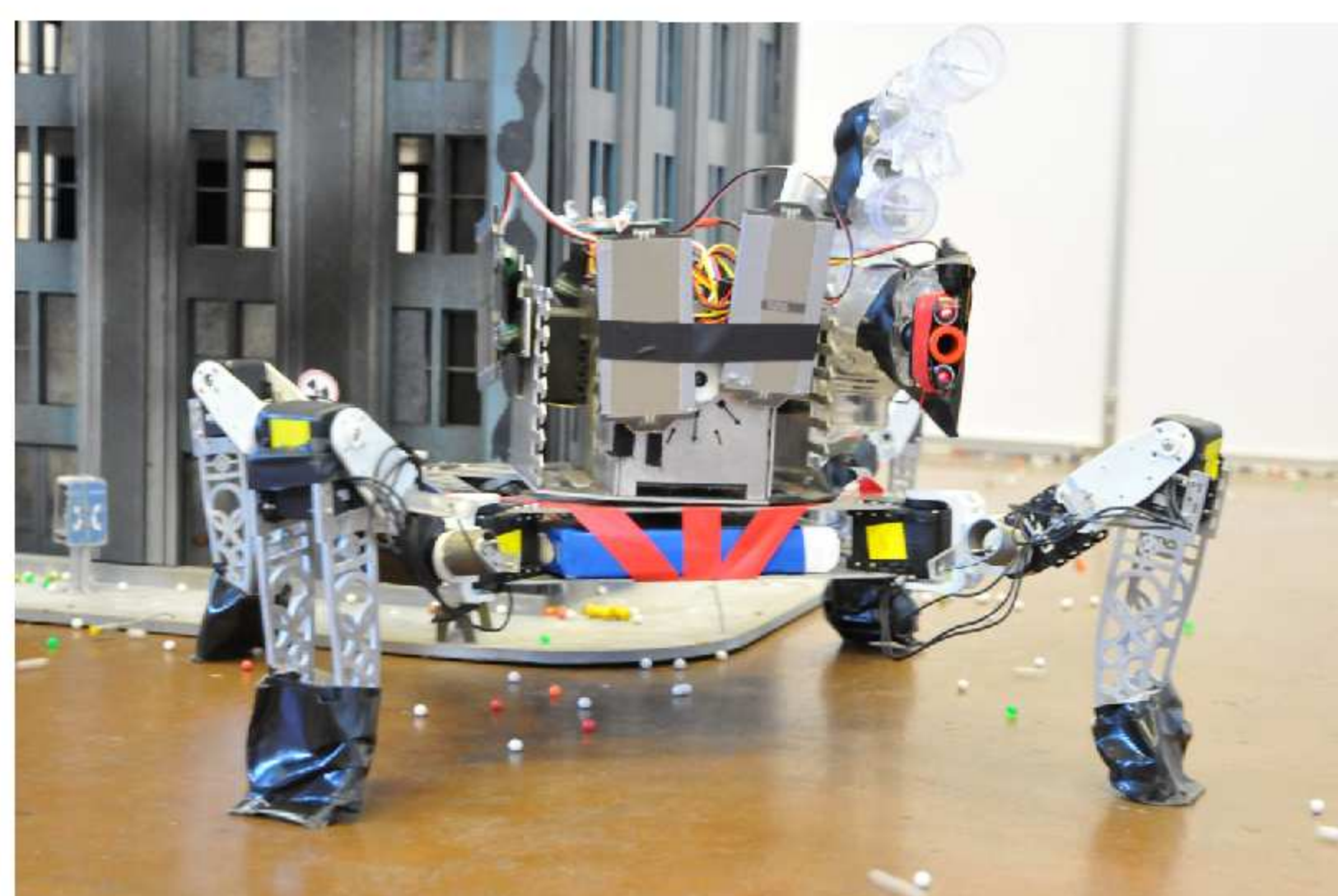
Some robots come as the product of a large team of engineering students, and some come from lone hobbyists who have picked up robotics in their spare time. Additionally, RoboGames draws competitors from all over the world—people from over 39 countries have competed and have shared their experience and ideas with representatives from all over the world.

ITR's choice of competition in the 2013 RoboGames was Mech-Warfare, where two small, servo-actuated walking robots compete head-to-head against in a scaled down cityscape by firing airsoft pellets at each other. Each robot has impact sensors to detect how often they've been shot, and the first robot to reduce his opponent's hit points to zero by shooting him is the winner. Operators are able to command their robots via remote control; however, they are unable to observe them directly and must rely on a wireless on-board camera on the robot.

ITR's entry, Mongol, was a four-legged entry, with each leg controlled by three servo motors. Mongol was also equipped with a firing airsoft cannon and a laser sight to assist with aiming.

In Mongol's first match, he faced difficulties moving on the low-friction floor and ended up falling on his side twice, resulting in losing the match by nine points. Mongol later was knocked out of the Mech-Warfare tournament after an intense one-point loss. On the bright side, Mongol remained a crowd favorite throughout the day, drawing much attention from spectators and wowing the crowd during exhibition matches.

Overall, Illinois Tech Robotics had a good trip, where students got to connect with other robotics enthusiasts of all ages from all over the world. RoboGames offered ITR the opportunity to show off their own skills while learning from others and growing as competitors.



Photos by Kori Bowns
For more photos, turn to Page 5

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McCormick Tribune Campus Center
Room 221
3201 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616

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

TechNews STAFF

Editor-in-Chief	Ryan Kamphuis
Assistant Editor	Hannah Larson
Campus Editor	Utsav Gandhi
A&E Editor	Matti Scannell
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Arguably, the worst week in recent history

Hannah Larson
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Perhaps you've been following the news. To say there have been a few notable, awful, episodes is the understatement of the year.

Let's start with a local scope. The weather in Chicago is always fickle, but this past Wednesday night and Thursday morning proved to be quite the surprise. A routine thunderstorm produced five inches of rainfall, causing a massive amount of flooding. Governor Pat Quinn constituted that 38 Illinois counties were "disaster areas," and Chicagoland seemed particularly impacted; major interstates were closed, the Chicago River's flow was reversed into Lake Michigan to relieve tunnels and reservoirs, and a sinkhole swallowed three cars on the south side. Albany Park experienced a major overflow of the river, which Mayor Rahm Emanuel wasted no time using this unfortunate event to announce plans for construction of a tunnel to avoid this annual occurrence; the tunnel will cost \$45 to \$55 million (with \$40 million already pledged) according to the Chicago Tribune, and is expected to start next year.

Temperatures are expected to return to the 60s this weekend. On the brighter side of things, the Illinois House has approved a bill for comprehensive sexual education (based on new curriculum requirements in middle and high schools), and passed another bill outlining the basis of a medical marijuana industry (a four year contract, and strict requirements, a feat nonetheless).

Hippies and liberals, rejoice. On to national news. The deadly fertilizer plant explosion in the town of West, Texas death toll has officially been set at 14, where as many as 200 were injured according to Fox News (CNN had originally reported up to 35 deaths, but this is no surprise concerning their credibility, especially after their day-long broadcast of false information concerning the Boston Marathon suspect.) Authorities have reported that a significant portion of the town was leveled in the explosion. President Obama declared the region a state of emergency, bringing in national disaster relief efforts.

Speaking of the Boston Marathon, the bigoted and judgmental reaction has been extremely crude, and just as devastating of a phenomenon as the terrorist act itself. Three people have been declared dead, while roughly 100 people have reported injuries (CNN again inaccurately reported up to 141), according to the Chicago Tribune and local Boston outlets.

These aren't the only victims of the Boston Marathon explosions.

Subsequent victims of this backlash

include the Bangladeshi man who was beaten by another man for being "an Arab" in the Bronx (according to New York Police), the Palestinian woman who was with her young daughter and a friend (both women happened to be wearing hijabs) who was attacked in Boston; the salacious man white man hurled "terrorist" and other profanities at the group, punching the woman in the shoulder (according to Jezebel.com), as well as the two young men (one a high school student who feared for his life and family according to multiple reports) who were featured on the cover of the New York Post with the headline, "Feds seek these two pictured at Boston Marathon." Other reports of Islamophobic backlash according to local

Boston Muslim groups and news outlets have reported more incidents, like the Saudi Arabian national who was injured, interviewed by authorities, and inaccurately dubbed a suspect by the media (insert the Glen Beck conspiracy theory, implicating this person's involvement in the explosions, that my Editor-in-Chief has just informed me of), a Brown University student who was literally tagged as a suspect on Facebook; not to mention the surge of violence that gripped Boston following the attack, resulting in the death of an MIT police officer, death of one of the bombing suspects, plus the essential shut-down of Boston; finally resulting in the apprehension of FBI's suspect Dzhokhar Tsarvnaev.

Let's just take a moment. Breathe.

This barrage of morbid national incidents has had yet another unfavorable outcome—a cloud of judgment of foreign affairs, as well as important domestic matters.

Wednesday proved a significant point in the nation's debate over gun control measures. The Senate procured 55 votes in favor of a bill that would expand background checks for gun purchasers, a ban on assault weapons and high capacity gun magazines. The sponsors of the bill failed to secure the 60 needed to pass the bill through the Senate. This decision outraged President Obama, as well as those who were there on the behalf of the Newtown shooting victims.

That same day, authorities apprehended Paul Kevin Curtis, the Mississippi man who has been implicated in sending ricin-laced letters to President Obama, and Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS). The Elvis Presley and Hank Williams Jr. impersonator is an active conspiracy theorist, and has an online presence rife with alternative opinions. This domestic terrorist throwback is reminiscent of the anthrax-laced mail that surfaced shortly after 9/11.

Honestly, when's the last time we considered foreign affairs?

Important foreign affair stories developing include India's growing frustration, and

increased sexual violence. Following the outrage the public expressed over the brutal and fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old woman, another demonstration has unfolded due to the report of a 5-year-old girl being abducted, raped, sexually, and physically assaulted, in East Delhi according to NPR. Details include a two day protest by local citizens, allegations that the local police were bribed in order to keep the incident quiet (the equivalent of \$40), and the call for the death penalty for the two men that have been implicated in the crime.

Following an onslaught of domestic terrorism, due in part to the elections that took place this Saturday, a series of explosions killed nine people who attended noon prayers at two mosques in Baghdad, Iraq this past Friday. The Thursday before saw 32 deaths from a suicide bomber who targeted a café. Imagine our grievances of the Boston Marathon bombing, on steroids.

Articles reflecting the gloomy state of current affairs are certain.

Notably, author (and staunch New Englander) Tom Perrotta published an article in the New Yorker, comparing his experience 9/11 to that of the Boston Marathon attacks, in a lovely metaphor. The Onion published an article simple titled "Jesus, this week," and various news outlets have published their online-versions of the enumeration of this week's tribulations; most of them include a picture of an adorable kitten, with an equally adorable caption.

December 21, 2012 was the supposed Mayan doomsday, but it was implemented as a date of change. Five months of heinous occurrences make me second guess the apocalypse.

Not the change that we elected President Obama for his first time (incidentally the last time I had a hair cut), but the kind of change that is dismissive and transforms the way we interpret the world; whether we are aware of this or not, isn't as easy as posting a Facebook status.

This week, the news was rampant with negativity and everyone was on the same, solemn page. We disregarded Justin Bieber's Anne Frank "belieber" comment, and engaged in conversations about social constructs, social protections, and social problems.

Though the fact that many of these conversations came out of racist and ill-intent, they happened nonetheless.

Unfortunately the efficacy of these conversations won't be felt until long after these current events become historical junctures, where we branch off, and change daily behavior.

This week won't be remembered from the onslaught of appalling events, but the abundance of overreactions, false information, and actions that make me seriously doubt the humanity and kindness left in the public sphere.

Harmony within, and in each moment

Ameena Payne
TECHNEWS WRITER

Last week I wrote a bit about attaining authenticity in each moment, and I thought that would be the perfect Segway into attaining harmony within and in each moment. When I speak of harmony, I am speaking of a peaceful bliss between mind, body, and soul – a peaceful bliss that you can feel running to the depths of your core. Currently, this topic resonates because I just participated in an evening of Prānāyām in an informal setting – with a group of friends – practicing Ujjayi.

Prānāyām is the art of yoga breathing, and because breath is life – literally – it is a wonder to me why we don't focus more on understanding how breath influences and can manipulate our disposition. Growing up, I would participate in Prānāyām (as I tagged

along with my Dad to Chicago's International Association for World Peace) however, the meaning was a bit lost on me as a child, and it wasn't until very recently, that the importance of breath guided me back toward this practice.

Breath is one of our most vital functions. Proper breathing brings more oxygen to the blood and to the brain, controls the Prana, the vital life energy. Prānāyām is considered one of the highest forms of purification and self-discipline, covering both mind and body – the focus is not only intrapersonal healing but interpersonal as well.

Think about when you're angry, anxious, and/or fearful. What is your breath like? What would you say is your default reaction to pressure at this current moment?

It is likely that it's vastly different than the breathing you experience when you're in peaceful bliss (that place that was discussed a

few weeks ago in which you feel most natural). That's because your body is not separate from your mood and your actions. When you're confronted with a challenge, your body reacts. Your body, your mood, your words, and your actions are all interconnected and typically pretty consistent with one another.

Becoming aware of your breath, the practice of Prānāyām, is a way of being mindful of (and attentive to) yourself. Eventually, this will spread into daily life and interaction with others. That's what makes this practice so powerful and so practical.

I am not the expert in these practices, but if you are interested in being connected to organizations and individuals that support these values and practices, please email me at Ameena@AmeenaPayne as this is not subjugated knowledge.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month @ IIT

Karla Talley

IIT WOMEN SERVICES INTERN

We take time to become more aware about the important issues surrounding sexual assault in the United States each April. “Every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted,” and unfortunately, the walls of a university do not help to lower this number. As students, faculty, and staff, we must educate ourselves on how to prevent sexual assault acts towards others and ourselves. Women’s Services and Campus Life will be holding two main events to bring forth awareness about sexual assault and sexual violence.

The first event being held is Denim Day in the USA. On Wednesday, April 24th, you can actively show that as a woman or man, you are standing up against sexual assault and sexual

violence, and are in support of those who have been victims to these terrible crimes. Held each April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Denim Day recalls an Italian court case that sparked international outrage when judges did not convict a rapist because the victim wore jeans.

The judge ruled that because the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her attacker remove them, thus implying consent. Those in support of the victim were outraged and Denim Day became a way to speak out against sexual assault. For more information on the event, please visit denimdayusa.org. Whether your office usually wears business attire or is casually dressed, taking part in Denim Day will make a statement for all to see and hear!

The Office of Campus Life will have a day of support from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. where

students, faculty, and staff can stop by and sign the banner expressing why you are wearing denim. After signing the banner, you will be placed into our raffle to potentially win a Denim Day button, t-shirt, or coffee mug!

Another event, The Clothesline Project, which began in 1990, was a simple way for women to voice their stories and concerns about sexual assault. Simply put, women and men decorate a shirt with their own story or a story of a friend or loved one who has unfortunately been victim to sexual violence. After the shirt is decorated, it is hung on a clothesline for survivors to be able to walk away from, and for others to know they are not alone. “The Clothesline Project honors women survivors as well as victims of intimate violence. Any woman who has experienced such violence, at any time in her life, is encouraged to come forward and design a shirt. Victim’s families and

friends are also invited to participate.” For more information, please visit clotheslineproject.org. Join Women’s Services and Campus Life during the week of April 22 if you would like to decorate a shirt for the clothesline. April 29 from 10a.m. to 4 p.m., the clothesline will be hung in the Welcome Center for viewing and there will be another opportunity to decorate a shirt.

Education and prevention are the best ways that we can combat sexual assault and sexual violence. Women’s Services intends to bring to light these events, and offer the IIT community a chance to stand together against the problem. Please come out to each of these events and help us spread the word about ending sexual assault! Contact Alex Garrett of Women’s Services with any questions agarret2@iit.edu.

IIT Rock Climbing visits southern Illinois

Dan Zweig

STAFF WRITER

The IIT Rock Climbing club took an unorthodox trip to Southern Illinois to help a nonprofit rock climbing company called Access Fund establish a newly acquired rock climbing location: Holy Boulders. Holy Boulders, first revealed to us by the light of our headlamps, is an accumulation of beautiful sandstone boulders that offer some of the best bouldering problems and rock in Illinois.

Seven IIT climbers drove the 6 hours south through Champaign and Carbondale to Pomona, IL, on Friday night the weekend of April 12. Saturday morning after making eggs

and sausage around a campfire with maybe 12 others, about 30 additional people arrived to help the Access Fund Conservation Team.

The Conservation Team organized the volunteers into 5 teams: Camping area clean up, trail building, two staging area maintenance teams, and a climbing kiosk team. The IIT group spread out and helped build trails, build the kiosk, clear trees and leaves from around climbing areas, move unwanted rocks, and build a small footbridge.

At lunch, the IIT students regrouped for sandwiches, and then collected their climbing gear to take advantage of the new climbing area. Two marvelous cracks had caught our attention, and so we used our traditional climbing gear to set two separate anchors, dropped ropes down,

and each enjoyed our turns climbing high on the sandstone cliff line. We had the pleasure of belaying for a climber from the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Rock Climbing Club who used traditional climbing equipment to lead climb the crack that our climbers were struggling on.

That evening the Access Fund Team bought about 50 pizzas and we enjoyed the company of about 50 climbers and volunteers around an enormous campfire.

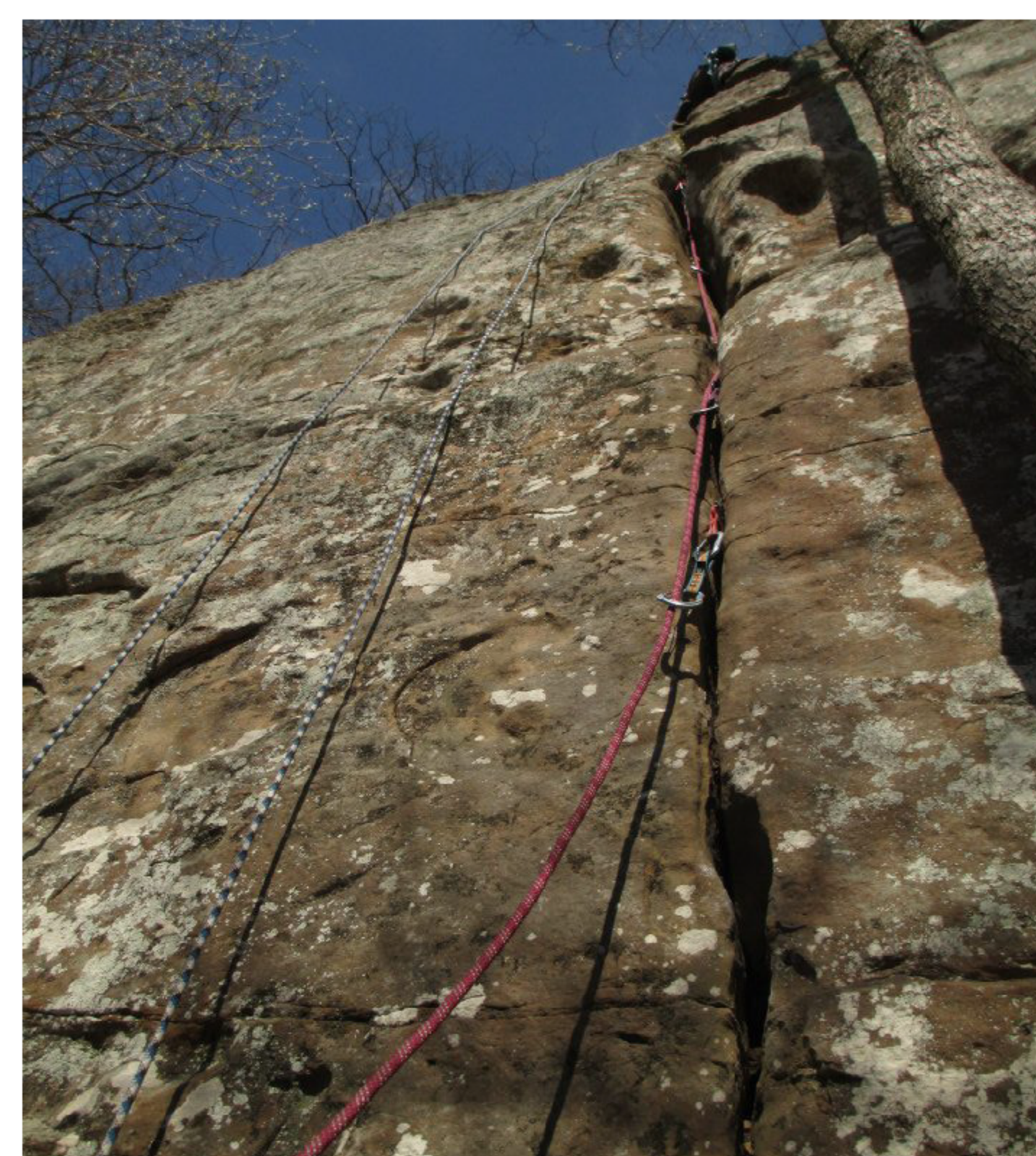
The Access Fund raffled off about 30 rock climbing items, from gear to gym passes, and the IIT students whipped out s’more ingredients for a fun night of just talking and hanging out with climbers from all over Illinois.

The next morning, the group decided to do

some of the more typical Holy Boulders climbs, bouldering routes on much smaller rocks.

The climbs never got above nine feet and the climbers were spotted by the other club members, with crash pads to cushion their falls if they ever did. We only did easy boulder problems that were zero risk. We had a lot of fun just enjoying the warm weather, climbing the new routes, and meeting other philanthropic climbers.

Overall, it was an amazing camping and climbing weekend outdoors, and a first for one of our students! Learn more about the Holy Boulders at accessfund.org or IIT Rock Climbing Club on our Facebook.



Photos by Dan Zweig

EWB-IIT visits San Claudio, Nicaragua

Cara Cummings
TECHNEWS WRITER

Conference calls, planning meetings, and endless amounts of paperwork; Lisa Stump, Tristan Larson, Sara Glade, and myself had been preparing for our trip to Nicaragua for months. Although we had amazing professional mentors helping us, IIT alumna Christina Freisinger along with James Lewan and IIT staff member Megan Mozina, it was a lot to accomplish. I was exhausted from all the work that had to somehow get done before we were able to depart during spring break.

EWB-IIT's assessment trip to the small community of San Claudio in Nicaragua would be our team's first opportunity to meet the people we are committed to for the next five years. During one short week, we would need to determine if their expressed need for a bridge is truly the best project for the community, gather technical data for design, and work on community engagement.

The day had finally arrived on March 16 2013. I packed all my clothes into my tiny suitcase, kissed my boyfriend goodbye, and departed with the EWB-IIT travel team to Nicaragua. Little did I know that I would return a short week later having fallen completely in love with the people and culture.

The night we arrived in Chacraseca, the small village where the FriendsNE (the Boston based local NGO which has been working on the community's development for many years) local compound is located, we slept in the warm night air on cots underneath the stars. When we awoke, pungent aromas were wafting toward our cots from the kitchen in the adjacent building. That breakfast was the first of many delicious, unforgettable meals enjoyed during

the trip. Ever since our return I have longed for the savory rice and beans, sweet watermelon, plantains, and corn tortillas of Nicaragua.

Throughout the week, the warmth of the Nicaraguan people surrounded the travel team. The very first time we visited the community in San Claudio, we were surprised as we stepped into a house and were greeted by representatives from every family in the community. There was never a shortage of laughter, smiles, and kisses among these people. They were family, and we were treated no differently.

During our time in the community, we were able to visit several elementary schools and meet the cute children who soon will need and use our bridge in order to cross the river and attend secondary school. We also met with the mayor of the municipality of Malpaisillo and discussed plans and funding for the bridge with him and the municipal engineer, Romulo Rodriguez. Later, we were able to relay that information and hold the same important discussion regarding expectations for the project with the people of San Claudio.

As we traveled during the week, I was in awe of the beauty of Nicaragua. The view from the peak of the Cerro Negro volcano was breathtaking, and as we ran down the side of the black ash mountain I felt both scared and empowered. Later, at the beach, I was refreshed as the powerful, salty waves crashed into me.

Our team got a lot of work done during the week, but the data collection and planning is not what I am going to remember years from now. It is the memories of the beautiful country of Nicaragua, and my love for the people there, that I will cherish forever.

If you are interested in being part of the Engineers Without Borders' San Claudio Project? Contact EWB-IIT at ewb.iit@gmail.com.

Photos by Cara Cummings



TEDxIIT celebrates another successful event

Shreeyeh Rajan
TECHNEWS WRITER

The TEDxIIT team hosted its event for the third time in the IIT Tower from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Last Saturday. Providing free admission, food, and drinks, we invited the whole IIT community to attend but limited it to one hundred attendees. After getting checked-in and receiving their nametags, the attendees were allowed to interact with everyone until 9:45 a.m. At 9:45 a.m., the doors opened and they were entertained with our founder and co-organizer Amy Lee Segami and emcee Bob Roitblat.

To start off the event with some enthusiasm, we pulled up a 3-minute TED video by Chris Anderson. Then we called upon speakers Sara Beardsley & Dr. Chris Drew, Cheryl Jefferson and James Howard Stone who took on the stage to talk about

topics that affected the society; reducing pollution in cities, breaking criminal traditions and achieving full employment. To energize ourselves, we announced a 30-minute break before we continued the event.

After break, 8x(tet), a band consisting of students from Chicago universities, performed jazz music pepping us up for the next two speakers. But before the speakers spoke, we pulled up another TED video, 'Abundance is our future' by Peter Diamandis. Then, speaker Nik Rokop took the stage to talk about the importance of starting a business after school. 4th-year psychology IIT student and speaker Jacqueline Roche spoke about how education saved her life. We were halfway through the event when we announced another break, but this time for lunch!

We proceeded with the event calling up speakers Avelo Roy, Neil Milsted and Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey, whose talks were named

'Currency of Relationships,' 'As We May Do' and 'Psychological Well-being: The Path to Holistic Health'. Then we announced our last 30-minute break but before that we had a surprise for the audience! Because of their patience, we called upon Daniel Guidara, tai chi instructor who taught us a few tai chi moves to refresh us!

Then we had our last three speakers Ann F. Clark, Dr. Manu K. Vora and Retired Colonel Jill Morgenthaler. Ann F. Clark explained how future architects can contribute to rebuilding the community in a third world country by bringing in her experience in working in Haiti. Dr. Manu K. Vora explained how he founded the Blind Foundation of India to harness exponential power of gift of sight. And our last speaker, Retired Colonel Jill Morgenthaler shared one major leadership secret that showed us how to exponentially increase one's performance as a leader. After that we had a reception where people were

encouraged to network.

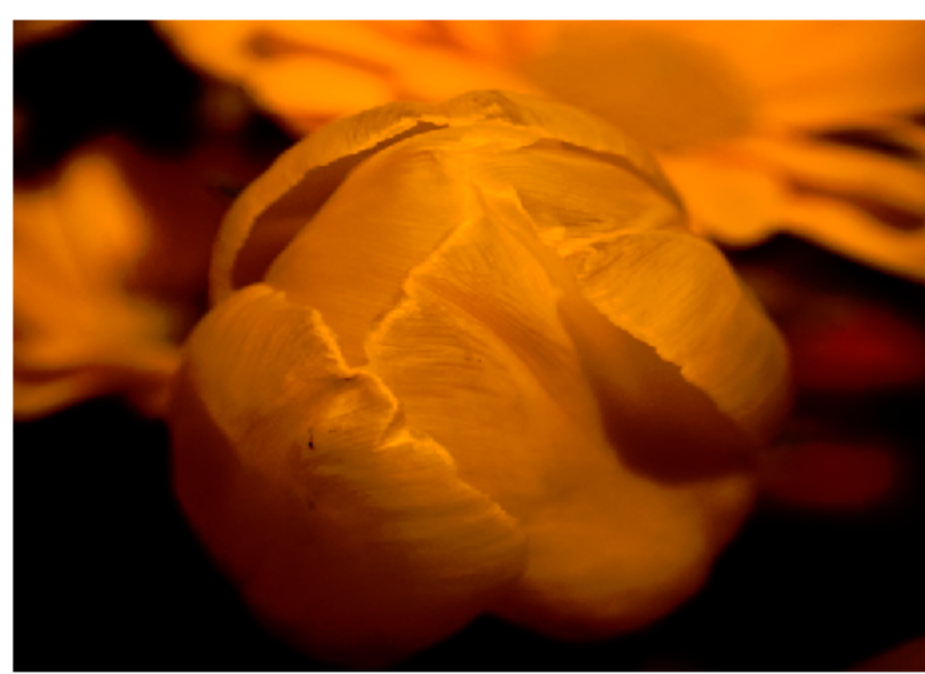
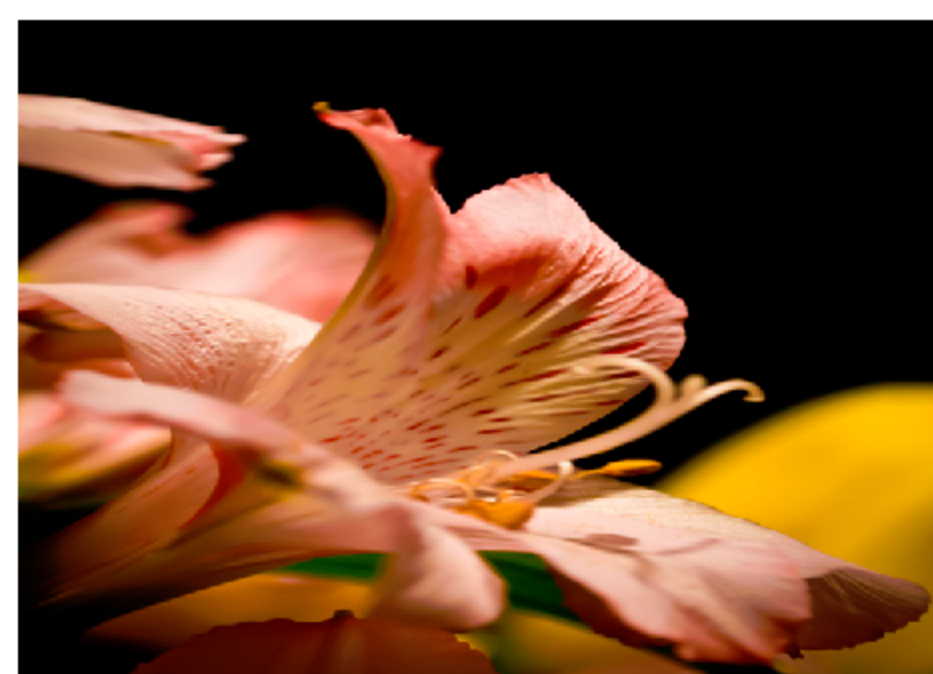
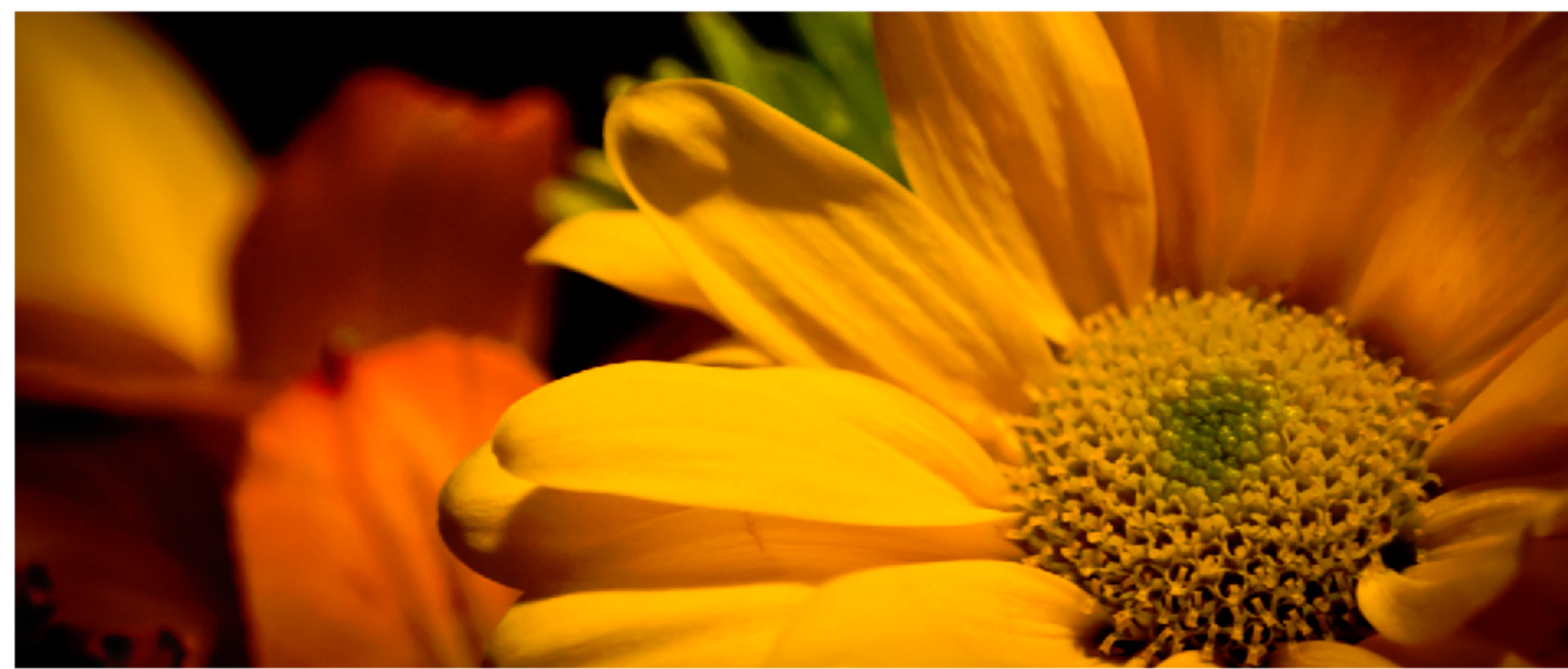
The response and feedback we got from the Chicago and IIT community was AMAZING! Some of the compliments included being 'blown away', well-organized student-run event, inspiring speakers and worth the full days' time!

We had 1242 views on live streaming and 1974 views on our live stream page from Canada, India, China and a total of 13,587 page views!

The best part, our Webmaster Ethan received a call from a student in India who had seen TEDxIIT 2013 online. He said that he got admitted to IIT to pursue his graduate education but wasn't sure if IIT was the right choice. But after watching TEDxIIT 2013 all the way from India, he felt that IIT would be his perfect college!

Inspiration really does take you far!

April showers, bring May flowers to campus

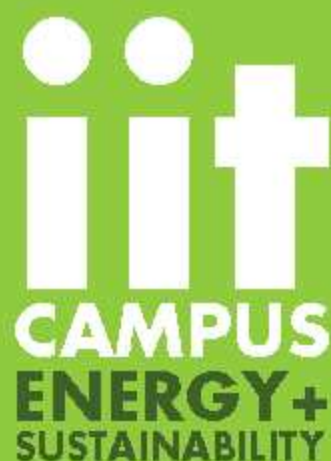


Photos by Nick Caldwell

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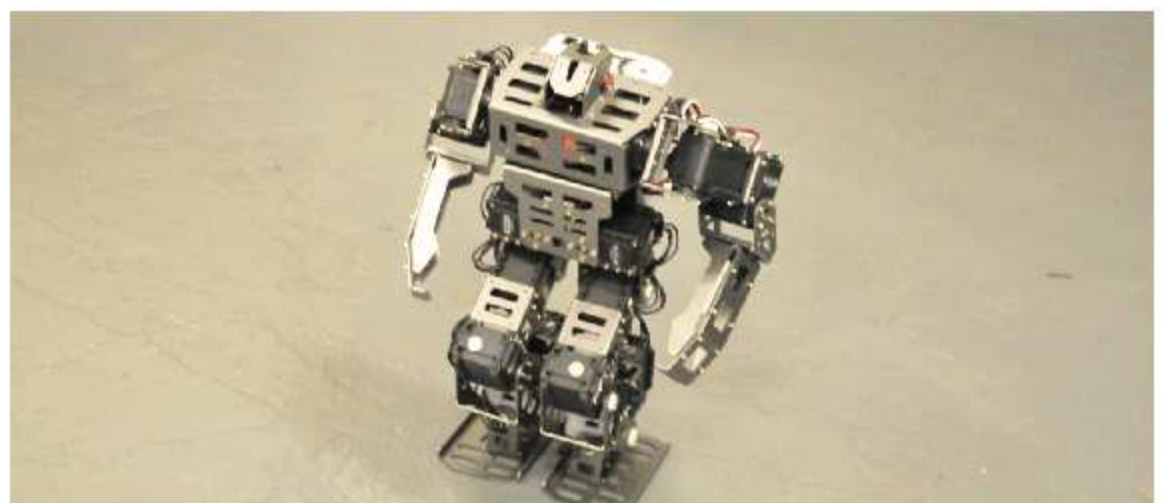
WE'VE HEARD YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE OUR OFFICE
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN:

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**
(IN THAT ORDER)



(continued from Page 1)

RoboGames



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CMC semester achievements include new logo design

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

The Career Management Center at IIT has had a very busy semester, hosting one of the largest career fairs yet, organizing many run-up events leading up to it in order to help get students prepared for the event, a couple of very successful etiquette dinners, leading up to a well-attended career connections event for students hoping to get internships for the summer, and finally launching a logo redesign competition for NaceLink, the online job portal with listing tailored exclusively for IIT students.

The semester began with the appointment of Andrés Garza as executive director of the Career Management Center (CMC). Garza previously served as director of the Office of Career Services at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) for more than 19 years, managing staff that provide all aspects of career counseling and organize on-campus recruiting for more than 27,000 students. As the semester progressed students were invited to a special presentation to hear 'words of wisdom' from three individuals with more than 200 years of combined corporate experience, talking about

what it's really like to transition from student to professional. These were the real life stories of Bruce Mueller, Bob Anderson, and Myron Gottlieb at a CMC presentation on Monday, March 4. These individuals have years of experience in academia or industry and had many practical tips on structuring our careers, starting from college.

For the second time in a row, the IIT Career Fair reached maximum capacity with 167 employers offering more than 3500 jobs, including 54% of employers offering jobs to international students. To help students prepare better for the event, the CMC held some unique sessions in etiquette, resume critique, networking with confidence, researching industry and companies, as well as formal dress and appearance. In a unique promotional event, Paul Mitchell Hairstyle Salon from the UIC area dropped by to offer free haircuts and also to announce deals for students. Mary Kay, a trusted global name in skin care, makeup & body care was on campus before the career fair as well, offering some great tips on latest beauty advice, makeup trends, virtual makeover & professional dress to impress strategies. Finally, there was a 50% discount for IIT students announced at Men's Warehouse for suits. These

are great initiatives and one hopes that the CMC will continue to get more such deals set up for IIT students to take advantage of. When the Career Management Center surveys the companies that have attended the IIT Career Fair, the company representatives say the same thing: IIT students are exceedingly smart and polite but are not prepared to talk about the company itself or the industry they are in. A Career Fair Pro Tips Guide was created by librarians at Paul V. Galvin Library, using which students could find company and industry information that were aimed to differentiate, including threats and opportunities in an industry, or about a company's strategy and future direction. This could be helpful in indicating an interest in the industry and having a conversation beyond just the student's activity profile and personal interest level. The CMC also hosted a campus-wide Professional Dress Day on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Faculty and staff members who came to work that day in professional attire were asked to pick up and wear an "Ask me about my outfit" sticker. The objective was to get students to be able to see different outfits that exemplify professional attire and ask faculty and staff members' questions about their professional dress.

As a follow-up for students who were still looking for internships for the summer, the CMC also hosted "Career Connections" in partnership with the INTM department, so that they may be exposed to opportunities at networking events conducted at least once during each Fall and Spring semester. Employers usually bring up to 3 representatives to speak with potential candidates as well as conduct on the spot interviews.

The CMC also organized successful Boeing and Chase Etiquette Dinners on campus, with industry representatives from both companies coming in to talk about their work, opportunities for students, career planning advice as well as get trained on how to survive a professional lunch or dinner meeting coinciding with the interview which might just change your life. These were very well attended and gave students some great insights into lessons they can hope to learn by simple networking or even at internships. Finally, towards the end of the semester, the CMC launched a NaceLink logo competition to rename NaceLink. This is open to all current IIT students and the winners who will be announced later this week will be receiving a \$200 cash prize.

IIT students advance to finals of Idea2Product

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Four teams of IIT students competed in the Idea to Product (I2P) Regional Competition in St. Louis, MO on April 6th. The IIT teams competed against 12 teams from the Midwest and swept the field, with all four IIT teams making up the final four in the competition. The winning IIT team, who will advance to the I2P Global Competition in São Paulo, Brazil in November, is made up of Darya Ivankina (BSBA '13, with a concentration in Marketing and Finance), IIT Stuart School of Business; Yi Lu (MSF '14), IIT Stuart School of Business; Alex Stiles (MMAE '12), IIT Armour College of Engineering and Mauro Leos (MS IPMM '13), IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law.

The competition involved the team sending in an initial two page business plan and

then subsequently a five page full plan to pitch their business idea in order to be considered for the competition. The winning team pitched their company, Samambu LLC, which markets and distributes Abhadi™, a thin, flexible 100% nonwoven bamboo fiber mat that can be combined with plastics and formed into everything from furniture to appliances to sunglasses to parts for automobiles. As a B2B company, Samambu LLC operates within the "composites innovators" category, with a goal to disrupt the plastics industry and bring about lasting global change. Their primary client and suppliers are based in Central and South America, due to the abundance of natural resources. Low shipment costs, a strong, flexible, foamable and durable material product, an objective to reduce the amount of plastic by over 50%, and availability in different colors made the product all the more attractive. They are currently based off a small manufacturing R&D facility with help from

small designer studios, the Institute of Design, the College of Architecture and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Alex Stiles was the one with the original idea over a year back, but it was the entrepreneurial guidance along with the sound advice regarding strategy, business, marketing, insurance and cost factors by Nik Rokop, managing director of the IIT Stuart Knapp Entrepreneurship Center, which really took them so further on into the competition. The challenge included working on visibility, funding and credibility for investors; as well as pitching the product for seed funding from venture capitalists to set up equipment and R&D lab testing space. The team also recently advanced to the final round of the Tepper Venture Challenge, hosted by Carnegie Mellon's Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Association. As part of their I2P Regional victory, the team received a check for \$2,500 to support their start-up. In Brazil they will be

required to have an actual prototype to show manufacturers how the product works and is manufactured.

The remaining three finalist teams from IIT were all from the Biomedical Engineering department at IIT Armour College of Engineering, and were coached by Prof. Jennifer Kang-Mieler, Prof. Derek Kamper, and Nik Rokop.

One of the team members, Darya, indicated how incredibly beneficial it is to use the startup community in Chicago as well as the resources available on campus for students to start their own businesses while in college. With faculty, alumni, mentors and resources like the Idea Shop; her team could really apply the business operations and strategy lessons she learned in her classes to an actual application while learning how to work on an interdisciplinary team with real world deadlines.

AIAS round table discusses 'repositioning'

Neesha Narayanan
TECHNEWS WRITER

A few days ago I had an opportunity attend one of the round table discussions by IIT's chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). I was informed about the topic that was going to be debated and its current status as a discussion at a professional level as well: the topic being "repositioning". It is interesting how this kind of topic becomes a dialogue on the issue of relevancy not just to academia but to the architectural profession as a whole. In fact the discussion's core was that of how do we define new architecture in the 21st century?

What needs to be changed to make architecture education better so that people can create their own perspective of what architecture is for them? Can edits in curriculum promote changes needed to redefine a new architecture? Changing certain aspects of the curriculum seems to be a promising opportunity to build a bridge between academy and practice. The new architecture has to prepare architects to deal with more complex problems, understand aspects like global relations, significance of structure and aesthetics, and design more innovatively. Historically it had been an individual planning out to the core of the project like a composer and others following. Now that conception does not fit along with the complex environment that we are currently confronting.

Today, we need a team involving architects, developers and engineers to work together; also, to express creative solutions to the built environment. There is an immense necessity for communication and collaboration for every facet of the field to work for the requirements of the clients.

In a team of architects, everyone thinks that their design works the best and that their ideas should be implemented, hence many different good ideas collide with each other. They don't have the ability to combine all the different ideas and working with other disciplines is like working with two year olds. This field of architecture is not a room full of drafters anymore in fact, there is a necessity for diversification, where the team is compiled with various professionals. The main question is how to continue cross-disciplinary work? Is there a way or a structure that can be implemented to get this? In architecture major, design is an ongoing process, there is never a right answer, while other majors have definite things. The work ethic of an architecture student is rooted to the process of making things better and better but ultimately getting the work done, as there is no full stop in architecture. The classroom, in no doubt, provides the experience of finding the essence of architecture, but not everything can be taught inside a classroom. We all know there is more to architecture as we get into real life situations, the complexity increases drastically. To get that understanding of working professionally, 5 years seems short. The experience of combining the

knowledge gained during the course to that of the professional ethics comes when we confront situation similar to real life. Universities say that internships are great opportunities for this but not many implement it. Internships are more like mentorship and guidance that prepare the students to what's there at the end of their 5 year course. Not all students have the knowledge of how the process works after they graduate. Even a week of internship is incredibly valuable for the students to observe and understand the profession better and also to gain skills to deal with people with different professions.

Redefining architecture is a complex process as it involves so many elements that have to be considered. The stage at which this profession has reached, architects cannot afford miscommunication between themselves, the contractor and mainly the client. The need and significance for collaboration and communication in this profession is brought to the limelight again. It also brings us to the question of whether is it architects fault if there is any fault in the building or someone else who is involved with the building process. It opens the possibility of another issue of blaming others, rather than pointing the problem to others it is better to except the problem and claim to solve it. As an architect, it is easier to transfer from one thing to another; these are people who adapt to any kind of situation hence acknowledging the ability of problem solving, which keeps the profession running.

Another aspect that was discussed

regarding pushing architecture to the next level while keeping the essence of it was how to make design more accessible to general public. Should there be more small firms that emphasizes on bringing design to general public? The functionality and other variables like budget regarding the structure that is being built influence the perspective of the people. The question is what is important to public if cost is out? The notion of having a style is not new to architects. To bring design to people along with conception of style, architects need to give significance to the people who are going to occupy that space. Being successful in this profession depends significantly on the fact that the client/occupant feels satisfied with the creation of the architect. A good design does not have to be really fancy but that design can be cost efficient, sustainable and just could adore simplicity.

These deep and concentrated issues regarding what good design involves and how to present it to the public have multiple solutions. Having this kind of intense topics with a time span that seems to be so short, the students involved in this discussion brought out some significant opinions and ideas regarding "repositioning" of what a new architect is and the responsibilities associated. From what I got from the meeting, I feel that there is no end to this kind of discussion as there is always never-ending ideas and opinion coming out all the time, which I think is an element that is in blood of architecture.

NBA play-offs begin, Miami Heat leading

Nathan McMahon
STAFF WRITER

The 2013 NBA play-offs began this Saturday. The Miami Heat is the team to beat in the East while teams like the Spurs and Knicks look to prove they are real contenders. The New York Knicks are taking on the Boston Celtics in their first round series and the New Yorkers took game 1 with a score of 85-78 and a game high 36 points from Carmelo Anthony. Carmelo Anthony was named the NBA scoring champion.

The other East game 1 available at press time was the first round series between the Brooklyn Nets and Chicago Bulls. The Bulls remained without superstar Derrick Rose and struggled offensively as the Nets beat them 106-89 behind a cool 22 points from Deron Williams.

In the West the Denver Nuggets took on the Golden State Warriors and beat them in the first game of the series 97-95 with a game-winning layup by Andre Miller with 1 second remaining to take a 1-0 lead in the series. The other series to start in the West is between the Los Angeles Clippers and the Memphis Grizzlies. The Clippers took game 1 easily 112-91 behind a strong rebounding effort by the Clippers.

One of the East series yet to start is between the top seeded Miami Heat and the Milwaukee Bucks where Brandon Jennings has predicted the Bucks winning the series. The other East series is between the Indiana Pacers and Atlanta Hawks and it should be an easy win for the Pacers.

In the West, the top seeded Oklahoma City Thunder is taking on the Houston Rockets who are looking for an upset behind James Harden. The Los Angeles Lakers will be without Kobe Bryant after his torn Achilles injury as they take on the San Antonio Spurs.



Photo courtesy of nba.si.com

Baseball reaches 5th in conference, Women's soccer hosts tryouts

Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
SPORTS EDITOR

The Illinois Tech Baseball team currently sits in 5th place in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletics Conference North Division, with a streak of 6-15. With 9 games remaining of the regular season, the team will look to improve their record as they look

towards the CCAC Tournament in Whiting, IN which runs from April 30th to May 4th. Also on the Hawks' schedule is an exciting game against Maranatha Baptist Bible College on US Cellular Field, the home of the Chicago White Sox, on Tuesday May 7th. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to escape the stresses of finals week for a couple of hours, or alternatively celebrate the end of exams. Be sure

to get down to the Sox stadium and support the team.

Also in action this semester are the Men and Women's Track and Field team. They were competing in the CCAC Championships over the weekend and will now be looking towards competitions at North Central College on May 9-10th and 16-17th before the NAIA National Outdoor Championships starting May 23rd.

In other on-campus sports news, the Women's Soccer team will be hosting varsity try-outs on April 25th. If anyone is interested in competing at a varsity level for IIT, and believe that they have what it takes, contact Coach Kose at akose@iit.edu to fill out an insurance waiver and receive more details about the try-out. Interested women must be full-time undergraduate students at IIT.



Wednesday, April 24

Baseball
@ Purdue University-North Central
1 p.m.
(game 1, game 2 to follow)

Thursday, April 25

Baseball
@ Robert Morris College
5 p.m.
(game 1, game 2 to follow)

Friday, April 26

Baseball
Cardinal Stritch University
@ Ed Glancy Baseball Field
3 p.m.

Saturday, April 27

Baseball
@ Cardinal Stritch University
12 p.m.
(game 1, game 2 to follow)

Men & Women's Track & Field
TBD

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

University Calendar

Monday, April 22nd

Wednesday, April 24th

IIT Research Day and Sigma Xi Lecture
Graduate College
MTCC Auditorium and Ballroom
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Start \$mart
Office of Campus Life
Perlstein Hall 109
5:00pm - 8:00pm

Tuesday, April 23th

Union Board General Body Meeting
Union Board
MTCC Auditorium
1:00 PM

Gendered Bodies in Italy
Departments of
Social Science and Humanities
Stuart Building 104
1:50 PM

Thursday, April 25th

Hawk 101 Stress Relief
International Center
Perlstein Hall 108
12:50 PM

Bingo & Karaoke Night
Union Board - Bog Events
 The Bog
9:00 PM

Friday, April 26th

I PRO Day
I PRO Office
Hermann Hall
9:00am - 5:00pm

All-Bog Party
Union Board - Bog Events
The Bog 
9:00 PM

Saturday, April 27th

Sunday, April 28th

Upcoming **Union Board** events

Last Union Board General Body Meeting!
Tuesday, April 23rd
1pm in the MTCC Auditorium

Free food, raffle prizes, giveaways, a Cupcake Truck and more!

IIT Trivia contest: study up on your IIT trivia to win extra raffle entries!

Bring a Friend contest: person who brings the most new people wins a prize!

Bingo & Karaoke Night
Thursday, April 25th
9:00 PM
The Bog

Chicago Cupcake Truck
Tuesday, April 23rd
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
MTCC South Lawn
The truck will be on campus selling samples
or come to the UB meeting to get a free coupon!

All-Bog Party
Friday, April 26th
9:00 PM
The Bog