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TechNews

Student newspaper of the Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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NSBE-IIT visits Indianapolis for national conference

Joannas Joseph
TECHNEWS WRITER

An almost nostalgic feeling reverberates through many of us who remember our first NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) conference in Indianapolis, FRC (Fall Regional Conference) in 2010. Who knew that for many of our graduating seniors, returning to Indianapolis would also mark the ends of the undergraduate NSBE conference experience?

It is no secret that throughout this academic year, the organization faced some financial tribulations. However, through the efforts of the executive board and the dedicated members, approximately 30 students were able to travel to Indianapolis for the 39th annual Convention from March 27 to March 31.

The Convention featured speakers such as Mike Muse, cofounder of Muse Recordings; NSBE Executive Director Carl Mack; Randall Pinkett, Season 4 Apprentice winner; Ryan Mack, Author, Entrepreneur and Community Activist; Nicole Lyons, CEO of Cole Muscle Cars and featured performances by Luke James and Melanie Fiona.

Although the conference featured

a rigorous schedule of workshops, a career fair, national executive elections and debates, hospitality suites and general sessions, the group did find some time for relaxation. The IIT Alumni Relations office in collaboration with Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Director of the Student Center of Diversity and Inclusion at IIT, hosted an alumni reception at the McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant where the Chapter's President paid 6 notable alumni tribute via presentation. During the reception, students were faced with the question, "Should education be a free commodity to all?" Input particularly from Lucius Doxerie ('13), Courtney Regis ('13) Carnot Joseph ('13) and Karlene Gibbs ('14) helped to reach a general consensus where we should first teach social responsibility to the future generation and to have a greater appreciation for our history.

On Saturday, March 30, the achievements of the NSBE-IIT Chapter were highlighted. During the Region IV (consisting of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio) meeting, the NSBE-IIT was awarded as the chapter with the Most Submitted Transcripts and the one with the Highest GPA for the 2012-2013 academic year.

This depicts the scholastic dedica-

tion of our members by delivering in both quantity and quality whilst emerging ahead of 69 other institutions.

The Boeing Flight Competition also featured the Illinois Tech Team, Aerotech (Roselle Grant & Avery Brown) who were very competitive. Although unsuccessful in the flight competition, the team did get the opportunity to meet IIT alum Anthony Metoyer, Director of Operations and Strategic Development at The Boeing Company and received the winning strategy for next year.

The convention concluded with the Golden Torch Awards where two members; Joannas Joseph and Krystal McDoom were named BCA (Board of Corporate Affiliates) Scholars for the past academic year. Thirty three (33) members were also named into the Academic Pyramid of Excellence (APEX), which was another crowning achievement for the chapter. For many college students, a convention of this caliber may be perceived as either a networking opportunity or a glorified vacation.

No matter the outlook, all the members of the NSBE-IIT chapter who attended attest that it was indeed worthwhile for their professional growth.

ENPro303: Wishmap fundraising @ IIT for Chicago Lighthouse

Liam Barrett
STAFF WRITER

The WishMap team from EN-PRO303 has been running a fundraising event over the past two weeks, in collaboration with IIT Dining Services, in order to help raise money for The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. Students have been voting on three new specialty burritos by submitting monetary contributions and the choice with the highest monetary value at the end of next week will be permanently added to the Center Court menu.

WishMap tables will continue to be set up during the lunch hour at Center Court for this event until April 12, where you can stop by, vote and donate. All the money raised will go directly to The Chicago Lighthouse to help fulfill their wish of keeping their beloved radio show on air.

However, with The Chicago Lighthouse needing \$5,000 in order to fulfill this wish, WishMap has now organized another innovative fundraiser where members of the WishMap team have volunteered to be blindfolded for the day. The WishMap participants will be seeking sponsorship for every hour that they manage to stay blindfolded and hopefully this will help them in their quest to raise even more funds for The Chicago Lighthouse. This event will take place within the courtyard of MTCC and will start from 9 a.m. on April 12. Once again we encourage you to support this event, which gives you a unique opportunity to help make a real difference within the local community.

If you are interested in making a pledge, you can either do so on the day, in MTCC, or online at WishMap.net. Once you have found the relevant wish, click "Contribute" and then pledge your desired amount, you will not be charged at the time of making the pledge. You can pledge as much as you'd like to as many of the WishMap participants as you'd like, and you will receive an email notification to process your payment when the fundraising effort ends.

WHAT: Blindfolded fundraising event hosted by ENPRO303: WishMap

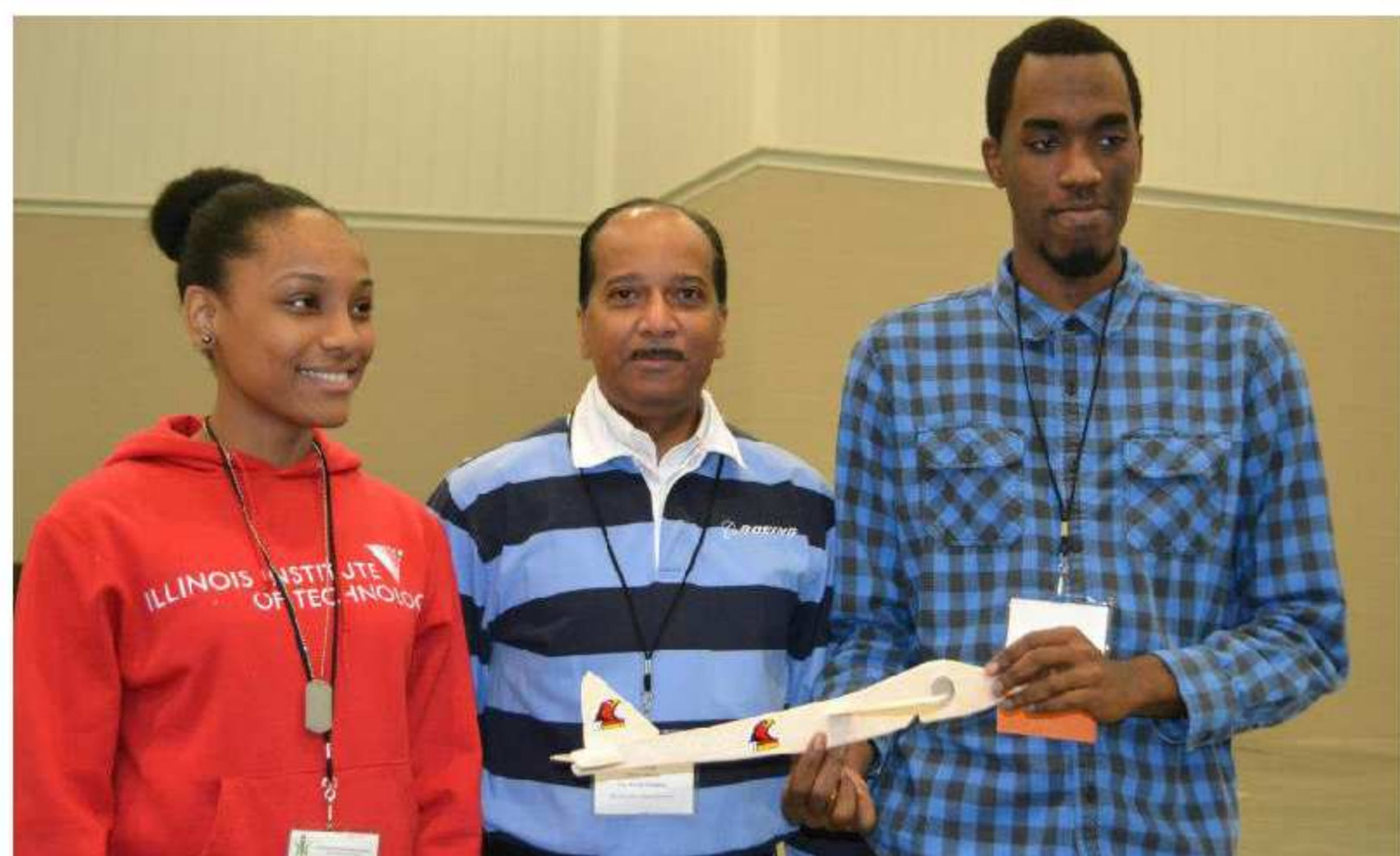
WHEN: April 12, starting at 9 a.m.

WHERE: MTCC and online at WishMap.net

WHO: WishMap fundraisers - Liam Barrett, Ivan Carmona, Amy Carrera, Rosana Elkhatib, Saeed Patel, Erick Perez, Grant Pierce, Alejandro Sanchez and Bingjie Wu

WHY: Fulfill The Chicago Lighthouse's wish of keeping their radio show on air

HOW: Vote or donate in the MTCC on April 12th or log on to www. WishMap.net



Photos courtesy of National Society of Black Engineers-IIT

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Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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Stunning Swiss mountains of Interlaken

Neesha Narayanan
TECHNEWS WRITER

Everyone experiences the feeling of accomplishing an ambition in one’s lifetime; that’s how I felt when climbing into the ICE (Intercity-Express) in Switzerland.

It has been my long desire to experience the beauty of Switzerland because of which this was left untouched even during WWII. Interlaken brings the best of the beauty from Switzerland. It was summer, with green mountains and the blueness of the sky, and the water reflecting the blue sky was mesmerizing.

It looked the same as if a three-year-old had been coloring the water bodies blue in his drawing. Lying in my bed, in my chalet, I could see the water and the mountains opposite of each other. In the water, I could see touting boats. Iseltwald is the town I stayed in, in the municipality of Interlaken, overlooking the sea and the mountains. The place is surrounded by mountains, and in the foothills there are small villages and towns, which are accessible by boats. One can jump into the cool waters and swim or hire a boat to do fishing in the middle of the lake.

It was surprising to know that there are these places where an owner offers a section of the chalet to tourists for a price reasonably cheaper than the topmost hotels available. I was excited to experience staying at some

stranger’s place for a week with my family, and got breakfast with the deal. It felt as if I will be more connected to the place as I will be staying with the locals all the time, instead of staying at a fancy hotel.

When we reached Interlaken, we had to take a bus to reach our chalet. The chalet was placed in the tip of the land form right in the middle of the lake and the magnificent and green mountains. The chalet was more than what I expected to see, to be honest; it was coziest place I could wish for. The landlady was a German, settled in Switzerland for 25 years, so the moment we arrived she was quite impressed with the fact that we could speak German.

People there appreciate if visitors try to get accustomed to their culture, and especially the language. The view from the chalet was breathtaking; one side of the chalet I could just see the dominating mountains that were magnificent enough to touch the clouds and huge chalets with yards and mountain sheep feeding on the lush grass.

On the other side the peaceful and calming effect of the blue waters. I wish I could own a chalet at that same spot, it would be a dream come true. The breakfast that they provided us was complementary to the view outside. Fresh Swiss cheese and fruits with fresh made blueberry yogurt and Indian style egg omelet. This was the first time I dared to have flavored yogurt and I fell in love with it.

I tried to get used to normal flavored yogurt since then but no, I cannot find anything like that anywhere.

What I have realized while travelling in Europe is that it is best to travel by local transport rather than private transportation, and worrying about parking. Also, you really want to dig into the culture and the heritage of the place which is only possible if you explore into the deepest parts of the place which is where local transportation system can be helpful. Interlaken is a well-connected place, one can visit Jungfrau Mountain (highest point that can be reached by train in Bernese Alps), Zermatt and other places with the convenience of punctual trains.

For people who are foodies like me, who are daring enough to try different things, you will fall in love with food as whatever you get there is fresh from the nature. Be it dairy products, fruits, vegetables everything is natural, which is why food is reasonably expensive in Switzerland. There are food fests where you can go and get a drink and have traditional Swiss delicacies like fondue, Sauerkraut pastetli. There are also choices in international food like Chinese and Indian cuisines which have impressive standards. For all the adventure seekers the best ways to experience adventure in Interlaken are paragliding, skydiving, skiing and mountain climbing. Keep in mind not to break a bone, and you will be fine.



Photos by Neesha Narayanan

Main campus plays host to Build-It Competition, CAURS, AIAA events

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Saturday, 6 April 2013 was a very busy day on the IIT main campus, with a host of large-scale events planned alongside the culmination of Greek Week and Preview weekend. Primarily organized and coordinated by students, the fantastic weather allowed the events to run along smoothly and visitors to leave with a positive and successful learning experience.

Armour College of Engineering (in partnership with the Themes Student Council) and the IIT Chapter of Tau Beta Pi organized the first ever IIT Build-it Competition: An Impromptu Design Competition from 8:30am to 3:00pm. This design competition was an applied science competition where teams competed against each other to design and build the best solution to an engineering problem using the materials provided.

More than 70 high school students

from 8-10 different high schools in the area were present to test out their budding design and engineering skills. The materials provided were simple daily items like clothes pins, paper clips, balloons, pencils, plastic spoon, straws, Play-Doh, rubber bands and tin foil. The event marked the culmination of months of planning on behalf of the TBP President, Luis Angelo Larco. Participants were treated to a lunch in the Commons and parents were also given an architectural tour of the campus. The event concluded with a successful design testing of the models created in Siegel Hall and a presentation about inspiring students to pursue STEM education.

The Idea Shop was host to the annual American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Region III (Midwest regional) conference which provided an opportunity for students from universities in the Midwest to come together and share the latest research and developments in the aerospace and aeronautics fields. There was some great competition as students presented papers for

cash prize incentives.

The conference also provided students an opportunity to network with experts in the field and peers as well as practice their public speaking skills. In connection to AIAA's mission ("to sponsor student conferences in each AIAA Region as a means to encourage students in aerospace related fields to discuss research, exchange knowledge and generate interest in the field of aerospace engineering"); papers were presented in different category: undergraduate, graduate, team, freshman/sophomore and student branch outreach.

Finally, Hermann Hall was also host to the Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium (CAURS), the premier research presentation and networking event founded in 2005 to 'promote, encourage, and celebrate the efforts and dedication of undergraduate students conducting research at institutions in and around the Chicagoland area'. Organized as a day-long, student-managed event, the annual research symposium event follows a model that offers a unique blend of networking,

event management and minimal financial or administrative costs to partnering institutions. The daylong event consisted of two poster sessions (morning and evening) featuring all student participants, as well as oral presentations from students selected to give 10-minute talks.

In addition, a dedicated time for poster-viewing, a networking session with graduate school representatives, and informal roundtable discussions with various other academic and industry representatives provided students ample opportunity to discover the work being done by their peers and to network. The event concluded in the evening with dinner, a keynote address from a distinguished researcher from one of the CAURS member institutions and an awards ceremony recognizing the achievements of the day's outstanding presenters. Judged by graduate students and faculty members, the event also saw conversations on topics such as underrepresented minorities in science, the graduate/professional school application process, internships and stepping into academia.

ECE Seminar Series presents engineer Juin J. Liou

Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

The search for Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Chair continued this past week wherein Dr. Juin J. Liou of University of Central Florida delivered his talk and fought for his candidacy. It was also a part of the Seminar Series of ECE Department organized on Friday, April 5 2013. The lecture was hosted by Dr. Vincent T. Turitto, Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Director of Pritzker Institute of Biomedical Science and Engineering.

Juin J. Liou received the B.S. (honors), M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Florida, Gainesville in 1982, 1983 and 1987 respectively. In 1987 he joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Central Florida (UCF), Orlando, Florida where he is now the Pegasus Distinguished Professor and UCF-Analog Devices Fellow. His current research interests

are Micro/Nanoelectronics Computer-Aided Design, RF device modeling and simulation and electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection design and simulation.

Dr. Liou holds 8 U.S. patents (3 more filed and pending) and has published 9 books, more than 250 journal papers (including 17 invited review articles), and more than 200 papers (including 84 keynote and invited papers) in international and national conference proceedings. He has been awarded more than \$11.0 million of research contracts and grants from various federal agencies (v.i.z., NSF, DARPA, Navy, Air Force, NASA, NIST), the state government, and the industry (v.i.z., Semiconductor Research Corp., Intel Corp., Intersil Corp., Lockheed Martin, etc.), and has held consulting positions with research laboratories and companies in the United States, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore. In addition, Dr. Liou has served as a technical reviewer for various journals and publishers, as a general chair or technical program chair for a large number of international conferences, as a regional editor (in USA, Canada

and South America) of the Microelectronics Reliability journal, and as a guest editor of 3 special issues of Microelectronics Reliability and Solid-State Electronics.

The presentation by Dr. Liou had three parts, namely, his background, research activities and vision statement. After presenting his academic background, he presented an overview of his ESD research activities. Starting with the basics, Dr. Liou explained how electrostatic discharge (ESD) is one of the most prevalent threats to electronic components. ESD is an event where a finite amount of charge is transferred from one object (e.g., human body) to the other (e.g., microchip). This process can result in a very high current passing through the microchip within a very short period of time.

More than 35% of chip damages can be attributed to such an event. Citing the high priority of ESD in the semiconductor industry, he emphasized designing on-chip ESD structures to protect integrated circuits against the ESD stress. The continuing scaling of CMOS technology makes the ESD-induced

failures even more prominent and one can predict with certainty that the availability of effective and robust ESD protection solutions will become a critical and essential component to the successful advancement and commercialization of the next-generation CMOS-based electronics.

Talking about how to make IIT one of the top schools, Dr. Liou said that he would emphasize on three important components, i.e., faculty, resources and leadership. Setting a high goal, inspiring faculty members to be passionate and proud of what they do, believing that team work and interdisciplinary collaboration are critical components are just a few components of his vision statement. He stressed on value integrity, freedom and creativity.

Concluding his talk, Dr. Liou discussed how faculty research and scholarly activities, closely correlated with graduate education, can be amplified through relevant collaboration and can respond to the needs of a changing research scenario. The talk was attended by ECE faculty members and students.

TEDxIIT prepares for main event

Shreeyeh Rajan
TECHNEWS WRITER

With just one week to go, the whole TEDxIIT team has been all over the place. Whether it's deciding what posters to go up on the main event, what food to buy, or what should the volunteers do on Saturday, things have been rather busy.

We had one of our two volunteer sessions on April 4, 2013 and it went great. While some of them opted to be speaker buddies, the others were perfectly fine with helping out in setting up, ushering and cleaning up. With around 40 volunteers, the team's getting all the help we can. As Amy Lee Segami puts it, "Volunteers help us in bringing the IIT community and the IIT alumni together, beyond the borders of IIT."

The volunteers showed so much interest in being speaker buddies (an IIT student who assists the speaker the entire day). I emailed all the volunteers on Thursday night to select the speaker of their choice (if they wanted to) and then I went to grab some dinner at the BOG. An hour later, I checked my email to find 10 unread emails about speaker buddies. The spots were taken in less than an

hour! I thank all the volunteers for taking part in this event.

The amount of interest that the volunteers have been showing the past few days is really contagious. We're now more excited than ever.

The TEDxIIT event will be on April 13th 2013 starting from 9:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the IIT Tower Auditorium. There are limited seats so start applying now! The link to apply for the event is:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1k8uS-y2aFC66wN2N9_P6KIdvclqx-QVFc6ovccI-M6WI/viewform?pli=1

Since it's a full day event, will there be food? Of course, we will have free breakfast, free lunch and snacks. How many speakers will be there? There will be 12 speakers including faculty, alumni, students and members non-affiliated to IIT. What if I'm really interested but I can't make it? No problem. We will have live streaming available on the TEDxIIT website: <http://mypages.iit.edu/~tedxiit/>

So, tell your family, friends and relatives from all over the world that they can watch it on the website. It doesn't matter if your family is in India, if your friends are in Korea or if your relatives are in Africa, tell them all.

Let's be exponential!

IEEE second general body meeting

Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

IEEE@IIT organized their second general body meeting of the Spring semester on Thursday 4th April. The agenda of meeting included discussion about projects funded by IEEE, T-shirt design contest, election/nominations for the executive board, upcoming company tours and IEEE spring barbeque. Kicking off the meeting, George Williams, Secretary of the Student's Chapter, welcomed everyone at the second meeting of IEEE@IIT.

The students were very enthusiastic about the T-shirt design contest. Around 10 design nominations were shown to the audience, and the winner would be awarded a whopping \$100 and the winning design would also be printed. There are a few upcoming company tours organized by IEEE@IIT. The first one is the ComEd West Loop Substation Tour, which was organized Friday 5th April. There is also another company tour to S&C Electric on 19th April and the deadline to sign-up is 15th April. Moreover, possible future tours to companies like Motorola Mobility, Nokia-Siemens Networks, GE are being discussed.

Discussing the projects that are funded by IEEE, like Raspberry Pi, Quadcopter, the Mutitouch project, Guitar Amp and Ar-

dupilot, George asked the interested students to attend the project meeting in the Galvin Center at IIT Tower, 16th floor on 11th April. A video showcasing the Raspberry Pi project was shown in the meeting too. Although the design is not going to be the same as in video, a general idea about what to do in the project was easily inferred from the video.

Juan Wang, PhD scholar talked about the Multitouch project that she will also be responsible for heading. Showing a video on creating a Multitouch tablet, she said that the project would have some similar design steps. Interested students can still join any of the projects by signing the online sheet created for project participation, and attending the next project meeting on 11th April.

The nominations for IEEE@IIT executive board were open till 7th April. Elections will be held on 22nd April until 25th April, right before the next general meeting. Till the election date, one can campaign for his/her nominee. The IEEE Spring barbeque will be held on 26th April at the Siegel Field, where you have the opportunity to meet the new executive members as well interact with other group members. All queries regarding IEEE@IIT can be forwarded to ieee@iit.edu. Students will be notified about upcoming events via email and Facebook group.



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GLAM IIT PRIDE WEEK

MONDAY 4/15

FREE Rainbow Tie-Dye
11:30 AM - 1:50PM

The Quad, near the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity House

TUESDAY 4/16

Documentary Screening: How to Survive a Plague
FREE FOOD
7PM - 9PM
E1 102

WEDNESDAY 4/17

LGBTQ History Condom BINGO
7PM - 9PM
E1 121

THURSDAY 4/18

An Ally Analysis
FREE FOOD
7PM - 9PM
E1 121

FRIDAY 4/19

Day of Silence
12PM - 2PM
MTCC Bridge

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'Place Beyond the Pines' satisfies unmet longing for challenging, engaging film

August Lysy
STAFF WRITER

The Place Beyond the Pines is as wistfully enigmatic as its title. The movie, written and directed by Derek Cainfrance (Blue Valentine), plunges into the vivid emotional landscapes of two generations of men struggling to navigate the complex, social fabrics of responsibility and fatherhood, all while learning to balance individual and relational goals through sacrifice. If I wished to relay the mood concisely, I would suggest listening to the closing song, “The Wolves (Part I and II)” by Bon Iver (which might explain the inordinate amount of bearded hipsters present); if I were to describe how the movie affected me emotionally, I would say, imagine a brick tied to your heart, descending leagues into the sea.

Pines opens with Luke’s story (Ryan Gosling): a motorcycle stunt driver who turns to robbing banks in order to support his baby boy (Anthony Pizza—yes, even the baby’s got creds) and the mother of his child, Romina

(Eva Mendes). The story then hands off to Avery (Bradley Cooper), a rookie cop whose life becomes entangled with Luke’s after a fateful encounter, and whose future-life as a District Attorney brings both him and his son, AJ (Emory Cohen), fatefully-yet-again into conflict with Luke’s now-grown son, Jason (Dane DeHaan).

As I implied above, the movie lays on thick layers of emotional and moral conflict, and in such a way as to directly tap into the ennui and disillusionment of my generation, in particular. I would argue that is precisely why the audience demographic was, as I dryly remarked above, 20-30-something hipster, young adults. Both Luke and Avery are forced to make principled choices for themselves and the ones they love, and both—while hitting close—miss the mark in some way.

In such a way is tragedy written, but I would argue that the successful delivery of this film relies heavily upon the skills of the writer/director, cinematographer (Sean Bobbitt), and music department, and not specifically the lead actors—though the lead actress

was the strongest—both as an actor and as a character. This last (rather bold) claim is accepting most of the supporting cast: in particular, the two youngest actors (excepting little Mr. Pizza), Cohen and DeHaan, who I thought completely captured misguided adolescence in the face of a weak, paternal figure; and Ray Liotta, who plays one bad cop (go figure!), and Ben Mendelsohn (*Killing Them Softly*), who completely embodies his role as Luke’s backwoods, bank-robbing acquaintance.

As far as Gosling and Cooper go: the first never convinced me he was anything other than the mysterious, handsome character he seems to play so well (i.e. this character is not unique; a la *Drive* and *Blue Valentine*); the second, (and I write this while acknowledging my sincere desire to see him shed his *Hangover* stigma) lacked a certain gravity in his character (it’s his eyes, they’re too playfully dreamy) and has not quite convinced me he’s a serious actor yet—although crying on his knees in the woods with a gun to his head is a step in the right, dramatic direction.

Returning again to the success of

this movie as a whole, Cainfrance has a strong voice as a writer and knows how to weave a beautifully rich and engaging plot. Bobbitt, I think to credit with the emotional tone presented by the visuals, but certainly Cainfrance has his stamp there, too. In any case, as its poster suggests, this movie’s visuals communicate the brooding, unmet desires—the pining, if you will—of these characters. In fact, the title itself evokes strong feelings of emotional isolation. Lastly, the music department succeeds in creating the perfect soundtrack to accompany the rich visuals and to complement the dense, emotional landscape (the last scene, with Bon Iver’s voice and lyrics, is haunting in these regards). *The Place Beyond the Pines* is a movie for the current generations of adolescents and young adults (now with ages stretching into the forties, sadly) who are wise enough to discern the challenges of the post-modern, fatherless, moral-abolitionist age. This movie transports you beyond the pines of unmet longing to that sublime pinnacle from which to observe that winding course back through to your mending; perhaps some will heed its message.

Shimer students perform ‘Eurydice’

Matti Scannell
A&E EDITOR

A small (even by Shimer standards) group of students have devoted several times a week to preparing their performance of Sarah Ruhl’s play, *Eurydice*, this semester. The product of their labor will be presented later this week in Cinderella Lounge at Shimer College, located in 3424, on the second floor.

For those unfamiliar with the story of *Eurydice*, the study revolves around Eu-

rydice, daughter of Hades, who tragically dies during her marriage to Orpheus (in the original myth her death occurs after the marriage).

After her death, *Eurydice* descends to the underworld where she travels through the waters of forgetfulness. She does not remember her husband and does not recognize her father, but instead mistakes him for a hotel porter. Meanwhile, distraught with the loss of his beloved, Orpheus goes to the underworld to retrieve her. *Eurydice* is then faced with the choice of continuing to live in

the underworld with her father or returning to live with Orpheus. Orpheus is told that if he can exit the underworld alone without turning around, *Eurydice* can return to the world of the living.

This play would be a great way to familiarize yourself with a classic Greek myth (seriously, I’m pretty convinced that this story has been represented by pretty much every art form). For those students who are already familiar with the story, Sarah Ruhl’s script offers a new and often very funny takes on the classic story. Notable twists include *Eurydice* be-

ing lead out of the wedding by a man claiming to contain a letter from Hades and *Eurydice* calling out to Orpheus as he walks out of the underworld. Given the amount of time devoted to this production, the strong script, and the cheap ticket price (free!) it would be a shame to miss this play.

Eurydice will be performed Thursday, April 11 and Friday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Cinderella Lounge at Shimer College. Tickets are free but must be reserved due to limited seating, reservations can be made at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5870391499/>

Facebook unveils Android home screen application

Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg launched the new Facebook Home app last Thursday. In his words, it’s neither a phone nor an operating system; it’s something that’s a whole lot deeper than just another app. In a broader sense, it replaces your standard Android’s home screen with an immersive Facebook experience featuring full-screen photos, status updates, and notifications.

Facebook Home can replace any Android handset into a “Facebook phone” by putting the social giant right there on the home screen and all of its products at the forefront of the user interface. It isn’t a phone made by Facebook. But, yes, we can think of it as a combination of “app” and “operating system:” an apperating system.

“Our phones today are designed around apps, not people. We want to flip that around,” Zuckerberg said at the unveiling event in Menlo Park. Home will put the updates from social network right on the home screen via a feature called Cover Feed, which is quite similar to the HTC One which has a live Flipboard-like interface for its home screen. It will give you live updates on what your friends are doing without you having to launch an app, or even unlock your phone. You can even like a post or comment on it from the home screen rather than viewing it on Facebook. In other words, content from Facebook takes up the

entire screen, and users can navigate through updates simply by swiping. The built-in Gallery app lets you share directly to Instagram, Facebook Messenger and Facebook Camera.

Another great feature of the new Facebook Home is the new messaging system called “Chat Heads.” In this new system, messaging is built directly into the user interface. So, one doesn’t need to pop in and pop out of different apps to chat. When a friend messages you, their profile picture pops up as a small circular icon; you can tap and open up the message thread. One can even have multiple conversations as well, with all the Chat Heads you like on your screen. After you’re done with messaging, you can simply swipe the Chat Heads away from the screen. The new Chat Heads in integrated with Facebook messages and SMS, but not third-party messaging apps (Hinting on WhatsApp).

Facebook Home is hitting the Google Play store on April 12. Currently, it would be available directly on a new HTC phone, i.e. “HTC First” and for download to a half-dozen other HTC and Samsung phones. The app will have a new Facebook-focused home screen that puts instant messages, news feed updates, and photos front and center on the smart phone home screen.

In simple words, Mark Zuckerberg wants to turn the Android phone into a simple sharing device. By that, he means he wants to turn it into a Facebook phone. So after iPhone, Android phone, and Windows phone, we will have something “Facebook phone”!

Chicago YarnCon

Robin Babb
TECHNEWS WRITER

The recent rise in the popularity of fiber arts like knitting and crochet has caused an equal rise in the prevalence of small, artisanal yarn-making companies. For those who partake in the crafts that involve yarn, choosing the right material for the project is a crucial factor in the outcome of the finished product—every good Etsy seller knows you can’t use just any yarn to make really quality dog ponchos.

But really though, one of the reasons that many choose to make scarves and sweaters for themselves and others is that it allows them to control 100% of the end product. They can dictate the size, color, material, pattern, etc. of their work. With the power of infinite customizability in their hands, they tend to pay pretty close attention to their options.

For those of you who are a part of this yarny, crafty world (or want to be a part of it), there is the Chicago YarnCon. YarnCon took place in the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Union Hall this past weekend (April 6-7), when hundreds of fiber and textile enthusiasts gather to show their wares, exchange wisdom, and pick up some new yarn for their next project. Since I was interested in taking a peek into this crafty subculture that I know so little about (and since there was no admission fee), I decided to stop in on Saturday.

There were vendors from all over the country selling exquisite small-batch, hand-dyed yarn made from every animal under the sun, expert crafters selling their handiwork, and plenty of needles, looms, hooks, and all other sorts of yarncraft paraphernalia for sale.

Whether you’re a dedicated fiber artist or—like me—less of a crafter and more of an I-can-sew-the-button-back-onto-my-coat kind of person, there was plenty of opportunity here to get inspired by the work of the pros and get supplies for your next project.

There were also workshops available to crafters of every skill level. You could learn to dye fibers with Kool-Aid, make slippers out of old sweaters, or just learn the basics of crochet.

Additionally, there was a talk by Susan Gibbs, the creative director of the yarn company Juniper Moon Farm. Gibbs talked about her experience starting her company, from a “this is my calling!” revelation in a book store in New York, to the spur-of-the-moment purchase of her first flock of sheep, to the trials involved in making it into a national yarn company and the world’s first and only yarn CSA.

My main takeaways from YarnCon 2013: 1) crafting is an expensive hobby, and 2) it is one that a lot of people are really passionate about. Although I figured that buying the materials and making one’s own hats and mittens and such would, logically, be a much more cost-effective method of building a wardrobe, most of the yarn for sale here cost way more than anything in my closet. That being said, I can still understand the appeal of making your own things from scratch: it’s a creative outlet, it allows you to take part in this immense community of skilled, like-minded people, and it gives you a definite sense of accomplishment when you’ve finished your project. You’ve just got to be willing to invest a bit of time and money, and to accept that the first few things you make will be completely impossible to wear.

And now...a comic!

Sam Kepp
TECHNEWS WRITER



					8		3	
	6					9		
3		8		4	9	7	6	
8						6	7	
	3	6				8	5	
	7	5						3
	9	7	2	1		4		5
		4					1	
	5		8					

数独

The word Sudoku, above, is actually the abbreviation of Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru, meaning “the digits must be single” or “the digits are limited to one occurrence.”
Source: Wikipedia

		8			1	5		3
	1	6			2		9	
5				6				
2		7			8			
		5	9		3	4		
			7			2		5
				9				8
	5		3			1	2	
4		3	2			6		

	7	2		8				
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			5		2	4		1
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	8				9			7
				4		3	5	

Woods looking to increase Masters Hall in Augusta

Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
SPORTS EDITOR

The world's best golfers will meet at the Augusta National Golf Course, Georgia Thursday to compete in the sport's most prestigious tournament. The US Masters is one of the four major tournaments in professional golf, with a prize fund of more than \$8,000,000.

Looking to win his fifth green jacket at Augusta, Tiger Woods has hit a rich vein of form going into the tournament. After a highly publicized scandal regarding his personal life, and a range of on-course issues, Woods has reclaimed the world number 1 ranking position for the first time since October 2010. On top of this, Woods has secured a number of tour victories at Torrey Pines, Doral, and Bay Hill.

14-time major champion, Woods will hope to build on these achievements as he chases Jack Nicklaus' 18-major world record. If he is able to continue showing flashes of the sort of form that made him a dominant force

in the sport for more than a decade, Woods will undoubtedly triumph at Augusta and take one step closer to the world record.

Standing in his way, however, are a host of talented golfers. 23-year-old Northern-Irish golfer Rory McIlroy, who currently sits at number 2 in the world rankings, is debatably the most threatening of these. McIlroy has played 2 weeks in a row, going into the tournament at Augusta in order to fine-tune his game.

McIlroy, an ex-world number 1, recently stated that he was confident he could leave a mark on the tournament, where he famously blew a 4-shot lead on the final day in 2011. He will be looking to avoid a repeat of that Sunday, where he recorded the worst round in history by a golfer leading on the last day of the Masters Tournament. Speaking after the Houston Open last month, McIlroy said: "My short game is sharp and I putted it pretty nice. If I can limit the sloppy mistakes I'll be fine."

In any case, the Masters is a staple of



Image courtesy of golf.com

any sporting calendar, attracting the some of the highest ticket-prices in world sports.

The action begins on Thursday morning, culminating in a final round on Sunday. Tune in to see if Tiger Woods can continue his impressive run of form, or if one of the many capable challengers in the field is able to slow him down.

NBA teams reach play-offs, NCAA tournament heated

Nathan McMahon
STAFF WRITER

This time of year is one of the most exciting for basketball fans as NBA teams desperately attempt to secure a playoff spot, while college teams try to make it through the NCAA tournament unscathed to become national champions.

The NBA playoff race is over for the Eastern Conference as the eight playoff spots with Miami at the top position and the Bulls unlikely to move far from their current fifth seed. Even after the impressive streak ended, the Miami Heat has not slowed down even in the absence of some of their stars. It seems like between the big three of Chris Bosh, Dwayne Wade, and LeBron James only one is needed to win, as the other two sit out, in order to be physically ready the playoff grind. They are ten games ahead of the New York Knicks and they are the definite favorites to repeat as NBA champions.

The Western Conference is a completely different story where the final three playoff spots are still up for grabs with Golden State, Houston, the Lakers, Utah, and even Dallas have a shot at a playoff spot. The Lakers have a very precarious hold on the eighth and final playoff position where they are only half a game up on Utah. The Lakers do have a favorable schedule with the majority of their remaining games to be played at home.

It would be extremely impressive if the Lakers make the playoffs after their horrid start to the season and would be an equally massive disappointment if they did not make the playoffs with the talent on the team. Kobe Bryant is on a mission to get them into the playoffs where he knows better than most that



Image courtesy of bostonherald.com

anything can happen.

In the world of college basketball, this past week led up to Saturday's national semifinal matchups for a shot at the national championship on Monday.

The first game was between overall number 1 seed, Louisville, and the team that has shocked the world; the 9 seeded Wichita State Shockers. The Shockers were expected by many to roll over to the ferocity of Louisville's chaotic style of defense, instead, they looked like tournament veterans and took control of the game where they led by as many as 13 in the second half. However, Luke Hancock of Louisville had other plans as Louisville rallied behind his stellar shooting in the final minutes to move on with a final score of 72-68.

In the championship game on Monday, they will face Michigan, who took down Syracuse 61-56 in the second of the games on Saturday.

Michigan knew they were going to have to hit open threes against Syracuse's famed 2-3 zone, and in the first half they did, opening up a 36-25 lead at halftime. Michigan's Trey Burke, who has led them all season, struggled from the field hitting just one field goal, but was picked up from the great shooting of Spike Albrecht and Caris Levert. The second half proved a tougher task for Michigan as Syracuse stepped up their defensive intensity and closed the deficit to just 1 point, but Michigan did not buckle under the pressure.

Monday's matchup between Louisville and Michigan is sure to be a good one where Louisville is the favorite, but Michigan has played as well as anyone this tournament. Look for Trey Burke to come out ready to make up for his poor performance against Syracuse.



IIT SCARLET HAWKS UPDATE

Wednesday, April 10 Baseball VS. Calumet College of St. Joseph Ed Glancy Field, 1 p.m. (game 1, game 2 to follow)	Saturday, April 13 Baseball VS. Olivet Nazarene University Ed Glancy Field, 12 p.m. (game 1, game 2 to follow)
Thursday, April 11 Baseball @ Robert Morris College 5 p.m. (game 1, game 2 to follow)	Men & Women's Track & Field @ Benedictine University

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY University Calendar

Monday, April 8th

Chicago Women's Health Speaker
Feminists United
12:40pm - 1:40pm
Perlstein Hall 109

Tuesday, April 9th

Early to Bed
Feminists United
7pm - 9pm
Perlstein Hall 109

Thursday, April 11th

Vagina Monologues
Feminists United
7pm - 9pm
IIT Tower

Hawk 101
Living & Working in a Diverse Environment
Office of Campus Life
12:50pm - 1:50pm
Perlstein Hall, Room 108

App Madness
ACM
5pm - 9pm
Stuart 111

Bollywood Karaoke Night
 Union Board & ISA
9pm - 1am
The Bog

Bingo Night
 Union Board & Triangle
7pm - 9pm
The Bog

Wednesday, April 10th


Condom Carnival
Feminists United
11am - 2pm
Quad Bandshell

Make Your Own Dessert Sushi
Dining Services
11:15am - 1:45pm
The Commons

Friday, April 12th

EWB Spring BBQ!
12:40pm - 2:30pm
Farr Field/Quad Bandshell

Pajama Party, LAN Party
Union Board 
6:30pm - 1pm
The Bog

Spring Formal
Union Board 
7:00pm - 11:00pm
The Drake

Saturday, April 13th

Exponential Official Event
TEDxIIT 2013
9am - 6pm
IIT Tower Auditorium

Sunday, April 14th

Upcoming Union Board events

General Body Meeting/Brainstorming Fall 2013
Union Board
Tuesday, April 9th
1pm - 1:30pm
MTCC Auditorium

Bollywood Karaoke Night
Thursday, April 11th
9pm - 1am
The Bog

Bingo Night
Thursday, April 11th
7pm - 9pm
The Bog

Spring Formal 2013: The Roaring Twenties
Friday, April 12
7:00pm - 11:00pm
The Drake

Pajama Party, LAN Party
Friday, April 12th
6:30pm - 1pm
The Bog