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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 Elkhathib, 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