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Sustainability Forum explores future goals, opportunities

Utsav Gandhi

CAMPUS EDITOR

The Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability (OCES) hosted the first Sustainability Forum of the semester on Friday, September 06, 2013 at 12:30pm in the Hermann Hall Ballroom. It was basically an introduction to campus sustainability goals for the next few years as well as an introduction to opportunities for students, especially freshmen, interested in sustainability related topics, to get involved with various campus organizations and programs promoting similar ideas. With a deliciously catered, gluten-free as well as vegan-friendly lunch, the event also served as the second Freshman 15 event for the semester, as part of the First Year Experience program initiated by the Office of Campus Life. This program provides incentives for first-year students to participate in various educational, social, professional, athletic and academic events, all free of cost, throughout their first year at IIT.

The event began with a listing of the various goals concretized by the OCES for the university pertaining to energy conservation and sustainability. The current progress being made towards this regard, covering a broad range of umbrella topics such as water conservation, electricity generation, supply chain & waste management, transportation as well as emissions were discussed. Most goals were within the framework of baseline 2010 levels, to be achieved by the year 2020, for the overall university. Some of these goals include reduc-

ing the annual utilities purchase by 40% and natural gas by 25%; managing 100% of storm water received on campus (the progress towards which is already 33.2% in two years); fulfilling the 79% potential recycling capacity of the campus (we currently stand at around 30%); having 100% of IIT's vehicular fleet to be powered renewably; 50% emissions of baseline 2010 levels by 2020; as well as pushing for more organic food as well as LEED certified buildings on campus.

A variety of student groups and offices are working in partnership with OCES to assist with these goals. The Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research (<http://www.iit.edu/wiser/>) was represented by Peggy Murphy, Assistant Director. She spoke about how WISER is pushing for more interdisciplinary research initiatives and student outreach to "establish IIT as a national leader in energy and sustainability, complementing Chicago's emergence as a sustainable city." The Armour College of Engineering Undergraduate Student Council (<http://www.iitengineeringthemes.com/>) was represented by the President, Sunny Patel (MMAE 4th year) who spoke about the college's initiatives within the four Themes of Energy, Health, Water and Security to offer research opportunities, student-led programs, alumni events, career panels and field trips, many of which revolve around an engineering-centered approach to a more sustainable use of resources. UFarmIIT (<https://iit.collegiatelink.net/organization/UFarmIIT>), the campus organization dedicated to the purpose of managing an urban farm on IIT's campus (to complement IIT's ecological conserva-

tion measures and making the main campus more sustainable) was also represented. They spoke about how the farm is active and alive with fresh produce and even bees, and invited everyone to drop by and experience the farm. The farm is located on the Greek Quad, by the Triangle and Alpha Sigma Alpha houses.

Another organization which was present included Engineers for a Sustainable World (<http://www.eswiit.org/news>) - IIT Chapter, whose President Kenneth Ruffato (ChBE/ENVE 4th year) spoke about the two projects they are currently involved with - a solar powered WIFI and information communication device installation projects in developing regions around the world, along with a high school outreach program promoting sustainability here in Chicago. The IPRO program (<http://ipro.iit.edu/>) was represented by Mr. Tom Jacobius, Director of Operations, who spoke about the various IPRO projects directly related to sustainability and the new concept of IPRO 'clusters' wherein one of the umbrella themes is sustainability itself. Sustain ID, an organization at the Institute of Design involved with similar issues; and NetImpact (<http://blogs.iit.edu/stuart/tag/net-impact/>), an organization working towards encouraging social and environmental grassroots change in societies, were also present.

The event ended with an announcement about the SMHEC Conference 2013 which is scheduled on October 18th and mentioned about the November Sustainability forum. Visit http://www.iit.edu/campus_sustainability/ for more information about these events.

MSI-IIT internship program

Kori Bowns

BUSINESS MANAGER

The Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) is the largest science museum in the western hemisphere, holding over 35 thousand artifacts and almost 14 acres of interactive exhibit space. MSI is contained in the former Palace of Fine Arts from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, and opened in 1933 under philanthropist Julius Rosenwald's vision to create a hands-on industry museum in the United States. The museum celebrated its 80th birthday this summer in achieving its mission to "inspire the inventive genius in everyone" along with the help of some IIT students.

This summer, eight Illinois Tech students were hired by the museum as full-time Guest Programs Interns at the Museum of Science and Industry. The students came from a variety of different backgrounds, both personally and academically.

During the internship, the eight students learned and presented a variety of live science demonstrations to museum guests on a daily basis. In total, the students learned seven different programs over the summer, and facilitated them with over 30 thousand guests throughout the duration of the twelve week internship.

Interns work alongside a team of nine other year-round, full-time facilitators at the museum, including two lead interns, as well as other IIT students who have formerly completed the internship and take on a leadership role as they help the new interns learn demonstrations and improve communication skills. The year-round facilitators assist the IIT interns by observing their demonstrations and offering constructive criticism and feedback in regard content, style, and delivery.

Their programs included demonstrations from across all realms of science, from astronomy to biology. One show, Happy Brthday, is an interactive mock birthday party for a famous scientist or inventor that features several experiments with liquid nitrogen and culminates in making liquid nitrogen ice cream for the audience. Another program, Bangs, Flashes, and Fire, MSI's most highly-attended show, involves a series of explosive chemistry experiments where the audience learns about matter, combustion, and chemical reactions.

"I became interested in the internship through the stories of previous MSI volunteers and summer interns," said Trevor Wasserzieher, an intern from this summer and a second year biomedical engineering student at IIT. "After hearing about all the cool stuff that I could possibly do, there was no way I could pass up on such an opportunity."

Wasserzieher also commented on the growth he experienced while completing the internship: "There were so many skills that were utilized and strengthened throughout the internship that I carry with me for practical use in my future career. My public

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Annual skydiving adventure thrills students

Will Syvongsa

TECHNEWS WRITER

"Why would you jump out of a perfectly good airplane?" is the thought runs across the minds of many individuals when they encounter a skydiver. Skydiving is the activity of jumping out of planes and landing safely with the use of a parachute or other life-saving device. Eighty IIT students participated in this activity on Monday, September 2, which was sponsored by Union Board and the Student Activities Fund (SAF).

Students were up early to leave IIT at 7 a.m. in order to get to Ottawa, Illinois before 9 a.m. Upon arrival, the students had a 30 minute class on safety and procedure before signing waivers and forming groups of five to six people.

Skydive Chicago is an experienced training facility for first time jumpers. Their tandem jumps, or jumps where an instructor goes along with you, are detailed and thorough. Students met up with their instructor who guided them through every motion necessary for the jump. Their emotions ranged from fear to excitement, nervousness to anxiety.

When asked about his skydiving experience, first time jumper and fourth year student, Alexander Kosmas said that when he



Photo courtesy of the Office of Campus Life

was moving to the edge of the plane to jump he wasn't really nervous. "All of the adrenaline just gave me this feeling of clarity and it was an amazing experience" said Kosmas.

The only complication during the day was a weather delay which led to almost two hours of stagnant activity. During this time, IIT students were able to socialize; meet new students whom they may not have ever gotten a chance to meet and some devoted time to school work. After the delay, all students were able to complete their jump by 6 p.m. and were back on campus by 8:30 .pm.

Are you interested skydiving and

checking this item off of IIT's bucket list? Skydiving is traditionally a Union Board sponsored event and usually happens on Labor Day weekend. For information about skydiving and other IIT events, the university calendar can be viewed as well as HawkLink which has almost all student organization events on the front page.

The Union Board events are also posted on the Facebook, Twitter and HawkLink pages. The General Body Meetings can also be attended and Union Board can be contacted at ub@iit.edu.