

# Shimer College gets dressed up for new president's inauguration

**Matti Scannell**  
A&E EDITOR

On September 20, Shimer College officially inaugurated their fourteenth president, Susan Henking. The inauguration ceremony, which took place at the Standard Club in the loop, was a way of formally recognizing Susan Henking as president although she has worked at Shimer College since early 2012 following an exhaustive national search.

The ceremony began with four VanderCook music students playing as a procession of robed representatives of colleges and universities, past presidents of the college, members of the Shimer board of trustees, Shimer faculty, four student representatives, each representing a current Shimer class, representatives from city and state legislatures, the chair of the Board of Trustees, and the President herself, entered the room.

Following the processional, Dean of the College, Barbara Stone, was the first to speak. She began by thanking various parties for being present including Shimer's past presidents Don Moon, Bill Rice, and Ed Noonan. She gave President Henking the promise that "we will

make sure you continue to be challenged."

Next, Nancy Nickel, President of the Shimer College Alumni Association spoke of the joy felt when Susan Henking became president of Shimer, "if walls could talk, they would have shouted for joy," she said. Glendalyn Booker, Bursar and Business Office Manager of Shimer, recalled one morning in which President Henking approached her, notebook in hand, asking "What can I do to help the business office?" To Ms. Booker, this moment embodied the Shimer motto "Non Ministrari Sed Ministrare" or "Not to be served but to serve."

Brenton Stewart, member of the class of '14, drew on his own experience with President Henking in the early days of her presidency; he spoke of an instance in which she toasted to student workers and "really made us feel like equals." Following Stewart's speech, (which ended with a remark that caused our dear President to go scarlet in the face and would be indecent to repeat in front of our more modest readers) Margaret M. Mitchell, Dean of the University of Chicago (UofC) Divinity School, spoke. President Henking received her master's degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School and Dean Mitchell spoke of

the pride that UofC had towards its alumna for receiving the presidency position.

John Anderson, President of IIT, or as he refers to himself "Shimer's Landlord," spoke of how the presence of VanderCook College of Music, and Shimer College on IIT's campus allows provides students with an "intellectually rich menu of opportunities" that one would be hard-pressed to find elsewhere in the US. Pat Dowell, the alderman of the third Ward of Chicago, spoke of how Shimer's goals are similar to that of a great democracy in that Shimer seeks to have an active citizenry that engages everyone in the process of change.

Next, Chuck Middleton, President of Roosevelt University, proclaimed that the selection of Susan Henking as the fourteenth president speaks not only of the quality of the leader but also the integrity of the institution that selected her. Finally Sally Brown, Chair of the Board and member of the Shimer College class of '63, spoke of Shimer's history of being "dangerously optimistic" and the certainty of the board that Susan Henking should be our president, as she would continue that tradition.

The Oath of Office was then administered by Brown and followed by Henking's own Inaugural Address entitled,

"Because Our Lives Depend Upon It" in which she talked about how "like all of us, Shimer is a work-in-progress."

As a Shimer student, this event allowed me to examine how lucky we are to have so many different parties involved in the development and maintenance of our incredible school. We are lucky to have an amazing president who is so committed to improving our educational experience and affirming Shimer communal values. We are also lucky to have staff, faculty, and a board of trustees equally committed to these goals.

During the reception in the Grand Ballroom following the ceremony, the Assistant Director of Admissions, Adrian Nelson said, "It's this kind of event that reminds me why I love where I work."

As the various speakers who participated in the greetings to the president during the ceremony show, Henking's presidency is meaningful not only to the student community but also to the IIT, Chicago, and academic communities. I am extremely proud to have a president who is able to connect not only with politicians and administrators but also able to have meaningful interactions with the students of her institution.

## WISER lecture discusses energy efficient power systems

**Swasti Khuntia**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Continuing the trend as a part of "Seminar Series on Challenges and Opportunities in Energy", the Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research (WISER) at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at IIT and Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation organized a lecture on "Wide Band Gap (WBG) Semiconductor Power Switching Devices."

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Krishna Shenai of Argonne National Laboratory and hosted by Dr. John Shen of the ECE Department. The talk was about the

recent advances in Wide Band Gap (WBG) power devices and future trends for increased energy efficiency, improved and reliable power systems.

Dr. Krishna Shenai received his B.Tech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (1979), M.S. degree from the University of Maryland (1981), and Ph.D. (EE) degree from Stanford University (1986) in Electrical Engineering. Currently, he is working at Argonne National Laboratory as the Principal Electrical Engineer within the Energy Systems Division. He leads a group at Argonne which aims to develop and commercialize Wide Band Gap (WBG) semiconductor materials and devices for power electronic applications.

Dr. Shenai's talk was about the

current area of research in Wide Band Gap power devices. He has been working in the area of power semiconductor materials and devices for more than 30 years, and also considered as a pioneer in this field. He is also credited for the multi-billion dollars of annual sales revenue by developing several key concepts and foundation technologies of major power electronics products. The talk started with a few famous quotes by Thomas Alva Edison like "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration." Then Dr. Shenai talked about the history of US power grid citing the milestones; Edison invented DC in 1882, Tesla invented AC in 1888 and Westinghouse invented the DC to AC converter in the same year.

Then he discussed the importance of

Silicon in electricity. Describing how silicon has remained the industry workhorse for solid-state electrical power switching, he spoke about the joint effort to develop silicon carbide (SiC) and gallium nitride (GaN) power semiconductor switching devices in the past two decades.

These two devices are the new area of research because of their superior electrical and thermal performances compared to silicon power switching devices.

At the end, Dr. Shenai focused on the concept of a "Perfect Power System" and how Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation at IIT is working in realizing that concept. Overall, it was a very informative and interactive talk which was attended by large bunch of students and ECE faculty members.

Person you should know:

# Melisa Lopez



**Joannas Joseph**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Just over a year ago, a change was seen in infrastructure when the One Stop was introduced to the MTCC, it is the hub for the registrar, financial services, academic affairs and student accounting. With such a move, there was a need to have someone experienced in all of these facets to head this department, and it was placed into the capable hands of Melisa Lopez. She has unequivocally been a valued asset through her seventeen year tenure as a Coordinator and Assistant Director of Educational Services (renamed Undergraduate Affairs).

Lopez obtained B.S. in Consumer Affairs and MSED in Education in Guidance and Counseling with a concentration in College Student Personnel from Eastern Illinois University and ultimately wanted to work in schools. Lopez cited IIT as her first job out of school, to "get that experience and move on" after doing consecutive degrees.

When asked what the exact scope of her responsibilities are as the manager of the One Stop she simply states, "making students happy." The demands of the job are seasonal, and every individual case is different, but the end goal is all the same. Ensuring that the needs of the students are accommodate. "One-on-one counseling, being able to point them [students] into the right direction, being a sound board, someone they can talk to..." are some of the ways employed by Lopez to address student issues.

"Never feel like you're trapped in what you're studying... the most likely careers are thing you don't look for," was one piece of

advice that Lopez wanted to leave with ever student at IIT. Lopez is a testament of this, having started off as an accounting major and never thinking that she would have ended up in Higher Education after completing her Consumer Affairs degree.

One addition to IIT's undergraduate experience which Lopez thought was lacking was a Peer Helper Program, but a similar initiative spearheaded by the Office of Campus Life was implemented as the Peer Mentor Program as part of the First Year Experience. When proposed the idea of academic and career advising as a joint venture for student advising, her thoughts were, "I think that's good but I don't know about the first year because students know what they want... the relationship between the two advisers should be built." She is vehement that students should seek internships and co-ops during their undergraduate career to gain real-world professional experience.

Lopez has one of the most inviting offices on campus, with super hero figurines on her filing cabinets, her children's school art, and cousin's comic book art posted on her walls. "It's somewhere I am more than I am at home." Lopez stated when speaking on her office décor. Outside of the confines of IIT, Lopez is currently serving as a girl's scout leader for her oldest daughter.

Although well-equipped, Lopez is adamant when speaking on the functionality of the One Stop, "We want to know what students want from us... we want to know how to serve you better," and hopes that the Student Speak survey will provide more insight into that. Next month, Lopez will be celebrating her 18th year anniversary at IIT and if you see her around congratulate her on a job well done.



# GREEK of the WEEK

## Meet Alexandra Miller.

*"Love as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today"*

**Year:** Fourth

**Major:** Civil Engineering

**Greek Affiliation:** Kappa Phi Delta

**Hometown:** Bedford, NH

**Leadership Positions at IIT:** President of CMAA-IIT, Treasurer Kappa Phi Delta, Leadership Academy Scholar, ARC Tutor

**Hobbies:** Knitting, crocheting, Greek football, watching the Patriots, hiking

**How has Greek life developed you as a person and a leader?**

Constantly being surrounded by some of the most intelligent, hardworking people I have ever met challenges me to continue pushing myself to grow and be the best version of myself that I could possibly be. I know that I have high standards to live up to, but also that they are my safety net, and they'll pick me up when I fall.

**What would be your advice for an incoming student?**

Find your support system. For me, it was here in the Greek system. It may not be there for everyone, but as long as you find a group of people that will be there for you and encourage you to find a school/fun balance as school and life gets challenging, you'll be able to make it through.

**If you could visit any country in the world, where would you go and why?**

Spain. I've always wanted to explore their culture, taste their food, listen to their music (maybe even learn to dance to it).

**What's something most people don't know about you?**

My friend says "For your size, you're a lot tougher than people would think."

**What's one of your favorite questions to get a conversation going?**

What do you believe in? And how does that make you who you are?

Questions? Email [orderofomegaiit@gmail.com](mailto:orderofomegaiit@gmail.com)

