IEEE@IIT invites National Instruments, Goldman Sachs to campus

Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

Last week has been a busy week for IEEE@IIT. IEEE@IIT organized a series of events on and off-campus which includes their second general meeting of the Fall semester, invited companies like National Instruments and Goldman Sachs to the campus, and also organized a tour to the Microsoft Technology Center in downtown Chicago.

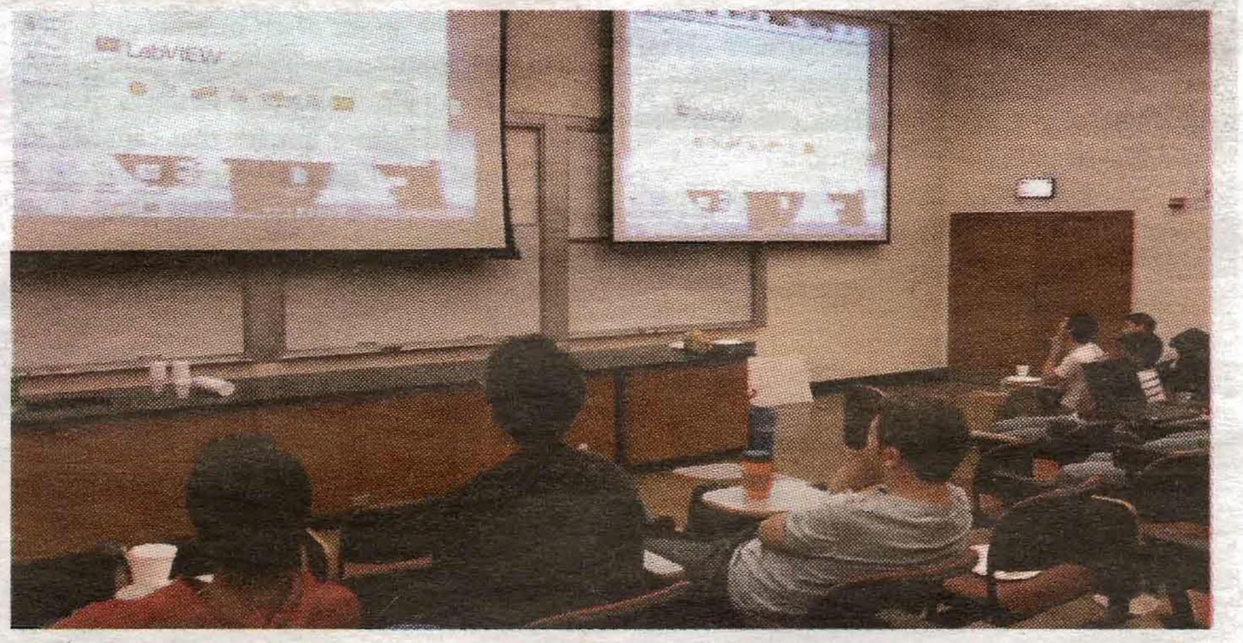
The second general meeting was held on October 9 in Wishnick Hall Auditorium. As promised in the first general meeting, this meeting aimed to notify the students about the work being done by IEEE@IIT and the main attraction was National Instruments. Mehdi Ganji, President of the IEEE Chapter at IIT welcomed the students, IEEE faculty adviser Dr. Chi Zou and the representative from National Instruments.

Mehdi spoke about the benefits being a member of IEEE by citing the example of recent achievement by IIT students in the Regional Leadership Conference. Members of the group Gabriel Vlas, Rohit Agarwal and Swasti R. Khuntia were present in the meeting. Swasti spoke to the students about their experience in the conference.

Juan Wang, Project Chair of IEEE@IIT gave an overview of the current four projects which are being sponsored by IEEE and IIT together. She also asked the students to join any project they like as it would give them a wide exposure in the competitive world. She also announced two new projects. One of them is the "Raspberry Pi" project which is sponsored by the Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation. The other project is the "Kinect" project which would be sponsored by Microsoft.

Mehdi announced the first tour of fall semester to the Microsoft Technology Center which was held on Friday, October 11, 2013. He also announced the guest speaker session by Goldman Sachs on "Enterprise Product Engineering" which was held on the evening of Wednesday, October 9, 2013. After the talk, he invited Mr. Dave Collins of National Instruments to deliver his talk on "From the Other Side of the Table: Lessons in Corporate Recruiting from a New Hire."

Dave gave a short demo of the various NI products, and discussed the journey of NI in past decades. Citing the example of the famous NI-RIO (Reconfigurable I/O), he said that students can benefit from the automation controller in their projects. He also demonstrated one use of that controller. Then he advised the students about recruiting policies of NI and how to prepare oneself. At the end, Dave interacted with students about future prospects in NI. Overall, it was an informative and interactive session.



Photos by Swasti Khuntia

Undergad math symposium at UIC

Anoopa Sundararajan
COPY EDITOR

The fourth annual Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium (UMS) was held on Saturday, October 5th at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC.) Organized by Alex Austin, David Dumas and Steve Hurder, the event drew a large range of attendees, from college freshmen to professors and researchers prominent in the field.

The day-long event began with coffee and registration where attendees from a various different backgrounds introduced themselves and briefly got to know each other. The morning session consisted of three plenary lectures given by professors and researchers–Lev Reyzin from UIC (Three Great Ideas in Computing), Jim Fowler from The Ohio State University (Projective Planes) and Irina Nenciu from UIC (Modeling with Randomness). They each simplified their highly technical research so that it was comprehensible by almost every member of the audience. At the end of a successful three-hour morning session, lunch was served, to gear up for the first afternoon session of student speakers.

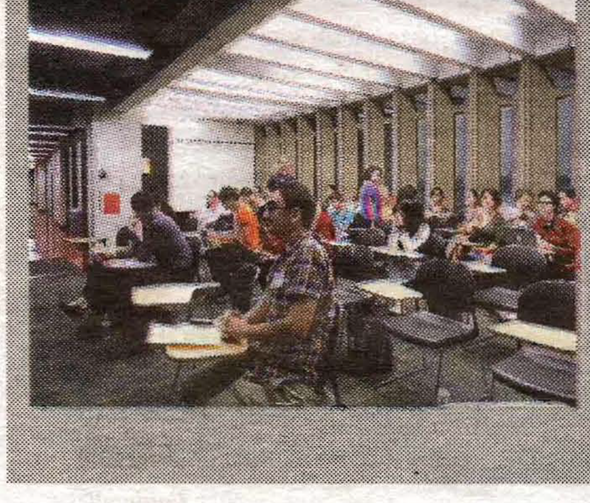
Ayah Almousa, a student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, led the first session of the afternoon with her talk on "Counting Polynomials with Given Root Multiplicities". Her 20-minute lecture was followed by fellow Wisconsin-Madison college mate Derek Francour, who added on to Almousa's talk by giving his own on "Computing the Shape of Configuration Spaces". All speakers accepted questions separately, at the end of their respective talks and referred back to their research experiences in responding to them. Weston Ungemach of the University of Chicago followed, with his lecture on "A Better Bound on the Size of Isospectral Families." The first afternoon session ended with a lecture on "Negative Snell's Law" by Kelsey DiPietro of UIC. DiPietro claimed that understanding her talk required no more than a good handle on high school geometry and did indeed deliver.

Following a coffee break, the second session of the afternoon resumed at 3:30 p.m. with Lisa Gullo of the Dominican University, who gave her lecture on "Optimal Paths in Graphs with Variable Weights." She demonstrated, very interestingly, her team's analysis of the different traffic patterns between Gary, Indiana and O'Hare Airport, based on mean times that were affected by what day of the week it was and what time of the day. In her summary of her lecture, she said that they used "Monte Carlo simulations in conjunction with Dijkstra's algorithm to analyze the effect that standard deviations have on the optimal path."

The final two lectures of the day were given by Bradley Lewis Burdick from The Ohio State University, and Rachel Katz from the University of Chicago. Burdick's lecture was titled "A Simplicial Tutte Flows Conjecture" and the research was completed as part of The Ohio State University's 2013 Knots and Graphs Working Group. Katz's lecture on "The Colored Cubes Problem" and was the perfect combination of fun and seriousness to end the event.

The fourth annual Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium at UIC was the perfect opportunity to get a firsthand look at the interesting and complicated world that is research in Mathematics.

For more information on this and previous symposia, contact David Dumas (ddumas@math.uic.edu) or look up the webpage for the event (http://www.math.uic.edu/ums/)



Photos by Aoopa Sundararajan

CONGRATULATIONS PUMPKIN LAUNCH WINNERS!

Longest Distance:

1st place - Long shot - 361 feet

2nd place - Keep on Chukin' - 205 feet

3rd place - NSBE—172 feet, 1 inch