

Nobel Laureate delivers Darsh Wasan Lecture

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CAMPUS EDITOR

It isn't every day on the IIT campus that we get to listen to a Nobel Prize Laureate talk about the exciting work they are involved in and the larger challenges of the world their work is helping tackle. This is why just the announcement of the annual Darsh Wasan lecture was enough to get the university scientific community engaged and excited. Established in honor of the Vice Provost for International Affairs and distinguished professor of Chemical Engineering, the lectureship series brings to campus some of the most renowned minds in science and technology to speak on critical global issues.

Dr. Darsh Wasan has held literally every major administrative position on the IIT campus over an illustrious career spanning fifty years. Over the past few years, the lecture has brought to campus Dr. Susan Solomon, a scientist credited with the discovery of the ozone hole; and Dr. Subra Suresh, Director of the National Science Foundation. This year, the guest speaker, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, was the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations mandated body working to establish international cooperation in tackling climate change.

Having been awarded multiple honors from the governments of India, France, Japan, Finland, Belgium & Mexico; over 130 publications to his credit; having established the Yale Climate and Energy Institute; an honorary doctorate from IIT, as well as managing The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in India, Dr. Pachauri spoke about the creation of a "knowledge society" providing new opportunities and new mechanisms to feed into policy and grassroots level movements in order to create change based on perception and preferences. As Einstein said, "Problems cannot

be solved at the level of awareness that created them."

He spoke about the efforts of the IPCC to approach the problem from three different perspectives – one based on physical sciences, one trying to understand the impact, adaptation and vulnerability of climate change, along with one approach focused exclusively on mitigation efforts and realistic response strategies. The IPCC's mission is to understand and spread awareness regarding the magnitude, timing and potential environmental/socio-economic impact of climate change.

Currently their focus is the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The evidence for anthropogenic causes of climate change is getting increasingly undebatable; with glacier mass loss, ocean warming, sea level rise and pH values rising in the ocean. The consequences on global food security, loss of biodiversity, weather patterns and even water availability are expected to be catastrophic, especially so in the developing world where no clear emergency response system exists and the infrastructure for information insemination is not structurally in place at this point.

Dr. Pachauri stressed on the importance of involving communities at the grassroots level for the purpose of sustainable development. "Adaptation at a local level is necessary for the purposes of mitigation at the global level." More so, a country's GDP doesn't have to be sacrificed for more than a year, if at all, which is not a very high price to pay for the wealthiest countries of the world. These, however, do require structural, demographic, lifestyle, institutional and geographical changes. Mobilizing the youth and the intellectual community to engage the general public more enthusiastically will be crucial to putting the human race back on track regarding safeguarding our planet for future generations.

Person you should know:

Ryan C. Miller



Joannas Joseph
TECHNEWS WRITER

Almost every undergraduate student has come to the Office of Campus Life (OCL), be it for ticket sales, the ever so often free sweet edible treats, to collect their UPass midway through the semester or even mistakenly looking for another office. On any given day Ryan Miller can be spotted either in his personal office or within the open space which we all unequivocally refer to as OCL. Ryan serves as the Director for the Office of Campus Life with the responsibility of supervising the OCL team, being the advisor to student organizations starting with the letters O-Z and overseeing the programs offered by OCL (Orientation, Parent Programs, Leadership Programming, Women Services etc.). During his first year at IIT he was primarily responsible for Orientation and Programs; if you were part of the incoming class in Fall 2011 or before then he was a constant face at Orientation days and welcome week activities.

Originally from Greenfield, Indiana; Ryan's educational training was at Ball State University in Student Affairs Administration where he has an extensive amount of experience in the realm of student affairs. Ryan truly does have the student's best interest at heart and is evident through his success with student organizations on campus.

"I like it, it's different" Ryan stated when speaking on his feelings about IIT having worked at predominantly state schools with a much lower international demographic. He also credited the student's strong commitment to academics as another unwavering quality of the Scarlet Hawks. One of Ryan's most unique experiences during his tenure occurred when a student organization got yelled at while setting

up for a show at 8:00am on a Saturday morning because it was a disturbance while they were studying. "It would have been because they were woken up at any other school" Miller exclaimed.

During his tenure one of the student issues Miller has tried to the combat is the frequent but often misplaced plight of students that "there is nothing [for them] to do on campus". The approach with his team has been a more personalized relationship with student organizations to help with the events, increasing publicity of events, and using HawkLink as a resource. Speaking on his fondest memory at IIT is the appreciation that students organizations had towards their advisors. "... I hadn't worked with SGA that long and didn't feel I had done that much but at their banquet they clapped for me, they showed their appreciation that way."

Stemming from his days at Ball State, one of the initiatives that he was particularly fond of was the concept of Living Learning Communities where first year students in the resident halls who were in the same field of study also lived together.

Outside of the institution's confines, Ryan's curiosity of Chicago peaked, being a non-Chicagoan. Ryan is also an avid runner and will be participating in his first organized 5K on November 30th. He is also kept quick busy by the newest addition to his family, his son Jacob. He does have an open door policy and is always willing to provide a listening ear to students about events, organizations or how they think a difference can be made.

"Find something ... be it research, an on-campus job, or someone and make a connection while at IIT"; Miller urged students to step out of their comfort zone which would hopefully lead to a lasting good memory of their college years at IIT.

Hey Undergrads!

Question: Wondering how you'll fulfill that upper-level (300+) humanities requirement?

Answer: This spring you'll have more than three-dozen classes to choose from!

SPRING 2014
300+ HUMANITIES COURSES

Course Title | Instructor | Course #

20th Century American Art & Culture | Dabbert | AAH 323-01 & 323-02

City of Rome: 1420 to 1667 | Waters | AAH 380-01

Spanish Language & Cultures IV | Thompson | COM 226-01

Persuasion | Pulliam | COM 371-01

Communication Law & Ethics | Scott | COM 377-01

Fundamentals of Game Design | Kocurek | COM 380-01

Language & Technology | Lawrence | COM 380-02

Social Networks | Hemphill | COM 383-01

Latin America: 1810 to Present | Power | HIST 305-01

American Women 19480 to 1990 | Power | HIST 332-01

US History: 1780 to 1898 | Kollenbroich | 336-01

Rise of the Global Economy | Martin | HIST 340-01

U.S. Urban History | Hudgens | HIST 350-01

History of Magick & the Occult | Green | HIST 380-01

History of Middle Earth | Green | HIST 380-02

Consumer Culture | Hudgens | HIST 380-03

Roman Republic | Perlini | HIST 380-04

Medieval Europe | Perlini | HIST 380-05

Suffragettes to Drag Kings | Hicks | HIST 380-06

Anglo Saxon Britain | Pugh | HIST 380-07

Filming the Past | Hicks | HIST 380-08

New Deal America | Czaplicki | HIST 380-09

Introduction to Music | Betts | HUM 341-01/02

Race, Gender, & Sexuality in Music | Moreno | HUM 380-01

Islam & Others | Bronson | HUM 380-02

Shakespeare on Stage & Screen | Roback | LIT 339-01

20th Century American Literature | Bennett | LIT 366-01

African Literature | Bennett | LIT 380-01

Sports in Literature | Girman | LIT 380-02

Great Philosophers: Seneca the Younger | Miller | PHIL 311-01

Philosophy of Mind | Schmaus | PHIL 342-01

Science & Values | Schmaus | PHIL 351-01

Aesthetics | Snapper | PHIL 363-01

Engineering Ethics | Davis | PHIL 370-01

Problems in Skepticism | Snapper | PHIL 380-01

Scientists in Films | Seger | PHIL 380-02

ATTENTION GAMERS!

The Department of Humanities presents a Guest Lecture on:

The Distribution of Power:
The Influences of Circulation
in the Computer Game Complex

by Dr. Jennifer deWinter
Worcester Polytechnical Institute's
Interactive Media & Game Development Program

Wednesday, October 30th at 1:50 p.m.
Siegel Hall Auditorium
Admission is FREE and open to all!