IEEE@IIT hosts Halloween BBQ, IEEEXtreme programming competition

Swasti Khuntia

LAYOUT EDITOR

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Student Chapter at IIT organized a BBQ party last Friday as a part of their various events during the course of Fall Semester. The theme of the BBQ party was chosen as "Halloween BBQ party" because of the Halloween month and also to make the students feel relaxed and better after the stressful mid-term week.

Although the weather was chilly, still a large number of students turned up. Dr.

Chi Zhou, Associate Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, and IEEE@IIT's faculty advisor, coordinated the event along with IEEE executive body members Eric Tendian, Jai Sathyanarayanan, Juan Wang, Rohit Agarwal, and Swasti R. Khuntia. IEEE@IIT, in the mean while, is planning for another industrial tour in this Fall Semester. The only industrial tour in this semester was the Microsoft Technology Center tour in Downtown.

IEEE@IIT also hosted the international programming competition in the IIT campus from Friday 7 p.m. to Saturday 7

p.m. The event is called "IEEEXtreme." It is an international competition in which teams of IEEE Student members, supported by their IEEE Student Branch, advised and proctored by an IEEE member; compete in a 24-hour marathon time against each other to solve a bunch of programming problems. It can be called as a virtual online competition.

This year, there were five groups consisting of 13 students from IIT. These include both graduate and undergraduate students. And, all these groups are sponsored by IEEE@ IIT and IEEE-Chicago section. Robert Burke, IEEE@IIT Branch Advisor, says that this year's

representation and preparation is one of the best as compared to last year. And, he hopes that at least one team from IIT is a winner.

Last year, there were 1900 teams worldwide. The word "Xtreme" in the name is because the contest goes on for exactly 24 hours non-stop. The teams of three-programmers are given a set of problems, for which they are meant to write a program to solve the task. And they have a variety of programming language to choose from. And this includes C, C++, C#, Java, and Python to name a few. We hope for the best, and wish this year at least one team from IIT is a winner.











Photos by Swasti Khuntia

SWE-IIT Social Butterfly event creates buzz for professional acumen

Joannas Joseph TECHNEWS WRITER

The goal for most, if not all students after graduating from college after whatever level of degree are to become a professional and thus build a reputable career. More often than not, this requires one's attendance at a networking event sponsored by a corporation. The Social Butterfly was conceptualized by the Society of Women Engineers- IIT chapter (SWE) to enhance one's skills of social interactions within a professional setting. Roselle Grant, SWE-IIT's president explained that it stemmed from a conversation with their past Section Representative, Rebecca Wingate.

The idea was proposed to other professional student organizations, namely the IIT chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (S.H.P.E.) and the Transfer Student Organization (T.S.O) in an effort to garner interest from a larger percentage of the student body.

On Tuesday, October 15, the event was realized and facilitated by Ms. Pat Smith Pierce, the CEO and Founder of The Insight Communication Group which provides communication services consulting to a number of to Chicago-land area corporations. Piece also holds a numerous workshops on Communication at IIT in collaboration with the Career Management Center. The event realized approximately





forty-eight (48) in attendance, filled with enthusiastic and engaging minds.

Pierce's first piece of advice for attending a networking event with a potential employer, or to building a professional network, is to never attend on an empty stomach.

Pierce then went into the social graces one should exhibit at these gatherings. First, never overfill your plate. Second was to try to not speak with your mouth full, and the third was to not overfill your plate. No, the repetition is not a matter of redundancy but a point of reiteration of the social graces. The purpose of these events is

a more social one and is not intended to be dinnertime meal. The events usually involve a lot of interactions and communication, and not adhering to the graces could result unprofessionalism.

Pierce then went into what the content of the conversation should be and urged everyone to ask questions. These types of questions can

be centered on sports or culture, basically anything which may catch their attention. The aim is to hone in on the individual's interest and thus develop a conversation. Some types of

questions which should definitely not be asked about are political affiliation and anything too

Pierce then went into her activity for the event. Participants were advised to get a plate of finger foods provided and engage in conversation with someone whom they had not known before, for 10 minutes. This resembled speed dating. For three rounds, participants were engaged in light conversation in the hope of breaking the nervous spells, and to make use of the social graces Pierce taught. By the end of the evening, conversations would stop and it became a forum where students were sharing what they had noticed, and were asking Pierce about different situation such as a cash bar at these events or little customs they should adopt. Pierce's response was simple, "Don't drink... I usually have water." Pierce was truly impressed by the turnout and how engaged participants became.

"I thought it was very successful in messy clothing and in terms of attendance, the diversity of the students and the facilitator did a great job... and it was not too long or drawn out or just a PowerPoint presentation," stated Roselle Grant, SWE-IIT's president as she spoke of her opinions at the end of the event.

> Pierce currently has three other workshops scheduled at IIT's campus for the remainder of the semester. The two part workshop on Communicating Clearly on November 6 and 13 and a Non-Verbal Communication workshop on November 20.

> > Photos by Joannas Joseph