

TechNews

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OPINION	2
CAMPUS	3
A&E	5
SLIPSTICK	6
SPORTS	7

ASB fundraising efforts in full swing

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Amid the gloom of the snow and the frigid temperatures of Chiberia, it might be a little difficult to envision spring break at this point—but surprise, surprise—it's just a little bit over a month away! And while many students are thinking of going home, maybe even some place a little warm, IIT's long-standing, flagship service learning experience, Alternative Spring Break is in the midst of one of the most prolific fundraising campaigns in recent years.

This year, a group of 26 students and four staff members will be traveling to Pendleton County, West Virginia to one of the most under-developed regions in the Appalachian Mountains to spend a week volunteering at a Habitat for Humanity site. The team is getting excited to see this alternate perspective on poverty and social justice, participating in an outreach into the community, interacting with the homeowners, understanding the model of sustainable human development, making friends with other Collegiate Challenge volunteer groups—besides some free time exploring

the natural beauty of the surrounding mountain areas.

To make this trip on as low of a personal financial contribution as possible, as well as to facilitate some team bonding before the trip, the team is traditionally involved in fundraising efforts, which are in the midst of the busiest few weeks leading up to the trip. Over winter break, the team undertook a letter-writing campaign to friends and family asking for donations during the holiday season, and the team is looking to follow up with a corporate/alumni outreach effort for the same. This semester, the team has put together a range of traditional and new fundraisers, including Penny Wars among the residential halls in MSV and Rocky's Tip Matching Night, both of which saw enthusiastic participation from students. Another successful event was "Don't Forget the Lyrics" Karaoke Night in The Bog this past week, with some great raffle prizes and enthusiastic participants in the audience. It really is much more difficult to know the exact lyrics to all your favorite songs than you would imagine.

Two more fundraisers coming up before the team makes final logistical preparations for the trip are the traditional Singing Valentines (in partnership with IIT A cappella) and Pie in the Face, happening in the next two weeks. Singing Valentines gives all IIT students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to request a song serenade devoted solely to their friends, family and loved ones. We're partnering up with IIT A cappella to make this happen.

Each song will be \$3. To purchase a song, ASB Volunteers will be on the bridge February 10, 2014 through February 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The song list is L.O.V.E. by Nat King Cole; Can you Feel the Love Tonight by Elton John; All You Need is Love by the Beatles and (I Can't Help) Falling in Love With You by Elvis Presley. A cappella will call them (anywhere in the US or Canada) or leave a voicemail. You can even submit an anonymous request!

Finally, one of the last big fundraisers before the trip will be Pie in the Face. A great way to relieve stress, the event invites you to throw pies in someone's face! From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the MTCC Bridge on February 25, 26 and 27 you can purchase pies at \$3 each or 2 for \$5 and pie friends, administrators, professors or anyone on the IIT campus you can think of. In previous years, we had stalwarts such as Betsi-Pinkus Huizenga (Director of Residence and Greek Life) and Gerry Doyle, Vice Provost for Student Access, Success and Diversity Initiatives.

If you would like to get involved with Alternative Spring Break this academic year, but missed out on team recruitment, we are partnering up for the first time with the Office of Service Learning and an external organization called Architecture for Humanity, to provide an exclusive opportunity for a similar project right here in Chicago. The project, similar to the traditional spring build, will run for three days, the March 19 to 21, during business hours at the Architecture for Humanity site. For those looking to apply for future Alternative Spring Break trips this is a fantastic opportunity to get some preliminary exposure.

We are looking for volunteers from all fields of study, class years, levels of experience and even previous volunteer/construction involvement. Please stay tuned for more details, because sign-up spots are limited. Email asb.iit@gmail.com, gandhi@hawk.iit.edu or lmeyer2@iit.edu for more details.

Sharing Table promotes conversation with instructors

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Once again, IIT's Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion (SCDI) organized their amazing event known as the Sharing Table. The Sharing Table is held on the first Thursday of every month during the academic term. It is a special program to help foster personal interaction between undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. You can engage yourself in spirited conversation about hobbies, culture, sports, or current events while dining at The Commons. A small group of students are given the chance to learn a great deal about their instructors in this type of social setting.

Improving students' relationships with instructors has important, positive, and long-lasting implications for students' academic and social development. If a student feels a personal connection to a teacher, experiences frequent communication with a teacher, and receives more guidance, then the student is likely to become more trustful of that teacher and show more engagement in the academic content presented.

This month's Sharing Table served as a preview to the main event happening this upcoming Thursday: A Historical Glimpse of the Negro Baseball League which will take place in Galvin Library's Cherry Room at 12:50 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

David Shiner, Professor of Humanities and the History of Ideas at Shimer College will present a historical overview of this great time period. It will also consist of captivating memorabilia.

This program can be a good platform for all of us to understand and to get to know each other.

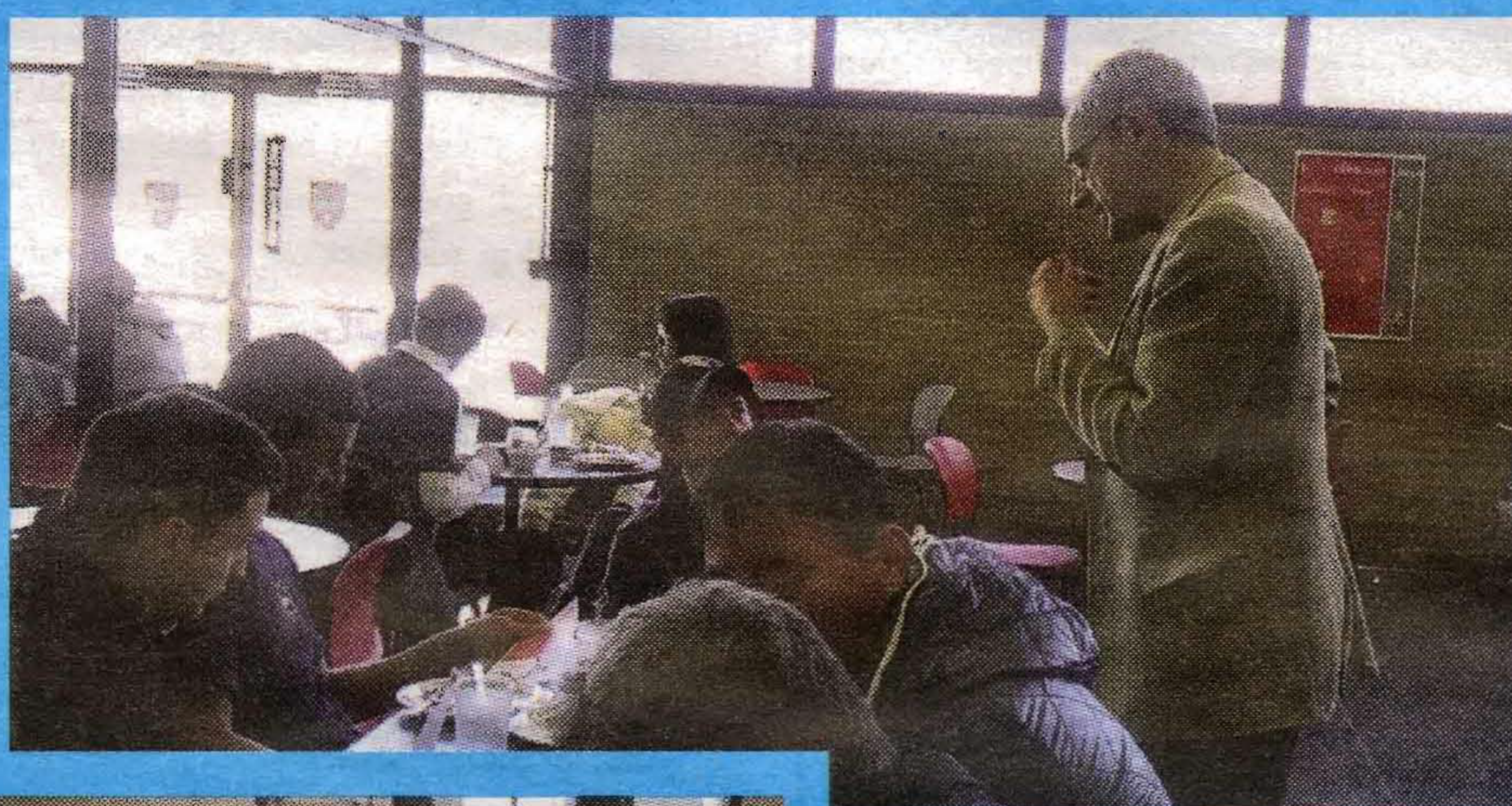
"I have rescheduled a few of my appointments so I can come and join you all here," Professor Ray Trygstad, of the

Information Technology and Management Department said. "I am really enjoying the experience because I am getting to meet students out of my discipline."

You may have already marked your calendar for the coming luncheon which will be held on March 6 at The Commons. Don't forget we also have personal invitations that you can give to your instructors.

You can get them by sending an e-mail to scdi@iit.edu. Last but not the least, don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @iitdiversity and like us on Facebook SCDI IIT.

Hope to see you all there with your shining faces and beautiful smiles!



Photos by Shireen Gul