

TechNews

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Washington Award Ceremony honors Bill Nye

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

He referenced "Meet the Press" with Marsha Blackburn, and he mentioned the creationism debate two weeks ago. He handed out certificates and trophies to some enterprising young engineers and scientists, encouraged them (especially the women in the audience) to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.)

He expressed his contempt at those who fudge facts and figures to spread misconceptions and misrepresentations about science ("There are liars, evil liars, and then there are statisticians.")

He reinstated his now well-established position as a spokesperson on climate change, sustainability, evolution and overpopulation. He finished with his trademark declaration that we don't have to produce "less" in the future like many are predicting; we simply need to produce more *with* less.

I'm talking about Bill Nye, the recipient of the 101st Lifetime Contribution Award to STEM, honored by the eminent Chicago Engineering Society, at a glittering ceremony held downtown on Friday, February 21, at the Palmer House Hotel.

IIT's Dean of Engineering, Natacha DePaola, made it possible for the chapter presidents and vice presidents of almost all engineering student organizations at IIT to attend the dinner and ceremony. Representing the Society of Women Engineers, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the Biomedical Engineering Society, the Society for Automotive Engineers, and the Armour College of Engineering, Undergraduate Student Council among other student groups, were also accompanied by Professors Roberto Cammino (MMAE) Bonnie Haferkamp (BME) and John Kallend (MMAE.)

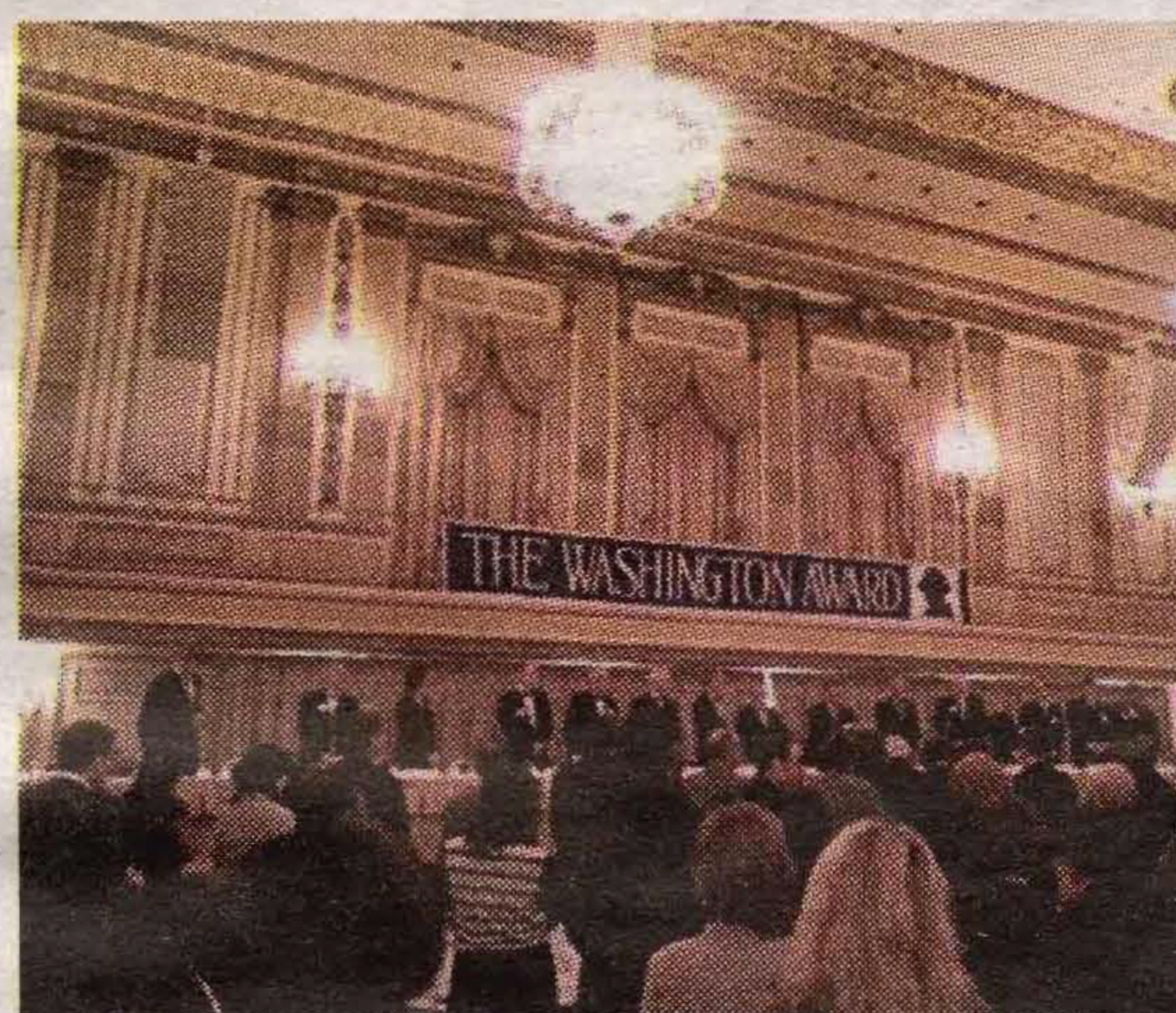
Nye was being honored for helping foster "a scientifically literate society," and helping people "understand and appreciate the scene that makes our world work."

This is one of the most prestigious engineering awards in the country; previous recipients of the Washington Award have included Neil Armstrong, Henry Ford, Orville Wright, Gene Cernan, Herbert Hoover, Dean Kamen, as well as IIT alumnus Martin Cooper and Dr. Kristina Johnson.

The vision of Chicagoland Engineers Week is to "stimulate junior and senior high school students to consider careers in engineering, especially through hands-on school projects, highlight the contributions of engineers to the well-being of society, especially in Chicagoland." Engineers work behind the scenes to help improve the quality of life in our communities. Their work isn't always visible, but we count on them for a number of different services. Last year hundreds of middle to high school aged students participated in a variety of mathematics and science programs/competitions.

Fifty of the top achievers get to attend the Chicagoland Engineering Awards Benefit where they will get the opportunity to rub elbows with esteemed engineers, as well as receive awards and the accolades of hundreds of teachers, parents and other students at the gathering.

At the end of the day, it was Bill Nye's inspiring charisma that made the evening all



Photos by Jose Gibaja

the more memorable. Reminiscent of his public appearance at IIT about a year ago, (at what remains a standout attendance event our cam-

pus has ever seen) his trademark jokes and witty remarks have definitely inspired us to "... dare I say it? Change the world!"

IIT hosts first HPV Awareness Campaign for Women's History Month

Netiya Shiner
TECHNEWS WRITER

Did you know that, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) HPV (human papillomavirus) is so common that nearly all sexually active people can expect to contract it sometime in their life?

However, in 2006, the Federal Drug and Food Administration approved the HPV vaccine for use in the prevention of HPV, the sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is the leading cause of cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is now available at healthcare providers throughout the nation (including IIT's own Student Health and Wellness Center) for women aged 9 to 26, and men aged 11 to 26.

According to Planned Parenthood, the vaccine prevents against four strains of HPV, two of which cause 70 percent of all cases of cervical cancer, while the other two can lead to genital warts.

The American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Planned Parenthood all support ensuring that young people get vaccinated against HPV.

Because HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer, getting vaccinated against HPV truly saves lives. Recently the HPV vaccine has been made available to many more Americans through the Affordable Care Act, which ensures that many preventative services, such as birth control and pap smears, be offered to insured Americans at no cost.

Due to the vital importance of vaccinating teens and young adults against HPV, IIT is hosting its first ever HPV Awareness Campaign this March.

Sponsored by IIT Women's Services and Planned Parenthood, this HPV Awareness Campaign will be a week of action centered around getting students information about HPV and the HPV vaccine. The week long campaign will be composed of three smaller events, which are being run by student volunteers.

On Monday, March 3, students will be posting flyers around campus with facts about HPV to generate interest in the subject.

That same Wednesday, March 5, we will be stationed at a table in the MTCC (by Global Grounds) where we will be passing out information and talking to students about HPV and the HPV vaccine.

Friday, March 7, students will be stationed around campus passing out condoms and fact sheets containing specific information about how to get vaccinated against HPV, such as which healthcare providers around the city offer the vaccine, and the cost of the vaccine at various providers.

We hope that you will be able to attend the event, and for more information do not hesitate to email Netiya Shiner at Netiya.Shiner@gmail.com.