

ASB Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser has surprise participant

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CAMPUS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) has had a lot of fundraisers this academic year to raise money for the 25 students and four staff members traveling to West Virginia during the upcoming spring break.

The team would like to thank the rest of the IIT community for helping us raise funds for volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

This year, ASB has seen successful spaghetti lunches, letter writing campaigns, Rocky's Tip-Matching Nights, a BOG event, Singing Valentines and the Taste of IIT, besides other fundraisers.

These events have helped the team achieve not just financial self-support, but also given the members valuable skills in team building, logistical coordination and financial/communication matters.

Fundraising is never an easy task, especially in a college environment, but

with the most successful fundraising season in history, the team has proven that good coordination, communication and a solid group effort can achieve any given goal-oriented task.

As the President and Vice President of Fundraising respectively, the authors really appreciate how, as a community we help each other when it comes to our hobbies and passions.

We would also like to take this opportunity to talk to you about one of our bigger remaining fundraisers as we close off the season before final logistical preparations. Our goal is to help the next ASB team to start off strongly, just as our team did.

We are planning our annual Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser for February 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the MTCC Bridge.

Pie-in-the-Face is an event where staff, faculty, and student volunteers can get "pied" in the face (it's actually whipped cream, but the feeling and impact are just the same); one pie for \$3 or two pies for \$5.

In the past, staff members from the Office of Campus Life, Residence and Greek Life, and Athletics have volunteered to get pied, as well as former Student Government Association and Union Board presidents.

This year the participant list is impressive; some important members on campus have volunteered to get pied throughout the day: Eric Bugby, swim coach; Tayyab Arshad, Academic Resource Center Director; Professor Sally Laurent-Muehleisen from the Physics Department; Sarah Wright, Event Services Coordinator.

All day, Ken Smith from the Career Management Center will offer to be pied. At 12 p.m., the Director of Residence and Greek Life, Betsi Pinkus-Huizenga, will be on the bridge for half an hour. At 2 p.m., the President of the university himself, John Anderson, will be on the bridge for half an hour.

ASB has done its best to gather a unique group of people to be pied. So come on down and take part in the festivities!

If you would like to get involved with ASB 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.

This project, similar to the traditional spring build, will run for three days, 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.

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.

Presidential Scholars launch original blog

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Illinois Institute of Technology is a home-away-from-home for many international students. We leave our homes and families and come so far for the journey of knowledge, for a better future.

We must thank IIT for all they do to make us feel at home. But have we ever thought that there might be students who come here to get a good education, but due to financial constraints, can't make it?

Someone else thought about it and made this dream come true for almost 200 transfer students.

According to the Undergraduate Admissions Department's website, the Presidential Scholarship was "inspired by a series of conversations with Chancellor Cheryl Hyman (IIT, CS 1996) of the City Colleges of Chicago and the presidents of the City Colleges of Chicago, in 2010 Illinois Institute of Technology announced a major new scholarship and educational outreach initiative—the Presidential Scholarship. Through this initiative, IIT is determined to substantially redefine pipeline initiatives in the science, engineering, architecture, technology, business and human science fields.

Collaborating institutions and

organizations are committed to serve as a catalyst to support students toward their goals, to conduct undergraduate research and earn advanced professional and academic degrees. Scholars in turn are asked to significantly engage with their K-12 and community college communities to encourage and empower others towards educational success."

For those who haven't already heard about the Presidential Scholarship and the scholars on campus, this is a good time to get to know them, and see how they become a part of this cohort, and how they are contributing to their communities.

Let's take a look at how this scholarship came into being. It was early 2010, when Cheryl L. Hyman became the Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) and she saw that there were many deserving transfer students, who didn't have enough financial support for universities like IIT. The CCC, along with IIT, wanted to make an award for transfer students, while mindful that the award should be an initiative that includes community outreach, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) as well as educational outreach.

At the same time, Gerald Doyle, Vice Provost of Student Access, Success, and Diversity Initiatives, connected with Dr. Carl Mack of National Society for Black

Engineers (NSBE.) Mack has been visiting the Caribbean, especially the island of St. Lucia, and found that some of the most talented students he met belonged to St. Lucia. Therefore, he wanted to make sure those deserving students get a good place in a good institute.

Dr. Mack, met Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton (one of the most inspirational people this writer has come across in her lifetime) at a conference in Toronto and shared his dream and they—together with others who shared their vision—made their dream come alive.

The first batch of Presidential Scholars arrived on campus in Fall 2010, which was focused on CCC and St. Lucia and transfer students from City of Chicago (26 students from City of Chicago and 28 from St. Lucia.) Later, they expanded their wings and now there are students from Pakistan, Jordan, Malaysia, and Syria, among others.

By this spring semester, there will be six cycles of Presidential Scholars and several have graduated as well. Many of whom are making a difference in their communities. That is what the Presidential Scholarship is about: "doing at least one good thing a year."

Recently, the scholars started their own blog. The blog is open to submissions and ideas from all current and former Presidential Scholars, as well as all the other students on campus.

The main goal of this blog is to gather everyone's reflections on the IIT experience, not only as students, but as people from many different viewpoints and walks of life.

How has IIT and the scholarship affected you? What challenges have you faced as a student? What advice would you offer your successors? What are your goals for the future, and how have they been served by your experience at IIT? Have a funny, inspiring, or thought-provoking anecdote you'd like to share? Feel free to contact us in order to contribute to the blog.

The choice of subject is entirely up to you. We also have a guest writer section, in which we have contributors from around the globe. Another interesting section is of faculty and staff, who will soon be contributing content for the blog.

If you have an essay idea, but need some guidance or encouragement, feel free to pitch a suggestion and we'll offer whatever feedback we can. If you have a piece ready to go, fire away!

Undergrads should direct inquiries and submissions to Shireen Gul at sgul1@hawk.iit.edu; alumni can reach Wilson David Work at wwork@hawk.iit.edu.

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