

Student Gift Campaign sets high goals for fundraising

Alex Pisconski

TECHNEWS WRITER

This week the IIT Student Gift launched its fifth annual campaign.

Since the introduction of the Student Gift, IIT students have given back to the community by improving the quality of the campus experience. Past student gifts include furniture for the MTCC enclosure in 2010, modular furniture for Galvin Library in 2013, helping to complete the reserve textbook collection in 2011, and new water fountains in academic buildings on campus in 2012.

This year's Student Gift will be new bike racks and bike fix-it stations for Main

Campus. As the number of students using bikes on campus, and for commuting increases, the available spaces to quickly and easily store bikes on campus has been dwindling. Many students find that bike parking disappears especially quickly during peak class times when it is most needed, forcing riders to lock their bikes to other bikes or unapproved places like street signs.

The need is clear and the Student Gift Committee is dedicated to making sure this project serves the student body by increasing bike capacity by at least 30 percent.

Throughout the campaign, the Student Gift Campaign will be looking for your input into potential locations. The committee hopes that by asking for the opinions of the student body, we will be providing the best

service to bike users, and pedestrians as well. This project seeks to create a friendlier commuter atmosphere on campus.

The IIT Student Gift is focused on getting students involved in philanthropy and teaching students that together, small gifts can have a big impact. Last year, the total number of student donors was 780; the Student Gift Campaign is looking to exceed that number this year.

The IIT Alumni Board has challenged the Student Gift Committee to increase undergraduate participation up to 20 percent, graduating class participation up to 50 percent, and to raise \$5,000.

If the campaign meets these goals, we will receive a challenge gift from the Alumni

Board that will triple our funding and provide an extra \$15,000 toward this year's project. This would help us make an incredible impact, but it is only attainable with your support.

The 2014 Student Gift Campaign was launched last week as part of the second annual Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day. This is how we spread the importance of generosity here on campus.

If you want to see change and be part of something that will improve the lives and experiences of future generations of students and alumni, support the Student Gift Campaign!

For more information and updates on the 2014 Student Gift Campaign, please visit alumni.iit.edu/gift-2014.

HawkTalk launches, helps students improve public speaking skills

Anoopa Sundararajan & Khaleela Zaman
COPY EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

How many times have you experienced butterflies in your stomach the morning of a presentation or an interview? There is a new student organization that can help ease those butterflies. HawkTalk is an environment designed from inception to be comfortable and judgment-free. This atmosphere will encourage students to enjoy learning, and improve their public speaking skills among their peers.

All interested IIT, Vandercook, and

Shimer students are encouraged to attend our weekly meetings. Each meeting will only be an hour long, covering prepared speeches, impromptu sessions, and one segment that changes every week. A few people will prepare speeches in advance and deliver them at the meetings. After they present, there will be a constructive evaluation, during which degrading and discouraging comments will be prohibited. Then, the impromptu session will commence.

Random topics will be given to students to give a 30 to 60 second minute-long speech about on the spot. The topics could

get really crazy, and one such topic could even be spaghetti! Where anyone can talk for 30 seconds about spaghetti!

The variable segment of a meeting (which sometimes might be a surprise!) could be anything from a professional speech viewed as a group, a speaker coming in to give a lecture, or an unannounced debate session.

Our aim in all of this is to make every zone your comfort zone. We want to make IIT students able to communicate more effectively and enjoy it too. Not even the officers are great public speakers, but we are extremely passionate about this goal and attaining it for

ourselves and our organization's population.

Anoopa Sundararajan is the wonderful President and Khaleela Zaman is the awesome Secretary of HawkTalk (also the authors of this article.) All of our officers cannot wait to get started with the first activities of our official student organization. Our Facebook page (facebook.com/hawktalkiit) is up and running, as well as our Twitter account @HawkTalkIIT. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and HawkLink to stay updated! Our first meeting is officially set for Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. (location TBA) and we hope to see you there!

TEDxIIT prepares for events, releases 2 speaker names

Nirja Shah

TECHNEWS WRITER

There are 35 days left until the fourth annual TEDxIIT 2014: "Infinity Impact." Amy Lee Segami, the founder of TEDxIIT, and the board members are putting their best efforts to make this event another success, four years in a row. The event is going to be held on Saturday April 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the IIT Tower Auditorium.

The team is thrilled to introduce the speakers ranging from IIT students, faculty members and alumni to some wonderful IIT community speakers. The selected speakers range from renowned architects to engineers to entrepreneurs. These speakers will express their ideas in the areas of design, entertainment, technology, renewable energy,

diversity, interdisciplinary and entrepreneurship education, eco-architectural design, and social development. They will share their story of success which can create an infinite impact on the worldwide audience.

The team is proud to introduce two speakers in this week's issue of TechNews. They are Carol Ross Barney and Howard Stephen Berg.

Ross Barney is one of the most well-known architects here in the city of Chicago as well as a professor at IIT. As an architect, she focuses on water transportation and water systems to improve the city. Ross Barney is a native Chicagoan and became the first woman to design a federal building when commissioned for the Oklahoma City Federal Building, which replaced the bombed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. She has previously served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, planning

national parks.

Berg is recognized as the world's fastest reader (according to the Guinness Book of World Records.) His students, at 11 years old, are acing college courses in as little as a week. Berg has discovered brain-based learning strategies for reading, writing, memory, and math that can double the learning rate in just a few hours' time. Berg's Time-Warner book, "Super Reading Secrets," had 28 reprints, and Barrons Books requested him to write, "Speed Reading, The Easy Way," for students. Nightingale Conant has sold over \$65 million of his programs. Berg's work has been featured as a breakthrough in Selling, RedBook, Men's Health, Bottom Line, dozens of newspapers, and on over 1,100 radio and television programs.

It is a great honor to have these amazing people come to IIT and share their story with us. TEDxIIT has made a global

impact in the past few years and will continue to leave its foot steps behind and share a plethora of inspirational stories among today's youth, thereby playing an important role in inspiring young leaders around the world.

The team is also organizing a pre-event at the MTCC Ballroom on Thursday, March 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. streaming some inspiring TED videos, giving out more information about TEDxIIT and announcing a sign-up for volunteers who are interested in helping us organize TEDxIIT.

We look forward to having you there.

Want to know who are the other speakers? Keep checking this section every week for more information about the amazing speakers. For more information about TEDxIIT, visit our website: TEDxIIT.com <http://mypages.iit.edu/~tedxiit/or> e-mail us at info@tedxiit.com.

Sharing Table pays tribute to Women's History Month

Shireen Gul

COPY EDITOR

The Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion will be celebrating National Women's History this month. The first event of this celebration will be The Sharing Table. Let me give a quick recap for any of you who don't know what this event is about.

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.

We will highlight female athletes for Women's History Month in our event this time. The Women's Basketball team and their coach (hopefully) will be joining us for the luncheon, but before we move ahead, let's take a glance at what Women's History Month means.

Before the 1970s, women's history was rarely the subject of serious study. There were very few people who would talk about this

in general public consciousness. "Only one or two scholars would have identified themselves as women's historians, and no formal doctoral training in the subject was available anywhere in the country," said historian, Mary Beth Norton.

Luckily, this field has undergone a huge transformation since then.

Today, we celebrate this day internationally and bring awareness to everyone about how far these women have traveled and what changes they have brought in the society.

If you have no plans for this Thursday,

March 6, than make sure you join us and get to know our female athletes, and discuss with us your point of views for this month. A small reminder; please don't forget we also have personal invitations that you can give to your instructors.

Just send an email to scdi@iit.edu and we will let you know how to get your card. Last but not least, don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @iitdiversity and like us on Facebook at SCDI IIT.

Remember, we are doing all of this for you, so please come join and acknowledge our group.

IEEE@IIT conducts second General Body meeting

Vijai Baskar

COPY EDITOR

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Student Chapter at IIT conducted their second general meeting of the semester on Wednesday, February 26 in the Siegel Hall Auditorium.

Mehdi Ganji, President of IEEE@IIT started off the meeting by talking about the Student branch's activities and achievements so far in the semester. Ganji also introduced the executive board members whose contributions have made this semester a successful one.

Ganji also mentioned that the IEEE student branch of IIT is the most active one

within the Chicago region and that the Branch Mentor, Robert Burke had commended the branch's efforts in involving students in its proceedings and activities. The redesigned branch website has been nominated as the best website among the Chicago IEEE section. This was made possible by the Webmaster, Eric Tendian who is a vital part in the branch's success.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Martin Schray, Senior Technical Evangelist, Microsoft Corporation, also Adjunct Industry Professor at IIT. He spoke about the recent developments at Microsoft. Schray used quite an innovative technique in his presentation. He used the motion recognition feature in Kinect to sense his hand and then advance through his

slides. Known to all, Schray runs workshops for students to build apps for Windows 8 and Windows Phone 8 from scratch using the X Platform Cloud kit. He ran a couple of sample apps that students were building at his events.

Schray is also conducting a workshop to build projects using Kinect on April 4 and 5 at the Idea Shop. For this event, students can bring their own cool stuff and learn a lot of other things. He also mentioned that there were a number of Kinect devices at the Idea Shop which can be used by students to build projects on their own. They can check them out using their student ID.

There is an upcoming IEEE conference on Transmission and Distribution on April 14 to April 17 at the McCormick Place for student

members. Those who are willing to volunteer can attend this conference for free. Even more, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department will also sponsor interested students to attend this conference.

The S&C Electric tour which had been cancelled earlier is expected to be rescheduled sometime during late March. This tour will involve students being exposed to all of S&C Electric's equipment and operations, and interested students can also submit their resumes for opportunities within the company. There is also a Clean Energy tour conducted by IEEE coming up in April. The student branch is also planning a barbecue event in late April when the weather is warmer. Stay tuned to IEEE@IIT news for more details on the event.