TEDxIIT hosts first pre-event, announces two new speakers

Nirja Shah
TECHNEWS WRITER

TEDxIIT hosted its first pre-event for the fourth consecutive year, providing free admission, food, and drinks during the previous week. The event also had a photo booth besides the free stuff. The team played few inspirational videos, talked about the planning of the upcoming TEDxIIT event and had volunteers sign up for the event. The pre-event helped attendees gain a better perspective about TEDxIIT. Yoetzian Diaz and Isabella Romero talked about their experience of working with TEDxIIT and encouraged people to sign up to be volunteers for the amazing event.

With only about a month left for the grand event, the team has finalized all the speakers. As mentioned in last week's article, the team will be providing insight about the speakers every week.

In the spirit of International Women's day and celebrating Women's history month, the team is proud to announce Jessica Anne Hubert and Katherine Darnstadt as speakers for TEDxIIT. These wonderful ladies are coming to TEDxIIT to share their stories and lay an infinite impact within the organization.

Hubert graduated from the University of Maryland's Fire Protection Engineering program in May 2006. She completed her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) in 2010. In 2012, shortly after the birth of her son, her father-in-law was shot by the honey bee killer and her husband began a slow descent that lead a contentious divorce. In July 2013, she was paralyzed while working out at a gym. Now she is overcoming the odds, learning how to walk again.

She took full advantage of her opportunities as a bright young woman with supportive, and well-educated parents. She earned a degree in fire protection engineering prior to her MBA, and started a promising career and family before everything fell apart. Instead of being a victim, she is making her way with grace and persistence.

Architect and educator, Darnstadt is the Founder and Principal of Latent Design, a collaboration of individuals whose projects focus on social, economic and environmental impact beyond buildings.

Darnstadt uses latent design, to make invisible forces impacting a project at local and global levels; policy, culture, climate; visible, through architecture.

Her firm is enhancing existing design practice, and education to pro-actively engage in community based participatory design, as an advocate against the inverse relationship between design and economy.

Darnstadt brings innovative design to those in resource and budget limited environments through a holistic, creative approach, to design driven by community needs that leverages other partners and assets to address project challenges.

To know more about TEDxIIT, visit http://mypages.iit.edu/~tedxiit/. For any questions, comments or concern, email TEDxIIT at info@tedxiit.com.

Shimer, IIT collaborate to sponsor 'Great Migration' lecture

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Shimer College and Illinois Institute of Technology treated the campus and community to a discussion that happened last Wednesday, with three of Chicago's most notable scholars; Carol Adams, CEO of the DuSable Museum of African American History, Timuel Black, Professor Emeritus at City Colleges of Chicago and Richard Steele from WBEZ radio. Their candid conversation about Chicago and the Great Migration gave everyone an insightful view of the past, present and the future.

The program started with a brief introduction about the event and the speakers. Chicago radio personality, Richard Steele moderated the conversation. He is known to support the efforts of the ETA Creative Arts Foundation, and other African American community organizations.

The first speaker was Adams, who has spent most of her career in cultural arts research, analysis and production. Her matchless outlook on Art and its vital role in shaping and defining culture and community is informed by her parallel study of Sociology and Africana history and culture.

The next speaker was Black, who was a high school teacher at Chicago's public schools, a civil and labor rights activist, an oral historian, and a professor and administrator at the City Colleges of Chicago.

Black was born in Birmingham (Ala.) and came to Chicago in 1919 at eight months of age. He attended Roosevelt University and the University of Chicago. His books, Bridges of Memory: Chicago's First Wave of Black Migration, and Bridges of Memory Volume 2: Chicago's Second Generation of Black Migration, can be a good source of knowledge for anyone who wants to study history.

Between 1915 and 1970, six million African Americans left their homes in the South and moved to states in the North and West. This massive movement of black citizens from one part of the United States to another is known as the Great Migration. The social conditions in the South were getting worse day by day. On a daily basis, the migrants were getting several reasons to leave. Dr. Adam said, "We could not go to restaurants or try on clothes, which was very common in the South. You could go and shop but can't try on the clothes," further she added, "Who wants to buy those clothes after you wore them? Our mom had to measure our foot on a piece of paper and take it to the store to shop for us."

There were no reconstructions taking place in the neighborhood, and state legislatures throughout the South had passed laws mandating the separation of races in every area of social life (marriage, housing, education, transportation, healthcare, recreation, and so on.) These laws were known as Jim Crow laws and because of these laws and social customs, southern states steadily developed an unembellished racial caste system. Black said with his soft yet inspirational voice, "nobody would visit the South unless someone dies there. Kids were told, 'don't hang out with those Negros [a different type of word used those days.]"

This caste system was imposed not only by law, but also by extensive campaign of terror, known as lynching. Between 1880 and 1950, mobs of white men tortured and murdered approximately 3,500 African Americans, often before crowds of spectators, to avenge suspected violations of the social and legal code.

African Americans had to step off the sidewalk when a white person approached, they were banished from jobs nobody else wanted no matter their skill or ambition, they couldn't vote, but could be hanged on suspicion of the pettiest infraction.

In 1963, Black went to Birmingham (Alabama) to visit Martin Luther King. The moment he reached, he called his cousin and said, "I am in town," without any hesitation he said, "don't come here or else they would be in serious trouble." The situation was so bad during those days that even in everyday interactions, a black person could not contradict a white person or speak unless spoken to first.

Soon, Chicago became one of the most significant destinations for members of the Great Migration. During World War I, the black population in Chicago doubled to almost 100,000. By 1970, as the Great Migration drew to a close, there were one million African Americans in Chicago, which was equal to a third of the city's population. Most of these new arrivals to Chicago found themselves living in a narrow strip of blocks on the South Side, stretching from 22nd street down to 51st street. The neighborhood was initially labeled the "Black Belt" or the "Black Ghetto," but an African American writer suggested calling it "Bronzeville," a name that many residents found less insulting.

Though Chicago was a new home for many migrants, it still didn't do much to accommodate them. Instead, as the years passed by, many people crowded into tumbledown and high-priced tenements in Bronzeville, where, at times that had to live without heat, light, and running water. Apparently, the city did not have Jim Crow laws, but isolation was imposed through a variety of social customs and residential codes.

Black added, "there were restrictive and contractual agreements among property owners that prohibited the sale or lease of any part of a building to specific groups of people, usually African Americans."

Soon, this candid talk came to an end and the audience was given a chance to ask questions.

There were many good questions but one of them which got the best reply from the speakers was, "what should be done today, for our generation to understand what's valuable for us? What must we take back from here today, for our present and future generation, so that we can maintain the progress today and beyond?"

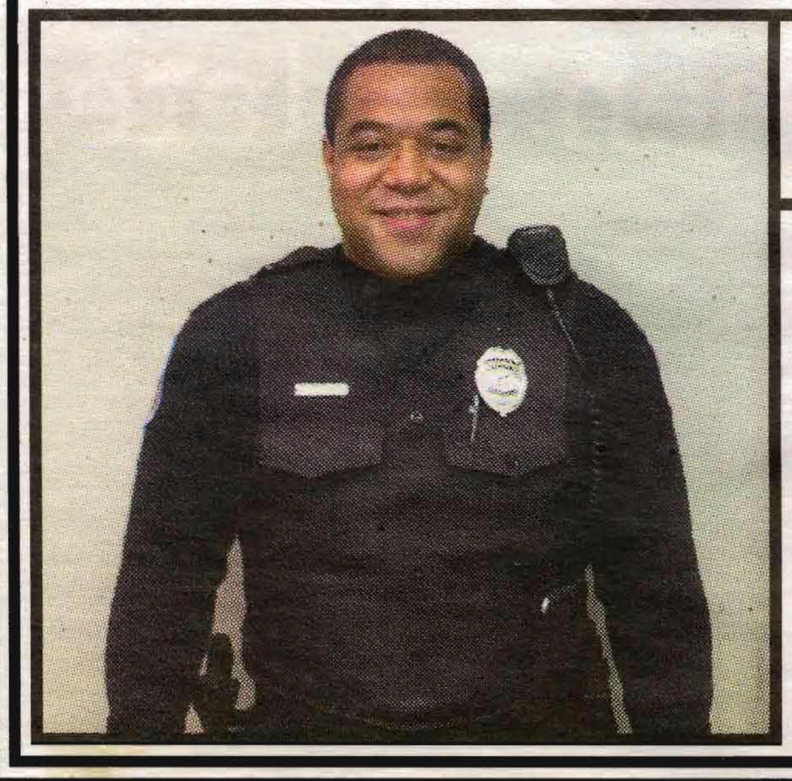
Adams replied to this: "It's not one thing, it's a combination of many things. We have to start another movement based on economics, create opportunities that we need, look for places where we most give our money. We have to start investing money for us by making Black supermarket, stadium type facilities, churches and schools, and keep getting bigger." She added, "look at our forefathers, who came directly out of slavery and pulled their resources. They set organization. Every individual family has to look at themselves differently. It all about mindset and a lot of time that needs to be spent on certain mindsets so that you see yourself in the center of the universe and not the edge."

Whereas Black replied to this, "This reminds me of my own background, my childhood and great depression, where everyone was depressed but we were not, because we had faith, hope and our mamas and daddies, particularly mamas. They had plans for us."

He further emphasized: "now we need the restoration of spirituality of life that is very very important because it carries my ancestors' hope, plans and faith. The future must be embedded which comes from families. We need the accumulation of wealth, the wealth of power, political as well as economical but the first thing is the restoration of the faith. The faith that future will be brighter."

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

CHRIS COKER



Position: Shift Manager
From: Highwood, IL
Favorite part of the job?: I come to work because as many of us, I am also pursuing my career in law enforcement. Working at IIT as a Public Safety Officer has given me insight of what my future holds.
My view of IIT: I enjoy the diversity on campus, learning all about the different cultures and customs. Also, I have the pleasure of working with other IIT Public Safety Officers who I can also include to being my friends. I enjoy eating my lunch at Center Court were a variety of foods can be ordered. The only dislike I have is the parking. I wish it was free.
Cool fact?: During my time at Carthage College I played football. I was a defensive tackler and truly enjoyed playing.