

IIT celebrates Women's History Month

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Every year, the month of March is celebrated as Women's History Month in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. While in Canada, it is observed in October.

This year, students commemorated the theme of 'Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment,' here at IIT throughout the month. The Office of Campus Life, Spiritual Life and Service Learning as well as Diversity Initiatives all put up multiple events throughout the month for the campus community to come together and celebrate as well as honor the successes of women in various fields.

Together, the IIT community was able to learn about and appreciate

the contributions of women everywhere in everything they do, personally and professionally. From events that were targeted at women, like the HPV Awareness Week, to events that recognized women's accomplishments, like the "I Am Malala" Book Club and the African Student Organization's Cultural Night, as well as events that were staged by women, like the International Women's Day panel, the Alumnae Panel and the motivational speaker Tricia Downing, IIT offered an assortment of events for students to participate in and educate themselves.

At the panel events, it was especially interesting to observe the similarities and differences in the views of female alumnae and female students who currently attend IIT. Needless to say, it was the common goals and ideologies of all the women that kept every event true to this year's theme. Between students, a 16-year-old Nobel Peace Prize

nominee, and a number of inspiring women from a wide range of career backgrounds, innumerable experiences were shared and countless ideas adapted. The panelists at the women alumna panel were Allison Bagby (ME, EMGT '09), Ranjana Bhargava (M.S. SOC '71), Perri Irmer (ARCH '81), Mariam Kittaneh (CHE '03, M.B.A. '13) and Dawn Schuette (ARCH CRP '92, M.S. CRP '93). They all spoke about their experiences of being a successful student at IIT, how it prepared them for their professional careers, and how they continue to scale successes in their chosen careers.

On Monday evening, the IIT Office of Spiritual Life and Service Learning also brought Kent alumna Reverend Brenda Girton-Mitchell to campus. The Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Education, Rev. Girton-Mitchell brings more

than 30 years' experience to the Department of Education from her work as a teacher, legal counsel and minister. Rev. Girton-Mitchell spoke about the intersection of women, faith, and education and how it related to this month's Book Club selection, "I Am Malala."

A major part of the credit for the smooth success of this year's Women's History Month goes to the various departments at IIT that collaborated in order to present the student body with such a fantastic range of opportunities for learning, sharing and networking. Credit also goes to IIT's diverse community of men and women who attended all of the events, without whom the events would not have achieved their success. If you are interested in finding out more about the events that took place on campus this March in honor of Women's History Month, check out the Women's Services page on Campus Life's website, www.iit.edu/student_life.

TEDxIIT's 'Infinite Impact' scheduled for this weekend

Nirja Shah
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With just a few days left for the most awaited event of the year, TEDxIIT 2014, the board members, the founder of TEDxIIT, Amy Segami, as well as the volunteers are putting their best efforts in making this event a grand success.

Following the previous TEDxIIT event, the theme for this year is, "Infinite Impact." Disruptive technology, drones and design are among the topics that will be discussed at the fourth annual TEDxIIT from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 in the IIT Tower Auditorium. The event will spotlight eleven speakers from all over the world, who are affiliated with IIT, and are ready to give speeches which can inspire people globally and lay an infinite impact on the IIT community.

TEDxIIT is an organization of the

students, by the students and for the students of IIT and the global audience. TEDxIIT is organized by a core team of about 20 IIT Students from 10 different countries. They will host a world class event which is live and also will be streamed worldwide. The theme for this event, "Infinite Impact" is about sharing ideas with infinite impact on technology, individuals and society. Disruptive technology, paraplegia recovery, triple win philanthropy, technological anthropology, infinite space resources are just few of the ideas that will be shared. There have been applications from more than 50 people interested to volunteer for this amazing event and the team is really thankful to all the students who have shown their interest in helping out.

Diverse speakers such as IIT's very own energy sustainability expert, Dr. Hamid Arastoopour will be presenting along with IIT Faculty, FIAA, College of Architect Board

of Overseers, Founder and President of Ross Barney Architects, Carol Ross Barney, who will propose using waterway as a transportation system. Monika Wiela, a Polish immigrant turned internet entrepreneur and philanthropist; Ian Beacraft, a superstar of Leo Burnett; Andrew Little of Weather Channel, and award-winning CTO/CIO Shanjib Sahoo of tradeMONSTER. Last but not the least, two current students, Raed Tawil from Syria and Xi Zhang from China, will make their TEDx Talk. This is a big deal for everyone.

It is indeed a great honor to be a part of this organization. The volunteers showed a great amount of interest in being speaker buddies (an IIT student who assists the speaker the entire day.) As Segami said, "Volunteers help us in bringing the IIT community and the IIT alumni together, beyond the borders of IIT."

The team is working hard to get everything organized. Isabella Romero, President of

TEDxIIT and Yoetzian Diaz, Vice President of TEDxIIT have done an amazing job in getting the team together and sharing their previous experience with all the new members in helping them organize things. The entire executive board including the production team, webmaster committee, public relations and treasurer have worked together and are responsible for making this event happen. It is the teamwork that is solely responsible for the success of TEDxIIT.

In the past years of TEDxIIT, the event was sold out and the live streaming attracted over 30,000 viewers globally. It is great pride to have such an amazing event happening at IIT.

TEDxIIT is looking for your participation to sign up for tickets or volunteering opportunity. To know more about the speakers, the executive board members or past TEDxIIT events, visit the website: tedxiit.com.

Re-Imagination Challenge sparks new ideas, creativity for solutions

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Working directly with the support of school administration to inspire creativity among students to implement change from the bottom-up, the Student Government Association partnered with MonkeyBars and sponsored by Google, O'Reilly Books, IIT Institute of Design, and IIT to organize a 24 hour Hackathon style competition, the "Re-Imagination Challenge."

Some of the ideas encouraged while going into the competition were reducing the fire alarms in MSV, the issue of puddles on campus, et cetera. The judges included campus admin and faculty (the Dean of Students, Katie Stetz, as well as the SGA Presidential candidates, Olurotimi and Akinade, were part as well. The three main categories were "Pre-built", "From Scratch" and "Peer Choice."

Sub-categories under Pre-built and From Scratch included long term and short term (can be implemented within three to five years and within one to years, respectively).

The Pre-built criteria was for anything that already has a mock-up, prototype, some code, whereas from scratch was for new ideas that hadn't been pursued before this event.

Judging criteria and guidelines feasibility (based on if the proposed plan can be done within chosen time-frame and is realistic given budget and resources, as determined by judges), efficacy (does this idea realistically solve a problem in an efficient/creative manner?), impact (is this idea large impact and does it benefit the student body for the future in a visible/solid/tangible way?), team strength

(does the team in question have the mindset of implementing and solving this problem in real-time?), as well as response to Q&A (defending your idea and providing thoughtful answers to questions posed, regardless of how challenging the question.) The winning teams were working on projects related to the class registration system, school spirit and increased attendance to campus events/engagement as well as a video production initiative to spread news and awareness about school events. A more detailed follow up article will be published in the next few weeks.

