

## Letter from the [Campus] Editor:

## 4 years, &amp; a gazillion articles later...

So, where do I start?

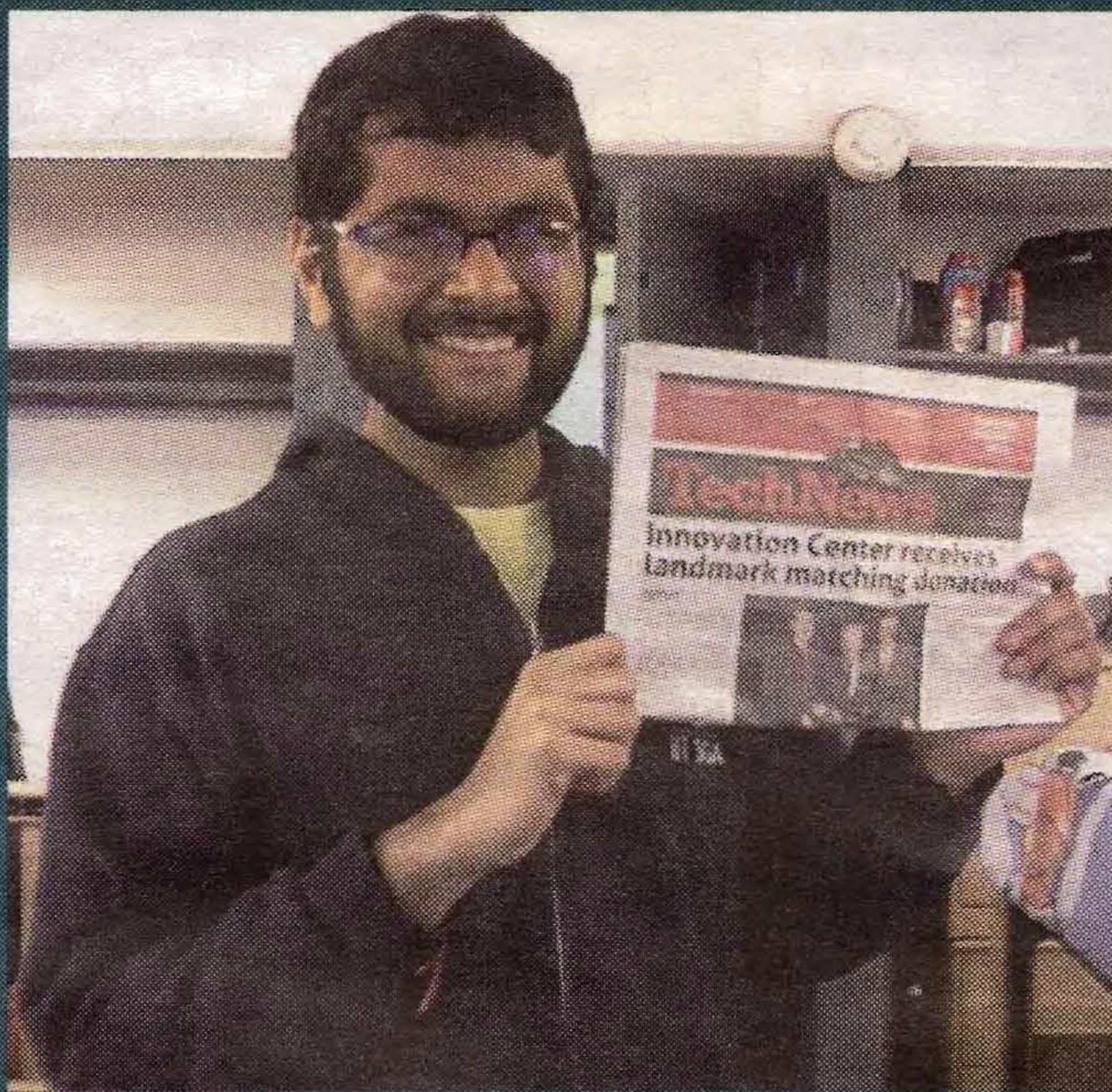
Oh right, (almost) four years ago. It was the very first meeting of TechNews for the academic year 2010 to 2011, and I was as literally fresh off the boat as could be. It was my first few days in the country, having just completed quite an overwhelming orientation session.

Kudos to the outreach efforts of the newspaper back then, and since then—we have managed to attract and retain some seriously committed talent. I was late to that first meeting of the semester; in fact, I reached there just as it was finishing up.

Back then, we had a Content Manager, who took one good look at me, probably judged me as naive, and not expecting me to stick around for very long, gave me an assignment. It was to research the best (and worst) on-campus jobs. I worked on this with a colleague, the story was published, and it felt special. I returned the next few weeks because it felt good to see my name on a tangible, university-wide publication. A few weeks later, a Bollywood superstar visited IIT, and because this was home turf, I covered the event so well that it made front page. There was no looking back after that.

I have seen TechNews at its abysmal lows (eight page issues with oversized and highly pixelated photographs to cover untapped space) as well as some glorious highs (16 page issues with contributors jostling for content.)

I have heard it being criticized, and on the other hand I have been recognized



● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● Farewell to our Campus Editor, Utsav!

and appreciated (almost at celebrity status) because of TechNews (also because of my last name, but that's another matter.)

I have heard the statement ("But nobody reads TechNews!") way too many times to count, but what matters (and also, what is insanely satisfying) is that we made an effort to change things around. High school and college newspapers provide an incredible opportunity for students to improve their communication skills, voice their concerns and effect direct, hands-on change—and the

best part about TechNews was that it was so much fun to be involved with.

I have seen controversies erupt over criticism of departments and programs. I have seen an athletic scholarship that was taken away, be handed back because of an influential cover page article.

I have had fellow students come up to me and tell me how they learned something new about our campus simply because they picked up a copy one fine day to peruse during their free time. SGA elections, TEDxIIT, the President-Provost Forums, April

Fool's Issues, Semester Orientations (our Summer Issue, my absolute favorite), Homecoming—you name it, we've covered it.

And I am so proud to have been associated with it all.

TechNews will always remain an integral part of my IIT experience, it has taught me so much that I carry with myself wherever I go. I will miss the Sunday writer's meetings, debating the latest controversial campus policy, Academy Award nominations and the

major world events. Courtesy of the dynamic turnover I've seen over my time here, I'll miss all my fantastic coworkers, who have made me a better team player and instilled dollops of professionalism in me. I will miss the many writers, layout staff, distribution managers I have had the absolute privilege of working with, all of them equally passionate about their jobs and the paper itself.

A little confession may not be misplaced here: but people often tell me that they "see [me] everywhere on campus!" and that "everyone knows you!"—and while I would attribute most of this to how I try to make the most of my college experience (I know, it sounds corny, but are you surprised?), I also wanted to use my position at TechNews to make a difference. I feel incredibly privileged to have directly managed the Campus section, in the effort of spreading awareness of campus events and in the process, reinvigorating school spirit in the little way that I could.

As I leave TechNews, I leave it in the hands of younger and more vibrant individuals who I have no doubt will be able to carry on the efforts in motion since 1928—because, no matter what, TechNews will always hold a relevant space in our campus community.

I genuinely thank you all for bearing with my ramblings for four years, and for helping TechNews achieve its mission along the way. Keep reading, keep supporting, and most importantly, keep contributing.

Thank you!

Utsav Gandhi

CAMPUS EDITOR

## IEEE@IIT attends Transmission &amp; Distribution conference

Vijai Baskar  
COPY EDITOR

The IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution (T & D) Conference and Exposition, was held at the McCormick place from April 14 to 17. It is one of the biggest events among industries within electrical engineering hosted by IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES) and attended by all the companies associated in the field of power including bigwigs such as Siemens, ABB, and ComEd. This event is held once in two years and this time it was held at Chicago.

The IEEE @ IIT student branch sponsored a total of 40 students to attend this event. There were more than 700 booths at the conference. These booths had exhibits by various electrical companies showcasing their new research, products and services that they provide regarding to power systems and its components like generation, transmission, distribution, and protection equipment and other modern software technologies employed by various utilities in USA.



The event also had many seminars about the latest trends and issues of power systems for electrical students. The entire event

started off with a leadership workshop. The topics discussed in these seminars were mostly about power systems operations, transformers,

substations, energy development, transmission, and distribution. There were also panel sessions, which discussed about electrical technologies and tech tours to various energy centers at Exelon and ComEd.

As part of the collegiate programs for the students, there were dinner and luncheon sessions where students from various universities got together and discussed about their course work and research extending their network. Also, there were fun events like reliability killers and scavenger hunts where participants had a chance to wind out of the tight sessions. The overall conference was an extravagant event. It helped the students a lot as they learnt about the latest trends in the industry and the products being developed by electrical companies.

This event mainly enabled students to connect with their peers and potential employers thus expanding a network where the current engineers in the field are more aware about new career perspectives. The ECE Department Chair, Dr. Ashfaq Khokhar, mainly encouraged the significant effort taken by the student branch.

Photo by Vijai Baskar

## NSBE-IIT attends 40th National Convention in Nashville

Joannas Joseph  
TECHNEWS WRITER

This year like any other, the NSBE-IIT chapter led a large contingent to the National Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee.

This convention dubbed "the family reunion" due to the convention's fortieth anniversary and its location in the central city of Nashville.

For both our first time and returning attendees, what may this convention have in store? This year the chapter went through a massive rebuilding time and was able to establish an active membership from varying African Diasporas at IIT. However, through the efforts of the executive board and the dedicated members, approximately 48 students

were able to travel to Nashville for the fortieth annual Convention from March 26 to 30. The Convention featured speakers such as Governor R. Musgrove Mississippi Government, Pedro Sainz de Baranda President of Otis, UTC, Karla Bonzie Director of HR GISC Programs, Johnson Controls and Young Guru Producer Extraordinaire and special performances by B.O.B. Young Guru, an Audio Engineer delivered a particularly motivational speech during Friday's general session.

Guru urged conference attendees to perfect their craft by taking reading and using any free time to learn as much as they can about their respective fields. Although the conference featured a rigorous schedule of workshops, career fair, national executive elections and debates, hospitality suites and general sessions, the group did find some

time for relaxation.

On Saturday March 29, the achievements of NSBE-IIT Chapter were highlighted. During the Region IV (consisting of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio) meeting, the NSBE-IIT was praised as the chapter with the Most Submitted Transcripts for the 2013 to 2014 academic year.

NSBE-IIT President, Joannas Joseph was also awarded the Excelling Academically Scholarship from Region 4. The Boeing Flight Competition also featured the Illinois Tech Team, Phoenix (Kevin President, Sirgi Theophilus, Rachel Montoute and Joannas Joseph) who were very competitive.

Although unsuccessful in the flight competition, the team did get the opportunity to meet IIT alum Anthony Meoyer, Director of Operations and Strategic Development at

The Boeing Company and received the winning strategy for next year. The convention concluded with the Golden Torch Awards where any first time attendees were in absolute awe of the event which was put on for them.

"It was great to network with other students and hear them talk about what their future plans/goals were" expressed a first time attendee.

All attendees have testified that they will be attending the next convention in Anaheim California in 2015. For many college students, a convention of this caliber may be perceived as either a networking opportunity or a glorified vacation. No matter the outlook, all the members of the NSBE-IIT chapter who attended all attest that it was indeed worthwhile for their professional growth.