Illinois Tech Spring 2008 IPRO Day

By Christopher Chock
PHOTO EDITOR

What happens when you take an eclectic cross section of the IIT student body and put them together to solve a task? Well, you get the IPRO project, which culminates with IPRO Day. The interprofessional projects at IIT, or simply the IPROS, are the interdisciplinary projects that students work on in otherwise not seen mixing of majors and specializations.

The goals of IPROs are to foster leadership and teamwork in non-homogeneous groups of students. The scoring of the IPROS is based not only the achievements of the groups, but how well they worked together and managed themselves. Awards were given according to overall performance, presentation skills, best poster/exhibit, leadership and best in track. The competition was organized into several tracks, pitting the most closely related IPROS against each other.

This year’s IPRO also had several groups from out of state present and compete. These schools included Cal State Fresno and Ross Hullman University. These two schools did very well in the competition—taking top positions in both their track and overall presentations.

Congratulations to everyone who participated and thank you for your support.

See all of the IPRO Day results listed on page 8.

Students gathered at IPRO Day today to hear how they have done this semester and what they have achieved. In addition to the formal presentations, students were approached in their booths by judges and they had to give the randoms, and thus answer any questions that were posed.

Parade awards ROTC students for service

By Kevin Krupp
TECHNEWS WRITER

"March on the colors," Air Force ROTC Cadet Steven Lemonon believed as he marched to the center of Stuart soccer field, four flags floating tightly against gray skies.

Cadet Lemonon's voice again broke the air, "Present arms."

The Illinois Institute of Technology's Air Force and Navy ROTC, dressed in blue and white with bands held above their brows in salute, waited silently as the visiting Great Lakes Navy Band played the United States National Anthem for the ROTC 2008 Spring Parade this past Thursday.

The parade, a tribute to traditional military formations from the days of muzzle-loaded muskets where men stood in long lines two or three men deep and exchanged fire with their opponents across the battle field, served as both a reminder of United States Armed Forces history and an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of cadets and midshipmen who excel as leaders and students in the community.

Friends and family snapped photographs as active and veteran members of the United States Armed Services stood to recognize these midshipmen and cadets who had stood out as exemplary examples of citizen-soldiers.

With the order "Unarm," the parade ended. Beaming with pride, the men and women of Illinois Tech's ROTC departed Stuart field, their white and blue uniforms still gleaming.

This year's award recipients included:

- The Tennessee Charitable Foundation Scholarship Recipients: SSGT Bernard Camacho, Midshipman Andrew Warner, Cadet David Snyder, Cadet Steven Lemonon, and Cadet Keenan McKinney.
- The Air Force Association Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award: Steven Lemonon.
- The FDIA Mauricio L. Heron Award for the midshipmen with the highest academic standing, military poise, good citizenship, leadership, and overall commitment to the naval service: SSgt Michel Ebert.
- The Society of American Military Engineers Award: Cadet Garrett Steadman.
- The Navy League Chicago Sword to the most outstanding senior midshipman: Staff Sergeant Nuisio Corral Jr.

Unknown error erases records of some graduation ticket requests

By Colin Emch-Wei
ART EDITOR

Some graduating seniors were treated to an unpleasant surprise last week when it was discovered that an unknown error erased their record of requests for extra commencement tickets. While “a handful” of students’ requests did make it through the system, many were not even given the opportunity to go through and the Office of Special Events never received records of the requests.

It is important to note that the Office of Special Events is not to blame for this issue, as the problem is of an unknown technical nature. Since any record of the requests never actually reached the office, the staff was under the impression that only a few students actually asked for additional tickets.

As a result, the affected students believe that their requests had either been denied or simply not processed at that point in time. It is unclear at this time what caused the error, whether it was due to an error on the website or somewhere else along the line.

The team in charge of the website suggested that the problem might be due to some system error, but most seniors reported that they had indeed seen a fully loaded confirmation page after they had ordered tickets.

Unfortunately, because the error was discovered so recently, it was too late for the office to release tickets to any of the graduating seniors. Seating arrangements were already too far under way and the addition of more tickets would not have been a feasible option.

In order to remedy this issue, some departments, including the College of Architecture, have decided to set up an overflow section for additional guests. Students should check with their department for similar accommodations.

The Opening Ceremony for Commencement is to be held on May 17th in the Illinois Tech soccer field.

Japanese as a foreign language

By Jeffrey Yang
TECHNEWS WRITER

In direct response to student demand, the Office of Social Sciences is offering an exciting East Asian Studies cluster for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. This course group will include "Japanese for Social Scientists I" (PS299) and "Intro to Comparative Politics" (PS332) for the fall, and "Politics of East Asia" (PS150) and "Japanese for Social Scientists II" (PS299 required) for the spring of 2009.

Japanese for Social Scientists I will be a standard introductory course to the Japanese language, with emphasis placed on vocabulary and linguistic skills. Intro to Comparative Politics will include a number of Asian cases. Each course will fulfill three credit hours.

If the thought of speaking Japanese or studying the politics of East Asia piques your curiosity, act immediately! Twenty seats are available for each class, and spots are already rapidly filling up.

Finally, very special thanks to Dr. Patrick R. Ireland, Chair of the Department of Social Sciences, for working together with the SGA Academic Affairs Committee and continuing to make the study of foreign languages at IIT a reality!
Letter from the Editor

Well, summer's almost here and the semester is nearly over, which means that TechNews, like every other student organization, is gearing up to leave. We have seen a lot of changes this year and I believe that the momentum from these vast improvements will push us hard to hit the ground running next year. In fact, Joe Kainan, ambitious leader, has decided to publish an issue over the summer to hand out at Student Farewell events and other tech student gatherings in the fall! We are all pretty excited about that idea!

So, on that note, as I am graduating but not leaving (I'm staying here for Graduate school), I have you with some bits of information that I have either learned through experience or through observation of those around me. Learning from other people's mistakes is just as valuable as making your own, so learn from these:

1. Sleep. I know that this is often the first thing to go when faced with a huge project or final, but it is vital to get enough sleep. You don't encode long-term memories without sleep. You weaken your immune system without sleep. Your body and mind don't function at their best without sleep. Plus, who doesn't like sleep?

2. Build a support network. I know it sounds cliché, but it's essential. You need study groups, friends and people within your major that you can rely on when the going gets tough. These are NOT to copy from when you didn't have time to do your homework. A good support network will help you find time to do your homework and work out a problem with you together.

3. Get to know your professors. Not all those who are giving you your grades, they're the ones you're going to approach later for a letter of recommendation, or better yet, a job. It's difficult for them to offer you a job or give you an outstanding letter of recommendation if they don't know you outside of the classroom at all. Professors can be intimidating but remember, they're people too.

4. Go to class. I know that during those windy Chicago mornings the last thing you want to do is get out of bed and go to class, but not only will you learn something, your professor will recognize that you come to class and will probably view you favorably when calculating final grades. As Woody Allen says, "Niney percent of life is showing up for class!"

5. You cannot learn through osmosis. As much as I would love for this to be true, it isn't. Unfortunately, you have to pick up that book. Make time to at least skim through your book before you go to class and follow that class a few days later with a review of the notes. You'll be surprised how much more information sticks and how much easier it will be to study later.

6. Be nice to people. No one wants to deal with a jerk, and you know what? They aren't. Just because something didn't go your way doesn't mean that you can fix it by being mean to the people who help you require. You're not surprised right now how far a little politeness can go, as my Grandma always said, "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar."

7. Get involved. For example, you can find out about an organization that speaks your interest. If there isn't one, then start one. Chances are that there are other students on campus who share the same interest and will appreciate your effort that you put forth in starting a student organization that they like. This extends beyond student organizations, however.

8. Get a job. Find a job that interests you but is also close to what you want to be doing after graduation as possible. Unfortunately, the better jobs don't usually come with a paycheck, but if you can get your foot in the door by doing some pre bone work for a semester, then your chances of getting a paid position the following semester are much greater than they would have been otherwise. Gaining experience outside of the classroom before you graduate is one of the most important things you can accomplish as an undergrad. Having a job is also a great way to learn how to find balance, that is if you're not yet trying to balance school and work life in your undergraduate course of study.

9. Take advantage of the opportunities presented to you. You never know where the most random opportunity will lead. Chicago and IL are full of opportunity. Look out for something that interests you whether it's volunteering, entrepreneurship, or music, there's something that you can contribute to and gain from that opportunity.

10. Keep your calendar. This is often difficult to do in the beginning, you've got a full class load, a demanding job and several student organizations to worry about, but it's important to keep a good grasp on your schedule, otherwise you're going to miss important events and meetings (Side note: sorry again Vickie). Not only will maintaining a calendar help you remember all of those little details that would otherwise be forgotten, it will help you keep track and stay professional.

11. Use Facebook. As much as I'm apprehensive for saying this, since it will inevitably swamps (try it, Facebook is an excellent networking tool and an informational goldmine. However, don't put anything up on Facebook that's (1) interesting, not only can you potentially get in trouble with the law for something posted, but your future employers could probably access your Facebook account and do you want them seeing what you really did in college?

12. The Health Center is your friend. Don't be afraid to utilize their knowledge and services. Having trained medical professionals on campus and readily accessible is a valuable resource, especially when sickness starts spreading through the dorms like wildfire.

13. Be a bystander. This is not something that I did during my undergraduate career, but I have watched numerous people return from studying abroad and rave about the experience. If I had to do it all again, this is definitely something that I would have fastened in my fourth year as an undergraduate.

14. Write for TechNews. This is a great organization to get involved with. Learn to ask questions, think critically, build teamwork skills, enhance your productivity and express your opinion.

15. Show your appreciation and say 'thank you'. Thank you to everyone who contributed to TechNews this year. Thank you to all of the support that we get from IT staff, faculty and departments. Thank you to your staff for your tireless efforts in consistently increasing the quality of the content and aesthetics of the newspaper. Your contributions and efforts helped to develop TechNews into the strong, prominent organization that it is now. Thank you to the TechNews Student Media Advisory Board for their dedication to selecting the next Editor-in-Chief and ensuring that TechNews has strong leadership for the future. Special thank you to Vickie Trelalt who keeps us on track. And with that, good luck on finals and have a wonderful summer!

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If you want to get paid for your articles, your paper MUST be submitted by May 30th or before. Any paperwork submitted after this date cannot be considered for payment.

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Opinion

Tech Sex: This week you’re on top!

Dear Sex Tech,

I recently discovered Magna style condoms, unfortunately she doesn’t have them on the shelf. Do you know where they are?

Sincerely,

Disappointed Camper

Dear Camper,

No man loses being told that he’s got a little helper in this package — so the best way to take care of this one is probably the same way my mom used to get me to go church and tell her you like your brother. Maybe that’s better. I really am the ‘unhappy camper’ or telling him that you got a good day and conditions are pleasant and take care of all the purchasing yourself. Better yet, surprise him with an early birthday present and get him an esthetician timed to a condition. Remember — all fitting condoms means healthy break.

Sincerely,

Prepper Quality Assistance Manager

Dear U.C.

First thing first, don’t let this affect your placement, or is it a cautious comment? If it is pure circular, let it go. No one is here and you are going to know, so I don’t think it is a problem. It is confusing when you are talking about the amount of pleasure you get out of sex. If this is the case, then I will offer my suggestions. I think the first thing most people are thinking is that you cannot talk to him because I want to see you. However, chances are if you notice that it is not fitting correctly, then he notices it, but he may just be too embarrassed to say anything. Until the last minute, only you may say that you may be just back to the original, unless if he doesn’t then you will have to make your own minds up. You need to go to a fitting services, just be sure of it. You just can’t pass them up. You could complain of the technical difficulties. For example, I would imagine that once he sees, these condoms come off pretty easily. The female one is perhaps even inside of you, which we all know makes for an unpleasant situation. You could also complain that you feel that the juices could not be your attires. Just don’t want to get preggers so you wouldn’t rather wear a smaller one for contraceptive purposes. If all else fails, and you find yourself need to go back to the smaller ones, then just tell him that while you think he has a very large penis, it is not just a size but thanks. Good, because you do not want to know though you are showing a baseball bat does not get, and that you would prefer him to go back to the old ones.

Place and Love in Sex, SJP

Dear Sex Tech,

The girlfriend and I have finally bribed out of our comfort zones and watched a favorite movie with my public places. We’ve done it in ears, in dressing rooms, and once in a tree. We’ll have to get a grip on the democratic possibility. However, we want to do the deal. If the L’Oreal is perfectly comfortable doing it, but we’re having trouble with logistics. So my question is: what’s the best time to use US prepaid? And what’s the best position for a long, hard ride at rapid transit? Don’t try in the headscarf-accessible area, it’s not as easy as it looks.

Sincerely,

Red Line Romeo

Dear R.L.E.,

I would first like to say that you can get in big trouble for getting caught having sex in public, so Sex Tech is not responsible for any trouble you guys get yourself into. Also, do we not recommend having sex when a child might catch you, as this can be a traumatic experience for the child.

That being said, if you read our April Fools Day issue, there is a lot of buck and nerve. If you really truly want to do it in a tree, you can either be careful or track an awful lot of blood and dirt into your pickup truck. First, get some papers. You’ve got your pillows might work. Next, find just the right tree. You’ll want one that has some strong foliage up above, but has jets the right arrangement of branches that you can hook yourselves up to, something to climb a ladder of, and something to hear back — believe me, missionary will leave your wife as well as next time. Now, it might just be the best you can do, but the ladder will be the imaginary accessory of the affair, so make sure she’s tied in place to all relevant branches. Then, perhaps some insects to help keep the more intimate parts from the tree — not so with he’s hanging, but just for a little cross support. I know the right grip, keep a firm grip, and sport more braces than the next.

Sincerely,

Rogger K

Dear Sex Tech,

My boyfriend, John, is a little white what is it that, I don’t mind, really, but I couldn’t follow it up with evil. This isn’t happening; we’re saying, how. As far as for Maitland goes, this one is a money. My boyfriend insists that this would the only way has that his friend could get him off. I suspect he was a little bit of a lump in bed, and more than a little bit up. What’s the best way to break my boyfriend of this naughty habit?

Sincerely,

Sally, Mait Betty

Dear B.M.L.,

I wish you with this one. There is a reason known is coming out of your body instead of going into it. Now, there is two ways we can use approach this. The first is if there is absolutely no way we can do it this any other way. This is the case, then I will suggest making him wear a condom and then taking it off at the second part. The second approach is to break him of this habit. This will be difficult and he has to be willing to change. Sexual habits are probably some of the worst to break, so be patient and open to trying new techniques, of the not so kindly kind.

Peace and Love in Sex, SJP
IPRO: Remember the changes
By Carolyn Wood

Before I graduate, I am writing one last article to bring a topic of communication liaison between the IPRO office and the students. This article is about a new system of IPRO that works to improve the entire IPRO program, three semesters ago, and in that time I’ve noticed some things to make huge improvements to the program. And yet, while musing on this new IPRO system, I have meetings with IPRO students, and I’ve never given an adequate response. When students attempt to follow through on their issues, they are led a wild goose chase through forests of red tape. Redirected from department to department, students are left uninformed and uninformed by their institution of higher learning. Until recently, nothing has been written about this. A few weeks ago, the administration of IPRO has stood up and are working to make a difference. I applaud them, for their contributions will be the foundation of Illinois Tech. Now to the students, the people that hire and fund IPRO, people extremely happy. If you lose them, you lose your connection to the student body. What I’m saying is that the administration needs to keep making that positive impact, and dismiss everyone that consistently causes problems. Get people to address these issues, and you will have one of the best schools in the country. I promise you. On the right track; you just need to closely examine where the kinks are occurring on campus and straighten them out immediately by absolutely any means necessary.

Secondly, the school itself, I cannot deny. No one can make anyone else, that I have received a world-class education at this institution. Employers are dumbstruck by the skill set that I and other students demonstrate during interviews and on the job. Students from other schools (mainly UCs) are upset with us because we take all the jobs. Students, of course, I am extremely well equipped in my discipline, I am in a variety of functions, and that makes me up to no end. Thank you, Illinois Tech. You’ve gotten me a job in a field that I’ve been dreaming about since I was a small child. And I am incredibly excited about that prospect.

Next, the social scene. It’s broken, but it’s getting better. I’ve never had to try this hard to have a good time. I am not talking about partying. Let me get that across right now. I am not equating partying to having an enjoyable time. Student aptitude is at all time high, and morale and enthusiasm is at all time high. This may be the best group of students to have graduated in the last 25 years. I’ve never been more proud of the type of people that attend a tech school (no offense - we’re all weird and therefore socially accepted and understood). No hard feelings, I swear. I cannot suggest that we’re exactly party people. Students tend to make the extra step out of their comfort zones and experience what college life actually needs to offer. Everyone always told me that college would be the best years of my life. I’ve learned here that you need hard work and commitment to make that happen. I want to have fun and make friends, it’s necessary for me to understand what work and fun means.

For better or for worse, the five years I’ve spent here at Illinois Tech have been up and down, but have been ultimately beneficial to me. For every time that I’ve been swatted down by bureaucracy or social apathy, I’ve had a personal success to compensate for it. And every day, it struck me how much I have grown in the last five years (yes, I’m definitely chubbier now than I was in the August of 2003, in case you were wondering). I have learned to assert myself, to think critically, to work under pressure. I’ve learned about who I am as both a person and as a professional. Simply put, I graduate from Illinois Tech as just as someone with a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture, but as a 23-year-old child that is opening his eyes to the world for the first time. This is a beginning, an end. Whatever happens after the commencement ceremony, I know that it’s the beginning of my new life.

By Colm Emch-Wei

I’m not sure what to write here. Since I am graduating, this is the last article I’ll be writing in the IPRO. The last one. This is the last opportunity I have to voice my thoughts and talk to you. I guess I’d better make it good. To be honest, I have no idea what to write to you today.

Life is a series of beginnings and endings. This long five year period will be over in a few short days, and it will give way to a new beginning. I will feel things differently. I will feel frightened and uncontrolled. I can’t wait to bound - I can’t wait to not feel goodly about playing video games until the wee hours of the night. I can’t wait to start a job in the field that I’ve been training in for the last five years. It’s an incredibly bright future. But, I cannot wait to begin.

As far as the actual content is concerned, I don’t think that anyone here can say that their experience here was completely good or completely bad. No matter what you may have felt about the school, you have to admit that there were bright times and dark times. For instance, I know for a fact that I’ve gotten one hell of an education here. I have some great people here whose friendship I will treasure for many years to come. And while (I think many, many other people here) had constant issues with one or more administrative aspects of the school, I have worked with professors that were truly passionate about teaching and staff members that truly loved their jobs. That left a definite mark on me.

While I can’t discuss the topic of the workings of Illinois Tech, there are things that are slightly needed to address. Obviously, we as students are made what we like and dislike about Illinois Tech. We struggle to answer, afraid or unable to articulate exactly what is bothering us. I’ve thought about this for a long time, and I know precisely what I think. There are things that I think need to be said, just so that everyone is on the same page.

Firstly, I’d like to speak about the administration. While their doors are in the right place, the lack of communication between administrators and the students has led to tech students body feeling that the higher-ups simply don’t care. Complaints that the students have, and students are never given an adequate response. When students attempt to follow through on their issues, they are led a wild goose chase through forests of red tape. Redirected from department to department, students are left uninformed and uninformed by their institution of higher learning. Until recently, nothing has been written about this. A few weeks ago, the administration of IPRO has stood up and are working to make a difference. I applaud them, for their contributions will be the foundation of Illinois Tech. Now to the students, the people that hire and fund IPRO, people extremely happy. If you lose them, you lose your connection to the student body. What I’m saying is that the administration needs to keep making that positive impact, and dismiss everyone that consistently causes problems. Get people to address these issues, and you will have one of the best schools in the country. I promise you. You’re on the right track; you just need to closely examine where the kinks are occurring on campus and straighten them out immediately by absolutely any means necessary.

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By Michael L Morley

One of my favorite things about the transition from winter to spring (other than the weather, of course) is that one day you might wake outside to see snow, and three days later there will be red tulips standing up in defiance from the ground. No, IIT has not discovered some accelerated growth process to make this possible - rather, it is due to the hard work from all the staff and friends of the Facilities Department. Facilities at IIT are led by Michael Lynch, a staff member incredibly devoted to bringing student services and results to new heights.

Facilities has brought in the giant chefs and checkers on the MTCC South Lawn, they have gladly set up the IIT Ice Rink for the last two years, they beautifully beautify the campus with the tree lights during the fall, they brought in the IIT Disc Golf Course, and were instrumental in making possible the giant Homecoming 2007 Carnival on the Quad, which over 1,200 members of the IIT community attended.

Now it is Spring and since again, Facilities is hard at work. They have been planting new flowers, landscaping, and ensuring that we don’t bringgry their work while crossing Flag St. by class. The flowers on 33rd St. are beautiful, the grass in our courtyard, and it definitely helps to lighten our spirits as some of our dumber facing citizens and project deadlines in this final stretch.

As a graduating senior, with my love for the TechNews entry, I simply wish to thank Mike, Frank, Justin, John and everyone else in Facilities who see consistently working hard to make our days a little better on campus.

As students, faculty, or other members of the IIT community, if you see Facilities doing a good job somehow, please take a minute to let them know how much you appreciate their work. -I don’t think they get to hear it enough.

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Adesso CyberTablet M14: Creativity at a small price

By Kamakshi Palakodety

TECHNEWS

Adesso CyberTablet M14: Creativity at a small price

A couple of years ago, we had covered a review of the Adesso Medbook, which is one of the best tablet PCs available in the market. However, starting from $79.99, these gadgets can become expensive for the regular college-going student. So, the solution comes in the form of a Tablet PC offered by Adesso. Adesso has been in the market for a long time and has come up with several tablet PCs which are both efficient and pocket-friendly. To keep up with the competition, Adesso has launched its tablet PC for the computer graphics enthusiasts. The PC is called CyberTablet M14 and is one of the top-of-the-line products from Adesso.

The CyberTablet M14 has a wide and spacious drawing area, giving the user a much larger area to work on. The writing area measures 12 x 7.25 inches. The working area can be selected as 9.5 x 7.25 inches also. The tablet measures 16.5 x 11.8 inches in all. The Cyber Tablet can be used not just for drawing and graphics, but also by engineers, architects, professional students who are into handwriting, sketching and animation. The PC enables free-hand drawing and not writing with the help of an ergonomic pen. The PC has two splining knobs, located on either side of it. Both the knobs are used for the same purpose, so both a left-handed and right-handed person can use it with no problems. The functions of the knobs are defined by the presence of five small buttons which are sandwiched between them. The first three buttons enable the user to use the knobs for scrolling, zooming and volume control respectively. The remaining two buttons are used to power on the drawing area and adjust the aspect ratio of the screen so the knobs are now used for drawing. The aspect ratio for the 12 x 7.25 inch screen is 16:9 and reduced to 4:3 for 9.5 x 7.25 inch screen.

To help you with locating your frequently used options, the PC comes with 14 pre-programmed hot keys. Also, called virtual mouse keys, these buttons help you store your workflow routine such as cut, copy and paste, open documents, and even web pages for every session. The keys can be programmed using the software provided with the package. However, since they are virtual hot keys, the only way to activate them is with the pen. So you can't rest your finger for now. The ergonomic pen used for drawing and writing has a powerful pressure sensitivity to detect even the slightest change in pressure applied. So working on the PC is not an effort, rather it is a comfortable experience. The pen is centilated and works on AA battery power, which makes the device a handy little gadget to move around. The pen comes with dual mouse buttons for easy navigation.

The level of pressure pen sensitivity is 1024-top and the PC supports a hardware resolution of 4000 lines per inch. Talk about compression abilities how much data can be encompassed by the 12 inch screen.

There is a slight problem though. The PC works best with MS VISIO, which adds to the beauty of the PC by providing some of its own features, such as handwriting recognition, note-taking and even gesture recognition for quick results. However, when configured with Mac, these features fail to shine. Even some of the advanced software versions which come with the PC are restricted and several features do not work at all.

The handwriting recognition software is definitely a bonus. Programmable to recognize several handwriting patterns, the software can accurately recognize the worst of writings into typed text. As mentioned, this feature works only with Visio. Using this software, you can even open your spreadsheet documents and emails. You can even choose to write personalized handwritten letters as opposed to typing them. The possibilities are endless. You can personalize your presentations, your documents, your business letters as well as your personal letters.

To start off with the right note, the CyberTablet M14 comes with several software which include, among many others, Adobe Photoshop Elements which is the virtual substitute for sticky notes and can be used for handwriting as well. Power Presenter RE II which helps you practice your presentations on a white board on black board before you present in front of a room full of pin-pointers and fault找寻. Office Infra link which creates digital signatures and secures documents faster, and Macro Key Manager under which you can store the hot keys.

The CyberTablet M14 Tablet PC package comes with: Professional Tablet, cordless pressure sensitive pen, an integrated USB cable, AAA battery for the stylus, software CD-ROM with all the software, User Manual (Of course) and a 1 year guarantee.

Now, getting to the major point of attraction, the CyberTablet M14 can be bought at a very nominal rate of $284.95. If you search yard enough for a good bargain, you can even find it for $179.90. Overall, I would say that the price is $284.95.

Grand Theft Auto IV and the new way to tell a story

By Joe Kaiser

ASSISTANT EDITOR IN CHIEF

There's a lot I can say about Grand Theft Auto IV. Much like the works of Plato, Herodotus, and Keynes Weisz, if you've read any of previous entries I have nothing to worry about. As you might expect, it exceeds my every expectation and is polished to a minted glow. If you're in the guise of a gamer, you know that it's getting outrageously good scores from all the big liggers - GameSpot's first perfect score since 2001, IGN's first since 1999, if you have even a passing interest in gaming, you're aware you've seen something in the last 12 weeks. You see, the game is back, and it's better. The game's grand narrative is a seamless, fast-paced, reverse-architectured game that's never been seen before. It's a must-have for every gamer.

Game developers might not realize this, but if you're not into World War II, science fiction, or GTA knockoffs, the barest end of the big budget cinematic video games is the GTA series. Really, a lot of games are trying to be "cinematic" in one way or another - now that does not mean big budgets, and a few years ago, you would probably wonder at any game even having a hint of story will rely heavily on cutscenes to get the message across. Most of the really-cinematic movies with a similar story are, in fact, based on parts of highly-scripted miniseries. Cannes goons, carefully tuned explosions, well-received dialogue. There are a lot of unused ways to make a video game play like a movie. For gamers with a carefully structured path, that is just the start of the way to go - but for a game like GTA, you're nearly following a script.

This isn't to say that prior entries in the series fall short. GTA3, easily among the most influential games of all time, that set the standard for the open-world video-adventure genre, and both its successors expanded that formula into more and more epic scenarios, sticking with what worked and giving you more and more to work with. GTA2 was the same, but with fewer prerequisites to make GTA: San Andreas (relying among my all-time favorite games) feel bloated and unpolished.

That's because this time, so much effort has been put into making the game a tighter experience. In previous games, shooting pool was a fun minigame in a mundane bar that you could use to blow a few extra rounds. Here, you're encouraged to take some time to hang out with your friends. Sometimes they'll call you, sometimes you tell them up. Cultivating these friendships gives you benefits that make meaningful interactions worthwhile but don't seem out of place—one friend, for instance, has a shoeworking hook-up and an associate who deals drugs. And there's never a scene and flow as well with the rest of the game. And when you pick up a friend, they'll have a conversation with you, slightly different every time, and for the first time, the game's relationships was an optional hole, here it helps better enhance the game.

With nearly every revision in the game, I found myself recalculating what I know saw as logistically from the previous game. Gone are the RPG-like elements that required a bunch of button-pressing in the game, as the journeys across the map can be fast-forwarded via text, and almost every business deal goes through your cell phone.

It's really hard to tell how much of the game is scripted sometimes - an unrelated conversation on an optional mission is brought up again later in the plot and you wonder if things would have gone differently had you not taken that first mission. You get a call from another character in the middle of a chase and have to tell him to call back later. That's the incredible part about GTA IV. When a game this potentially endless, you've somehow managed to lay down the game's never-ending story, and it's something special. The amount of detail injected into the city as well as the amount of attention given to the protagonist's image and the story adventures within the story adventures was just too much. Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas was a great game, GTA IV is so far the perfect game that had already reached pretty-darn-good status in 2006 in terms of gameplay, though it does a fine job with every minor tweak it attempts. GTA IV gives me an entirely new way to tell an interesting story. Perhaps this jump is subtle in the casual observer, but the long-term effects are bound to revolutionize the idea of the industry. Welcome to the sagacity's adiatic golden age.
FRAG: Grand Theft Auto IV
Focused Review About Games

By Sunny Sajjad and Jonathon Mikessell

Graphics

The visuals in GTA IV are not remarkable because of their extreme quality, but because the environment is exceptionally huge and detailed. The art and architecture throughout the city is gorgeous: views from a bridge can be breathtaking, traffic patterns are realistic, and even newspapers on the street are legible and easy to read in game.

Character models are highly stylized and easily measure above and beyond today's standards for adventure games. Facial expressions, age, body type and other traits are noticeable at first glance, allowing you to recognize characters immediately. Even the sun on the corner will have as much detail as a character with whom you personally interact in the storyline, which helps to make important characters feel real.

Sound

GTA IV includes a massive amount of high-quality dialogue and music both around Liberty City and on the virtual radio and television stations in the game.

The nello tracks aren't all recognizable or top quality, but run the gamut from jazz to Russian song and some stations feature very famous artists like Bob Marley, John Coltrane, and Queen. Commercials advertise fake products in very satirical ways. Longdog, the witty radio host returns with his own station again, as well as more than ten other DJs which buster realistically. The sound effects are satisfying, with all lows and highs accurately depicted.

A door opening in a nice new paneless soundbath wouldn't sound exactly different than that of a high rise project, each car's engine has a unique purr, and distinctions can even be made as to whether glass shattered from a collision or was crushed under pressure. No detail is left without some audio recognition being given to it.

Gameplay

GTA IV is, in essence, a sandbox game, which is to say that the player is given an environment in which he can play with restrictions such as time limits, physical barriers, and behavior codes kept to the absolute minimum. Perhaps the greatest achievement of this game is that it contains a city which feels, at least superficially, alive for you to wreak havoc to a greater or lesser degree depending on your style.

As the title suggests, stealing cars is an important element of the game. Many missions will require the player to drive vehicles and drive through the city evading police, but overall the missions are much more varied than that. Climbing things out of buildings, targeted assassinations, driving a cab, making deliveries, guarding allies, and more mission types are available. All of these things, plus several mini-games, are done at least as well as they would be in an average game, which is an impressive achievement.

The main storyline, which itself can be ignored if the player only wants to go for quick, cheap thefts, can easily span 40 to 60 hours of various criminal activities. The plot shows intelligent direction and superb video setting, both of which compare favorably to those of a good mainstream crime.

Social interaction is an important part of the game. As you help characters, they will like and respect you more, especially if you are very successful at your endeavors. If they are satisfied with your work relationship, they may become friends and then you can engage in parties, entertainment centers such as bowling, bars, drinking, pool, going to a comedy club, and many more, further increasing their liking and sometimes granting you the ability to call one of them and ask for a special favor such as a free ride or medical attention. Furthermore, the player can take Niko on dates with women he meets over the internet in a similar fashion. Your friends need you too, though; if your neglect them they will become less happy with you and pest you on the phone.

Overall GTA IV has a few flaws, such as the presence of too many buildings without interiors, a combat system that is weaker than most video-game centered mainstream games, and perhaps overly demanding friends, but these problems are minor and easy to get past. If you like to play shooting games, driving games, exploration games, and social games, there is truly no better game on earth.
Orientation counselor training

By Linda Goldstein

This summer, Freshman Orientation will invite incoming IIT students to meet each other and begin to make friends, participate in advising sessions, and familiarize themselves with the IIT campus. If you started at IIT in the last few years, you had an Orientation Counselor (OC), although of course it was up to you whether or not you met them. In the current version of the Orientation program, OCs are current IIT students in charge of groups of freshmen for about three days during the Orientation Experience, during the summer. There was a student Councilor training session this past Saturday, May 3rd from 1-4 pm, mostly in the Ehrhaim room but also somewhat in the Welcome Center.

Salaries isn’t everything: Evaluating the benefits in your comp. package

By Emily L. Breckenridge

Student loans, rent, gas, groceries... okay, yes, salary is important, but when it comes to deciding on a job, it is also important to evaluate your entire compensation package, including medical retirement and other benefits. Only make decisions about each position with benefits from one company are the same as the benefits from another company. As you enter your new job, do your homework, and make sure you look at what counts benefits and compensation packages during an interview. The information provided here should guide you through negotiations only AFTER you have received an offer from a potential employer.

Insurance Coverage

Most employers will offer some type of health insurance to full-time employees. If your compensation does not include health insurance, make sure you shop for your insurance. Call your employer to get a quote for what it would cost per month to purchase insurance. It may be cheaper to buy your own health insurance than to purchase it through your employer.

If your employer offers health insurance, you want to make sure you understand your options and the applicable needs of your family. For example, if you’re not married and want to cover your partner, will your health insurance plan cover his or her? Find out how much it would cost you to purchase insurance for your partner. You may be able to find coverage through your spouse’s workplace plan.

If you are married and have a pre-existing condition, make sure you have the condition covered by the employer. It is easy to rely on that the condition will be covered by the insurer. Also find out if the employer pays for tests or scans on your medical condition.

Insurance packages can vary widely. For example, the employer may offer a basic plan that includes coverage for doctor visits, hospitalization, and prescription drugs. The employer may also offer a more comprehensive plan that includes coverage for vision care and dental care.

Life Insurance

Many employers offer life insurance as part of their compensation package. The employer may provide a standard amount of life insurance coverage, or you may have the option to purchase additional coverage.

The employer may also require you to purchase life insurance as part of the employment agreement, regardless of your choice. In this case, the employer may pay for the life insurance or require you to pay for it out of your own pocket.

Retirement Plans

Defined-benefit pensions — traditional pensions to which your employer makes all contributions, and decides how much money will be contributed to your retirement plan at retirement. At retirement, the plan will pay you a fixed monthly benefit based on your years of service to the company and your salary. The contribution will stop then unless you change jobs or retire.

Cash-balance plans — also a common retirement plan for employers. Your employer will contribute a set amount each year to your cash-balance plan, and the amount will increase over time. This plan is often used for employees who have a defined-benefit pension plan.

Defined-contribution plans — the most popular version of the retirement plan is the defined-contribution plan. The employer will contribute a set amount based on your salary, and you can choose where to invest the money. The employer will also match a certain percentage of the contribution you make, and the amount will increase over time.

Vacation, Sick & Personal Days

Vacation, sick, personal days and other paid time off are important benefits for employees. The amount of paid time off you receive will depend on your position and the company you work for. You may also be entitled to additional paid time off for personal or family reasons, such as parental leave or bereavement.

Perks

Perks, or additional benefits, may also be offered by employers. These benefits can include tuition reimbursement, flexible spending accounts, health or dental insurance, or other perks that are offered by the company. It is important to consider these benefits when evaluating potential employers.

If you are interested in finding out more about the benefits offered by potential employers, you can contact the company directly. You can also ask your current employer about their benefits package, or you can research the benefits offered by potential employers online.

Career Management Center
Success in the Business World
Kappa Phi Delta Alumni Tea

Kappa Phi Delta Sorority recently held an Alumni Tea event with their alums. Organized by sister Sarah Wahlstrom Holgren, local alumni were invited to spend a Sunday afternoon at the Kappa house. Former Kappa who attended met several current members and learned of the progress Kappa has made since they graduated. Alumna also shared stories of their experiences at IT and Kappa, and reminisced about the days when Kappa had a chapter room in MSV and could only dream of having the house we have today. One of the alum shared with us the story of when she and a few other sisters got to meet the notorious Dennis Rodman! In turn, current sisters shared stories of what they are doing in Kappa and how the impact Kappa has had on their lives. The event gave all attendees further perspective on the varied history of Kappa and that it has taken as an organization over the years to become what it is today.

Department of Humanities writing contest

By Susan Mallgrave

The annual Lewis Department of Humanities Writing Contest has, for the 43rd year, brought out a wide-ranging display of talent from across all disciplines within IT. Each spring, the contest offers three top prizes in each of four separate categories: Freshman Essay Prize, Edwin H. Lewis Prizes for Non-Fiction and Fiction, and the Mollie Cohen Poetry Prize. This year, there were more than 70 entries. In the Freshman Essay category, Jyvish Raybakhov (BA/AS) won first prize for the essay “Amidst Darkness and Light: Gaea’s Henry and Cimino’s Mitch,” Anem Mein Khan (CA) placed second for the essay “The Joy of a Figure Eight,” and Usha Mandykar (PSYCH) took third prize for the essay “The Value of Life.” In the Edwin H. Lewis Non-Fiction division, Heather Seifert (BA/AS) claimed first place for her non-fiction piece entitled “Women As Body.” Sarah Criss (CA) took second place in a documentary piece she called “The Forgotten Women of the Depression and the Great Depression.” The third prize for this factual piece was called “Changing Lives in Lagos.”

In the Edwin H. Lewis Fiction category, the first prize winner was Sara Cies, who submitted a modern tale entitled “Her Mother’s Daughter,” the second prize winner was Heather Seifert, for a creative piece she named “Longed for Film, but Fillim, 50?” Her let alone adventure for the book in fiction was Julia Ruybalas, for a short story called “Flute.”

In the Mollie Cohen Poetry section, the contest, Bethany Zahn, Smith (BA/AS) claimed first place with her collection of poems called “Unfinished,” Jeffrey Yang (BA/COM) won second place for his poem called “My Hat is on My Shield,” and Christian Oswald (BME) claimed third prize for a group of poems called “Ten-Minute Short, Start.” I asked the first prize winner some questions about the process of writing entries in the contest, and received varying answers. For some of them writing is “a great way to relax,” and most mentioned writing being an emotional, therapeutic outlet, an escape from stress. One of the winners has a folder of intricate passages she has copied at various times, so she can read excerpts as a warm-up to her own writing. All of them have been writing for a large part of their lives, and one of them mentioned an affinity for plays on words. I also heard arguments about not having enough time to write for pleasure; most of the entries had been done for classwork.

All of the writers who entered the contest were honored at April 22 with a luncheon reception provided by Mike Gzaiz, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. The winning writers were greeted and announced by Humanities Department Chair Katrina Riley and Associate Chair Greg Pollard. The winners then received their prize money from Dean of Students Daig Greer, and entregals were announced by Mollie Cohen Poem of the Year competition with Writers.”

The Humanities Writing Contest was began in 1965, with endowments from benefactors Mollie Cohen and Edwin H. Lewis. M. Cohen was an Armour College graduate in 1924, later a Professor of Literature at IT for many years with a passion for poetry. Known as a “Reverence Man,” Edwin H. Lewis taught for many years at IT and held administrative positions in IT for forty years. Known with the university with the association between the senior university and the 19th century, and continued into the 50s. He was a “Lumiere, a musician, and a poet,” according to our IT Hall of Fame.

Writers at IT throughout the years have been inspired by and grateful to these two thoughtful and generous philanthropists.

Chicago Tech Spring 2008 IPRO Day results

By Kevin Guilkison

Last Saturday, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity held the first annual Alumni Family Outing. A good number of alumni, many with their families, came by to reminisce about the time they spent at IT. Most of the alumni who came were here at about the same time, and therefore already knew each other. They caught up with each other and told stories of what Pi Kappa Phi was like when they were here. It was incredible to hear tales of the parties they threw, as well as the wild and wacky events of fraternity life in the 80s. Anyone who walked by the quad that day saw something very rare: children. A few were playing catch and throwing baseballs all day. Others played in the basement, where we have a pool table. Still others played ping pong with each other and their parents. Around 3:00 pm, they all gathered for a picnic. They all turned their history with a brisk haircut, and a few minutes later the candy poured out. Needless to say, I was extremely sold.

While all of the alumni brought interesting stories to tell and things to do, alumni Patrick McKenna brought something very exciting. His dad had worked in the Chicago Police Department Canine Unit, and was able to get canine unit officer Saul Klapet to come to the family outing. For an animal that is trained to attack, the dog was very well behaved and playful. The officer told us a little bit about his job, about his dog, and then demonstrated how obedient his dog was. He let everyone pet the dog, and several families took pictures with it.

The alumni family outing was a huge success. The alumni and their families all had a great time looking forward to next year. The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are looking forward to hearing more stories and meeting older brothers from our alumni chapter.

A cappella back at IT training

By Ciaran Shaughnessy

It’s a very own cappella group, the TechTonic, took the stage Friday night for a tightly packed BLOC. The crowd greated the group with great applause, though they were still unsure what to expect, as it was the group’s first scheduled performance. However, they very soon learned that the TechTonic was no group to take lightly. Putting together a repertoire that pulled from many decades of song, the a cappella group impressed the crowd with their range, and could not quiet the applause afterwards. Soloist after soloist took the stage, surprising the crowd even more and proving IT to be a big school with a calibre few organizations can exist at a small tech school. For more information on the TechTonic or if you are interested in being a part of the group, email them at acauppella@iit.edu.

Illinois Tech Spring 2008 IPRO Day results

continued from front

I PRO Faculty of the Year: Peter Lykes, Chemistry Department

I PRO Leadership Awards:Anthony Purcell, IPRO 370 Team Director, IPRO 335
Ed Suda, IPRO 354
Avelo Roy, IPRO 354

Top Exhibits
1. IPRO 328 Testing and Improving a New Text for Teaching Computer Science
2. Rose Hulman
3. IPRO 354, eMotion: Conveying emotions wirelessly

Top Presentation
1. Rose Hulman
2. IPRO 310, Assistive Devices for Blind Swimmers
3. IPRO 332, Our Energy Futures, Creating Multimedia Education Modules

Best Invited Team
1. Rose Hulman

Top Business Plan
1. IENPRO 354, eMotion: Conveying emotions wirelessly
2. IENPRO 354, Information Design for Plant Management
3. IENPRO 329, Health Physics Computer Game Design for User Testing

Track 1
1. IPRO 308, Developing an Artificial Pancreas
2. IPRO 313 Ultra High Speed Market Data System
3. IPRO 344 Energy Efficient and Quality Audio in Mobile Devices and Other Applications

Track 3
1. IPRO 315, Design of a Large Scale System for Automated Parking Garage
2. IPRO 346, BP Whiting Refinery Expansion: Wastewater Cleanup Options
3. IPRO 307, Intelligent Transportation System Solutions for Chicago Areas

Track 4
1. Rose Hulman
2. IPRO 312, Active Pervasive Pavement System for Rainwater Control

Track 7 and 8, ENPRO
1. IENPRO 354, eMotion: Conveying emotions wirelessly
2. IENPRO 355 Augmented Reality for Personal Navigation
3. Sagamore Valley
### Public Safety Incident Reports

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Bronzeville neighborhood bus tours

By Sara Sustercic

A few days ago I was reading the Tribune and found a very interesting article about our surrounding neighbors. The Bronzeville Neighborhood Tours program offers a bus tour that includes a personalized tour through Washington Park, Hyde Park, Bronzeville, and Kenwood. The tour described in the Tribune article was given by Paul Bruce, an 83 year old former teacher who gave the tour, using his life as a backdrop. Bruce gave passengers his life story in detail, the story of the area, which is what caught my attention. Bruce’s tour contained many notable stops and visits, including the sites where the Sutherland Hotel, Sewey Ballrooms and Regal Theaters had all once stood. All had been part of a booming jazz center and now exist only as ghosts of a past long gone. The tour also included driving past Senator Obama’s house and the lot where the school Bruce had once taught 50 children had once stood.

Music Review: 12 Ways to Live

By Udayan Das

“12 Ways to Live” is as solid as its namesake

By Colin Emch-Wei

After reflecting on the meaning of the word "Iron Man," I was thirsting to see a superhero movie again. Even one as instalments as “Iron Man,” I went into the movie expecting to only see an endless stream of gadget porn.

I have never been so wrong. If “Iron Man” is any indication of what the summer movie season is going to be like, this may be the best summer in a long time. Simply put, “Iron Man” was absolutely incredible. A sterling cast led by Robert Downey Jr., paired with extremely strong writing, plus mind-blowing action made “Iron Man” a must-see movie for anyone who even remotely likes comics.

We are first introduced to the brilliant playboy Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) in Afghanistan, where he is demonstrating his latest weapon of mass destruction to the United States military. After the test, his convoy is attacked by a terrorist faction and he is kidnapped. During his imprisonment, Stark is shown how his weapons are being used by terrorists to menace innocent and helpless people. Shocked to reality by the horror he has witnessed, he employs his genius to solving this problem: he designs a suit that gives him superhuman powers, enabling him to protect the people that he once indirectly killed.

Music Review: 12 Ways to Live

Album Review: “12 Ways to Live” (2007) – By Emily White

Not only is “12 Ways to Live” a perfect album to write a review for, it has been on my mind for quite some time. The theme of the album is “life choices,” and the way in which Emily White expresses these is so thoughtfully and genuinely beautiful. The musical style is simple, the lyrics are evocative, and the overall effect is nothing short of a masterpiece.

Emily White’s voice is the perfect vehicle for these lyrics. It is clear that she has put a lot of effort into her craft, both in terms of her singing and in the choice of songs she performs. The way in which she delivers her songs is nothing short of stunning.

Emily White’s Website: http://www.emilywhite.com/

MySpace Page: http://www.myspace.com/emilywhite

Buy it here: http://www.emilywhite.com/store.html

OR of course, use the search bar and enter "12 Ways to Live" into it.

Read an expanded version of this review (soon): http://writingaboutmusic.blogspot.com/
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Across
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2. 11- ___ Piper
3. "I had no ___!
4. Microbe
5. "Evening" actress Col-
6. 17. Some forensic evi-
7. 18. Navigator's need
8. Stage signal
9. Person, e.g.
10. Balloon filler
e.g.
11. 24. Sri Lanka export
12. 25. Animal with a mane
13. 26. Last name in comedies
14. 27. Friend in war
15. Shopping ___

Down
1. Rome's Eros
2. Pizza herb
3. Walk in water
4. Flower stalk
5. Hannah played one in
"Splash"
6. Shoelace problem
7. Serge, as the knee
8. The "M" of E.M.T.
9. Vineyard fruit
10. Decoy
11. Ump's call
12. Cocktail
13. Go before
14. Aunt's husband
15. Consumed

Rude Doku