KIEA Boot Camp a towering success

By Zach Hench

The Kern Innovation and Entrepreneurship Academy (KIEA) is an elite group of twenty-five undergraduate science and engineering students. Funded by the Kern Family Foundation, KIEA helps its members apply the entrepreneurial mindset to their fields of study and promotes innovative thinking. KIEA students have the opportunity to receive feedback on how to further improve their product’s marketability or usability.

During the weekend of August 28th-29th, the inaugural group of KIEA students attended the first-ever KIEA Boot Camp. This two-day event began with an ice-breaking session led by Dr. David Pistrui, Coleman Foundation Chair in Entrepreneurship and leader of the Entrepreneurship Program at IIT. Students then watched a video about the inner workings of IDEO, a design and innovation firm. After learning about the “deep dive” method of product development, students were put into groups and given until midnight to select a product, come to a consensus on at least one problem with that product, create a quick prototype of a new version of the product, and prepare a presentation about the process.

The next morning, KIEA members gathered at TechNexus, directly across from Willis Tower, to present their ideas in front of their peers and a group of professors including Jianwen Liao, Victor Perez-Luna, and Francisco Ruiz. New products included motion-sensing escalators, automatically opening ambulance doors, and glasses that would allow a person to read in bed without disturbing his or her roommate or spouse. After their presentations, students received feedback on how to further improve their product’s marketability or usability.

During a working lunch, Dr. Pistrui and the other professors led several additional exercises that focused on defining the engineer of the future, understanding Robertson’s Rules (i.e. horticulturally boring and monotonous topics). This year’s retreat exercises were comprised of several fast paced free-thinking discussions and team building sessions with little discussion on Parliamentary Procedure and Robertson’s Rules.

The retreat definitely exemplified and promoted something that KIEA hasn’t seen since its conception. KIEA members are significantly more comfortable with each other than in the past years. Discussions were flying and people were laughing like I haven’t seen in KIEA before. Members that were normally quiet were participating in discussions. People were learning about important topics without even realizing they were learning. (Often times I wish IIT education followed an approach similar to that last session.)

What does this mean to you? Why should you care? I have been an organization leader for much of my time on IIT campus. One of the most important things I have found is that if people are not comfortable with each other, or they are not having a good time, you are not going to get much done. Would you want to work with people you weren’t comfortable with? This is a simplistic statement to make, but sometimes it can be hard to recognize. I’m serious, even KIEA students have difficulty recognizing and tackling group comfort issues for nearly three years! In order for me to entirely explain why this retreat is important to you, I must also say this: SGA exists to improve IIT. We are here to make IIT a better place for YOU! We are not here just “because.” If KIEA students are comfortable and excited about being involved, they are much, much more likely to have a very successful year. This says to me that the university as a whole will be able to expect and benefit from the great things SGA will do. I have seen SGA do great things in past years. I wouldn’t be writing this if I weren’t expecting even more accomplishments than in past years. I am expecting huge university improvements from SGA this year. I think you, the reader, can expect great accomplishments as well. You have no reason not to, as we all want IIT to be the best place it can be for its students.

If you have any questions or concerns, I STRONGLY encourage you to email sgajit.edu. We also have a new website that is still semi-under construction, but you can still check us out! sa@iit.edu. Have a great day!
Response: The absurdity of the textbook

By Abhishek Gunduguri

This is a reply to the thought-provoking opinion article from last issue, about the apparently astronomical cost of textbooks.

First of all, the article by Erik Johnson was a mix of intellect, math and entertainment. I especially loved the references to XBox game systems, Doctor Who DVDs, and best of all – the Kindle. I have a few replies unto the topic of textbooks in general and the Kindle in specific.

Textbooks in college are an expensive affair, no doubt about that. I was an undergrad student at IIT and spent close to a fortune on textbooks. I graduated, and I feel I graduated with a lot of textbooks because I still hold on to each one of them – probably because of the amount of money I spent on each one. As a freshman, I questioned the exorbitant price of a textbook, and asked myself if there was a solution. Of course, that was a lie because as a freshman, I rarely asked questions and did what I was told (for better or for worse.) As the sophomore and junior buying textbooks, I realized how much more those textbooks cost. And just as IIT tuition fees kept increasing, so did the cost of the textbooks. In math terms, there was a linear relationship between higher education learning and textbook cost. You learn more, when you spend more on your textbooks, figuratively.

However, the faculty council and university ‘recommend’ some textbooks and why does the bookstore/professors make a luxury not all people of this world can afford? You are presently pursuing higher education, who have realized your place on this planet, and why does the bookstore/professors make a luxury not all people of this world can afford? As a Gen-Y gal, I always loved shopping and would go out shopping at any point of the day. As I grew up in India shopping was a hobby for me. The prices back in India seemed affordable and sometimes didn’t even matter because my dad would pick up the tab.

Nothing seemed out of reach and the world was jealous. Now though, as a new graduate student with priorities, shopping is no longer a hobby. It’s a game of business strategies and thinking a hundred times to buy a single item. This is all because I’m in Chicago shopping in Chicago, as I found out, can be a very money- and energy-draining experience.

As a new comer to shopping in not only Chicago but also the United States, I got an opportunity to visit Water Tower Place with one of my friends. I confessed though, that I was somewhat unprepared. I had only $30 in my purse but had a magic card (something banks call a credit card.) As I entered the mall, it was like a magical moment and I forgot the entire world. I was lost in the charm of shopping that I forgot why I was in Chicago, what I’m doing in the United States and all I wanted to do was to acquire everything that was there.

The whole atmosphere of the mall, with an ingenious fountain at the entrance, 7-levels of brand name stores, the ambiance, the architecture...everything was very mesmerizing. I noticed people walking around in business suits, women in fancy summer clothes, some in fancier gowns and everyone busy with their shopping – almost with spiritual dedication. It was like the moment in “Confessions of a Shopoholic”, when I observed how much happier people are when they go out shopping. Shopping is really a very good stress buster, for me, and probably for these people as well. All this felt like dreamsland for me.

Macy’s was the first store I walked into and it was just fabulous. I came across some really good full designs. Though they were all very lovely to look at, my friends and I had to stop back because of ‘sticker shock’. Recommended by a friend, we then went to a place were we could actually afford something. ‘Forever 21’ sounded more like a fairy tale store for me. This was a store where we could actually like dresses and afford them. Though we were happily immersed in our dress try-out, our plans to buy something nice ran into rough waters due to the in-store staff. There was a snappy customer service rep, and they were in a mortal hurry to close the store, even though it was only 8pm on a weekday. The rush to kick us out of the door that the saleswoman displayed was shocking to me because shopping back in India was about being pampered by the salesperson and about being coaxed into buying more and more even if the store had been closed already. By the time we chose something to buy, the store decided that they had closed the counters and it was too late to actually buy anything. The sales clerk only produced a fake sad smile to pretend they cared about us.

But I almost believe, when everything is going wrong, you automatically come back on the right track. So, maybe its just that God wanted me to know the value of every penny I spent. I can always buy all those things once I start earning.

Corrections

TechNews mistakenly published an article titled “Reconstructing History” in the Campus section in the September 15th issue. The article was not completed or ready for publication. We apologize for the mistake.

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New bathroom policy in MSV: now effective

By Christina Noonan

I believe that RA's were supposed to bring this up in their first meeting to MSV residents, but this year Housing and Residence Life made a new policy banning the opposite gender from using the bathrooms. In previous years, floors were allowed to vote on the inclusion of guests in bathrooms that were not of their gender.

However, from my understanding, this concrete decision was made without the knowledge or consent of the residents. I personally think it's important to me how I feel about it yet. Living on fourth Lewis, male guests have to go all the way to the first floor lounge to use the bathroom. Additionally, if they live off campus, the treatment is even more so bad. Hopefully this information will be posted in future meetings regarding whether they can use make showers in other halls or if they must return home instead. I lived in ASA sorority house for a while and their rules allowed boys to use the bathrooms, if they were announced before entering and were accompanied by their respective "host".

Personally, I've been on both sides of the fence concerning the boys in the bathrooms. I could say it was okay for me if I'm feeling funny and I'm not in a rush, there's a guy walking out of the shower, or almost running for a fun experience. Also, it can be very awkward and uncomfortable to have random guys walking around in the area where you are constantly unzipping, undressing, and using the restroom. However, as I mentioned, living on 4th Lewis provides a lot of frustration for male guests or visitors who need to use the bathroom. I consider this as I would say that they'll need to go down four flights of stairs and out of the hall to use the restroom around the corner, only to come back up all those stairs afterward. I feel the situation is really something that should be addressed on a floor to floor basis, not only due to the number of students and their differentiating opinions, but also the fact that between the two genders, it's usually the girls who care more about males in their bathroom than the opposite situation. I know on my floor there are actually two divided bathrooms. So, if a male happens to accidentally knock on the other for girls and the occasional guest (including rules, like being announced first, no showering, or whatever the floor director decides) is there even a chance that if this was not a good option, a small guest bathroom be installed on the higher floors of single gender floors? We have huge trash rooms in Lewis, perhaps this could be handled there.

I realized that this was a pretty drastic change from previous years as far as the policy went and wanted to introduce the conversation to students and staff involved. I feel like a better approach might have been to address the students with the proposal and explain why you wanted to change the current system so we both understood why this change took place. As always, if any students or staff have comments on the matter, please feel free to write to TechNews and let us know what's up.

Sodexo, food for thought on campus dining

By Anonymous

In the past, I brought up some improvements Housing could consider to make their office run perhaps a bit more smoothly. Last week, we’re writing on Sodexo. Despite the food here at IIT currently being under the scrutiny of many students, I am here to say: IT CAN BE GOOD. As most upperclassmen will tell you: food quality oscillates between good and bad days, especially around visitation weekends and scholarship interviews for incoming students. It has only had some really great days this summer, when the “Teach for America” members were residing on our campus. Personally, I say that I’ve heard from many many students that Wendy, the general manager, has really made some great improvements for the students and takes our comments and concerns more seriously than previous managers. I’ve also seen how many students have weird meal needs and to what great lengths Sodexo can go to accommodate them. All that being said, I think the food here still has a while before students are raving about it. I’ve been to other schools where Sodexo is serving food, and it seems to be better there. Maybe it’s in my head, but I wonder why I feel there is such a difference between Sodexo here and elsewhere. Furthermore, I’ve noticed a great deal of requests from the students at the Commons from previous years. This really upsets me, since I’m still paying the same amount of rent. It’s hard to make decisions about the same meal plan, etc.) from previous years! Things that have mysteriously gone missing:

- Chocolate milk (!?)
- The ice cream machine (my favorite thing in the Commons)
- The sandwich station
- The breakfast station (what happened to omelets? I loved those create-your-own kind)

Will things keep disappearing from the Commons without our consent? Do we even have any say in the matter? Another concern I’ve had is with the “create your own” meal plan. While I much prefer this plan of the others, I also wonder how much I’m simply losing to Sodexo. The reason I use the word “losing” is because I do think about it, how the numbers play out:

$3,658.00 for the year is the cost of the “create your own” plan, which includes 175 meals for the semester. So, if you do the calculation dollars/meal ($3,658/350), then you are spending about $10.50 per meal. First of all, if you look at the price per meal individually, I believe lunch and breakfast are around 10 dollars, making this plan only cost effective by eating in the Commons for dinner only.

To make matters worse, if you exchange these meals to bonus points, you only get 6 $6 per meal. In other words, you’re losing about $4.50 per meal you change! So, Sodexo is making that money for nothing. Just for fun, let’s say you decided to change all of your meals into bonus points because you really didn’t like the food in the Commons. That’s $4.30 x 356 meals (per school year)=$1,575.00 they make for nothing! Granted, there is no tax for bonus points used, but I don’t believe it adds up to this much of a difference. Tax is currently 10.25% in Chicago. If I spent all of my bonus points ($3x350=1000 bonus point) I would save 10.25% of that number, which is $184.50. While this is a lot of money, it certainly doesn’t compare to the $1,575 mentioned earlier that Sodexo makes just for keeping you on a meal plan and making you switch to bonus points as opposed to letting you buy meals yourself with cash. Also, why aren’t any prices displayed on the IIT Sodexo website? Why are they on the Housing website only?

Overall, we go to a Tech school. I’m not sure if they’re hoping we don’t do the math, or assuming we’ll suck it up and pay anyways, but I’m tired of being paid for something and wondering where my money is going. I feel that if paying about ten dollars a meal for food to Sodexo, why can’t I consider this much money? I considered this much money to food at all of your dining locations and with kitchens)? Students still have access to food at all of your dining locations and can pay with cash or credit... like any other restaurant. Perhaps with a smaller group of students opting to use the company, you can proportionally readjust your budget and food to fit the people who want to eat there. In the long run, we’re the consumer and the student and should have a say about what we’re buying, even if we’re a forced consumer.

All in all though, I know the company has come a long way from where it began since I arrived at the school. I know I still has a ways to grow to better please the student body and perhaps be more understanding towards our complaints and needs. Perhaps the company could take the time off of their busy schedule to come to the Commons more often, but he may also tell his friends about his good experience there. I feel this is the crux of the matter. We love seeing them. Hopefully supply new pens and the white board and really answer our “craves” and address some of our “rants.” If students see that you’ve made an effort to please them by including a particular dish one that was introduced on the raves section of the board, I feel that it will be much more helpful for you to see that students want to come to the Commons more often, but he may also tell his friends about his good experience there.

Another issue Sodexo might not have considered is that not everyone WANTS to eat all they can (or care to eat). I eat small meals many times throughout the day, which is actually much healthier for you. For some students, it’s even necessary. I know many students with low blood sugar who say they need to eat every few hours. Without paying much more for an unlimited plan, I can’t eat like this. It’s not that I eat a lot of food, I just eat frequently. Again though, not all students are like this, and I can understand why such a plan could be taken advantage of. I’m just sad there’s not a better option for me. On the other hand, I’m also a vegetarian, and Sodexo has gotten much better at incorporating vegetarian and vegan options into the Commons. I applaud your work in that area! I miss having a separate area just for the vegetarian options, but we had for the summer, but that’s getting a bit picky. There are a lot of vegetarian options available, such as cheese pizza, and bread, pastas, salads, Asian cuisine, and I’ve even seen veggie burgers before! I also say that the opening day BBQ was WONDERFUL! Although there were so many people, the incorporation of new specials like a dessert line made it a wonderful experience I heard many people asking why the Commons couldn’t be like that every day. I understand that economically, there’s no way that we could have that kind of environment, but perhaps small things like chocolate milk would be nice to re-incorporate to keep students happy. Perhaps supply new pens for the white board and really answer our “craves” and address some of our “rants.”

If students see that you’ve made an effort to please them by including a particular dish one that was introduced on the raves section of the board, I feel that it will be much more helpful for you to see that students want to come to the Commons more often, but he may also tell his friends about his good experience there.

Also, there is a food committee for anyone unaware? I’ve heard good and bad things about the group of some of my friends were at one time a part of it and got frustrated and left after their suggestions were treated more like meaningless requests than demands. On the other hand, I’ve been told they are responsible for the “create your own” plan, which, despite it’s flaws (as mentioned above), allows for much more flexibility than the other plans if you don’t like eating in the Commons. Sodexo has offered much frustration for me and many of my friends. I find myself figuring out ways to try and get out of the meal plan to save some money in the long run. I wish they didn’t require you to have one! At other schools, meal plans are required for freshmen while they adjust to the college atmosphere, but after a year of experience, everyone is allowed to change to another plan or no plan at all. Why are we FORCED to buy a meal plan if we live on campus? (with note to exhaust the company, you can proportionally readjust your budget and food to fit the people who want to eat there. In the long run, we’re the consumer and the student and should have a say about what we’re buying, even if we’re a forced consumer. However, I have been on both sides of the fence concerning the Commons. In the past, I thought RAs were supposed to bring this up in their first meeting to MSV residents, but this year Housing and Residence Life made a new policy banning the opposite gender from using the bathrooms. In previous years, floors were allowed to vote on the inclusion of guests in bathrooms that were not of their gender.

However, from my understanding, this concrete decision was made without the knowledge or consent of the residents. I personally think it's important to me how I feel about it yet. Living on fourth Lewis, male guests have to go all the way to the first floor lounge to use the bathroom. Additionally, if they live off campus, the treatment is even more so bad. Hopefully this information will be posted in future meetings regarding whether they can use make showers in other halls or if they must return home instead. I lived in ASA sorority house for a while and their rules allowed boys to use the bathrooms, if they were announced before entering and were accompanied by their respective "host".

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http://www.iit.edu/~sodexho/catering.html
Recent news in Housing
By Brian Kibbe

There have been some big waves in the world of housing at IIT that many readers may be aware of. The story of the spring 2009 Spring Semester. The university revealed plans that had been merely rumors up to that point, which would prevent freshmen from canceling housing contracts in order to live in Greek chapter houses. When the word came down from President Anderson, Provost Cramb, and other administrators, the rationale was centered on the financial loses expected if enough freshmen move out of McCormick Student Village and State Street Village. Because of the turbulent economy and lower projections for enrollment, the push to keep students in the dorms was in order to secure the availability and quality of those housing options for students.

In an interview Dean Geiger said that there was no aggressive ill will against the Greek community, it came down to how to pay the bills.

However, because the long-standing process of chapter recruiting (“rushing”) freshmen into membership many times included living in the physical houses of those chapters with such access, many of the unhappy students. In the case of many fraternities it was one of the most attractive aspects of the decision, because it provided a new level of freedom for living, food other than Sodexo, and often lower prices. There was a strong sense of fear among the Greek community about the new difficulties of recruiting members, maintaining interest in new members, and affording the cost of living with fewer people.

With the university set to make the policy reality, and the Greek community worried about its impact, several meetings were called between chapter presidents, recruitment chairs, and heads of administration. They discussed why this was happening and how the Greeks and administrators could work together to make this mutually acceptable. Compromises were made in the form of waiving move-out fees for the Spring semester and the extension of Rush to two weeks. The administration even made an application for the chapters to request money to help with the financial stability issue; however only Delta Tau Delta - Gamma Beta chapter requested any financial aid.

After several meetings and discussion about what the policy would mean for both the school and Greeks, Greek Council and many chapter houses began planning how to reach out to students in the dorms, and adjust new member programs to maintain retention. But throughout all these negotiations and planning the Sigma Phi Epsilon - II Beta chapter took a strong stance that what the school was changing was intolerable. They argued that regardless of any written contracts concerning housing, there was an historical precedent to allow freshmen to move out into fraternities and sororities. With this and some lawyers, the Sig Eps took IIT to court for violating unwritten precedent that has the same legal standing as the written contracts.

Study abroad: a look into the application process
By Adam Kadzban

Hello! Greetings from Sweden. This is Adam Kadzban, and I’m currently studying abroad at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), in Stockholm. As a TechNews writer, I’ve been reporting with writing a few articles about studying abroad in general, and my experiences in particular. This week I’ll write about the process of applying.

It all started the day I found out a friend of mine was going to study abroad. I had mulled over the idea since coming to IIT, and had even stopped to talk to someone at a Study Abroad booth. I’ve always wanted to go to Scandinavia, and I had met a few KTH students studying at IIT, so I figured it would be a great place to go.

I emailed the Study Abroad Coordinator (Louis Beredniczky, beredniczky@iit.edu), and set up an appointment with him. He was very helpful with pointing me towards information about the program, and I soon decided that Stockholm was the place for me. IIT has an exchange program set up with KTH, so the process for me was quite easy. Also, because of the exchange agreement, I’m paying regular IIT tuition and all my financial aid still applies! You can go to schools that IIT doesn’t have an exchange program with, though that process is a bit more difficult and requires more paperwork. Here’s how the application process works.

First, you have to apply to the IIT Study Abroad program. You’ll need information about yourself, where and when you’d like to go, and then explain why you think it would be a good idea for you to go. These applications are due twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. I sent mine in during the Spring 2009 semester. After you get accepted, you have to apply to the actual school you want to attend. For me, this was extremely easy, as the application consisted of basically outlining my contact information and where I would be there. I had to send a picture, too, but that was easy since there’s a place on 339E where you can get a passport photo done. After getting the letter of acceptance back from the school, you’ll need to get a passport (I already had one), and you’ll need to apply for a visa (after getting the passport). This is the hardest part of the process for me, mostly for its length and a few tricky questions. The Study Abroad office was very helpful throughout the whole process though, and it went smoothly. I got my passport back from the Swedish Consulate in mid-July, with my visa in it. I left at the beginning of August, and so far the experience has been amazing.

As you can tell, the process to actually study abroad isn’t very difficult. It does involve a little bit of paperwork, but compared to how much fun you’ll have abroad, it’s definitely worth it. There’s a ton more information available online, at http://studyabroad.iit.edu, so if you’re interested even a little bit, check it out! The application deadline for studying abroad in Spring 2010 just passed (September 18), but that just means you’ve got a whole semester to figure out where you want to go, and apply in the spring!
By Nicole Gregory

Chemistry Colloquium

By William P Syvongsa

CAMPUS
Meet Public Safety’s new head: Raymond Martinez

Raymond Martinez, head of public safety and veteran officer, trained in the use of fire arms and self-defense, has been working with the freshmen at IIT. He has only been here for about a month and he has ideas on how to change things for the better.

Raymond works for Levy Security, which has a contract with IIT’s safety department. Before coming here, he was the director of security for Northwestern Hospital.

There, he was in charge of the safety of seven thousand people, so the level of activity is about the same between the hospital and IIT. He is also in charge of the Moffitt, Rice, and downtown campus. He has in his employ at IIT 70+ full-time officers trained in self-defense and safety tactics. They have all gone through a rigorous examination and background check process, so IIT PSD is in fact a select group of officers. The Public Safety Department also has good rapport with District 21 Chicago Police Department.

The first question on my mind had to do with the bicycle thefts on campus. It is no secret that such thefts have increased dramatically this semester, and I asked him what public safety was doing to decrease that number. “In order to address this problem, the employment of the staff has been changed to better patrol the problem areas more often,” was his response. The officers have also branched out from the patrol cars to bicycles, walking, even aerial surveillance.

But it is impossible to watch every single bike on campus at all hours. Mr. Martinez stressed that the students must also put more effort into guarding their bikes. Graphite u-locks and chains are the way to go; cable locks can be cut with a simple bolt or wire cutter. In fact, Public Safety did arrest a fellow outside of SSV carrying cutting tools and a BB gun. He admitted that he was there for the reason of stealing bikes. Mr. Martinez would like to host an informational meeting on the types of bike locks to get and the proper way to lock your bike so that it or, various pieces of it, will not be at risk of being stolen.

When asked about his plans for Public Safety, first and foremost on his mind was to decrease thefts and increase awareness of danger on the South Side. He also mentioned that the president’s office has asked PSD to implement policies that will remove the “blatant disregard” for IIT’s “zero tolerance policy,” and Mr. Martinez is going to be talking to each Greek organization separately.

Mr. Martinez made a point near the end of the interview of stressing how important student feedback is to Public Safety. If there is a problem that is a safety issue, it needs to be reported ASAP in order to insure that it does not become a bigger issue. These could be things like broken windows, suspicious persons, an unlit area of campus that poses a danger at night, etc. Suggestions can be posted at http://publicsafety.iit.edu, or emailed directly to marit22@iit.edu.

By Nicole Gregory

I would be honest. I had no idea what the heck a colloquium was. Webster’s Pocket Dictionary defines a colloquium as an organized conference or seminar. I thought it was a dinner at a hotel.

I now know what I attended on Friday, September 4, 2009. The colloquium was held between 11:25AM-12:40PM in the Life Sciences building in room 111. The colloquium could be attended by any interested party, but specifically it had chemistry 490 and 500 students (easily observed by the sign-in sheet, as well as the worksheet that was circulating around for some students). I would estimate that roughly thirty people showed up to listen to IIT’s own Dr. Sandra Whaley Bishnoi from the Chemistry division in the Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences department.

Dr. Bishnoi was giving a seminar titled, “Developing analytical methods for tracking nanoparticle internalization within cells and their uses in nanotoxicity studies.” First, the title was very difficult to say in one breath. Second, being a freshman who has only taken AP Chemistry last year in high school, I thought that I was going to be horrified. But Dr. Bishnoi knows what she is talking about. She was very passionate and clear when she was explaining the methods used to coat nanoparticles and what substances were used to coat them so well. Besides explaining, she also went into some detail about how they could be tested for nanotoxicity since the particles were in the body. Although I rarely was sure what she said was even in English, the fact that she seemed passionate about this topic held my attention and I began to pick up key words that gave me the messages clearly.

I actually learned a few things from the talk. I learned how fast our technology is growing (nanoparticles are the way to go). I learned that going to a colloquium is not boring like I originally thought, but actually thought provoking. I’m thinking someone right inside the school, attempting to develop technology that will one day better life for everyone on Earth. The moral of the story is I attended a colloquium (now you know what one is) and actually learn a few things!
**University Calendar**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

**Premed Orientation**
12:45am-1:45pm, LS 111
Presentation includes information on entrance requirements, what makes a competitive applicant, and resources.

**Getting a Job: Interviewing**
12:50pm-1:50pm, CMC, Galvin Library
Learning about companies is an important part of the job search process. Knowing company products, projects, and successes are essential to writing good resumes and cover letters and interviewing well. This workshop will cover ways in which you can research companies so that you can show hiring managers you are serious about their company and position.

**IEA Monthly Meeting**
12:40pm-1:50pm, SB 111
Lunch will be served and we will discuss this year’s IEA Idea Challenge and 2009 Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization National Conference. All IIT students are welcome to join us!

**Homecoming Volleyball Game**
5:00pm, Keating
Come out and cheer for our Women’s Volleyball team as they face off against Trinity International. Scarlet Fever will be there with free food and items to give away to the crowd!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

**CMAA Meeting**
12:50pm, LS 111
This is our first meeting of the year, and we will be hosting a viewing of an Extreme Engineering video, with free food, sign up for upcoming field trips, and other activities. Come learn about the exciting things we have planned for this semester and year! Question? Please email cmaa@iit.edu.

**Intro to Coop & Internship**
3-4:00pm, CMC, Galvin Library
This is a two part workshop. During the first half all students will learn how to qualify for, enroll in and renew their Co-op. Once the first half is completed United States Citizens and Permanent Residents will have the option of leaving. During the second half of the workshop, the International Center and CMC will present on the policies and procedures all international students must know before accepting off-campus employment as part of their allowed Curricular Practical Training (CPT) time.

**Lecture on Karma Theory**
7-8:00pm, Wishnick 116
Second of the four part seminar on introduction to vedic studies, this lecture will dwell on karma and its repercussions from authorized sources.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

**“On the Future Possibility of Liberal Education”**
7:00pm, Shimer College, (3424 S. State Street) Cinderella Lounge, 2nd Floor
Dr. Glenn has written extensively on the history of political philosophy, American political thought, and religion in both the Constitution and in modern political philosophy. He has written on such topics as Hobbes and Locke on natural rights and limited government, the Electoral College, James Madison on how the Constitution deals with religion, the anti-Federalists and the First Amendment religion clauses, and the Reagan/Mondale debate about religion in the 1984 campaign.

**Latin Music Night**
8pm-Midnight, BOG
What’s it to you?! 25 cent chicken wings and the best songs ever, that’s what!

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

**Getting a Job: Search Letters**
10am-11:00am, CMC, Galvin Library
When job searching, there are many types of letters that can help you succeed. From letters of inquiry, to cover letters, to thank you letters, this workshop will cover many of the ways you can improve your job prospects by presenting yourself in a well written, professional manner.

**Club Night**
9:00pm-Midnight, MSV Lawn
Come on out to the MSV lawn for free food, drinks, a cash bar, and glow sticks. There will be a DJ playing some danceworthy songs all night, and it is sure to be an event for the record books. Come dressed comfortably and bring your friends!

**Chemistry Colloquium**
11:25am, LS 111
Since their discovery in the early 1980’s, semiconductor nanocrystals (NCs) have gained a large amount of attention due to their unique optical and electronic properties. The size dependent bandgaps and nearly perfect luminescent properties of NCs have been the subject of numerous investigations; presently, the use of NCs in bioimaging has become a significant research endeavor. The Snee group has recently addressed two problems in this area by developing new methods for functionalizing nanomaterials with biological and other

**Karaoke Friday**
8:00pm-Midnight, BOG
What’s it to you?! 25 cent chicken wings and the best songs ever, that’s what!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

**Day of Service**
9am-1:00pm, Office of Student Life (MTCC)
Students volunteer all over Chicago. More details on sites and sign-ups to follow.

**Homecoming Soccer Game**
Noon, Stuart Field
Here it is everyone! the homecoming soccer game, our very own scarlet hawks (both mens and womens) soccer team goes up against Holy Cross University! Scarlet fever will be there with homecoming shirts and don’t forget that our homecoming Carnival right after!

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

**Homecoming Carnival**
5pm, quad
This is our final celebration, starting with the parade and ending at the Quad with many inflatable rides and obstacle courses to navigate through with human spheres or large wacky trikes.

**Transitioning from Student to Professional**
12:55-1:50pm, CMC, Galvin Library
Become a pro at “sealing the deal,” and getting the job offer you want. Get tips on making a successful transition into the work world. This workshop was previously titled: The Final Two Minutes. (This workshop is required to become a Certified Candidate).
By Graeme Port

SPORTS EDITOR

With the school’s Intramural and Recreation program now up and running, TechNews sent me to interview the new department head, Jason Neal, to find out what opportunities he hopes his new sports program offers IIT’s students.

If you’ve been down to Keating Sports Center since the start of the Fall Semester you may have noticed fliers advertising a number of new sports classes. Yoga is already going strong with Tai Chi, Pilates, and Belly Dancing set to start in the coming weeks. With a number of intramural tournaments planned for Homecoming week, and an expanded set of programs scheduled to begin in the spring, I went to get the low down on the schools new Intramural and Recreation program from the new department head, Jason Neal.

Graeme Port: So Jason, what exactly is the Office of Intramurals and Recreation responsible for?

Jason Neal: My office has four primary areas of responsibility: intramural sports, recreation (fitness and fun), club sports, and community affairs.

GP: I see… so what’s your overall approach to intramurals programming?

JN: My approach to intramurals is simple: I want to give people what they ask for. I have learned the hard way that people will participate in activities if they want to. My approach to intramurals programming is simple: I want to give people what they ask for. I have learned the hard way that people will participate in activities if they want to.

JN: Based on numbers and feedback, we will develop leagues in my second year for the most popular sports, and continue to offer non-league tournaments and events for other sports.

JN: A decision has been made that club sports will transition to my office soon. We are still working out the details with Student Affairs, but you can expect it to happen soon.

When it does, I will meet with all the club sport advisors and leaders, individually and collectively, so that we can talk about how I can best support our club sports with the resources of my office.

GP: What date roughly then should students expect to see intramural activities begin?

JN: During homecoming, we plan to offer mini-tournaments throughout the week for ultimate Frisbee, flag football, and softball. Later in the Fall Semester, we plan to have a tennis tournament, and 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 basketball tournaments. In the spring, we will expand to try out other sports, such as cricket, floor hockey and volleyball. The basic idea for the first year is to offer as many tournaments as I can, in order to gauge interest and involvement. Based on numbers and feedback, we will develop leagues in my second year for the most popular sports, and continue to offer non-league tournaments and events for other sports.

GP: That sounds like your covering a pretty wide range of sports which is great for students. Moving away from intramurals then, what kinds of recreation activities will you offer this fall?

JN: We have already started recreation programming. Yoga runs Tuesdays, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. On the first night, we had 65 people! I was very pleased to see such a strong start. I had to go out and buy some more yoga mugs! And we have already made a few changes. On Sept. 15, we moved Yoga down to the raquetball courts. I have hired an additional instructor, and we have now split the class into two groups, using two of the raquetball courts. This allows for a quieter, more intimate setting, without fear of getting hit with a raquetball! It will also give participants a chance to study under two different teachers.

GP: That sounds like a good idea but is the time of the classes not a little late for some students? Do you have anything for commuter students who can’t make late classes?

JN: We will also be offering Pilates on Wednesdays, starting Sept. 23rd, and Belly Dancing on Thursdays, starting Sept. 24, as lunch-time fitness classes. These classes will be held on the North Basketball Court from 1pm to 1:45pm, so that people will have a chance to catch lunch, either before or after class. I also plan to offer Tai Chi as a morning fitness class once a week. I am still observing instructors before I hire one. Once I do, we’ll set dates and times, and I’ll get the word out.

GP: Are the classes also available for staff and faculty?

JN: Yeah of course. Staff and faculty are welcome to participate in any of our events. For fitness classes, the cost is only $5 per session. I don’t know of any gym or park district that can beat that! And we will also include them in intramurals, for instance, by making every team in the 5-on-5 basketball tournament have at least one staff/faculty member. That won’t be a rule for 3-on-3 tournaments, but staff/faculty can certainly play on any team or forms of their own.

GP: Will any special events be offered through the Office of Intramurals and Recreation?

JN: Of course. I am working on getting permission for a fall “Tackle the Tower”, where participants will walk from Keating to the IIT Tower at 5th and State, climb the stairs to the top and back down, and walk back to Keating. This could be IIT’s scaled-down version of Chicago’s “Hustle up the Hancock” event. I would like to do it as a fundraiser for a worthwhile charity, perhaps the Wounded Warrior Project. I took two students with me on Friday, and we completed the whole thing in less than 40 minutes.

JN: I will plan to collaborate with other offices to offer “stress-buster” activities throughout the semester, and especially during Finals Week. And in the spring, I would like to organize a Pump and Run event and an indoor/outdoor triathlon.

GP: That sounds like some really great ideas. So what part of your job then involves community affairs?

JN: It is my understanding that I will be representing the athletic department and the college to the outside world. I have a history of working with community organizations, and that can be helpful in building bridges. I have met with Vice President Leroy Kennedy to discuss what that picture might look like, and together we are finding ways for the Athletic Department to be involved in the life of the community. The important thing there is that our community involvement should fall in line with the Many Voices, One Vision strategic plan. I will be handling facility management, transfer, and all the responsibilities. The goal is for her to be available so she can keep doing more of that.

GP: That definitely makes sense. So how can interested people get involved with your office?

JN: First, you can choose to participate in the sports, fitness classes, and other activities we offer. Second, if we don’t offer something you want, let me know. If other people want it too, I will do my best to make good things happen. Third, I will be forming a new advisory committee for intramurals and recreation.

Details will be forthcoming on when that will meet, but anyone interested can email me at jneal2@iit.edu.
I’ll admit, I was late to miss the very first band playing, and didn’t even catch their name, so I made a point of being up front (or close) for the rest of the show. First up was Burning Star Core, a project by C. Spencer Yeh. He’s a violinist who combines an avant-garde style of playing the instrument with electronic experimentation that delves into noise or ambient music. The interplay of electronic noises and intense violin work (it looked almost like a classically-trained violinist going completely off the beaten path) created a driving, intense act, even if it was more experimental than I’d expected. Following Burning Star Core was Menace Ruine, a duo whose music was difficult to describe. Electronic in instrumentation, it also included dark vocals, and a style that incorporated heavy elements from both black metal and drone. While it felt a little intense, even if it was more experimental than I’d expected. The game is a bit easier than previous Rock Band titles, and the difficulty curve fluctuates as the songs are presented in a loose order. Those that are vocally untrained, they can result in horrific noise. The game is a bit easier than previous Rock Band titles, and the difficulty curve fluctuates as the songs are presented in a loose order. Those that are vocally untrained, they can result in horrific noise.

On the almost-epic (over four minutes, compared to the 2010 version) of the poppy hooks from their debut, and is now deep into Vernon’s contributions to the set, and the two had the crowd in rapt attention throughout. Their enthusiasm between songs, and the basics of a call-and-response type of audience banter, made the whole thing feel like some overwhelming religious revival – even while the electronic music and the wild dancing on stage to the whole thing into a big dance party. It’s this duality – the of the next hour left me in a continuous state of awe. Walking onto a stage with banners possessing mystical-looking pyramid symbols, flaming a screen with a presentation projected on it, Bechtolt and Evans appeared, he dressed in a suit, entirely in white, and she in a baggy shirt, skirt and leggings, all black. He pressed “play” on a laptop hidden behind the banners, and they immediately began dancing to all the pre-recorded beats of the songs, eventually diving right into the singing. While Evans clearly had the moves, though, it was Bechtolt that held my attention for the majority of the next hour. When not singing lyrics about subjects like death, the afterlife, and digital decay, he either danced, emotionally drumming in the air to the beat of the music, or gesticulated and shook wildly, looking in his suit like a man going through a rapturous experience. The man evoked a hyperactive, more serious David Byrne throughout the set, and the two had the crowd in rapt attention throughout.

The game is a bit easier than previous Rock Band titles, and the difficulty curve fluctuates as the songs are presented in a loose order. Those that are vocally untrained, they can result in horrific noise. The game is a bit easier than previous Rock Band titles, and the difficulty curve fluctuates as the songs are presented in a loose order. Those that are vocally untrained, they can result in horrific noise. The game is a bit easier than previous Rock Band titles, and the difficulty curve fluctuates as the songs are presented in a loose order. Those that are vocally untrained, they can result in horrific noise.
Dissidia: Final Fantasy

but the potential buyers should have enough willpower to
the game by tens of hours. The combat may be daunting,
is staggering; while the main story mode isn't well-written,
Over the course of two decades, the Final Fantasy series
the roster consists of over 50 characters and the attacks are
it makes for a great party game. This is primarily because
retain its relevance. The new online mode is awesome, but
for some hectic situations.

New Age of Heroes


When General Motors (GM) Corp unveiled a prototype
hybrid vehicle that they said was going to revolutionize the
automotive world, many people were skeptical. Some were in
plain disbelief and some refused to acknowledge that it would
ever be a reality and that it was just a gimmick by GM because
gas prices were very high at that particular time. But GM and
its Chevrolet division managed to come out
with the car – The Chevy Volt.

Last month, Popular Mechanics (PM) featured
an article about how this car was deemed
by Chevy as 230 miles per gallon
car. PM set out to
debunk some of the
mystery around this
and also about EPA
testing procedures for
obtaining the mileage of general vehicles and hybrid cars. The
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the help of
Argonne National Labs test vehicles on the 11-mile loop
for about 51 miles using the Federal Test Procedure
(FTP). The test is then used to determine how
much fuel was used for the 51 miles and the EPA determines the 'sticker
mileage'. For the Chevy Volt, there was a study done for
18-months and the results are being published soon.

In case of the Chevrolet Volt, four
full FTP tests can be run on only its
battery pack. The Volt has a 164 Wh
battery pack and a complex drive-train system
that incorporates something
called the sustainer motor. It is a four-cylinder
gasoline engine that directly burns gasoline to produce electricity
directly for the electric motors running the drive-train system.
Thus, the system runs such that if you only plug-in and charge
the Volt (which is the primary design idea of this car) you could
get infinite gasoline mileage based on the amount of gas you put
in the vehicle, provided you drive short range everyday.

In the case of other electric plug-in hybrid vehicles such as the Prius PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle) and pure
electric vehicles like the Nissan Leaf, similar tests can be
performed. The mileage for the Nissan Leaf based on the above
arbitrary test method is rated at
367 miles per gallon. These numbers
might seem magical, but they are
so because of the nature of the tests
and not the ‘every day driving’ behavior of
people who drive these cars on the city and
highway roads. The ratings also include an EPA fuel economy for
PHEVs, which has the
battery energy demands rated in kWs/100 miles.

As the automotive world moves closer to mass market amounts
of hybrid cars, this sort of rating becomes
necessary to truly determine the actual ‘real-world’ mileage of
the electric-hybrid car.

Though the debate in the past and present with
electric cars has been that they just
displace the source of greenhouse gases
from gasoline (burning in cars) to coal (used to
produce electricity), the
Chevy Volt is likely to face
the similar question
involving its ‘green-box’. The other cars such as
the Prius and Leaf and Honda Insight will also face
the same question.

All in all, this is a start to mass marketing of hybrid cars
that truly cater to the needs of the American consumer, so believe
some automotive experts. Only the year 2010 will tell how well
this Chevy Volt will sell and how many people like it.

References: Popular Mechanics, SAE Publications.
The Slipstick

Across
1. Swiss peaks 7. Places for experiments
10. Optimistic 11. Done with
12. Cooker 13. Dance instructor’s call
15. ___ colada 17. Reply to a captain
18. Chaney of horror films 20. Born in France
24. Holiday mo.
26. Short shot
27. Big stingers
29. Try for a part
31. Pink-slips
32. “Aquarius” musical
33. Essence 35. Bushed
37. Dentist’s directive
39. Without precedent
41. Right this minute
42. Sis’s sib
43. Tempe sch.
45. ___ Altos, Calif.

50. Tennis’s Sampras
52. Spanish water
53. The skinny
54. Engagement
55. Aromatherapist’s needs

Down
1. Hilo hello
2. Word between past and future
3. Database command
4. “S.O.S.”
5. Roundup riders
6. Basket?
7. Boxer Spinks
8. Lend
9. Subsequently
10. Senora Peron
12. Cooker
13. Dance instructor’s call
15. ___ colada
17. Reply to a captain
18. Chaney of horror films
20. Born in France
21. Fed. hush-hush group
23. Needle hole
24. Holiday mo.
26. Short shot
27. Big stingers
29. Try for a part
31. Pink-slips
32. “Aquarius” musical
33. Essence 35. Bushed
37. Dentist’s directive
39. Without precedent
41. Right this minute
42. Sis’s sib
43. Tempe sch.
44. Astronaut Grissom
45. ___ Altos, Calif.
47. High-five, e.g.
50. Tennis’s Sampras
52. Spanish water
53. The skinny
54. Engagement
55. Aromatherapist’s needs

ARE YOU B-E-A-UTIFUL???
BE BEAUTIFUL, MAKE A CRANE!!!
Men’s Soccer bounces back

By Graeme Port

The Hawks go 4-2 over the past three week period to conclude their out of conference season with a 4-4 record. After two disappointing losses in their opening two games the Men’s Soccer team improved their form and results over the past three week period to win four of the six games they played.

The first match of the Hawks recent six game run came on the 5th of September when the team traveled to face Bethel College in Indiana. The home team grabbed the game’s first two goals through a controversial Daniel Moyo penalty and Zach Ganzberg strike, before the Hawks cut the lead shortly before the half time break, through a Bethel own goal to make the score 2-1 at the interval. The Hawks pushed for an equalizer in the second period of play but unable to break down a stubborn Bethel defence – a failure that condemned the team to their third straight defeat of the year.

The following day the Hawks finally snapped their 3-game losing streak with a fantastic 2-0 victory over Indiana Wesleyan University. The Hawks played extremely well on the day with both Laim Barrett and Rob Ritchie-Smith scoring fantastic long range strikes that fired the Hawks to their first win of the season.

On the 8th of September the team followed up their first victory of the year with a second in an easy 5-0 away victory over Viterbo University. Laim Barrett grabbed another two goals, Andrew Lichaj notched a pair and Rob Ritchie-Smith added a second goal in as many games to complete the five goal route for the Hawks.

Just two days after Tuesday night’s victory in Wisconsin the team were on the road yet again on Thursday morning, as the squad left Chicago bright and early for back to back games for the Hawks.

The first goal in as many games to complete the five goal route for the Hawks.

The following day the Hawks recovered from Fridays crushing defeat with a valiant overtime victory over John Brown University. The Hawks were again leading 2-1 in the final minute of the game, through Laim Barrett and Andrew Lichaj strikes, before John Brown equalized seconds before the full time whistle. The goal sent the game into golden goal over time where the Hawks struck first, through a Rob Ritchie-Smith strike to win the game.

The Hawks played their final out of conference game on Friday evening as the team welcomed Iowa Wesleyan to Stuart Field. The game was a rather flat encounter but the Hawks battled hard on the night to earn a comfortable 2-0 win. The goals on the night were scored by Rob Ritchie-Smith and Daniel Ansonberg and the win sees the team conclude their out of conference season with a 4-4 record.

The Hawks return to action once again this coming Saturday when the team will welcome Holy Cross College to Stuart Field for the Hawks Homecoming game.

Kick Off is at 2pm - Stuart Field.

Men’s Soccer
Holy Cross College
26th Sep - 2pm Kick Off

Women’s Soccer
Holy Cross College
26th Sep - 12pm Kick Off

Women’s Volleyball
Trinity International University
22nd Sep - 7pm
Saint Xavier University
29th Sep - 7pm

S w i m m i n g a n d D i v i n g p r e p a r e s

By Melanie K

Although the official season hasn’t started, the Scarlet Hawks’ swimmers and divers have been hard at work in the pool getting into shape for the coming season. Although the Hawks only lost four swimmers from last year’s roster, they are gaining a handful of new members for the upcoming season. The men’s team welcomes nine new swimmers to their team, and the women’s team welcomes a freshman of their own. All the new swimmers have already swam national times, increasing the potential national competitors for the team. When asked what he was looking forward to for this season, head coach Rob Bond replied that he was “looking forward to a strong season. I believe this will be our best men’s team ever and I have high hopes for the women’s team.” Bond also has new ideas for the coming season about what to do differently to improve the team for this year. “I had 8 women make the national meet last year and 5 were freshmen. With those 5 back as sophomores this year, I have a better idea of how to train them and they have a better idea of what to expect.” Although the women’s team graduated the school record holder in the 100 Fly last year, freshman Victoria Maaney will join the team with times faster than the team record, and “will be looked to for big points”. For the men, the loss of senior Andrew Mehr and junior Dale Cuffe will be felt throughout the team, but Bond hopes for scoring from all nine men that were signed for the season, in addition to the ten returning from last year’s roster.

The official season for the begins Monday, September 28th for the Hawks. There will be a month of training before their first meet, which is on October 30th, here at home against the University of Chicago starting at 6 p.m.

Lady Hawks win again

By Kayla Heller

Last Tuesday the Women’s Volleyball team traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for their second conference game of the season. In a match the Hawks dominated from start to finish, the ladies defeated Cardinal Stritch University in three straight games (25-19, 25-15, 25-12). Junior Nicole Benedict led Illinois Tech with 9 kills, while senior Melissa Cheviron and freshman Stephanie Kossak each had 7. Senior Aubrey Vanderheyden had a total of 15 kills for the match and freshman setter Rebecca Bograd had 30 set assists.

The Lady Hawks’ next game comes on the 22nd of September when the team will welcome Trinity International University to Keating Sports Center for their homecoming match.

Make sure you come along to support the team as they look to maintain their perfect conference record.