ILLINOIS TECH TO OPEN COFFEE SHOP

Sourav Manadevan
TechNews Writer

As decided by the recently concluded survey, Illinois Tech will soon be opening a coffee house on campus. The survey, conducted by the Office of Student Affairs, asked students to vote for the three things they most wanted to see on campus. Choices included increasing the number of events that use Chicago as a resource, increasing the variety of options and updating liberal arts, and encouraging more faculty involvement with students.

The purpose of the survey was to improve undergraduate life at Illinois Tech. “The majority of the people voted for the opening of a new coffee shop in campus,” said Terry Shapiro, Dean of Student Affairs. A place to gather at all times, especially at night, was the most sought out suggestion by students. In response to this the Office of Student Affairs has decided to create the coffee house. It will mostly likely offer coffee, shakes, a snack bar and newspapers from all over the world.

The location of the coffee house has not yet been decided, but students have suggested places such as the McCormick Student Village, Herman Union Building and the Commons. Students have opted to run the shop, but who will manage the coffee shop is still under consideration.

“In my opinion, this venue would greatly facilitate communication between the students,” said Shapiro. “I feel that establishing a coffee house will be beneficial for the entire student body. It would act as a cozy gathering place for students and provide a relaxed atmosphere.”

“This is one of the many projects coming up”, Shapiro added. He commented that he was optimistic the house would soon be open. “A coffee house that has a relaxed atmosphere will definitely build spirit at Illinois Tech and add life to the campus environment,” concluded Shapiro.

IEEE hosts Abbott Labs

Sheryl Lau
Submission

On Wednesday, February 20, the IEEE student branch hosted a presentation entitled “Neural Network Process Optimization,” by Mr. Al Musur of Abbott Laboratories. Musur is an IIT alumnus who graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree. The presentation described neural networks function and how they can be used in process control. To find out more about the presentation visit the IEEE website at www.illinois-tech.lee.edu, where you can see the slides presented. The event had a great turnout; about 50 students attended, including many new faces.

IEEE also had a successful membership drive on February 6, and elected two new officers on Feb. 13th: Mark Himoyan as Vice President and Kalvyn Rasquinha as the Webmaster. Our current officers are Josh Jump as President, Timothy Victor as Secretary, Sheryl Lau as Treasurer, Chirag Bhott as Membership Coordinator, Ratin Pandya as Programme, and Aziz Bodal and Rahul Saxena as the Public Relations Coordinators.

Be on the lookout for the next company speakers scheduled on our calendar: Northrup Grumman is coming on March 27th, and Molex on April 17th. Email leecol@illinois-tech.edu for other suggestions and company speakers that you’d like to see.
Inside Stuff
ASHWINA ARYA
TechNews Winter

Inside Stuff is one of the many byoulographs run by the Digital Media Center at Illinois Tech. These workshops are aimed at providing technical skills to anyone who is interested in learning more about technology. The Inside Stuff workshop series disseminates knowledge on various technology related topics such as how to build a computer, how to get certified, how to upgrade a computer, and how to use various software packages (such as Word, PowerPoint, etc.) that are an integral part of life.

Participants can receive free on-site technical support by the Inside Stuff team, which consists of technical professional, and a student staff of volunteers. Fridays are designated for Illinois Tech faculty and staff, and Saturdays are designated for the Bronzerville community at large.

These workshops are held on every third Saturday of the month in Illinois Tech's Stuart building at 11 a.m. The program offers free technology, computer workshops, and seminars that are one to three hours long respectively. The main topics that will be covered in March are Internet & email, MS Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. Topics that will be covered in upcoming months include an introduction to FrontPage, publisher, and Internet security. To register for these classes, participants have to respond in advance or show up at the scheduled workshops preferably one hour before the workshop begins.

Online registration can be found at: http://dmc.ilstu.edu/inside-stuff.htm

T e c h N e w s

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K R I S H N A R. P A G I L L A

FACULTY PROFILE

Ahimsa Padukone
TechNews Writer

K risna R. Pagilla, an assistant professor in the department of chemical and environmental engineering, teaches various graduate and undergraduate level courses. At the graduate level, he teaches courses in physicochemical and biochemical processes for water and wastewater treatment, unit processes technology, environmental biology, and industrial waste treatment. At the undergraduate level, he teaches freshmen IIT courses.

Professor Pagilla received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Osmania University, India in 1987, his Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1989, and his PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1994. His interests include physicochemical and biological methods of water pollution control. An expert in control of filamentous bulking and Nocardia foaming in activated sludge, his work includes Nocardia control in activated sludge tank, enhanced biological phosphorus removal, athermic biological treatment of sludge, remediation of contaminated soils, and heavy metals removal from wastewater by physicochemical means.

"Illinois Tech has the best faculty, where many of them are from leading schools and they are very well technically qualified," said Pagilla. He also said that Illinois Tech has highly capable undergraduate students, especially when compared to other schools in terms of GPA and SAT scores. Comparing graduate and undergraduate students, he said that at Illinois Tech the graduate student body tends to be more international and much more varied as students come from different schools and make decisions based on their background, whereas as the undergraduate students tend to be more uniform.

"Don’t get bogged down by saying that you are a Quaker, that you are a chemist or a civil engineer, or an environmental engineer; think like an engineer and always be creative and pragmatic, and keep up with the times that are changing," Pagilla said. Most of his publications are about his research work. He has traveled to many countries to give seminars and to present his research work. He enjoys golf, and travels abroad three times a year.
Informational Booth
Wednesday and Thursday, March 6 and 7, 11:50 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Gallery Lounge, Hub

Staff from the Counseling Center will be providing free alcohol screenings, handing out safe sex kits, and talking with students regarding ways to have a safe and fun spring break. Free give-aways and treats will be provided.

Sponsored by the Counseling Center.

When the Pain Outweighs the Pleasure
Wednesday evening, March 6, 8:00 p.m.
McCormick Student Village Lounge

Mark Koffke will use his unique brand of humor, insight, and storytelling ability to share his experience with alcohol and substance use. Free snacks and drinks will be provided. There will be a free give-away and a drawing for t-shirts.

Sponsored by Residence Life and the Counseling Center.

Test Your Breath
Thursday evening, March 7, 9:00 p.m.
BOG

Free "unofficial" breath analysis and sobriety test. Come join Jeff Driskill and learn about how alcohol affects your perception and your ability to drive. If you don't learn it here, the next time you take a Breathalyzer test, it may be for real and the police officer will not be smiling. Free giveaways.

Sponsored by Public Safety and the Counseling Center.

The Indian Students Association at Illinois Tech sponsored JOSH 2002 on the 24th of February, in the Herman Union Building ballroom. The event started at 5:00 PM and went on till 11:00 PM in the night. The get-together dance party was an open invitation to all students of Illinois Institute of Technology to get together and enjoy the fun.

The fact that it was mid-term week did not stop the students from participating in the games and the contests held. Over 150 students showed up on Sunday Night to have a good time. The event started off with some interactive games, followed by an interactive Question-Answer session between Dr. Dursh Wassan, Indian Students Association faculty advisor, and the students. Dr. Wassan, a professor of Chemical Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology, Vice President of International Affairs and Motorola Chair, talked to the students about the job opportunities and difficulties faced by international students.

Following the Question-Answer session, snacks and the dance party completed the electrifying evening. Students swayed non-stop from 7:00 to 11:00 to the beats of Disc Jockey Srinu.

Sunitha McCoy, the president of the Indian Students Association, said, "The Indian Students Association at Illinois Institute of Technology is doing its best to revive the spirits of the Indian Students." She urged that students come forward and participate actively in the events and help by providing new ideas. When asked about other events that the association is planning for the future, the president said, "The committee is planning to have a food fest and an inter-collegiate dance party, later this year. The dates have not been finalized." These events will involve students from all over Chicago.

If you are planning an event, please email pete@illit.edu to have it publicized in this section of the newspaper. Please include the name, place, date, and time of the event as well as other important information.
Features

SKI TRIP
COMMENTARY

Relentless Incompetence

A university always stands staunchly by its solvent associates; that's the basic secret to scholastic success.
— Robert Heinlein

Paul Kneenke
TechNews Writer

Nobody ever put it any better than that, and more than anywhere, IIT proves this to a tee. Where would this school be without the Galvin, Pritzker, and McCormick families? More importantly where would you be? I know I would more than likely be studying at the University of Illinois' top-notch engineering program. But three years ago, IIT gave me a sizable scholarship, so I decided to take full advantage of this university's solvent associates. Unfortunately for those funding this school's existence, it doesn't appear that IIT itself is doing the same.

Of course there is the obvious example of the Student Center that is currently under construction. This was doomed to be a colossal money pit from the moment the contract for a design war was announced. Since I'm a student in the CAE department and have been taking structural classes for two years now, the whole tube thing has at least been interesting, much in the same way as are some decisions made by our administration. Case in point, the recent email decree by whomever it is that sends them out. The first of these is that students who live in the dorms are only allowed to forget their ID cards twice. Students may now only sign themselves into the dorms twice without a student ID. After this, they must pay a ten-dollar fine! Now excuse me for being rational, but are you kidding me? So let's say someone forgot his ID twice. OK, now this person is held up at gunpoint for his wallet. So now he has no ID and no money and he can't even go to the room he pays over $5000 a year to live in.

Next we have this nice little U-PASS fiasco. Every semester, every student is charged an extra sixty-two dollars for a U-PASS. This is mandatory. Now, let's say a student has a fourteen-hour schedule, which is completely normal. At least it is enough to keep her/him busy; i.e., forty hours of which is Finite Elements. A hard class. It is too hard for some of our students. He decides he will drop it and save his GPA. Standard procedure. But now this student, who works downtown and uses his U-PASS, just pays a week, has dropped below twelve hours and has to return his U-PASS! And if he doesn't? Oh, well then it's deactivating anyway and he gets fined $100. So that's $200 wasted, plus all the money it will cost him to pay for the train to get to and from work, all because he wanted to ensure his GPA was better so he could keep his scholarship and stay in school. Granted this may be a new stipulation to the U-PASS deal given the school by the CTA, but I for one would think the school would have fought for us on that one. I didn't think the school was in such poor shape financially that they had to start oppressing the students to get ten dollars here and thirty there. I guess I should have guessed it coming though. After all, two weeks ago I sat at my desk at work, where we had been doing mechanical and electrical work to upgrade many of the buildings on IIT's campus since the summer. My boss walked through the office saying, "If you're working on any IIT jobs, stop right now, they're out of money again."

Key word, again. The next week, the school basically blew SLC's entire budget in one night, spending $90,000 between the Gala, a spectacular financial fiasco last time around, and reserving Adler Planetarium for the formal for some god-awful reason. Adler Planetarium? This madness from the same people who wouldn't spend $60,000 to bring Dave Matthews here a year or so ago because they didn't think it would be worth it. Then of course we have our parking lots. For quite some time now there have been the largest privately owned source of free parking I've ever seen in a city. IIT decided to fix that and brought in a "Parking Director" from the University of Chicago. They decided to reserve lots for faculty, staff, and students, and installed ID activated gates at the entrances. It was a good move, catching up with the trends in parking that I have seen at about every other university I've been to since I can remember. So the gates were installed. Oh yeah, and they sat there open for three months. Smooth move. But now there's one more thing wrong. The lots that are supposed to be reserved for those who paid to park in them are accessible to anybody with a new student ID. So now all that's been eliminated from the parking problem are the people from the neighborhood that used to use the "formerly" free lots to park close to the green line. Way to code the cards guys. I thought this school was supposed to be good about computer science like that. What am I thinking? I forgot about the spectacular CNS for a second. It is a whole different subject all by itself.

I could go on and on about the school, for weeks on end. Perhaps I will if I'm allowed to do this as a regular column. Perhaps I can keep giving you my opinion on the state of affairs here at this school. Perhaps someone involved with Pritzker, Galvin, or McCormick will see this and decides something needs to be done. Perhaps Adler Planetarium will make a difference in the way this school runs. Perhaps someday pigs will fly and water will run uphill.

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Photographer Review: Ansel Adams

TechNews Writer
Submission

Visitor to Ansel Adams at 100 – on view in the Art Institute of Chicago's Regenstein Hall between February 21 to June 2, 2002 – will find a most enlightening gallery wall text by John Szarkowski, the exhibition's organizing curator. The Chicago exhibition is divided into five sections: creux, leaping, motive, consideration, and responsibility.

During the quarter century between the late twenties and the early fifties, Ansel Adams made tens of thousands of negatives and completed many hundreds of photographs, of the American landscape. Most of them were made in the continental United States, west of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

These pictures have revised people's sense of landscape. They have enlarged the visceral knowledge of things that people do not understand.

By 1928, one can see a new economy and sureness come into Adams's work. The peaks, ice fields, and terrains of rubble begin to be – in addition to geological events – parts of pictorial patterns that possess an independent authority: designs that seem to recapitulate in visual terms the ancient history of the place. One might guess that Adams spent the next quarter century trying to make a photograph that would give objective form to the sense of ineluctable knowledge that on occasion, in his youth, inhabited him in the high mountains.

The interests of an artist and his audience are in the end quite different. As Adams's audience, we are grateful to him for enlarging our emotional knowledge of the natural world, the knowledge of its constant mutability – that it is alive. If we shut our eyes, we will return them to a different world, a constant source of wonder and deep surprise, which we love not only as an aesthetic delight, but as a deep moral cryptogram to which we have no key.

For more information, check out the Institute's website at www.artic.edu or visit the exhibit at the Art Institute. The Institute opens everyday and Tuesdays are free to all. Special exhibitions may require full or extra admission fees.

RELIGIOUS RACIAL TOLERANCE

"Division breeds conflict."
- Krishnamurti
CROSSTECH PUZZLE CLUES:

ACROSS:
1. sentimental recollection
5. sports arena
8. glue sticky substance
10. bend down low
11. Socrates’ poison
14. miles vehicle has traveled
16. hard layer on booth crown
17. sweet liquid in flowering plants
19. priority of one over others
21. flat round hat
23. document showing qualification
25. northern polar region
27. outstanding success
29. predetermined end of trip
30. horse sound

DOWN:
1. shortened or altered name
2. young frog
3. blood-sucking worm
4. metalworker’s hammering block
6. flow slowly in thin stream
7. blob of naphthalene in closet
9. outlaw
12. sudden crisis requiring action
13. rival; adversary
15. changing in direct proportion
16. magical object
20. avoiding detection
22. chin hair
24. rural property and residence
26. sale to consumers
28. circle of light around celestial body
Hawks: Wounded But Not Dead

JAYHURSHI SHIVLOGANATHAN
Sports Writer

The Men’s Basketball team played its final game of the season on February 23. Having just returned from a loss to Olivet Nazarene University, the Hawks were eager to go against the St Xavier Cougars. The Cougars arrived at the venue gleaming with confidence and led by their head coach, Coach Omalui.

Quite a large crowd had gathered to cheer for the Hawks.

The game began as scheduled, both teams racing to go. The Hawks had to win this match to make up for their loss against Olivet. The Cougars, on the other hand, had to win this match to prove that they could beat the lion in its den. The game began and points poured in for both teams. Towards the end of the first half, the Cougars captured the upper hand. Much to the distress of the home team, the game was heading for a lead for the visiting team, with a large number of three-pointers coming their way. At the end of the first half, the score read 43 to 30 in favor of the visiting team, the Cougars.

At the beginning of the second half, the Hawks were being wildly cheered on by the home crowd; they had come to see a Hawk victory. However, as the game went on, the home team fell further behind. The Cougars were adding on their points total; they scored 34 points in the second half, compared to the 14 obtained by the home team. “We did not play their game, but we out challenged them; but remember we are a very good team,” said Coach Omalui when asked about the day’s match.

As for the large crowd that had gathered, they congratulated the team on a good game and wished them to play well and win in future. The final score read 77-44 in favor of the Cougars, despite the Hawks’ strong fight and the enthusiasm of their fans.

Athlete of the Week:
Mark Thomas

ABIGAIL RAUSTA
Sports Writer

Scarlet Hawk basketball player Mark Thomas is in his fourth year as a Civil Engineering student at Illinois Tech. This 6’9” power forward calls Elmhurst, IL, just west of Chicago, his hometown.

Thomas attended York High School at Elmhurst, where he participated both in track & cross-country, as well as basketball. He says that he’s been involved with basketball as long as he can remember. Thomas is a talented athlete in many respects: his high school finished second in state competition in cross-country. As a basketball player, he was the leading rebounder in the county in his senior year in highschool. Thomas was named All-Conference in both cross-country and basketball. He names defense and rebounding as his strengths on the basketball court. His career bests are 19 points scored and 18 rebounds collected.

Thomas decided to attend Illinois Tech because the school provided him with an opportunity to keep playing basketball after high school. He hopes to seek a career in construction management upon graduation.