NEW BEGINNINGS...
A TECHNEWS Special Edition

KAPPA PHI DELTA MOVES TO NEW LOCATION
NEW STUDENT CLASS LARGEST IN TWO DECADES
IIT NAMED “BEST VALUE” BY US NEWS & WORLD REPORT
MINORITY SERVICES RESTRUCTURED INTO NEW OFFICE
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE GIVEN NEW FUNDS
EATING HALL SPORTS NEW FITNESS FACILITY
Orientation 2004

Pictures by Richard Duncan/TECHNEWS

Buy your textbooks on eBay
and save up to 45% off* the list price.
deciding factors are, first, “the ratio of quality rank to the discounted cost, the better the value”. The second and third factors depended on the financial package the school offered its students. Though nationally read, many ask do rankings actually matter? Apparently they do, as parents and prospective students pay attention to these ratings especially in the category of academics, financial package, student life, location and food. I asked three members of the freshman class the following question “How much of a role did rankings play in your decision to attend IIT?” And their response confirmed this. 

FOLLOWING THE RENOVATIONS TO THE Old Main House on the Quad, the new Kappa Phi Delta sorority house was opened on August 1, 2004. The new house is split into three floors, with the lounge, dining area, and bathrooms on the first floor, while the sister bedrooms are on the second and third floor. The basement holds a spacious, well-designed and cozy recreation room all done in red bricks, with a neat dry bar for serving non-alcoholic beverages, as well as the laundry facilities. Thoroughly commendable, the renovation was efficient enough to allow the Kappa sisters to move in just slightly behind schedule. Some major renovations, like the finishing of the kitchen and bathrooms, are still underway to completely facilitate the Kappa sisters’ acclimatization to the Quad. With less stringent rules on decor than the dorms, most of the Kappa sisters have gotten creative in transforming their various rooms from drab dorm room to their personal home away from home. Most of the rooms are already occupied, leaving some other rooms and mostly the pledge rooms empty, which are currently doubles to enable pledge sisters to get to know each other before advancing in the sorority. Unlike the fraternity houses, the Kappa sisters have permission with the school to pay room fees, which would enable the school cover the costs of maintenance on the Kappa building. This is similar to the agreement forged in 2001 with the opening of the Alpha Sigma Alpha house. Likewise, the Kappa Phi Delta sorority still holds the autonomy of hiring their own cooks, as do the other Greek houses on campus. The Kappa Phi Delta sorority has really come a long way from their chapter room at the Lewis Basement to their very own house on the Quad. It is indeed a nice step toward balancing the fraternity to sorority house ratio a bit, and for the Kappa sisters, it is surely glad to be finally home.

By Adejoke Akin-Aderibigbe

The new Kappa Phi Delta house at 3350 South Michigan Avenue. The house formerly housed students of IIT’s Chicago-Kent School of Law, and was renovated over the summer by IIT workers as well as sisters of Kappa Phi Delta.

Kappa Phi Delta Moves Into Former Law House

By Richard Duncan

The halls of McCormick Student Village and State Street Village, and the classrooms of IIT’s Main Campus are nearing capacity as IIT’s largest incoming new student class in nearly two decades descended on campus for the start of the Fall 2004 semester. With early estimates placing the numbers at around 480 freshmen and 160 transfer students in the incoming undergraduate group, the total dwarfs the numbers last year by nearly 100 combined, and by nearly 200-250 from three years ago. Approximately one-quarter of all new students are in the College of Architecture, underscoring that college’s continued rapid growth which led to renovation of the building just south of S. R. Crown Hall on State Street for classrooms.

When asked about the new class, President Lew Collins remarked, “This freshman class is among the largest in two decades. The talent in this student body is amazing, and the faculty are excited to have such bright students.”

Many observers last week noted that this year’s incoming class seemed very anxious both to start their academic careers at IIT as well as get involved in the current Renaissance of student life and activities. They also boast higher average standardized test scores than some recent classes, and were very active in high school.

Despite the excitement and “fresh air” breathed into the university by this new class, some are already questioning whether facilities can continue to handle such large enrollments in future years. Some university officials estimate that the residence halls (both MSV and SSV) will be at full capacity in only two to three years. Plans for the second phase of new undergraduate residence halls is expected to begin this fall, with three locations (according to IIT’s 20-year Master Plan) proposed: an SSV-like arrangement just north of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center (though likely of different design); a parking garage/residence hall fusion on the parking lot just west of SSV; and the first part of the proposed replacement for McCormick Student Village on the south edge of 33rd Street between Wabash and Michigan. The latter option, which would “cap off” the Quad, depends on the planned destruction of Farr Hall, whose timetable is currently undetermined.

By Daisy Agose

[Image] Richard Duncan/TECHNEWS
TechNews welcomes feedback, comments and reader
TechNews@iit.edu
THOUGHTS, RANTS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2004

Rich's Rant

A Not-So New Beginning...

Richard Duncan
technews@iit.edu

W ell, I'm writing this with our theme of "new beginnings" this week, I feel it's high time I pull the wraps off a "new beginning" of sorts for Rich's Rant. For those 650+ of you new students just joining us, this column has become a bi-weekly editorial on my part in which I usually rant about something on campus that bugs me (usually the Student Government Association, but we'll get to that later) or I think could be improved. Unlike most of us curious students who just go on and about what they hate about things or how their way to do things is the best thing since sliced peanut butter (which, by the way, does exist), I try to provide solutions, at the least. Trying to get people to think about things instead of just accepting them and work to make them better, instead of just saying, and the entire IIT community better.

But enough of all that. Things are different this year, so here's the new beginning for Rich's Rant. (takes off red-striped sweatshirt with "IIT Scarlet Hawks" on the front, slips on plain old t-shirt and shorts)

"Student politics surfaces its ugly head at Illinois Tech with subtile uncurancy to major institutions. What a difference three and a half years makes!"

You're probably wondering what that means. No, it isn't the 126th time I've mentioned the Student Government Association, it is a question not uncommon at other universities.

Many of you returning students are already citizen journalist, reporting on the happenings of various segments of the Illinois Tech community. All material submitted by the students of, and funded in part by, Illinois Institute of Technology, serving the IIT community since 1897.

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Summer Improvements Produce Greener, Brighter Main Campus

By Daisy Agose

The summer break was the perfect time to carry out key development around campus. The most noticeable of these are the changes implemented around McCormick Tribune Campus Center (MCCC). Most students already observed that there were more parking spaces in front of the McCormick Student Village, but to get a well-rounded picture about what exactly went on TechNews spoke with Mr. Terry Frigo, the Director of Design and Construction Team.

New walkways were created on the east and north side of the MCCC building, also the pathways around the McCormick Student Village (MSV) were restructured to create more parking spaces. The hardworking people of the construction team worked tirelessly to ensure the pathways were ready before the fall semester started. The objective which clearly has been met was to grant students better access in and out of the MCCC. The reinstallation also set up electrical and structural bases for the permanent installation of more light poles, again on the North, East, and South side of the MCCC. This project would be completed during winter, when the ordered materials they actually complete it will have arrived. Other key developments include the conversion of the former law house to a sorority for the Kappa Phi Delta sisters which was completed in time for the beginning of the semester. The “3416 South State Street” location for the graduate school of architecture was also completely refurnished.

When asked Mr. Frigo about their very busy summer, he said how they managed to fit these constructions, as well as other minor renovations into their schedule. He acknowledged that they had a lot to accomplish, but still every thing was “bought in on budget and on time”.

Left: The McCormick Tribune Campus Center, along with State Street in the middle of campus. The trees in front of the MCCC were rearranged and more added over the summer.

Above: The northeast corner of the Commons now has a walkway connecting the Commons’ patio with the sidewalks on the 32nd Street service entrance to the south.

The path winds the path taken by students while the MCCC was under construction.
RHA Announces Bookstore Compromise

Barnes and Noble, RHA Negotiate Efforts to Replace Book Swap Thwarted by University Contract

Residence Halls Association PRESS RELEASE

If you live in McCormick Student Village, you may have no tied that the front desk is missing the book exchange poster this semester. The Food and Housing Committee of the Residence Hall Association (RHA) took it upon themselves to investigate the reason and arranged a meeting with key people in the administration and appropriate committee representatives from Barnes and Noble. According to Jean Bingham, the Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, the contract between Illinois Tech and Barnes and Noble limits Barnes and Noble to being the sole provider for books, both used and new, on campus. This agreement prevents the school from approving or endorsing any book exchange as another method of providing books at lower prices. Jeff Kanai, the manager of the Barnes and Noble bookstore on campus, helped clarify the policy about buying and selling used and new books and provided no concrete actions, that students can take to help lower prices at the bookstore. The first action students can take is simple: sell used books at the end of the semester! Every book sold back to the bookstore means one less new book will be ordered and lowers the average cost per book. Barnes and Noble will buy back both new and used books for 50% of the price paid provided the book will be used on campus in the coming semester and the bookstore has not already met the quota for that particular book. This can be a quick and easy way for students to make cash selling books. To make it even easier for students to sell back books, Barnes and Noble set up at several locations around campus to buy back books. This allows Barnes and Noble near the end of the semester.

The second action that can be taken is for students to encourage professors and departments to order text book lists prior to the end of the semester. This allows Barnes and Noble to anticipate which books to buy at the end of the semester as well as number needed. If professors request a new edition of a book that has undergone only minor changes that are not relevant or necessary for the course, the average cost of books for students will increase. Professors and departments are encouraged to carefully evaluate the need for changing book editions and to turn in book lists early to help students keep the cost of books down.

To partner with students in lowering the cost and recognizing the time sensitivity of this issue, Jeff has agreed to write this article as well as post signs in the residence halls to help increase awareness among students about what they can do to achieve lower prices at the bookstore. In return, Jeff has agreed to provide a list of books that the campus bookstore is still in need of that will be bought back on a first come, first serve basis. In the spirit of cooperation, RHA will ensure that the list is distributed to SGA, Greek Council and residence halls as well as being printed in TechNews.

Book List

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The Residence Halls Association (RHA) seeks to increase cooperation between residents of McCormick Student Village (MSV) and State Street Village (SSV) to achieve positive change. This is done through scheduled events throughout the academic year, working with Resident Advisors, operating committees that address specific issues and meeting with the administration to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information. For more information on how you can become involved in RHA and make a positive difference in the residence halls and on campus, email RHAsitil@gmail.com.

Rumors Swirl on Global Grounds, Bonus Points

By Adejoke Akin-Aderibigbe I-TECH EDITOR

It must have been a great surprise to both students and faculty who happened to be around during the summer to discover that Global Grounds, an alumni-owned, student-run independent company, was not accepting the Hawk bonus points. The questions of why, when, and where this decision made was on the minds of all, and rumors continued as classes started that this would continue. TechNews, your reliable source of information, is here to tell the fears of students and staff that there won’t be a Global Grounds located in the McCormick Tribune Campus Center, and was it still happily accepting Hawk bonus points. In fact, Global Grounds is striving to improve the quality of its services to the IIT community by improving and expanding its line of beverages, pastries, lunch specials, and seating capacity. It has also begun a mailing list for interested students and faculty to be the first to be informed of ongoing changes and menu additions at the local Grounds Café.

The question now becomes, what is the explanation behind Global Grounds’ refusal to use bonus points during the summer. The simple explanation after investigation and research from reliable sources in the administration like Jean Bingham, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, and the manager of Global Grounds Café, Brian Bokaz, is that this was not a blatant refusal, but an inability due to the terms of contract between IIT and Sodexho Campus Services.

According to Bingham, Hawk bonus points are part of the overall meal plan agreement with Sodexho. It was never IIT’s intention to allow transferability of bonus points to Global Grounds Café upon opening, but IIT approached Sodexho’s management and requested the bonus points transferability. Sodexho accepted the terms during the academic year. However, the summer is a completely different issue, and IIT is contracted to run 4 venues during the summer: the cash operation in the Commons, Center Court in the evening, The University Club, and Café ala Cart at the Hub. It is therefore obvious that to support these operations with the limited number of students and guests on campus, all Hawk bonus point sales had to be limited to the Sodexho outlets to cover the costs associated with providing food service to the university.

Another fine twist to the terms of the contract with Sodexho Campus Services, obligates Global Grounds Café to report 25% of the profit made from bonus points to Sodexho Campus Services, which definitely leaves the question of how profitable is Global Grounds acceptance of Hawk bonus points.

For all die-hard fans of the Global Grounds Café, however, it can be safely said that all is well and back to the usual, at least for the academic
The newly renovated Fitness and Weight Center in IIT’s Keating Hall.

By Abdulkamal Abdullah

SCARLET HAWKS ATHLETICS

Soccer Gathering Brings Fans Together

By Abdulkamal Abdullah

It was a long and eventful summer for most of the IIT soccer fans, and none less so for IIT’s unofficial soccer clan. Last year, the group (consisting of about 30 students and numerous outsiders) met every Sunday afternoon to play soccer (soccer), under the direction of Joyce Tan (the clan’s unofficial leader). With her departure after graduation, however, it seemed like things would fall apart, but her legacy would live on. Fate, though, would have it otherwise as this year’s heralded some fantastic soccer events.

The first was a mini soccer tournament at Cicero. In the first game of the tourney, the team lost 12-1 to a semi-professional side, but the team played hard against a side that had been playing together for years. The second game was won by forfeit. Our third game of the competition was determined by bad weather conditions, and although the game ended 4-4, it was not enough to see the team through to the final.

The next big event, and perhaps biggest, was the UEFA Euro 2004 Championships held in Portugal. Sixteen (16) teams participated in the tournament, including favorites France, who won the tournament, as well as Portugal, Italy, Spain, and Greece, who had all been playing together for over a decade. The tournament was won by the Portuguese, who defeated Greece in the final.

Hawk Runners Ready for Record Year

By Nathan Gates

SPORTS WRITER

Soccer may be a growing sport in the United States to showcase football on its brilliant best. The game between Manchester United (giants of English football) and Bayern Muenchen (their German counterparts) didn’t live up to the expectations of such a fixture. However those who were fortunate enough were able to witness some of the Bayern squad practice before the game at IIT’s very own Stuart Field. Lee Hitchen, coach of the IIT Cross Country team, said, “I think these renovations are a great improvement to the rennovation of the Fitness and Weight Center. When asked what he thought of the new-look Fitness and Weight Center, sophomore Chris Lino said, “I think these renovations are a step forward for IIT.”

The Fitness and Weight Center, which didn’t formally open until Thursday morning, consists of six treadmills, six elliptical units, eight stationary bikes, five benches, two sets of dumbbells, and 25 different Hammer strength machines. With so many different machines, students are certain to find the equipment more than adequate for any workout they desire. Plans have also been made for a new entertainment system in the Fitness and Weight Center. The system will include three televisions and a sound system, which should be in place soon. Also coming sometime in the future is a new cardio-climbing wall that all students can enjoy.

With so many new things happening at Keating, students are urged to use the facility frequently and if you haven’t been over to Keating in a while, I urge you to go to see what the talk is all about, but don’t forget, you’ll need your student ID to get in.

(Editor’s Note: Richard Duncan also contributed to this story.)

Keating Renovations Bring Much Needed Improvements

By Matthew Helland

SPORTS EDITOR

First Phase of Student Service Fee Increase Brings Repairs, Among Other Additions

On Wednesday, August 25th, a day before classes officially started, the IIT Athletic Department held a ceremony to reveal its redesigned Fitness and Weight Center to all students, faculty, and staff. Funded by the new $100 increase in the Student Service Fee announced exclusively by TechNews in April, the Fitness and Weight Center is part of on-going renovations to Keating Hall, IIT’s sports primary sports facility. Keating houses offices for the athletic department as well as varsity and practice basketball and volleyball courts, a swimming pool used by IIT’s nationally-recognized swim team, the Fitness and Weight Center, and four racquetball courts. The racquetball courts are currently in flux, as one is being prepared for delivery of a rock climbing wall in the winter and another being converted into a fitness center for collegiate athletes.

Over the summer recess, in addition to the renovation of the Fitness and Weight Center, repairs were made to parts of the exterior of Keating as well as an engineering study to assess the feasibility and cost of a much-needed and long-demanded air conditioning system for the facility. University officials now say that the current plan is to close Keating during the summer of 2005 to allow for the installation of this system. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by IIT President Lew Flickinger. He was joined by many students and faculty who were anxious to see what changes had been made to the old Weight Center. When asked what he thought of the new-look Fitness and Weight Center, sophomore Chris Lino said, “I think these renovations are a step forward for IIT.”

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(Editor’s Note: Richard Duncan also contributed to this story.)

The newly renovated Fitness and Weight Center in IIT’s Keating Hall.
Application to save money on furnishing your college crib

SVE02234658-04 Form Approved by IKEA / www.ikeafinancialaid.com

WARNING: Any person who knowingly does not use IKEA to furnish their dorm room is subject to high prices or really bad milk crate and binder clip furniture.

APPLICANT (to be completed by furniture-less student)

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FURNITURE

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| 4. | $31.65 | $3.99 | GRIMMST cushion (inch) |
| 5. | $71.98 | $4.99 | MARRENTA RUTA EAX rug |
| 6. | $369.33 | $59 | RÖDEL drawers |

Cramming

| 1. Does studying cut into your talking-to-people time? | $206.33 | $29.99 | KRISTIL desk |
| 2. Do you practice a discriminating highlight technique? | $146.31 | $29.99 | KIRBY Sideboard |
| 3. Do you heart studying? | $149.66 | $29.99 | TEAKTOR shelf |

| 4. | $26.98 | $9.99 | PÅTHOS storage |

Total savings

Enter to win an IKEA S1000 Furniture Scholarship

Fill out the scholarship application at ikeafinancialaid.com, print it out and bring it to the store. Don’t be surprised if you win furniture that will dress up your dorm for as long as your expected graduation date.

IKEAnomics

Cool furniture costs you less money, thereby leaving you with excess cash (Cheddar, cake, c.r.e.a.m., dead presidents, etc.). More cash that you can spend on an ice cream float with friends. And some pizza. And chicken wings. And a burrito as big as your head. After that you can go lie down on some of that cool furniture that saved you all that money.

Promissory Note

Promise to save: I promise to save money by going to the nearest IKEA store to buy my furniture. All savings under the terms of this Note, plus any other savings that may occur with IKEA merchandise not mentioned on this Note may increase my ability to do things other than sit in my dorm and store at the (windowless) wall. IKEA furnishings may provide leftover money for a trip to the movies or the obligatory college tattoo. Failure to shop at IKEA stores may reduce frequency of these or similar extracurricular activities. I understand that I may cancel or reduce the size of the savings I receive at any time, by choosing not to go to IKEA stores.

My signature certifies that I have read, understood and agreed that IKEA stores are my best bet for saving money on college crib furnishings.

Signature of Financially Educated Student

Date (MM/DD/YY)


For a better life at college, visit ikeafinancialaid.com

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