IPRO continues to raise the bar

By Michael Merkel
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Friday, Dec. 2, 2006, the Herman Union Building (HUB) came to life with the energy as over 360 students prepared for the culminating event of at least a semester of work. 36 teams comprised of students from every corner of campus set up exhibits and gave presentations on their projects ranging from nanotechnology to artificial organs to an entrepreneurial business for custom made clothing and everything in between.

Immediately following the presentations and exhibit judging was a talk from Chris Galvin about leadership, innovation, and creating the future. Chris Galvin is a former chairman and CEO of Motorola, Inc. and the chairman and cofounder of Harrison Street Capital LLC. The Galvin family has supported IIT for generations. This event was part of the Thought Leaders Seminars hosted by the Ed Kaplan Entrepreneurial Studies Program.

IPRO is one of the many features that sets IIT apart in academia. In an IPRO, students are tasked with solving a real-world problem in a real-world situation, working on a team composed of people from a variety of different backgrounds.

This program has received national attention, and other Universities are looking to IIT as a model for such programs.

This year, a team from Roseman Institute of Technology participated in IPRO day. In April 2007 IIT is hosting a conference on Best Practices of Interdisciplinary Teams Projects Programs.

See page 7 for the judging results and some snapshots from Fall 2006 IPRO day.

Find out more information about the IPRO program at ipro.iit.edu. Be sure to mark your calendars for the event next semester.

What you need to know about

By Keren Florenza
Communications & Research, OIT

What is myIT?
The new university web portal, myIT, is an online, single sign-on, source for many existing IIT self-service systems including:
- Web for Students
- IT Email
- Blackboard
- Library
- OIT Support Desk

myIT also provides new communication tools through the Group Studio where you can create, manage and join group hompages for recognized IIT clubs and organizations. The portal also has a calendar system for creating and managing your personal, course and group calendars.

myIT is part of bijit (Banner at IIT), a multi-year project to upgrade the university's data management systems. As the Banner software modules are launched over the next 18 months, additional capabilities will be added to the portal for those systems. For further information about the bijit project go to: http://www.iit.edu/bijit.

What are the benefits of myIT?
One of the greatest benefits of myIT is that it is personalized and you can customize the content based on your interests, activities and the campus organizations you are involved with. myIT has the added benefit of single sign-on which decreases the number of usernames and passwords you have to remember.

When will myIT be available?
The portal is being tested right now and will "go live" on January 2, 2007.

How will I access myIT?
Links to the login page will be on the main IIT home page (http://www.iit.edu) on January 2nd. Or you can go directly to http://my.iit.edu and log in with your name@iit.edu email username and password.

(Users with name@iit.edu, name@iit.edu, name@iit.edu and name@iit.edu email accounts will receive name@iit.edu credentials in order to access the portal.)

What is single sign-on?
Single sign-on is a method of authentication that enables a user to enter his personal username and password once and gain access to multiple software systems.

Is single sign-on secure?
myIT uses SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) protocol for secure Internet communications. Data transfers are encrypted and applications accessed through the portal are protected by an additional high-security firewall. However, as with any system that contains personal information it is important to use a secure password that only you know.

Will Web for Students and other single sign-on systems be accessible outside myIT?
During the initial roll-out phase of myIT all systems will remain accessible via the IIT public web site and existing URLs. However, everyone is encouraged to start using the portal in January because Blackboard, Web for Students and other single sign-on systems will eventually be accessible only through myIT.

Questions about myIT can be emailed to bijsupport@iit.edu.
Submission Information

Every week the TechNews editorial staff will choose one photo submitted by a reader to print here.

If you would like to submit a photo for consideration:
E-mail it to technewsphotos@gmail.com by Thursday 5pm.
Subject matter is open.
Include your name as you would like it printed.
Include a description that you would like printed with it.

Keep in mind that it will be printed on this page (in black and white)
Contest is open to any IIT students, faculty and staff excluding TechNews editors.

NOTE TO READERS:

We regret to inform you that this will be the last issue of TechNews for the year. We wish you all the best on finishing up the semester, and hope that your break is happy, safe, and restful. Please look for our return to the racks for in the spring of 2007.

TechNews staff
Unhappy in your major? Thinking about leaving IIT? Quit whining.

By Colin Emch-Wei
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

I indulge to the elevation at the same time almost everyday. There’s always some sort of announcement posted on a nearby wall, which serves as a welcome distraction whilst I wait for the elevator to arrive. Sometimes, I see one that evokes a peculiar feeling within me...total befuddlement. Such was my reaction to the ad that came from the psychology department that beckoned disbursed students with an understanding and comforting work environment. 

Look, kids, everyone has their major. I hate my major. So do you, and so does the darn sitting next to you. There are a million other things you’d rather do than sit at a desk and do calculations or codes. This isn’t because you’re a bad person, it’s because you are a person. I'd rather be reading, or playing music than drawing buildings; I freely admit that, because these are some of my beloved hobbies, things I turn to for pleasure and growth. I can’t do them all the time because I can’t make a living with them, and therefore must study architecture. If the pleasure is gone or diminished, there will be pain that replaces it. It’s as simple as that.

By the same token, everyone hates doing large amounts of work. Unfortunately, that’s what you do in college. It’s not going to change, no matter what you want. If it does, that place isn’t worth it. To paraphrase one of my past professors, you should be bordering on active meditation when you’re at school. Otherwise you’re not learning.

College is hard work, and that’s why not everyone gets to or wants to go to college. I know that sounds terrible, but it’s a fact of life that has to be accepted.

So for crying out loud, quit whining. None of us will ever get over what we have to do. I can’t play video games for a living, and you can’t be hamburgers for a living. You’re here because you need to do something else with your life, and you’ve chosen a noble way to about it. Don’t get me wrong, education is truly important. Anyone that stops learning at any point isn’t living. However, you’ve just got to suck it up and keep going.

I’ll level with you. I used to be one of the hopeless students that this advertisement was made for. My course of study was completely meaningless, and I drew no enjoyment from it. At one point in time, I decided that I needed to leave architecture and pursue something else, and perhaps leave IIT indefinitely. When I sat down and actually thought about it, I couldn’t think of anything else to do. So I just kept going. I passed my classes, and three years later here I am, kids. You’ve got to hang on. Nothing good in this world ever comes without hard, painful work. You’ll be just fine, I promise. Quit whining, and get back to your studies. Don’t take any easy way out, because you’ll never forgive yourself for that. Just, well, keep going.
GRE overhaul coming next fall

By Kristine Kalimber

The Graduate Record Examinations General Test, which is required by thousands of graduate programs, including many law schools, will be changed as of Oct. 1. One notable difference will be the time required to take the test, which will increase from two and a half hours to four hours. The structure, content, scoring and administration of the test will also change.

The Scholastic Testing Service, which administers the GRE, is "making the most significant changes to the exam in its 55-year history," according to Susan Kaplan, director of graduate programs for Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions.

In addition to, "requiring a lot more stamina on the part of the test-taker," the new version of the test will no longer be computer adaptive, Kaplan said. For the current test, the difficulty of each question adapts increasingly to the success of the test-taker's score on the preceding question.

The new test will include the same range of questions for each test-taker, according to Kaplan.

"This change is going to require that ETS is going to have to do more prep on the part of students at a variety of difficulty levels," each test, said Kaplan, because all test-takers will be required to respond to questions at all levels of difficulty.

Kaplan said the computer-adaptive nature was accounts for the results of the computer-adaptive method. The "more untutored part was not material," you can study for that. (The text) scoring is unfair, not indicative of what test-takers know and how they will perform in graduate school," Baskin-Sommers said. She added that she believes the "first 10 questions determine your score and you need to weigh more heavily than the rest of the exam."

But senior David Meisler, who plans to take the GRE for the future, said, "I don't think

Back surgery: the best cure for pain?

By Victor Guharyoh

Surgery for people with ruptured disks is a very common procedure in the United States and is 40 percent higher than any other country. Removal of slipped disks and the fusion of unstable back bones are the two common procedures used in the U.S.

A ruptured disk occurs when the gelatinous material inside one of the intervertebral disks that separates the spinal vertebrae ruptures outward and puts pressure on the spinal nerve. The rupture may cause a painful condition called sciatica. Surgery generally provides relief from pain. Many surgeons prefer surgery for patients with only one disk.

However, a study done over four years involving more than 1,200 patients of the National Institutes of Health who agreed to try a non-surgical therapy before surgery found no difference in outcome between the two groups.

The study was a randomized trial with a 2:1 allocation. The results suggest that in most cases there is no clear reason to advocate strongly for surgery, said Dr. Eugene Carragee of Stanford University Medical Center in an accompanying editorial.

The study did not demonstrate superiority of either surgery or non-surgery. However, patients can safely decide what to do based on personal preference.

"I think this will have an impact," said Dr. Steven Grifin, chairman of the department of orthopedic surgery at the University of California, San Diego.

Angioplasties no better than drugs

By Victor Guharyoh

There are nearly one million heart attacks in the U.S. every year and doctors have long believed in opening the blocked heart artery any time after an angioplasty is the medical procedure done to restore blood flow through narrowed or blocked arteries to the heart. Plaque builds up on the inner walls of an artery leading to reduced blood flow and heart attack. A thin tube with a balloon on the end is placed in the site of the disease. The balloon is inflated to squish it outwards against the artery wall and a much tube is placed to keep the blood flow open.

However, a recent landmark study of 2,168 patients in 217 hospitals in 27 countries triggered outrage among doctors who have long believed if the heart attack occurred three or more days before (Presentated at the meeting of the American College of Cardiology) it had no effect and that the procedure would have no effect. Patients are still alive who had surgery, but with it the patients now have to wait to get the best possible outcomes.

The researchers concluded that angioplasty done

Use of Anemia drug may be harmful

By Victor Guharyoh

Every year, almost a million people in the United States are treated for anemia. Anemia is caused by erythropoietin (Epo) deficiency leading to inadequate production of red blood cells. The drug Epo (erythropoietin) is used to treat anemia of chronic kidney diseases. The drug, rekamycin (Epo), is known to cause symptoms which range from a 40 percent decrease in blood pressure to a 10 percent increase in heart rate.

The study by 192 patients with kidney disease and anemia suggests that high doses used to treat amnesia may increase the risk of heart problems. The study was done in New England Journal of Medicine, November 16, 2006. In this study, 715 patients received doses of Epo to achieve a hemoglobin level of 12 g/dL and another group received a placebo. The patients were examined by public health officials who "seek care immediately after heart attack symptoms begin to get the maximum benefit from angioplasty".

If you would like drug to contribute to the News Section or would like to see something else in it Contact Shrvani
On the Cheap: Yassa African Restaurant

By Colin Emch-Wei
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Over the last few weeks, On the Cheap has covered (almost) exclusively Italian and Asian cuisine. While we realize that these are some of the most appreciated culinary styles in Chicago, sometimes it’s nice to go out of our comfort zone and try something truly out there. Our foray into the unknown is Yassa, the only Senegalese restaurant in Chicago, and probably the only one in the Midwest.

Yassa is a small, family-owned restaurant that specializes in the small market of Senegalese cuisine. They’re located very far South, on 79th St. For those of you who are of the El persuasion, that’s farther than the Green Line travels. You can, however, get there by Red Line train... but it’s still a pain. Yassa is perched in-between a large commercial area and what seemed to be predominantly residences, so it’s a safe neighborhood and you shouldn’t feel uneasy about parking your car there. While on the subject, there’s ample parking if you should decide to travel by car.

When you first step into Yassa, you’ll notice that it’s essentially just a tiny, warmly decorated room with a few tables inside. It makes for a cozy atmosphere, since all of your fellow diners are within close (but not too close) proximity and the waiter will often buzz around and talk to you. Also, the restaurant is BYOB, so wine... all the other guests brought wine. Upon sitting at the table, you’ll be tempted to look at their menu and decide what you’re ordering... Don’t. The waiter will come by shortly and tell you what’s being offered, and if you tell him what you like, he’ll often suggest something for you. If you’re dining with more than one person, they won’t let you order the same thing... because they want you to try all sorts of food.

On this occasion, we were given a fried fish platter as an appetizer, the following for entrees: Dibbi Chicken with vernicelli, grilled tilapia with couscous, and Yassa Chicken. In addition, we also tried ginger juice, one of their specialty beverages. If you like ginger beer, you’ll love this.

One of my dining partners isn’t a fan of fish, but he loved the fish appetizer, and so did the rest of us. It was very light, and served with a slightly spicy dipping sauce. Delicious, says I. The trend of scrumptious food continued with the entrees. Their couscous is among the best I’ve ever had (believe me, I’ve eaten a lot of couscous), and their means are absolutely stellar.

Everything was well-cooked, tender, and bursting with flavor. The Dibbi chicken was served as being the best dish, but all of the others held their own. This chicken was slowly grilled and served in pieces, along with some of vernicelli and a sweet onion side.

The Yassa chicken was similarly prepared, except that it was marinated and grilled with much different spices. The Yassa chicken was served with a vegetable gravy and rice, and according to the waiter is supposed to be eaten all together. It was a little on the spicy side, but it was a welcome zing of flavor.

The tilapia is served in whole fish form, as we cared how many bones when you’re eating the tender, succulent flesh. Again, my dining companion with the adversity to fish loved this fish. I could say that that experience in itself vindicated the entire excursion.

When all was said and done, the bill came out to $41 for three of us. For a delicious appetizer, drinks, and massive plates of amazing food that will fill you up, Yassa gets our stamp of approval. Don’t miss this place... it’s just that good.

Where was this photo taken?

If you know, be the first to e-mail us at technewspictures@gmail.com and we will publish your name next week.

Last Week’s Winner

Congratulations to Kenny Warren who correctly identified last week’s picture as the Millennium Park at the Pritzker Pavilion.

A&"
A Christmas Story - 24-Hr. Marathon

TBS

Selecting on December 24 @ 9PM

A Christmas Story is an adaptation of the Jean Shepherd story about a little boy's efforts to receive a Red Ryder on rifle for Christmas. –TBS.com

New on DVD

Christmas Story (Blu-ray)

Dec. 6 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (HD-DVD)

December 5

Beerfest

Christmas Story (HD-DVD)

High School Musical Remix (2-Disc, Special Edition)

Idiots!

Miami Vice

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (Blu-ray)

December 12

Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (3-Disc Extended Edition Gift Set)

Devil Wears Prada

James Bond Ultimate Collection, Vol. 3

James Bond Ultimate Collection, Vol. 4

Salad Days: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby

Von Tron: Defender of the U-Home, Vol. 2

World Trade Center

December 19

American Heist

Heaven

Jackass Number Two

December 31

Godzilla Rides Again

Godzilla vs. Mothra

Superman (14-Disc Ultimate Collector's Edition)

December 26

The Black Dahlia

The Descent

Haven

Jackass Number Two

December 31

Godzilla Rides Again

Godzilla vs. Mothra

Superman (14-Disc Ultimate Collector's Edition)

December 26

Please Note: These are tentative release dates and are subject to change. You can contact your local retailer to make sure the DVD you're looking for is available.

TV Spotlight, New on CD and New on DVD compiled by James Booster, Contributing Editor.

Dec. 9

Dec. 10

Dec. 12

Dec. 12

Dec. 19

My Super Ex-Girlfriend
Track Winners

Track 1
1. 306 Enhancing Psychology Research
2. 308 Developing an Artificial Pancreas
3. 302 Synthetic Biology

Track 2
1. 342 Hybrid Electric School Bus
2. 342 Technical & Market Integration of Hydroelectric Energy
3. 344 Wind Energy

Track 3
1. 313 Preliminary Layout for a Caster Factory
2. 313 Design of a Large-Scale Structure
3. 34 Nano Technology & the Public: Part II

Track 4
1. 339 Team Building Games and Training Tools for IPRO Teams
2. 319 Logistics Outsourcing Tool
3. 346 Coal Desulfurization Processes

Track 5
1. 329 Entertainment
2. 348 Improving Health Care Information System
3. 309 Prosthetics & Prosthetics Education

Track 6 and 7
1. 357 myWay Way: Touring the High-Tech Way
2. 250 Interactive Language Learning on Mobile Devices
3. 352 ZINDA: Custom Clothing

Overall Winners

Top Presentations
1. 329 Entertainment
2. 348 Improving Health Care Information System
3. 319 Team Building Games and Training Tools for IPRO Teams
4. 319 Logistics Outsourcing Tool
5. 306 Enhancing Psychology Research

Top Exhibit
1. 350 Interactive Language Learning on Mobile Devices
2. 308 Developing an Artificial Pancreas
3. 352 ZINDA: Custom Clothing
4. 342 Hybrid Electric School Bus
5. 355 Klav Aqua Water Purification System

Top Business Plan
1. 357 myWay Way: Touring the High-Tech Way
2. 350 Interactive Language Learning on Mobile Devices
3. 352 ZINDA: Custom Clothing

Project Management
1. 306 Enhancing Psychology Research
2. 305 Developing Extremely Affordable Products
3. 319 Logistics Outsourcing Tool

Website
1. 342 Hybrid Electric School Bus
2. 329 Entertainment
3. 312 Preliminary Layout for a Caster Factory
One on One with John Rowe
- A candid interview with the chair of the IIT Board of Trustees & Presidential Search Committee

By James Booser

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

John Rowe, chairman, president and chief executive of-
ficer of Envision Corporation officially became chairman of the IIT Board of Trustees last January among others. His first priority is to lead a successor for IIT President Lewis Collins who has announced he will retire at the end of this academic year. In a candid and insightful interview with TechNews, Rowe discusses how the presidential search process is going, the grand opening of the University Technology Park and his role as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

TechNews: First, can you tell a little bit about the grand opening of the University Technology Park?
John Rowe: I think you should look at the grand opening of the Tech Park as Phase III in the rehabilitation of the campus. My way of looking at it is to the Cresco Hall re-opening way the first step and the refurbishing of some of the other buildings that has gone on around campus as the second step and in that context, the Tech Park is the third phase.

What Lew is trying to do here is very important. He is trying to first emphasize that this school has technology in it in some form or the other, and the technology driven at one type. He is trying to reach out to the technologically community in the broadest sense at the city, state and national level. Secondly, he is trying to use the establishment of these buildings in bringing new business into this area as part of our commitment to this part of the city and third, a way to create business opportunities for our faculty and students. It's one of those multi-purposed agendas when you try to keep everything together.

TechNews: Can you give a recap of what the Presidential Search Committee (PSC) has done so far and what the committee’s plans are for the next several months?
John Rowe: The committee has met twice and will meet for a third time today [not Friday] and friends to meet about every three weeks until we get intensively into the final steps in selec-
tion. We have offered the first indication that we will know which one or two candidates we are going to get to know each another and to get some general ideas from the committee members as to what type of leader they think the university needs to replace Lew. Everyone agrees that Lew is a tough act to follow, but it's also the case that everybody thinks the new president should be a little different from the old one. That's almost always the case when you have a new leader.
We spent most of the time in the second meeting discussing a position description which I hope will be final and initial when we meet next week. The position description will include everything that we plan to do as a university and what we want to do is get the maximum input on what people want and try to find a leader and a person who will match as many of the dreams and confidence that they are being effectively led.

TechNews: Once you get down, for example, to the final two candidates, would they come to campus and meet with them-
selfs of the university community?
John Rowe: That has not been decided yet and there is a terrible struggle on that. You want a chance for some people to meet people, but some of the best candidates won't go through that process. So you have to have a final vote, we have no doubt that the whole search committee will meet more than two candidates. I assume as many as six, maybe eight or more. And I have no desire the whole search committee will meet the final candidates more than twice. The search committee has to have a meeting to make that decision and it depends on what they (the candidates) are willing to do.

TechNews: Is there a target date in which you and the Board

want to have someone selected as the next president? For ex-

ample, by June 2007?

John Rowe: That's when Lew would like. I'm sure he is willing to stay longer if he is not doing so [to select someone]. Our target date is to have someone picked who would be here at the begin-
ing of the next academic year. That means you have to have a decision by May or June. I have no idea whether or not it will be done by then. I'm sure Lew would stay another semester or so.

TechNews: What type of individual are you personally looking for in the next president of IIT?

John Rowe: I want someone who is really smart, both academically and in an economic sense. I want someone with a deep com-

mitment to the community, including the diversity of the Chicago

community. I want somebody who cares about Black people, Hispanic people and White people in Chicago and about people from India and other international countries. I want somebody who will view this school internally, I want somebody who really cares about being good at what you do and be able to define what it is you are good at.

I don't believe IIT can be great in all things and I want somebody who is prepared to do so, the students and the faculty in the eye and say this is what I think we are really good at and this is what I really am going to focus on. And these are the things that I think we have to do, but we really can't be the best at need to do and shouldn't do at all. Someone who can do basic

needs. The funny thing is, I sense whether it's faculty, students or alumni that there is a lot of worry about this decision (of selecting a new president). But I don't think there is a big difference in who people want. They want a good leader. They want an open leader. They want an academically strong and dollars and cents leader so that we don't get ourselves in big trouble. They want someone who will inspire trust from a whole lot of different people. Those are really common themes.

All change brings anxiety and Lew has been a strong leader and he is a tough act to follow. I think the biggest picture here is that this is a very hard institution to define. You can't really say we are going to go broad to head with MIT or Cal Tech to be the greatest research and engineering university in the United States. That's not really what we are going to do. We can't be exactly the Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin or Michigan State and we can't be really good in many areas as a big state university.

And yet when you talk to students, they are saying we have a great education [students]. Students want to know that that won't get lost. When you talk to them, they say we had a really good education here, but we are not sure a IIT degree means as much as it once did. We want to make certain we have leadership who will keep a IIT degree a very special thing to have.

TechNews: What are your goals for IIT as the new chairman of the Board of Trustees?

John Rowe: First, I think it's up to the president to set the vision and goals for the university with the support, advice and appro-

val from the Board. I don't feel that it's my place to have a vision for the university. I feel that it's my place to try to help the Board make certain the president has a good and clear vision in which the Board can support. I'm very interested in making board meetings and executive committee meetings more effec-
tive. We have some really smart and rich people on the Board that will do a lot more for this college if they really believed in what it is doing. That's the thing I might work on. On a personal level, I'm very interested in the architectural college because I love architecture and also the goal in the 2010 Plan that we try to claim the part of expertise on energy efficiency and [re-
newable] energy. I very concerned that we fill the Library

Chair in Chemical and Environmental Engineering as soon as possible with a real engineer. It's time to get on with that. I'm as-
terested in the development of the Princeton Institute for biomedi-
cal and biogenerating efforts. The way I see it is that I'm entitled as chairman to put those things on the agenda for discussion, but it's up to Lew as president and then his successor to develop the real vision on how to put those things together.
In The Limelight: Professor Georgia Papavasiliou

By Disha Deshi

TECHNEWS WRITER

In this week’s TechNews we have Prof. Georgia Papavasiliou, a former student at IIT and now a Senior Lecturer and Assistant Director, Product: Institute of Biomedical Science and Engineering.

TechNews: Tell us something about your growing up years.
Prof Georgia: I grew up in Chicago and did my schooling and college over here.

TechNews: Were you inclined to engineering right from the beginning?
Prof Georgia: I always liked physics, chemistry and biology but more importantly I enjoyed the math component in each of these subjects. My family has a lot of engineers and that proved to be a major influence for me. I am glad to be an engineer since an engineering approach helps you come up with newer designs and better methodologies to deal with problems.

TechNews: What colleges did you go to?
Prof Georgia: I received Bachelor’s in Chemical Engineering (1996) and PhD in Chemical Engineering (2003) both from Illinois Institute of Technology.

TechNews: How does it feel being a student and then a faculty member at IIT?
Prof Georgia: It is interesting to see IIT transform a lot. I feel that as a student you learn but you learn the things even better when you teach them to your students. It is exciting interacting with people who were my professors and now my colleagues.

TechNews: How do you think IIT has changed from the time you were a student to now?
Prof Georgia: I think things are pretty much the same in terms of small class sizes and the level of commitment from faculty members. However, I feel there are lot of interdisciplinary courses offered now, lots of new research being done and the labs are definitely much updated.

TechNews: How do you think working in the industry and academics differ?
Prof Georgia: The two are very different. While working in industry, all you do is work on a lot of projects and meet their deadlines. While as an academic you have a lot of responsibilities such as teaching, running research labs, advising and a lot of administrative activities like being on committees. But being in academics is really fun and challenging because here you have the freedom to pick an area and explore it. In a way, you are your own boss in academics.

TechNews: What is the one thing you really like about being at IIT?
Prof Georgia: I absolutely like the people here and the friendly and close knit environment. I like the fact that it is a small campus and we have a lot of student interaction.

TechNews: What is the one change that you think IIT can do wonders to?
Prof Georgia: IIT is a great school and we have a talented lot of people. So we should work towards making IIT’s name more known and advertise ourselves not only to the local community but also the global community.

TechNews: Your message to the students.
Prof Georgia: Times have changed a lot and there are so many opportunities out there waiting for us. So take full advantage of all the opportunities. Keep your mind open and expose yourself to other areas. Keep good balance in life and try being good in whatever you do. Most importantly have fun in whatever you do.

Profile:
Name: Georgia Papavasiliou
Research Interests: Mathematical modeling, nonlinear dynamics and polymer reaction engineering.
Favorite Pastime: Exercising, spending time with family and traveling.
Favorite place: I go to Greece every year since I have my family there. I have also been to Paris, Norway, Denmark and Armenia.
Preferred music: I listen to all sorts of music ranging from classical to pop depending on my mood.
Favorite hangout place in Chicago: Greek Town
Role Model: My mom. She is extremely energetic and I wonder how she can keep it all together.
Favorite quote: “To believe in ones self is the key to success.”

Wish yourself a happy holiday.

Use your Apple education discount to shop on a Mac and the Apple software you really want this holiday. Just visit all an Apple Store near you, shop online at www.apple.com/education/shop, or call 800-692-7752.
IIT to offer free tuition to CPS students

Up to 100 students to be selected for this program

By James Boozier

IIT Board of Trustees Chair John Rowe and IIT President Louis J. Colianni announced last week at the grand opening of the University Technology Park, a major initiative between the university and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). IIT will offer CPS high school graduates who meet the university’s admission requirements and whose parents or guardians have household family incomes of less than $40,000 the opportunity to attend IIT with full financial support for all tuition, books and fees.

“This initiative is designed to address the very real dilemma experienced by families struggling to balance living expenses and the cost of higher education,” said Colianni in a statement. “This program can also make a lasting impact on the growing national crisis in math and science education. We will look to our alumni, friends and the community to provide long-term philanthropic support for this initiative.”

It was Colianni, according to Rowe, who came up with the idea of creating this initiative. “Low came up with this idea which we think we can afford and of course if we can’t, we think we can raise enough money to support it. I’m certainly very enthusiastic about it,” Rowe said.

Beginning with the first-year class entering Illinois Institute of Technology in September 2007, IIT will present these awards to June 2007 CPS graduates and will pay any remaining costs once federal, state and other available awards have been applied. Over the next four years, IIT hopes to support 100 CPS graduates from low-income families who meet the eligibility requirements for the university.

“We are deeply grateful and are lucky to have strong partners like IIT to help our students succeed and reach their full potential,” said Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan.

According to a statement, earlier this year, IIT was designated as a co-recipient of a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant awarded to CPS to help improve mathematics and science teacher education. IIT, along with partners Glencoe/ McGraw Hill and The Field Museum of Natural History, will work with seven CPS high schools over a three-year period to co-develop curriculum that will provide students a better understanding of biology, chemistry and physics within a framework of national and state standards.

The class entering IIT in Fall 2006 had a mean grade point average of 3.844, average SAT score of 1286 and average ACT score of 28. The class includes 13 high school valedictorians and nine salutatorians. Of 484 entering freshmen, 64 students ranked in the top ten of their graduating class and 77 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating class.

For information about this initiative and the university’s admission requirements, please visit http://www.iit.edu."

Mayor Daley addresses an extensive new plan to better Chicago Public Schools and benefit IIT's local admission rate.
Fantasy Football: playoffs preview and season awards

By Prateek Sanan

Columbian’s Note

The 14-weeks left in the NFL season, it is crunch time in fantasy football land. Most leagues have playoffs running from weeks 14-16 which means that the last phase of the season for most fantasy footballers starts this weekend. It is time to take everything that your team and players have accomplished during the season and throw it out the window because all matters now is how you do in the last 4 games of the season. With the midnight deadline past and the first free agent pool quite thin in most leagues, fantasy football playoffs come down mainly to matchups. Not so much now, but towards week 16 you would see managers realize that players they have wrapped up a high playoff seed or if their season has not gone well and is for most players over. It’s a huge mistake to leave in a player that does not play in the championship game and cost you the few points that could ultimately be the difference between 2nd place. The playoffs are when you have to make the necessary decisions and try to squeeze out every point you can and with some good luck sprinkled in, the championship can be yours. This week I will try to ease some of those tough decisions with an in-depth Start’Em and Sit’Em playoffs guide that covers weeks 14-16.

Previews:

Start’Em

Stephon Maroney, RB, vs. Texans: The Texans defense has not been able to stop anyone this year. Maroney is getting a lot more of the load in New England these days as Corey Dillon seems to be in the decline stages of his career. Maroney should have a tough time against this Texans defense. McNair has been shaky at best this season and this is one of those weeks you want to look elsewhere.

Broderick Bazar, RB, vs. Browns: The Browns have had all kinds of trouble lately and they have one of the toughest schedules down the stretch. The Panthers defense does a great job against the run and this should be a tough match up. Also take note that Brandon Jacobs gets all the goal-line carries, and thus staying away from Frazier is a good idea this week.

Sit’Em

Lawrence Maroney, RB, vs. Texans: The Texans defense has not been able to stop anyone this year. Maroney is getting a lot more of the load in New England these days as Corey Dillon seems to be in the decline stages of his career. Maroney should have a tough time against this Texans defense. McNair has been shaky at best this season and this is one of those weeks you want to look elsewhere.

Jim Harbaugh, RB, vs. Browns: Harbaugh has been the goal-line guy for the Ravens this season and the Browns have had all kinds of trouble lately and they have one of the toughest schedules down the stretch. The Panthers defense does a great job against the run and this should be a tough match up. Also take note that Brandon Jacobs gets all the goal-line carries, and thus staying away from Frazier is a good idea this week.

Week 16 (Semifinals)

Favorable Match-Up: Here is a list of guys you definitely want to consider starting or considering benching in week 16.

Start’Em

Steve McNair, QB @ Chiefs: The Chiefs defense has been a big reason that they have made a huge late season charge. They tend to be involved a lot of defensive struggles and the Ravens defense should have some struggle against coming defense. McNair has been shaky at best this season and this is one of those weeks you want to look elsewhere.

Jameel Brown, RB, vs. Browns: Brown has had all kinds of trouble lately and they have one of the toughest schedules down the stretch. The Panthers defense does a great job against the run and this should be a tough match up. Also take note that Brandon Jacobs gets all the goal-line carries, and thus staying away from Frazier is a good idea this week.

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Quarterback (QB):

Latavius Mason, Indianapolis Colts: NFL-MVP, the face of the league, and now the first recipient of the 1st award NFLFantasy Football Awards as the top fantasy QB in 2006. That is the life and times of Qbs QB Peyton Manning. Manning is projected to record around 4,000 passing yards and around 30 passing TDs in what looks like just another season for him. He has been the top QB in fantasy football this season and after QB Donovan McNabb’s season ending injury, there is no argument.

Running Back (RB):

LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego Chargers: A kid of people regarded Tomlinson as the third best fantasy back behind Corey Dillon and Adrian Peterson. However, I have proven everyone wrong by putting up a monster season that could be the best fantasy season ever. On this pace, I might have 30 rushing TDs, 4 receiving TDs, and those in 2 passing TDs just for good measure. That would shatter Shaun Alexander’s record 28 TDs last season.

Wide Receiver (WR):

Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis Colts: This was probably the toughest position to choose this week as Wayne, Derrick Mason, and Chad Johnson all deserve recognition. I’ll go with Wayne through week 1 to week 16 which should have him as a 20 TD receiver for the season. Wayne has a complete season from beginning to end and has become QB Peyton Manning’s top target.

Defensive Player (DB):

Ted Hendricks, Baltimore Ravens: The top right end all year has been Terrell Owens who qualifies at TE, however, he is a wide receiver and I will leave him out. Todd Heap has a great season but as a tight end, I will not have him in week 17 as he is in the playoffs with a new QB Steve McNair. He has been consistent all year long and continues to be one of the best red zone threats in the NFL.

Kicker (K)

Robbie Gould, Chicago Bears: Gould has had a great season as a kicker for the NFC’s top team. He has missed only one kick through 11 games and holds the record for most field goals in a row as a Bears kicker. Gould has had solid production this season and his 62 FG is a career high.

Defensive Tackle (DT):

Baltimore Ravens: The Bears lead the league in yards and points against and their special teams has had some great returns, but despite being a huge Bear I still have to give this award to the Baltimore Ravens. No one has been as dominant as the Ravens when it comes to defensive players. In fact, the Ravens leadership has won most every defensive occasion this season. They might not be the best defense in the league and they probably will not have the ultimate success that the Super Bowl winners do, but as far as fantasy defensive go, the 2006 Ravens have been one of the best of the year.

Fantasy Football Most Valuable Player (MVP):

LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego Chargers: Last year he was the number one No. 1 pick by scoring 28 total TDs. Before him, Trent Holmes had held the record with 24 TDs. Will there be them in going to hold that record anymore? I doubt it. LaDainian with his 36 total TDs, 1,000 rushing, 1,000 receiving production season. L.T. will be the new record holder, but I do not think that anyone is going to come close to his record because he is having truly an unbelievable season and I do not even think that he could ever match his own numbers from this season ever again. There is any question as to who ends up getting the .1st award Fantasy Football Most Valuable Player? L.T. is having the most productive Fantasy Football season... ever.

Defensive Two-Sports Team (DST):

MLB Ray Lewis, The Baltimore Ravens Defense and Special Teams have produced some huge fantasy numbers and a great season.
What to watch for: NFL week 14

By Matthew Helland

Cleveland 17 Pittsburgh 27

These teams met three weeks ago in Cleveland and renew their rivalry under meaningless circumstances. The Steelers scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to rebound from a 13-3 deficit in week 11, and should continue to have success passing the ball against the Browns secondary.

N.Y. Giants 21 Carolina 24

The laser between these wildcard hopefuls will likely be sitting at home in January while the winner will all but lock up a playoff spot. As of week 12 each controlled the two wildcard spots, but with Philadelphia, Minnesota, St. Louis, and San Francisco only one game back, a loss could be devastating.

Oakland 19 Cincinnati 28

The Bengals are on the edge of the playoff bubble with Kansas City and Denver just a game in front. This is a must win for Cincy if they have any shot at reaching the post-season, given their next two games are at Indianapolis and Denver.

Minnesota 17 Detroit 13

The NFL schedule makers basically gave the Vikings a playoff spot this year with their easy schedule. However, Minnesota has struggled horribly on offense and must now win out to earn a wildcard berth. I think they stay alive this week, but I don’t see a winning streak in their future.

Tennessee 20 Houston 17

Vince Young and the Tennessee defense pulled off a remarkable comeback in week 12 against the Giants. Down 21 points in the fourth quarter the rookie engineered three touchdown drives and an interception by “Plummet” Jones gave the Titans the win. I look for Young to build on this experience and upset the Texans this week.

Indianapolis 31 Jacksonville 17

The Jaguars probably play the Colts tougher than any team year in and year out, as their last three losses have all been by a touchdown. Even though this game is Jacksonville, I don’t expect this game to be as close given all the injuries the Jaguars have suffered this year.

Baltimore 10 Kansas City 14

The Ravens offense looked dead on Thursday night against the Bengals and definitely will have to fix their problems before the playoffs begin. The Chiefs need Trent Green to step up this week because running against the Ravens is going to be tough, even with all pro back Laury. Atkinson.

New England 20 Miami 13

After starting 1-6 the Dolphins have won four in a row and are amazingly still in the playoff hunt. However, Tom Brady and the Patriots offense will make Dolphin fans forget about any playoff hopes after New England leaves Miami on Sunday afternoon.

Atlanta 13 Tampa Bay 51

The Falcons offense has disappeared over the second half of the season, mostly due to their inability to run the ball. Injuries have been a major problem for the Falcons, but losses to Detroit and Cleveland are tough if you’re trying to make a run at the playoffs. Phil, Vick has always struggled with the Tampa defense, and another loss appears inevitable for Atlanta.

Philadelphia 21 Washington 13

With McNabb injured and the Redskins experimenting with younger players, this should be an ugly game. The Eagles blitzing scheme and experience on defense should stifle rookie QB Brees. Campbell and give the Eagles the turnover and field position needed to win.

Seattle 24 Arizona 20

The Seahawks can close in on another division title this week. Although the NFC West in by no means a challenging division, the Seahawks have to be happy with their record given the injuries their offense has suffered this year:

Green Bay 20 San Francisco 27

The 49ers most likely won’t make the post season this year, but the young talent on their team makes for a promising 2007. Alex Smith is figuring out how to play quarterback in the NFL and RB Frank Gore has been a monster this season nothing for 100+ yards in four of his last five games.

Buffalo 13 N.Y. Jets 18

The Jets have one of the easiest schedules in football over the last month and if they won out could be looking at a playoff birth. No matter what happens over the final months, my vote for coach of the year goes to Eric Mangini.

Denver 14 San Diego 31

I don’t understand why the Broncos decided to replace Jake Plummer with rookie QB Jay Cutler. The rookie is obviously the future leader in Denver, but throwing him in their now means the Broncos are giving up on their Super Bowl aspirations.

New Orleans 31 Dallas 25

The score board will get a workout Sunday after as two of the most dangerous passing teams in the NFC meet. Tony Romo and Drew Brees should each throw for 300+ yards, but the Cowboys running game will make the difference in the second half.

Chicago 21 St. Louis 10

The Bears shouldn’t have a problem with the Rams on Sunday night. If the Bears can shutdown RB Steven Jackson, the embroidery for Chicago will be able to sit back and wait for turnover opportunities.

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Schedule of Events

**Men’s Basketball**

- ITT vs. Trinity Christian - H 12/5 7:30pm
- ITT @ MBB, School of Eng. - A 12/9 4:00pm
- ITT @ NSIC Tourney - A 12/10 1:00/3:00pm

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**Women’s Basketball**

- ITT @ Univ. of IL - Springfield - A 12/5 TBA
- ITT @ Hamline College - A 12/9 TBA
- ITT @ Silver Lake College - H 12/14 7:00pm
- ITT @ Cornetford - A 12/15 6:00pm
- ITT @ Taylor University - A 12/16 4:00pm

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**Women’s Swimming & Diving**

- No upcoming meets until January 2007.

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**Men’s Swimming & Diving**

- No upcoming meets until January 2007.