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Professional attire fashion show prepares students for Career Fair

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How you look can affect whether or not you get the job. According to a study by Frank Bernieri, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychology at Oregon State University, within the first 10 minutes of meeting, the interviewer has decided whether or not the person seeking employment is right for the job. Those who appear polished and put together are more likely to get the job than those who don't. In other words, looks matter.

With the Career Fair approaching on Tuesday, September 9, the Office of Campus Life (OCL) decided to host a fashion show and a shopping trip to teach students the do's and don'ts of professional and interview attire. The fashion show was held in the Commons on Wednesday, September 3, at lunchtime. Some IIT students were asked to model the outfits they plan to wear to the Career Fair to give other students an idea of how they should look on Tuesday at the Career Fair. The models handpicked their outfits and sent them to the OCL Graduate Assistant Nicole Gottleib for approval. While the models strutted down the runway, host Subarno Saha gave a description of their outfits and some helpful styling tips to the students.

Here are some helpful tips to assist you as you pick out your outfit for the career fair:

Dress conservatively; we all love to show our personalities through our outfits, but when going for interviews it is best to play it safe. Whether you're applying to work in a laid-back environment or not, you should look professional and polished.

Choose dark-toned colors like navy blue, black, brown, and grey. If you must wear something a little brighter, try to neutralize the brightness by keeping everything else dark toned. For instance, pair a bright blue shirt with black pants and a black blazer.

Leave your favorite cologne or perfume at home; it's hard for you to not want to impress the interviewer with your favorite Dior perfume or Ralph Lauren cologne, but sometimes our favorite scents can be overpowering and offensive, so it's best to go with a clean, fresh, 'just got out the shower' scent.

Wear appropriate shoes; no flip-flops, sneakers, or date night shoes.

Be confident; nothing looks better on you than confidence.
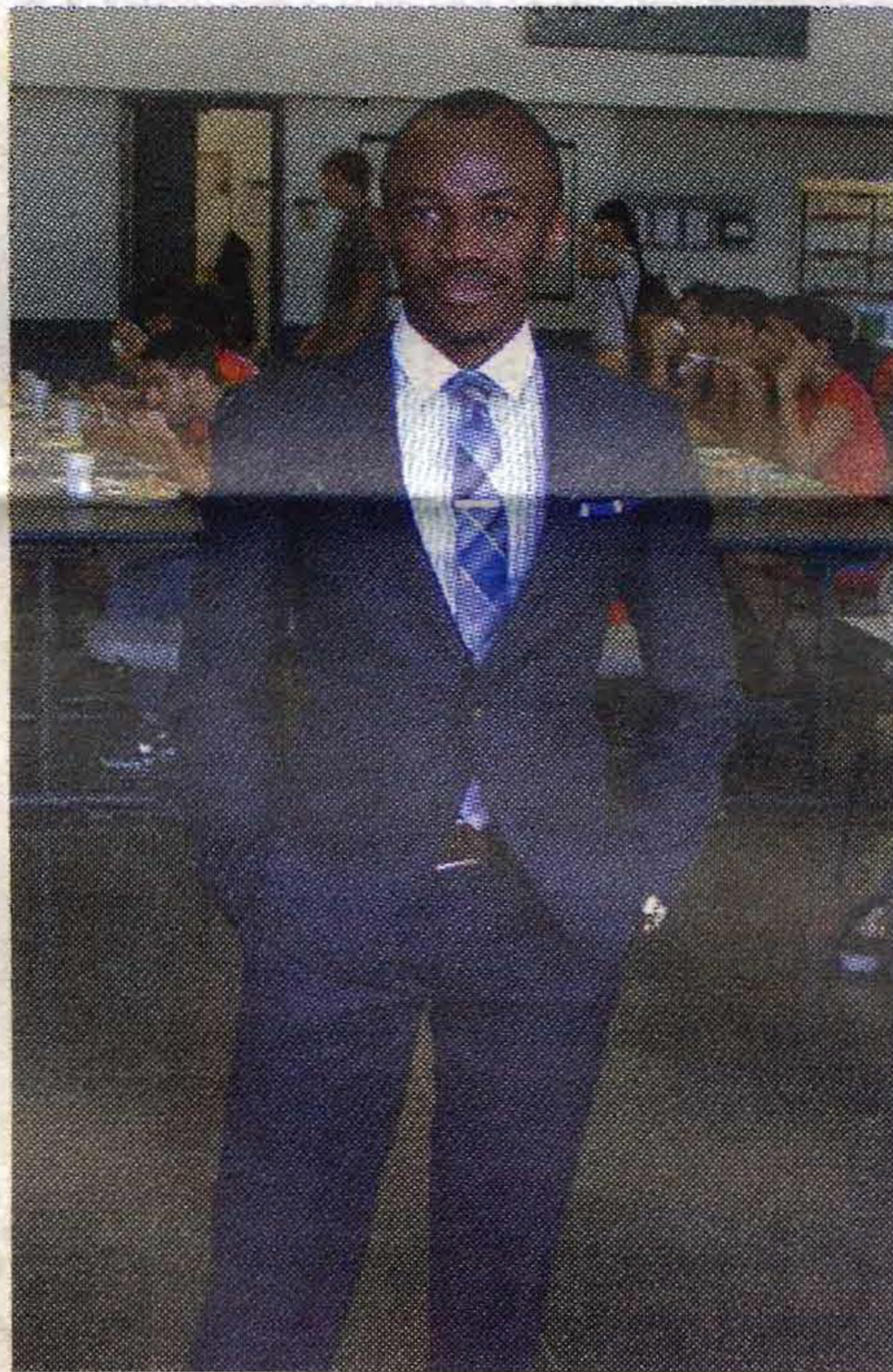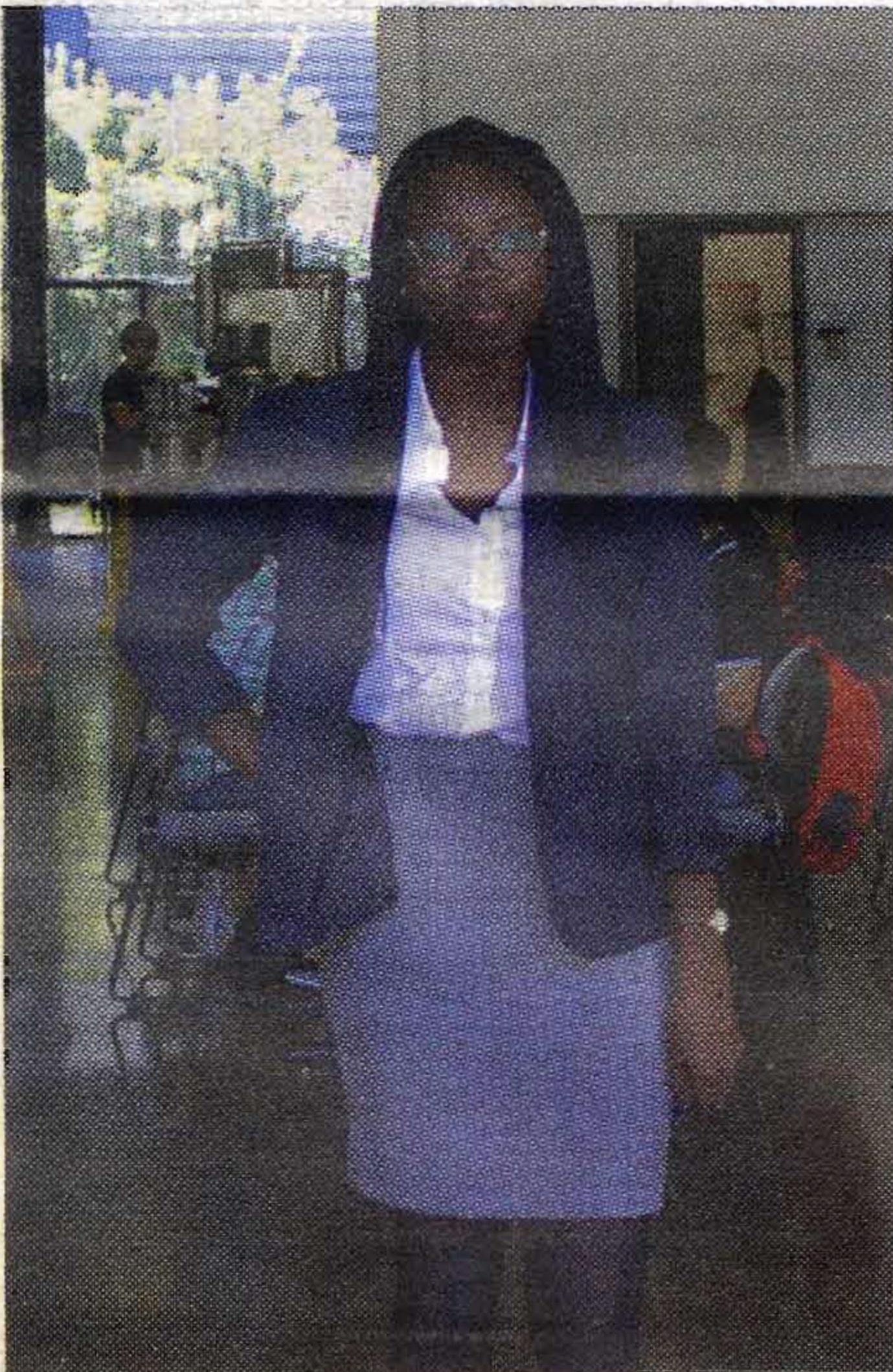
Photos by Adedoyin Adeniji

SGA Senate Election hasty, unfair

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TECHNEWS WRITER

Illinois Tech is in a time of rapid change. Between a major capital campaign and the selection process of a new university president, our university seems to be a very different place every academic year. Many different voices all come into play during times such as these.

The enrolled student body has many different resources through which they can make their opinions known to other students. But if a student wants to have their voice heard by the university's administration, and just as importantly, the university's Board of Trustees, they have far fewer options. One of those options is to become involved in the Student Government Association (SGA). SGA's Executive Board and Senate provide one of the few student voices in university decisions, so it is of vital importance that representatives are elected to these roles that not only passionately represent the views of the student body, but are willing to put in the time to be an effective student representative.

This is why I was very troubled when I received an email from the SGA President on the 5th of September informing me that the SGA Senate elections would be taking place 11 days later, on September 16. Not only that, the email said that nominations for the election would be open until the 12th of September, a few short days before the election.

The SGA Senate represents one of the most important ways for students to have a say in university policy, and the election of these Senators appears like it is being rushed. The haste of this election prevents it from being an opportunity for the best candidates to be determined and chosen by the student body; it turns it into a popularity contest, where the candidates with the most name recognition win.

SGA allows a student to begin their campaign once they turn in the paperwork that accepts their nomination, but this makes the election process incredibly unfair to students who don't get nominated early in the process. It rewards students who instantly nominate themselves and put posters up all over campus and penalizes students who delay their nomination so they can consider what they have to offer the student body and if they have the time to commit to the job.

Considering the importance of having a strong Senate, I think it is completely reasonable to hold elections a week later so we can ask candidates not to campaign until nominations have closed, and then actually give them the time to campaign. Not allowing candidates to campaign until nominations have closed ensures a level playing field, where all of the candidates have the same amount of time to spread their message. By giving the candidates a level playing field and time to campaign, we might actually have a real campaign.

Instead of relying on posters and name recognition, the candidates will have the time to talk to their peers, hear their peers' opinions, and share their views. Many students lament how little their Senators communicate with them once they are elected; setting the expectation during the campaign that candidates need to talk to and listen to their peers could help change this.

None of this is possible with the current election timeline. SGA recently announced that they would now aim to close nominations on the 10th in order to give students time to campaign, but this is far from enough. This still gives an advantage to students nominated early, and still has the election taking place on September 16, a date that is far too early, especially when no candidates have been announced yet.

The rushing of this election isn't the only thing troubling me. The way the entire student body is being told of the election is also extremely troubling. Other than the initial email to students about nominations being open, almost all of SGA's communication about the election has taken place over social media. While social media can be an effective way to spread information to some people, not everyone uses social media.

As of September 8, 924 people follow SGA's Facebook page, representing just 12% of the student body. Also as of September 8, 2,855 people are a member of the "IIT: Admitted Undergraduate" group on Facebook, the largest IIT-related community on social media. These 2,855 people represent 36% of IIT's student body. And these numbers assume that these pages are solely followed by enrolled students, which is not the case. This means that, at the absolute best, by relying on social media SGA is only able to reach 36% of students, excluding 64% of students from their message and any details about the election and