SGA Senate Meeting Announces Election Results

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Within the Student Government Association (SGA), each academic college on IIT's campus has a number of representatives called "Senators" who serve in the Student Senate of SGA. Senators serve a one-year team on the SGA Senate, where they represent concerns related to their respective colleges, vote on new student organizations, and serve on the three SGA subcommittees: Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Communication.

Each Senator is nominated by a fellow student or themselves, and then is voted in by members of their own college during the first few weeks of the academic year. Each college has a finite and predetermined number of seats available, which is proportional to the number of students enrolled in each college. This year's election took place on Tuesday, September 16. Students had the opportunity to vote online via HawkLink.

The results of the SGA Senate election were announced at the Student Senate Meeting held that evening at 9:15 p.m. in the MTCC Auditorium. Before announcing the results, several members of the SGA Executive Board had some opening remarks for the candidates as well as updates regarding the committees within SGA. They then moved on to the results of the Senate election.

For the Armour College of Engineering, there were eight seats open for Senators, and eight candidates who ran. The new Senators serving for the Armour College of Engineering are Viraj Shah, Brandon Simons, Efthimios Atsaloglou, Elvin Moy, Jeremy Becker, Abenezer Ayele, Hamza Sukkar, and San Dinh.

For the College of Science, students had one candidate for four seats open on the Senate. The new Senator for the IIT College of Science is Cosmin Lungu.

IIT's College of Architecture had two seats open on the Senate and four candidates running. The Senators elected are Mario Serrano and Shreya Jha.

For the School of Applied Technology, there were three students running for two Senate seats. The students elected to the Senate are Saket Mohan Kintali and Likitha Lokesh.

One Senate seat was open for student representatives from the Lewis College of Human Sciences. The one student who ran and won the seat is Gabriel Conners.

For the remaining colleges at IIT, no students accepted nominations for any seats for the college.

These 14 students were sworn in at the Tuesday evening Senate meeting and are now beginning their terms serving the student body on the SGA Student Senate.

ARC tutor spotlight: Rohit Agarwal

Khaleela Zaman
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The next time you come to IIT's Academic Resource Center (ARC), make sure you stop by the Computer Science (CS) table to say "Hi" to Rohit Agarwal. He is a proud undergraduate student majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). Even though he tutors at the CS table, Agarwal can also help with ECE and math questions, as he is the top guy in charge of all the math tutors. Additionally, happens to be a super-senior, who will be completing his fifth year at IIT and graduating in May 2015.

But hang on a second... Just what is the ARC? According to Agarwal, it is an awesome resource and a place where students can come and get more help than just with homework. The atmosphere is friendly, welcoming, and informal, one where you are among your peers. The tutors are also students who can give you candid explanations about homework, professors, and what classes to take next. The tutors have survived the classes you are currently taking and understand why you need help, and many times all you need is for someone other than your professor to explain it to you in a different way. Agarwal also recommends using the ARC for more than just tutoring—you are welcome to come in to just sit and do your work even if you do not need help. The ARC has the textbooks that you need available, as well as computers, which makes it a great place to work.

When Agarwal was asked why he likes to work at the ARC, he had many responses. He says the overarching reason is because he likes helping students and truly enjoys making that difference: "Literally, because of me [their grades improved]." Agarwal added that it is always nice to meet new people, especially to get in touch with students younger than him at IIT. This has allowed him to develop a "sprinkling of friends" from different years, which he said is "so nice." His bosses at the ARC are very friendly, and he enjoys the familial feel of the workplace, where he has become friends with many of his fellow tutors.

So, why should you say "Hi" to Rohit Agarwal? Well, because he is a cool person with really cool dreams and aspirations. Agarwal's current dream job is to be a Supreme Court judge. He also wants to revolutionize computer technology, while rooting for Manchester United's soccer team. You might not know that Agarwal was born in the United States but lived in India from when he was three until he came to IIT almost five years ago. He is also proud to say that his favorite color is "green for greenery," and he takes this as far as to even avoid walking on the grass in order to preserve its beauty.

If he could, Agarwal says he would "go back and beat up [his] younger self." Unlike what he ended up doing in his first two years of college at IIT, he recommends that all students get involved with student organizations, study anything they want while they can, and get acquainted with faculty and staff. A word of advice from Agarwal to all students is, above all, "to see IIT as an opportunity."
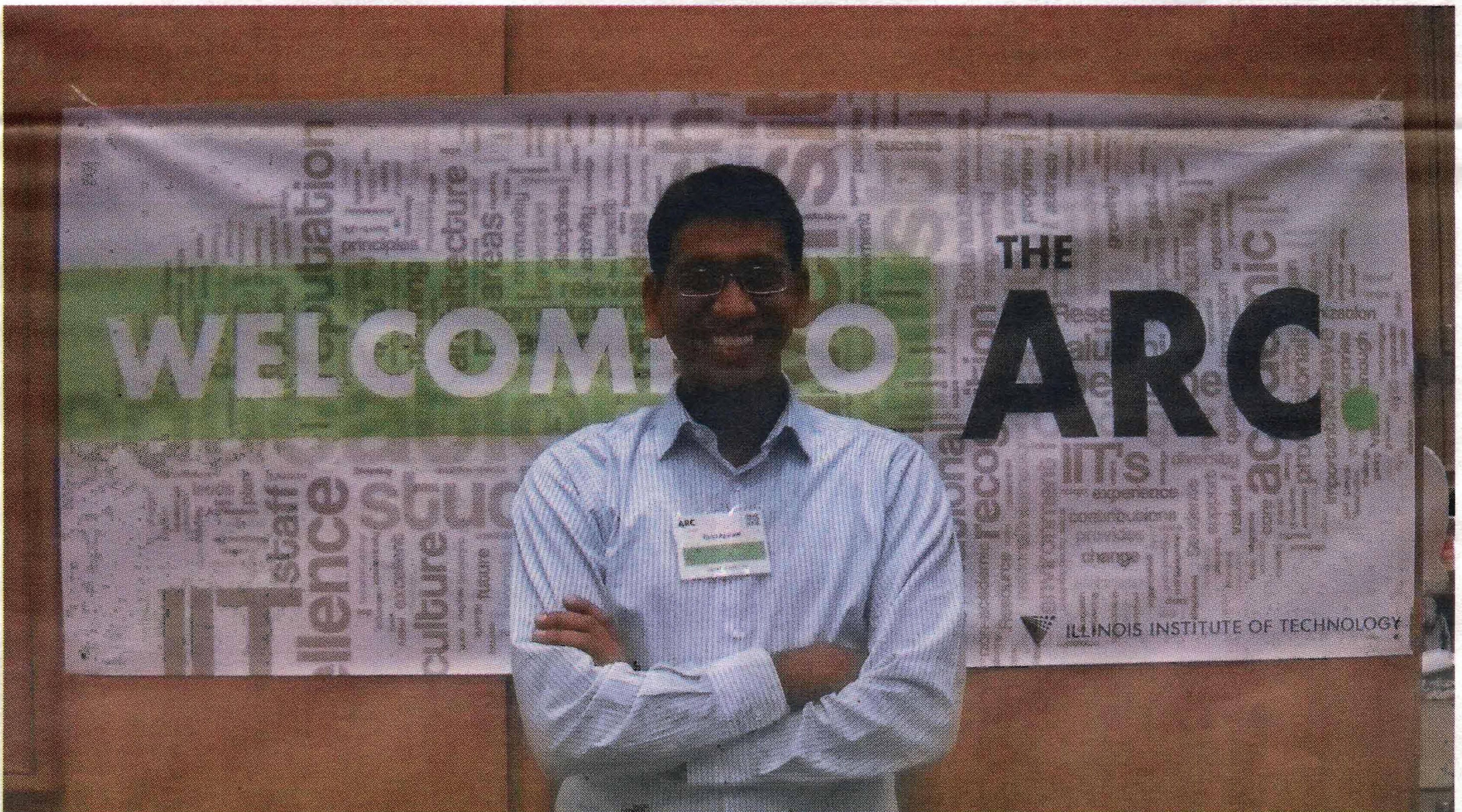

Photo by Khaleela Zaman

Doctor Who at IIT Announces Upcoming Events

Kristal Copeland
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Doctor Who at IIT (DWIIT) is a student organization on campus about Doctor Who. "That's it, right?" you think. "I mean, that's just a show about a really old guy who travels through time and space in a weird police box from the British 60s. He travels with gorgeous, brave women, and sometimes strong-willed, flirty men as shenanigans occur across the galaxy. Cool, but kind of straightforward," you might reply to the deputy prime minister on staff when she sends you those crazy e-mails.

Well, then we'd explain the message of Doctor Who. How it started as a kid's show and now promotes believing in yourself, that everyone is amazing, that we are all equal, no matter how short, tall, large, small, lizard-shaped, potato-headed, face-in-a-jar, straight, gay, bisexual, asexual, white, black or made of quantum-locked stone, that everyone can be a great person who does amazing things, even if they got a liberal arts degree, sell clothing or are just a temp. We'd say that we were inspired by this show to do great things, like to donate books and help people in need. As the Prime Minister of the organization, Tabitha, said, "Everyone who participates seems to be accepting and motivated!" Not only do we get together and scream loudly when Tom Baker shows up unexpectedly, we also host tea time discussions, and there is a very important discussion coming up soon.

DWIIT is partnering with another student organization, Gays, Lesbians, Allies and More (GLAM) to host LGBTea Time, a discussion about sexuality, gender, and Doctor Who. This event will be large, catered and fun. It will also be a Safe Space. This means you should have no fear if you do not fit into stereotypical roles, because we will not tolerate harassment. If you're a "Whovian," come for the club and discussion of various episodes. If you're LGBT or an ally, come for the discussion and stories. Lastly, if you're just curious about anything because you haven't seen the show, or you want to get involved with the club, please come to the events and meet other members.

DWIIT general meetings are every other Wednesday starting at 5 p.m. (place announced via e-mail/social account), the next occurring on October 1, while the LGBTea Time will be on October 17 starting at 12 p.m. in Siegel Hall, Room 202. The organization email is doctorwhoiit@gmail.com, their Facebook page is named Whovian Friend, their Twitter is DoctorWhoIIT and their associated Facebook group is Doctor Who (at IIT and Beyond!).