

TechNews

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Pakistan Student Association returns

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Pakistan Student Association (PSA) is finally back with a bang. It has been quite a while since they were active on campus but this semester, they are planning to have some interesting events for the Hawks so that students can get to know them and learn about their country and culture.

The association's description says, "There is no other organization at IIT that specifically promotes cultural and humanitarian awareness of Pakistan. With this organization, the student body of IIT will be enriched with the knowledge of a country that significantly impacts the world community. This organization will help students learn about our diverse culture and traditions, which we brought with us."

The elections for the new academic year were held last Saturday, September 20, and the results are as follows:

President - Shireen Gul
Secretary - Kapeel Daryani
Marketing Chair - Irshad Hussain
Treasurer - Samreen Kalani
Digital Media Content Manager - Karanjeet Singh
Event Planner - Niveta Chandrasekar

The new team is enthusiastic about their newly born organization and they plan on hosting very interesting events in the fu-

ture. They had their first executive board meeting on Tuesday, September 23, where they announced the official results of the elections.

Kapeel Daryani, Secretary of PSA said, "We are really happy to bring this association back to life and are hopeful that we will be able to leave a good impact on campus." When asked about their upcoming events, Irshad Hussain, Marketing Chair said, "Since many of our friends are insisting to arrange a cricket match, it would be our first priority. Apart from that we are also planning to have a kickoff party pretty soon."

PSA plans to organize more cultural events on campus because Pakistan is very culturally rich and this is a great opportunity to make everyone aware of it. They also plan on conducting a singing competition in which all the participants will sing folk songs from their countries, and a fashion show. The fashion show will be themed 'World Traditional Fashion Show', in which students wear their traditional clothes. If any other organizations are interested in this event, they can send an email to psa@iit.edu.

Finally, don't forget to join them on HawkLink and like them on Facebook under the name of 'IIT Pakistan Student Association'. They will also be on the MTCC Bridge every Monday during lunch (12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.) Stop by to ask any questions or grab some free goodies.

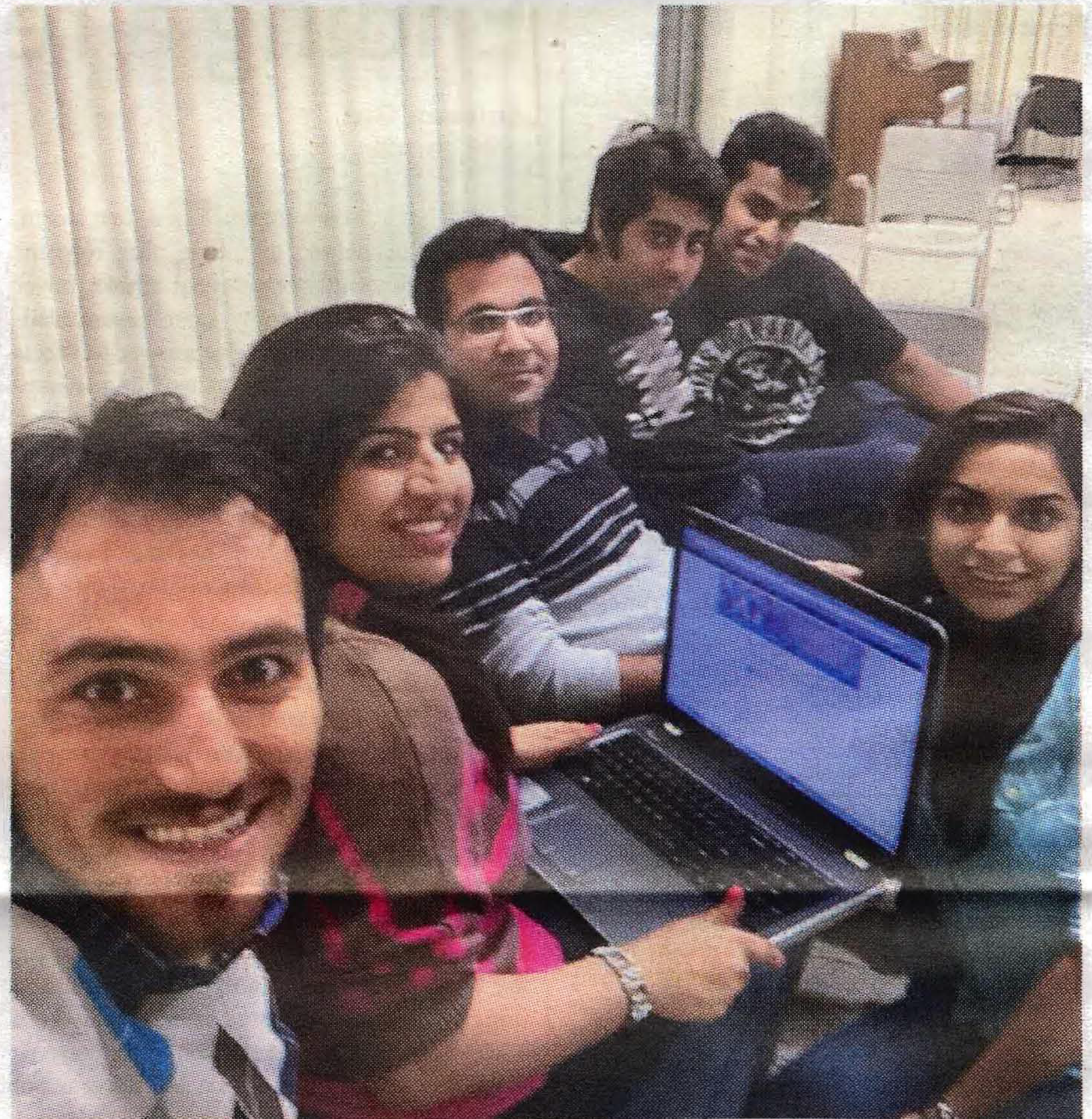


Photo by Shireen Gul

The game of job hunting: The second investigation

Zaira Ortiz
TECHNEWS WRITER

The last episode, "The Game of Job Hunting: The First Investigation" spoke about employment, students, and what students and professors think about IIT. We ended the article with the question, "Why isn't the undergraduate Stuart School of Business ranked?" This week I have the answers for you.

I interviewed Helen Ezenwa, a director at the Stuart Career Management Center and Kayla Portillo, a senior director in Stuart Marketing and Communications, on the morning of Friday, September 26.

The interview took place on the 18th floor of the IIT Tower in the Dean's suite. In an office overlooking the world, there was no better place to discuss how students can one day have a similar office as well. Our interview began with a simple yet insightful question, "What is the job placement for students who graduate from Stuart?" Ezenwa answered this question by saying, "So, the job placement rate, which we are looking at from last year, because this year's hasn't been published yet, is 69%." Very close to 70%, and this in an exceptional number for students attending Stuart. Clarifying the percentage, Kayla jumped in and said, "And that is for all programs, at the undergraduate level the job placement is 79%."

Many students reading this article are undergraduate business students. What does it mean to you to be enrolled in a program that has a 79%, almost 80%, job place-

ment rate for undergraduates after graduation?

The interview continued with the question that readers were left with last week, "What is the Stuart School of Business undergraduate ranking?" Acknowledging that there are multiple types of rankings a business school could have, Portillo asked, "I'm curious about what you mean ranked; ranked in what way?" That was a great question, hopefully one that readers have too, and I answered her question with, "National ranking; a ranking that compares us to other schools. A general ranking that compares us to other business programs." At this, Ezenwa responded, "Okay. There are a lot of different rankings a business program can have and currently Stuart is not ranked, but it is because we have not participated in the ranking." She continued, "The main criteria that most of those rankings look at are placement numbers. Historically we haven't had that data to submit. Now that we have it, we're applying to new rankings for the next couple years."

This is why the Stuart School of Business undergraduate program hasn't been ranked. The data hasn't been there in the past to apply for ranking, but now we have it. At this point in the interview, Portillo added, "If you look at U.S. News or Bloomberg we're probably not going to be listed there. Where we are ranked, and where the university has some interesting numbers on this, is the return on investment for your degree. Payscale.com does a survey of undergraduate alumni essentially to see

how well they're doing in their careers after they graduate. And IIT, I believe, is the top ranked school." After our interview, Portillo sent me the payscale.com link, and yes, it is true. IIT is number one on return on investment in Illinois. Check out payscale.com for some other interesting rankings IIT has.

Although this article is focusing on undergraduate rankings for the Stuart School of Business, it is impossible to not acknowledge the achievements of the Masters of Finance program at IIT. The graduate level Finance program at IIT is ranked third in the nation. So, for all you Finance majors thinking of going to graduate school, stay exactly where you are at IIT. Portillo mentioned in our interview, "Even though the ranking is a graduate ranking, Stuart undergraduate students are still taking classes from these expert faculty who are teaching in this very well-recognized program."

Continuing our interview, I asked a question sparked from my own curiosity, "What do you think IIT Stuart's competitive advantage is compared to other business schools?" Portillo replied, "What we hear from our students is that the business market is becoming increasingly tech-driven, and so studying business at a technology focused university like Illinois Tech gives them a leg-up when they're looking for career opportunities. You're taking classes with engineers, scientists, and programmers, and you're working on IPROs and other collaborative projects with people. Also, when you enter the job market, you have those team-based skills, and you have the knowledge of how

other professionals work and that will make you more competitive in the job market."

To my fellow students, this is your advantage over other undergraduates from different universities. This is exactly how you differentiate yourself to interviewers as talented, skilled, and prepared interviewees. When applying for jobs after graduation, don't forget your advantage.

The next question asked was, "What are the five key differences between students who are able to find a job after graduation compared to those who aren't?" Ezenwa, our CMC expert, said, "The top three, I would say, that come to mind would be those that focused a lot of energy on networking during their education, we offer a number of opportunities for individuals who want to participate in industry-focused events. We bring individuals onto campus from a number of organizations like IBM, or some of the other financial institutions in the Chicagoland area. We are constantly encouraging students to attend and participate, network, use their 30-second sell, so that they're able to learn more about the organization and themselves. I think networking is key."

The other thing that I noticed is that for some students that are having a harder time finding a position is that they're waiting too late." Whether you're a first year or you're a sixth year undergraduate, it's never too early to start looking for employment. I overheard someone say, "The best time to look for a job is when you have a

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