

Creating your own student organization

Zofie Mandelski & Subarno Saha

TECHNEWS WRITER & SGA VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

If you are looking to get involved in something you love while at IIT, there are over 100 student organizations to choose from. But if none of them pique your interest, you could create your own. To get started, find nine other people interested in the organization you wish to create, find a faculty advisor to help out, and get yourself to the Office of Campus Life (OCL) to get a few forms filled out. Next, you will have an opportunity to present your organization in front of the Student Government Association (SGA)'s Senate.

There are three major things to take note of to make a good case for your student organization: a specific plan for the future (especially budget and source of funds), enough initial student interest, and something that makes the organization unique and different

from existing student organizations on campus. These are things that are covered in the steps preceding a student organization's presentation to the SGA Senate, yet sometimes they are not clearly present in the organization's presentation.

An organization has five minutes to present their case to the senate and an additional two minutes, plus whatever extensions the senate motions for, to answer any questions the senators and other representatives have. This is not a very long time to present a full schedule of events the organization wishes to hold, so it is recommended that such an organization provide a sampling of the type of events it will hold. Planning for events also means organization staff should have a budget planned out for the semester. Keep in mind that they will expect the organization have a backup plan in case the money allocated from the Student Activities Fund (SAF) is less than

what was requested.

It is required for a student organization to have a minimum of ten interested members to get to senate. Yet when a student organization only has ten members, it raises the question of whether the organization will be sustainable. The expectation is that each organization has had at least one interest meeting, the number of people who show up to the meetings before the senate presentation is important to keep track of. If an organization can't get more than ten members before they are approved, how will they gain members in the future? It looks like the organization will die out after the founders leave. The immediate impact that a student organization will make is important, but the long-term ability of the organization to remain active and contribute to the campus in the years to come, is just as important.

Lastly, an organization should present what it is they will do that is unique to their

organization. Inclusivity of other organizations is great, but what can the new organization add to campus? If something is already being done by another organization or if the resources a new organization will have are already available, there is no reason for the senate to approve the new organization. Collaboration is great, but having multiple organizations doing the same thing is boring and wasteful. Emphasizing an organization's unique attributes is important.

While this might seem intense, it is a very rewarding process and it helps your student organization get prepared for whatever it intends to do and to make a positive impact on campus. OCL has a nice step-by-step guide to starting out in their Student Organization pages. If you're starting a new student organization and on the way to the senate, have a nice looking presentation, keep these points in mind, you'll do great. Best of luck!

ae@technewsiit.com

A&E

Avengers films lose some of their punch

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

Produced for the low, low price of 250 million dollars, *Avengers: Age of Ultron* has now grossed nearly 1.5 billion dollars worldwide. The newest installment in the Marvel franchise smashed box offices opening weekend garnering over 190 million dollars. At the end of the day, director Joss Whedon and producer Kevin Feige have shown once again they know how to make a film for the masses.

The masses, however, appear to want something even more massive, more immersive,

and more epic. The box office debut fell short of the precedent set by the first Avengers movie. The ratings on review site Rotten Tomatoes show an 18 point spread between the Ultron and his predecessor. At a lowly 74 percent, *Age of Ultron* could justifiably be passed up for *Mad Max: Fury Road* or *Spy*.

Reasons for this may be the villain. Tom Hiddleston's Loki was the greatest comic villain performance since Heath Ledger's Joker. The character was often described as the villain we love to hate and hate to love. In *Ultron*, viewers are met with Ultron: a bodiless AI similar to Jarvis who has taken control of one of

Tony Stark's robotic suits. The literal humanity of Loki may have added to the connection critics formed over an abstract idea such as Ultron. For better or for worse, *Age of Ultron* was packed to the rim with stuff, and not necessarily anything engaging or new. The movie follows a pattern of punch, talk, level a city and repeat. Perhaps after the expectations set by the first Avengers movie there is nowhere for *Age of Ultron* to go.

Personally, the greatest failure of *Age of Ultron* was the lack of fulfillment. Leaving the theatre feels satisfying. The movie is worth the 12 dollars, 50 cents, and three hours of your time. Yet there's nothing new.

The villain could've been a dread-inducing all-encompassing entity. The realization of a fear that one day our delicate electronic systems will stop or be turned against us. A fear of creating the artificial intelligence that is greater than its creator. This is what *Ultron* could have been. Instead, he finds a body and is defeated after the heroes save the world.

The first Avengers movie is a tough act to follow. Withholding any expectations going in, *Avengers: Age of Ultron* will prove a good time for any group. However, it's going to take some risks to amp up audiences to the level of excitement of days past.

WIIT's 'Unknown Talent'

Reno Waswil

TECHNEWS WRITER

Did you ever wonder where the greatest artists came from? Unlike the days of yore when the most talented were concentrated in ancient and fine lineages of knights and lords, so much of the most highly, now, so much of the most well-known and highly regarded artists, thinkers, and doers come from obscurity, and through hard work and determination, make something truly inspiring of themselves. With this in mind, Unknown Talent, the radio show broadcast from IIT's own station WIIT 88.9FM Chicago, your hosts Anna Banana Garcia and Reno Fera-Ducatt survey some of the best local talent and interview them about why they do what they do.

Both hosts being artistically minded themselves as well as holding ambitious aspirations for their goals in life, they try to ask the questions that they themselves have and attempt to document the stories of some brilliant minds. Guests have thus far included musicians, artists, photographers, entrepreneurs, but there is opportunity for so much more; so many more types of Talent to offer. So many questions to be asked, lessons to be learned, methods to be shared and compared, and inspiration to be made. Comedians, scientists, authors, journalists, thinkers, doers, there is value in every talent and ambition and Unknown Talent wants to bring it out.

Anna and Reno, through their casual yet in-depth interview style attempt to unlock the subtle and wonderful talent of all kinds of people. Every person has the opportunity to be a compelling story and every person has passions and talents and aspirations, and Unknown Talent attempts to be the medium that uncovers them and exemplify the unique and gifted personalities that lie at the heart of people you may have otherwise never heard from on such a personal level. A desire to inspire and motivate as well as inform and entertain lies at the heart of this show, and an investigation of the experiences that illuminate the necessity of dedication and creativity to advance in a very self-reliant range of disciplines turns into a compelling and unique character study of each of the guests as the discussion goes on.

Using the highly accessible and

democratic method of college radio and of podcasting, Unknown Talent highlights the subtle greatness of all sorts of people and celebrates their differences while still marveling at the similarities that set them apart. People of all different types can make it if they utilize their skills and talents in the right ways, and part of the reason this show exists is to see how every person makes their characters and their decisions and actions work for them and maybe give others ideas for how they want to conduct their own projects and further their talents.

As a radio show, and very active one at that with a close relationship with its fan base, Unknown Talent also will on occasion conduct free giveaways to listeners who are brave enough to call in and participate. With great and talented guests, enlightening discussions, humor, games, music, and so much more, there is truly something for everyone who wants to listen, and no reason you should not at least have a taste.

Going back to that relationship with the community of listeners and ambitious people in general, Anna and Reno are eager to get a taste of what IIT and the Chicagoland community, perhaps the entire world of talent, has to offer. That is why they are calling out to anyone who wants their stories or works out there to contact unknown.talent.525@gmail.com or through their Facebook at [facebook.com/unknowntalentchicago](https://www.facebook.com/unknowntalentchicago) to inquire about having an interview or simply putting themselves out there so Unknown Talent can include you and/or samples of your work as a segment on the show.

And then of course, if this article has reasonably piqued your interest and now you want to listen for yourself, you can tune in to WIIT 88.9FM Chicago every Monday from 4PM to 6PM (at least during the summer schedule, come the fall semester, times might be changed) on your old fashioned radio or via the TuneIn application you can download on your phone from your app store, or simply by going to radio.iit.edu and streaming the content live there. Not into the time constraints it seems like you are being forced into? Well, all the episodes are then released a week later in the iTunes store for free as a podcast if you search for Unknown Talent, so if you miss a show or can't listen live, you can still hear the episode and all it has to offer.

Free summer activities in Chicago

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

Now that summer is upon us, one wonders what is there to do besides sitting indoors and binge watching an entire Netflix series. Luckily for you, we're in one of the best cities in the U.S. and there are tons of free activities to do.

The Chicago Cultural center located on 77 E. Randolph Street has an assortment of free events that include film screenings, theater events, performances,

half a dozen greenhouses and two large exhibition halls across 12 acres and boasts the fact that it is in the top five conservatories in the country. Lincoln Park conservatory contains four display houses which stay green all year long no matter the weather outside and is where the annual flower shows take place. These display houses include Palm House, Fern Room, Orchid House and Show House. Garfield Park Conservatory is open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.



and seminars. The center also includes free tours which show off the two beautiful stained glass domes. Their website has more information about the daily events and shows.

If you're out on the Magnificent Mile and want to look at some great art, the Historic Water Tower place has a city gallery that showcases art exhibits from local artists and photographers. It is located on 806 N. Michigan and hours are from 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

If you don't mind spending times outdoors and indoors seeing plants and flowers, there are also free activities for you at the Garfield Park Conservatory located on 300 N. Central Park Ave. and the Lincoln Park Conservatory located on 2391 N. Stockton Drive. Both conservatories feature some of the most beautiful flowers and even rare plant species. Garfield Park features

on Wednesdays. Lincoln Park Conservatory is open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

While catching up on those summer reading lists, make sure to check out the Newberry Library located on 60 W Walton Street or Harold Washington Library center on 400 S State Street. The former contains more than 1.5 million published works while the latter more than 13 million. The Newberry library features special exhibits and tours are available for free to the public 3 p.m. on Thursdays and at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Harold Washington Library also has a 9th floor Winter Garden that is the perfect location to relax and enjoy the scenery or a good book.

These are only a few of the great places Chicago offers, and, with a little research, you'll be on your way to finding tons of free things to do this summer in the great Windy City!

Photo courtesy of Clark Maxwell