

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF
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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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TechNews is written, managed, and edited by the students of, and funded in part by, Illinois Institute of Technology. The material herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Illinois Institute of Technology or the editors, staff, and advisor of TechNews. There will be no censorship of TechNews publication by the faculty or staff of IIT. Sole authority and responsibility for publication and adherence to the values set forth in this policy rests with the TechNews staff. This paper seeks to bring together the various segments of the Illinois Tech community and strives through balance and content to achieve a position of respect and excellence. TechNews strives for professionalism with due respect to the intellectual values of the university and its community. All material submitted becomes the property of TechNews, and is subject to any editorial decisions deemed necessary.

SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews' policy and standards. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsiit.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor may be submitted by anyone, but are subject to review by the Editor-in-Chief. All letters-to-the-editor become the property of TechNews upon submission. TechNews does not accept or publish anonymous letters or stories.

ADVERTISING

Legitimate paid advertisements, from within or outside the IIT community, which serve to produce income for the paper, are accommodated. TechNews holds the right to deny any advertisement unsuitable for publication. Media Kits are available upon request. Ad space is limited and is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact the Business Manager at business@technewsiit.com for more information.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ADVERTISERS

To place an ad, contact us via email at business@technewsiit.com.

Loving and living life to the fullest

Ricardo Torres
TECHNEWS WRITER

"Sophomore leadership retreat [is] probably the only place where you can meet someone you've never talked to before, and by the end of the week feel like you've known them all semester," said Todd Wilson. These words spoken by a fellow IIT student express the powerful impact the retreat had in our lives and many of us can relate to. The Sophomore Leadership Retreat was only a weekend long but I dare say that the friendships that were formed will last a lifetime.

The retreat, the third of its kind held by IIT's Leadership Academy, was filled with exciting team activities where we would learn to trust each other and explore our own fears and limits. "I think the most fun part was the event on Sunday, the high ropes" said Phan Minh Triet. As fellow IIT Student Phan stated, one of the favorite activities was the High

Ropes. In this activity the students had to complete obstacles referred to as elements high above the ground.

The high ropes event was definitely out of my comfort zone. As I prepared with my partner, I looked up at the elements and judged that they would not be too hard to complete. Then our turn came to go up the ladder. I saw my partner go up and I followed and began to climb. Upon reaching the top, I could feel my legs begin to shake and found myself not being able to let go of the safety ropes beside me. My partner and I began to hesitate as we were scared to even begin the first element. We finally gained the courage to try and cross the element and I went in first. As I took a step forward to step onto the tight rope, I could see the ground below me and I quickly moved back. After encouragement from my partner and my own assurance that I was safe with the harness, I took the first step onto the tight rope. I began to move further into the element. I could

feel the rope move back and forth beneath my feet. My partner followed me close behind. She then reached for my hand and we helped each other maintain our balance. This is when I was thankful for having a brave partner who helped me discover that it was not so bad after all. As a fellow IIT student, Precious Eboh, stated, "Hanging more than 20 feet in the air with my partner, I learned the need for effective communication, trust and interdependence and risk taking." When we reached the other side of the tight rope, we were filled with happiness and excitement. From that moment on, we learned to trust each other and continued to complete more elements.

On behalf of the sophomore class I would like to thank all the great people who made this experience possible for all of us. Also, a special thanks to the Pretty Lake Staff, George Langlois, and Rodney Vallejo helping us explore ourselves and allow us to live to our fullest!



Photo courtesy of Ricardo Torres

IIT student Facebook group changes name

Kevin Zheng
TECHNEWS WRITER

In the middle of class, I was alerted that someone had tagged me in a Facebook thread. IIT Student Subarno Saha had tagged me in a post made on the former Admitted Undergrad page regarding changing the group name to be more inclusive.

When the group was originally founded in 2007, its intention was to create a community where admitted students were able to discuss and bond over this new chapter of their life, a new journey, 4, 5, or even 6 years of unforgettable experiences. At the time, the group was a mere few hundred people and it has grown to nearly 3,500 people today. For those of you who don't know, a recent IIT alumna is the founder of the group. Christina Noonan was a student in the College of Architecture and graduated earlier this year from the IIT Institute of Design with her Master of Design degree.

When asked what inspired her to create the group, she said she was "just a fellow student who noticed a need for a more collective voice for students and a place for people to better share ideas and questions." When asked to elaborate on more details, Christina said, "I actually created the group before I even moved onto campus! I started the group by connecting with people I had met during Camras interview weekend and others that I had interviewed with. The combination of current students and new students made for the perfect combination to create great dialogue and share stories about how to prepare for college. Soon many more people sought to join this group to get the inside scoop and personal

advice from students. Jerry Doyle was one of the first administrators to recognize the power of the collective and envision a way in which the group could serve an even greater purpose. Over years of collaboration, the group has become a collective voice for the student body. It is a place to ask questions, publicize events, help others, share concerns, and have a voice that has never been stronger. I'm personally really excited that the local community is doing to take notice of the vibrant community that we've built. I recognize that it means that our group is much more public facing that it's ever been, but it also means that the university has a better sense of the goals and values of the collective student body. I'm thrilled that members of the group widely remain open and respectful to their fellow peers and that it continues to grow daily." Christina is now in New York changing the way businesses communicate with their customers through user experience design and strategy.

As the group grew and grew, its members now include more than just undergrad students but included graduate students, alumni, and some university staff members. The group has turned into this university's public forum ranging from posts about events run by student organizations to financial aid announcements and reminders from the administration. The group had grown so large that the name "Illinois Institute of Technology: Admitted Undergraduate" no longer accurately represented the group. A thread was started on the group about two to three years ago, and in that thread there were debates of whether we should use IIT or Illinois Tech in the name, I made the suggestion of Illinois Tech Student Community because

I felt although there were a wide variety of categories that the members belonged to, I felt this group was a community meant for students. It was created by a student, run by students, and the purpose of the group is for students, so I felt that name Illinois Tech Student Community was appropriate, the group is meant to serve and connect students, even the ones who graduated. People seemed to agree with it, however the name could not be changed at the time. Facebook had a policy where groups with over 500 people could not change their name for reasons not clear to me. However, sometime recently, Facebook had decided to change that policy and I was able to change the name to what it currently is now.

Students reacted almost instantly on the page making comments from "Finally!" and "It only makes sense" to a GIF of Ron Paul with lasers behind him with a flashing caption reading "IT'S HAPPENING." When asked how he felt about the group name change, Business Administration student John Ramirez remarked, "I like the change. As time went on I started feeling that 'Illinois Institute of Technology: Admitted undergraduate' was no longer a relevant name. As more students graduate or continue on to their masters and PhDs it was clear we needed a refreshed name. I like the new name. It's not only all encompassing but makes this page a welcoming place for all IIT students."

Please continue to post your stories, questions, concerns, and anything else you deem appropriate for the page. It's been a great honor being an admin for this wonderful Facebook community and please remember to search for Illinois Tech Student Community or ITSC to find the group!

TechNews corrections

Last issue, in an article covering the Sex Games event held in MSV, it was reported that the event was hosted by Residence Hall Association. This information is

incorrect.

The author of the article erroneously reported the event was run by Residence Hall Association. The event was hosted

by the Resident Advisors of East, Fowler, and North Halls.

We apologize for the confusion.