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President's Student Advisory Council meeting addresses student concerns

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The President's Student Advisory Council Update (PSAC) meeting was held on January 21, 2015 in the President's conference room. President Cramb, Provost Bronet and 10 PSAC members were present. The discussion was geared around the subjects voted in the previous members' meeting on January 18th 2015. They were articulated as follows:

Concerns about the board of trustees: The President was asked about the participation of trustees in career fairs and the lack of involvement they have on campus. He acknowledged that the PSAC already voiced that concern and that he will present it to the board at their next meeting on February 18.

The school's position concerning difficult weather: The President was asked to clarify the school's position concerning difficult weather. Many students expect that the school would close in condition of heavy snow or very low temperature. The President agreed about clarifying that the school will not close. PSAC members expressed their concern regarding commuter students who would be more likely to be affected by the weather and asked President Cramb if the teachers could be more understanding of their situation. They proposed that late arrival and absences due to the weather get treated on a case-by-case basis by the teachers. The President agreed to discuss the subject with the faculty counselor before making a decision.

Concerning the school's faculty: The PSAC members asked the President and the Provost to clarify the hierarchy and organization of the school's faculty so students

with the Deans about it. The members also talked about the situation of several professors who push students to attend classes and work beyond the assigned time. The Provost decided



Photo by Naila Opiangah

get a proper understanding on the role of each member. In fact, they believe that many students do not know where to go and how to proceed when they face particular situations. It was also asked that Deans be made more accessible and tighten their relationship with the student body. Both President Cramb and Provost Bronet agreed to the request to discuss

to talk to vice Provosts in order to make sure that faculty members avoid making a similar situation happen again.

The true cost of living off-campus:

The PSAC wanted to gather data and analyze the number of students living off-campus and the financial causes for that. They expressed their will to do a thorough study and present it

to President Cramb. It was suggested that they put together a survey that will be shared to the student body. The President encouraged the approach and assured the support of his office. Yet he requested that the comparison between students living on and off campus be fair and acknowledge every element involved in both cases.

The President acknowledged the bad performance of the meal plans and asked for the PSAC to come with a set of suggestions to better it. PSAC members also voiced their concern on how the food served in the Commons is presented and wished that more care was given in the preparation of the meals. President Cramb agreed that a better approach should be taken by the Commons.

Concerning Vandercook and Shimer: It was asked that IIT collaborate better with Vandercook and Shimer. The students attending these colleges are often unable to participate in the school's activities due to their class schedule that is not articulated around those of IIT students. It is an unfortunate situation for them because they too pay for SAF. President Cramb explained that he already had a discussion with Shimer's administration about lining up courses. He has not had a conversation with Vandercook administration yet but wished the students of both colleges expressed their concerns regarding the link up in order to have an effective discussion. In fact, if the students of these colleges do not feel the need to link up their schedule to IIT, the discussion would not be relevant.

Information sessions to be held for Museum of Science & Industry volunteer, internship positions

Kori Bowns

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) is the largest science museum in the western hemisphere, holding over 35 thousand artifacts and nearly 14 acres of interactive exhibits and experiences. The museum's home is the former Palace of Fine Arts building from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood, and it opened in 1933 under philanthropist Julius Rosenwald's vision to create a hands-on industry museum in the United States. Each year, the museum works toward achieving its mission to "inspire the inventive genius in everyone" with the help of several Illinois Tech students.

Each semester, undergraduate students from IIT have a unique service

learning opportunity at the Museum of Science and Industry through the MSI Internship Program. Students apply to spend a few days during the semester volunteering at the museum, leading science demonstrations to the museum's general audience. Volunteers who complete a required minimum number of volunteer hours at the museum also qualify to apply for a paid internship at MSI over the summer. Last year's internship students learned a variety of demonstrations and presented them to over 35 thousand museum guests.

In order to become eligible for the internship, students must first attend an information session held early in the semester and apply to volunteer at the museum over the course of the fall or spring semester during the academic year. During the semester, these students learn to present three interactive and

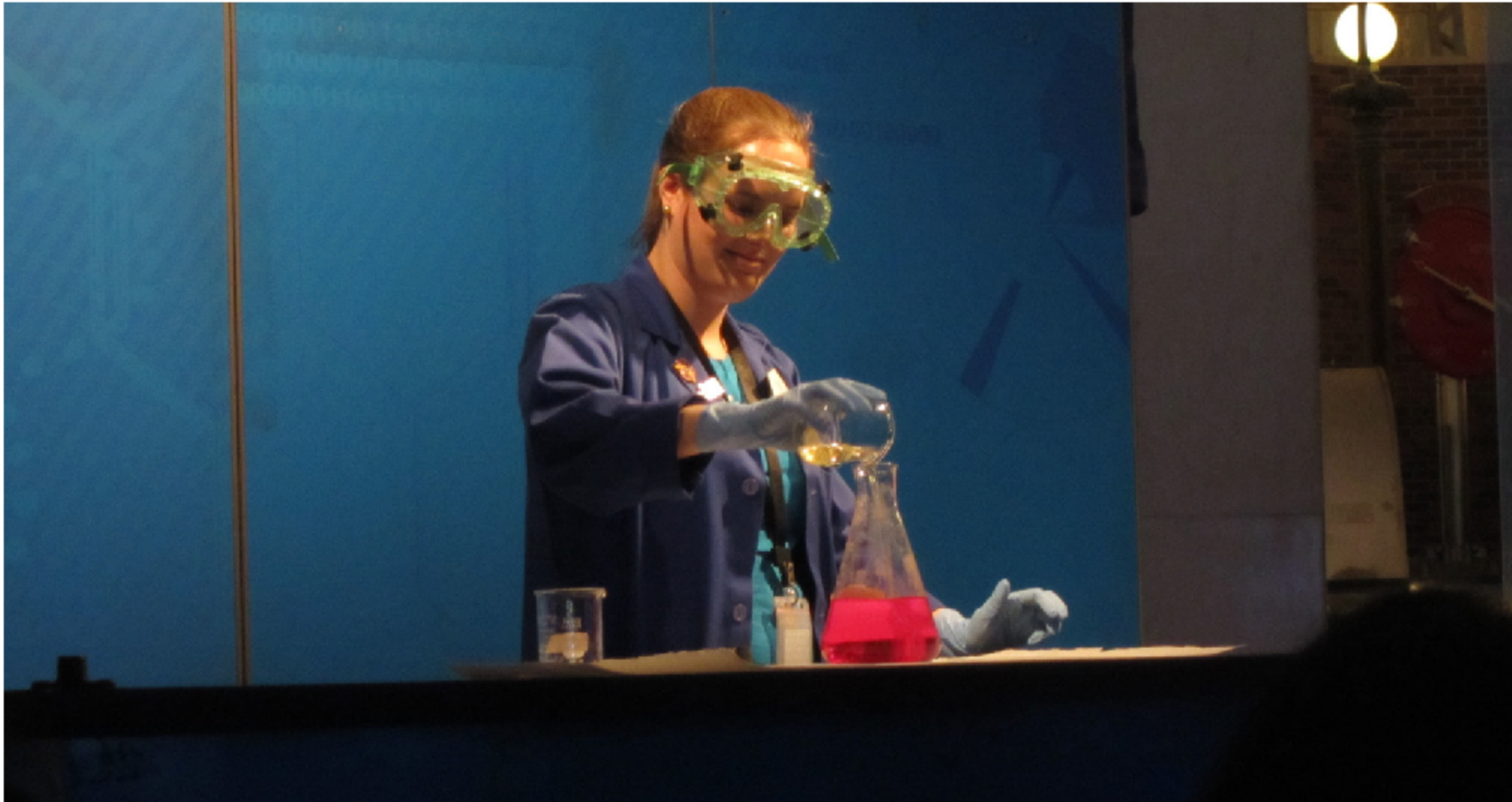
hands-on demonstrations to museum guests. Volunteers work alongside lead interns, who were summer interns in previous years, to receive coaching and support as they learn more about presenting to different audiences and speaking in public. Demonstrations done by volunteers cover topics including sound, electricity, and Newton's Laws.

Twelve volunteers are accepted to the program each semester. Upon completion of 20 total volunteer hours in a semester, the volunteers qualify to apply for one of the summer internship positions, where they learn larger programs and work full-time.

The MSI-IIT internship partnership is now entering its eighth year. This partnership began with a common trustee between IIT and MSI, and the program aims to foster communication skills in students while making science education accessible to the

community through the delivery of several fun and interactive live science demonstrations at MSI.

In order to apply for the MSI-IIT volunteership and internship program, interested students must attend information sessions being held next month on Tuesday, February 9, Wednesday, February 10, and Thursday, February 11. All of the information sessions will take place at 12:45 p.m.; Tuesday's information session will take place in the MTCC Executive Conference Room, Wednesday's information session will be held in the MTCC Auditorium, and Thursday's information session will be held in Rettaliata Engineering Center room 124. Contact Kylie Kosulic at kylie.kosulic@msichicago.org with any additional questions.



Photos by Kori Bowns