

# WIIT Opens Committees To Non-DJs for External Input

**Soren Spicknall**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

In the time since WIIT started playing over building speakers in MTCC, everybody seems to have developed an opinion of the campus radio station's music mix. The two most recent Music Directors at the station have both focused on developing an eclectic yet accessible music library for the station's automation system (which plays between DJ-hosted shows), featuring recognizable artists like Arcade Fire and Foster the People along with more niche choices like Mates of State and Sparklehorse. In general, though, the recent trend in WIIT's automated music selection has gravitated toward the nebulous concept of "indie", in line with the type of artists whose work was most popularly taken

during the organization's CD giveaway last semester. In the end, though, it's impossible for any one individual to have full expertise on the infinitely wide array of genres and musical communities out there, and WIIT is beginning a new initiative this semester to bring in outside voices that may have valuable input in music and other parts of its operations as well.

WIIT's Executive Board has, at times, attempted to create a number of committees within the organization to help with certain tasks, such as event planning and repair work. However, those committees have largely been formed from existing WIIT DJs in the past, a very limited and arguably insular audience. This semester that practice is changing and committees are being opened to general members of the student body for the very first time. As it stands right now, there

are three active committees for students to join: the Music Committee, headed by Liza McQueney (md.wiit@iit.edu) helps identify the most relevant new releases in each genre and keeps WIIT's collection of promotional releases organized. The Technical Committee, headed by David Sobel (td.wiit@iit.edu) performs routine maintenance and emergency repairs on equipment in WIIT's studio and various other locations around campus where broadcast infrastructure is hidden. The Events Committee, headed by Michael Deverman (events.wiit@iit.edu) formulates and executes happenings as big as Bill Nye @ IIT and as small as the occasional open house. Membership in each committee simply requires an email to its respective WIIT Executive Board member.

Every semester, WIIT receives inquiries from a large number of people who

want to hear certain things on air, help out with work in the studio while learning about the station's equipment, or suggest compelling event concepts, but in the past the organization hasn't had any structure in place to bring in students who don't have interest in a DJ position and aren't Executive Board members. This reinvention of the radio station's committees hopes to solve that issue, allowing interested students to work with station leadership on projects without having to host a show. It introduces a new type of member to WIIT: the specialist. People who care about certain kinds of music, or who love to build systems, or who want a platform to create events and see them through to fruition will now be able to without needing to become a DJ on the station, opening up the organization to a new era of collaboration and input.

## A conversation with Helen Ezenwa and Shahzad Hussain of the Career Management Center at Stuart School of Business

**Shachi Sayata**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

I had the opportunity to interview the Career Management Center (CMC) of Stuart School of Business. The department is led by Helen Ezenwa and Shahzad Hussain. They started working at the Career Management Center of Stuart School of Business two years ago and were absolutely thrilled to share their experience so far.

Prior to working for Stuart, Ezenwa was Vice President and Program Manager for JP Morgan Chase. She worked in domains including, commercial banking, investment banking, IT, operations and human resources. This helped her understand the spectrum of industry trends across the landscape. She said, "With my experience, I am able to give students valuable insights and guide them effectively across multiple disciplines."

I inquired why she shifted from a commercial environment at JP Morgan and Chase to a more academic one at the Stuart CMC, to this she said that she witnessed the fact that after some candidates were recruited and placed they were not aware of the key skills needed to retain and thrive in their roles. By working in a more academic setting, she could bring more focus to nurturing the talent pool. Ezenwa added, "My goal at Stuart CMC is to ensure there is better 'career match' by facilitating clear understanding of employer's expectations and the student's career goals. I believe this type of strategy is more effective in the long run."

She took the opportunity to join Stuart School of Business because she realized

it was a great opportunity to deploy her talent management skills. Further, the Advancing Career and Education program that is a mandatory requirement for all graduate students at Stuart helped her explore her passion for teaching.

Hussain, just like Ezenwa, has been working for the Stuart Career Management Center for the past two years. Prior to assuming this position, he worked part-time at Stuart CMC. He enjoys working in this field and advising students, networking with employers, organizing events and nurturing our relationships with alumni. He is an IIT alumnus himself; he graduated in 1989 with a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering. He has also worked at AT&T Bell Labs before relocating to India.

While in India, he took the entrepreneurial route and set up Vocational Training Institutions in 1999-2000 which provided him with an opportunity to pursue his passion for service through education. He oversaw employer relations and career advising and Stuart CMC was a natural transition for him when he moved back to the USA few years ago. The Advancing Career and Education program has aided him in pursuing his passion for teaching and helping students develop strong business competencies.

I asked them what would they say is the goal of Stuart CMC; both had their own answer:

Ezenwa said, "We of course have a goal that all our students are placed in organizations that nurture their talent to the fullest potential. Our primary strategy is to

ensure that our students are more 'hire ready'. We have been able to make a series of changes to achieve this goal with the support of our leadership at Stuart."

Hussain said, "I agree with Helen, our focus has been more on nurturing the talent rather than merely matching it to the wide array of opportunities in the industry today. We want to ensure that our students have careers and not just jobs. Employers believe that this type of strategy is more beneficial to them as well since it has a more long-term focus. Today, they feel that our students are much more prepared and indeed hire-ready."

Based on Student feedback, they recently organized the first ever Stuart Career Fair in Fall 2015 and had companies like Goldman Sachs, Axiom Technologies that recruited students for positions in CME and Northern Trust. They have also initiated a program called Career Pathways by Program where they invite employers regularly on campus to give presentations to students on career opportunities in finance, mathematical finance, marketing analytics, public administration and sustainability. This gives the students an opportunity to learn first hand the latest developments, industry trends, and the skills needed to be successful in their careers.

The "Transition to Work" program is a workshop is conducted by Jessica Worny Janicki, a certified career coach conduct. These workshops ensure students are well equipped with skills such as customizing their resumes, conducting informational interviews and understanding employer expectations. In

addition to the workshops, sample resume and cover letters are available on the CMC website as well.

The 'Career Clinic' program was introduced for recent Stuart graduates who are invited to participate in an intensive two-day clinic with an executive coach. An onsite career fair is also held exclusively for this group of recent graduates.

They have surely come a long way; I was curious to know what their goals for the future will be. To this they expressed their desire to increase participation from undergraduate students. By attending events and workshops, students are able to make sound career decisions. They would thus like to focus their strategy to ensure that the undergraduate students can take advantage of the Stuart CMC services. They would also like to increase its scale of the Stuart specific Career Fair and have more companies.

TechNews also reached out to a few alumni to obtain feedback regarding their experience. Here's what Maggie Ding, Master of Public Administration class of 2015, had to say:

"Helen Ezenwa is really helpful with everything. She helped me a lot with helping me better perform in my first summer internship. Her doors are always open to us and she welcomes us to talk about our thoughts and concerns. She assisted me in identifying my career goals and developing effective strategies for job searching. I always feel confident and energetic after talking with her."

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