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TechNews

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Nominations open for Babcock and Stryker Awards

Soren Spicknall
TECHNEWS WRITER

Each Spring for the last 40 years, Illinois Institute of Technology has presented a set of awards to students who have been designated by their peers and by staff as on-campus leaders, a program set in place by Armour Institute alum Clinton E. Stryker, who made a significant donation to the University in 1972 with the mandate of establishing expanded leadership programs and recognition. Today, between 15 and 25 Stryker Leadership Awards are bestowed upon students recognized for their leadership efforts each year, with selections made by the Office

of Student Affairs (OSA). Now that Spring is coming close, nominations have opened once again for the awards, and students are encouraged to nominate the most respected leaders among them.

In addition to more than a dozen Stryker Award recipients, one student is chosen each year to receive an even more significant honor: the Richard A. Babcock Leadership Award. While Babcock Award candidates are technically nominated separately from Stryker candidates (in the form of a checkbox used on the same form,) in practice the applicant pools for the two awards are essentially the same. By the nature of that fact, the annual Babcock Award winner is informally considered to

be outstanding even among the Stryker Awards group. The nomination process for the awards is fairly simple: a Google Form on the website of the Office of Student Affairs asks for the nominating individual to provide some basic information for the person they're nominating (including CWID), to choose the awards they're nominating that person for, and finally, to explain in one or more paragraphs why they believe that person fits the criteria to be considered among Illinois Tech's most distinguished leaders.

The Stryker and Babcock Leadership Awards are presented on Tuesday, April 19, at the appropriately-named Clinton E. Stryker Banquet, along with other important OSA-

selected honors such as Outstanding Student Organization and Outstanding Commitment to Service. The banquet includes many staff and faculty members, and physical trophies are presented to each Stryker and Babcock Award winner. Nominations for these student leadership awards close March 12, and both Stryker and Babcock nominations require nominees to submit transcripts of their extracurricular activities on and off campus for consideration. If you wish to nominate somebody, you can find information about the awards at web.iit.edu/student-affairs.



Photo courtesy of Illinois Tech Student Affairs

Message from the new Editor-in-Chief

Anoopa Sundararajan
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When I walked into the first TechNews writer's meeting in the Fall of 2013, I was greeted by a host of enthusiastic staff writers and editors. As I write this, I realize that I have them to thank for the title that appears beneath my name in this article.

For the past five semesters, TechNews has been a significant part of my life, one of the few unchanging constants in the rapidly evolving world that is Illinois Tech. I started out as a fairly shy freshman who didn't want to share my thoughts or writing publicly but wanted to contribute to TechNews in some way – that's where my journey as a copy editor began. As a copy editor, I worked on proofreading other writers' articles and every so often, doing that made me yearn to write again. I tried my hand at a few Campus and Arts and Entertainment (A&E) articles sporadically, sometimes collaborating with fellow TechNews colleagues.

One of the things I have always loved about TechNews is that our open door policy ensures that the people who consistently attend

meetings and contribute content do it out of their own enthusiasm and passion, with no compulsion or external driving force. Having said that, I have also discovered over the years that there are a painfully large number of students at our university who are unaware or happily ignorant of TechNews and how it works. As a dedicated staff member, I have been gravely saddened by hearing fellow students exclaim, "No one reads TechNews anyway!" While this may sound wildly ambitious, I hope that during my year as Editor-in-Chief, I am able to bring about noteworthy change in the attitudes that our fellow students have towards our university paper. If I am able to sustain your attention for a few minutes, allow me to highlight a few of the ideas I have for ways to strengthen TechNews' impact on campus.

A concern that has been raised repeatedly is in regards to TechNews' meeting time on Sunday afternoons, a time that may be inconvenient for many commuting students or students who live off-campus (or students who just prefer to stay home and relax on Sundays). However, an important detail to realize in this situation is that Sunday afternoons and evenings are the perfect time for staff to work

on copy editing and layout editing before the paper gets sent to the printers on Monday night. A possible solution, though, is to have TechNews staff present on the bridge in MTCC or other popular locations on campus during the week to answer any questions or concerns students may have, as well as update the Illinois Tech community regularly on ways they can contribute to TechNews without leaving the comfort of their homes on a Sunday afternoon if they don't want to.

Here at Illinois Tech, we are an amazingly diverse group of people from over a 100 different countries. Yet, only a fraction of our nearly 8000-student population knows about, reads and/or contributes to TechNews. As an international student myself who seeks out opportunities to learn about different cultures, I see this as a major opportunity for positive change. One avenue that I hope to explore in pursuit of a more connected Illinois Tech community is to reach out to all active student organizations about their interest in being featured in TechNews for what may become a regular section on what's happening on campus and ways to be involved. I am also working towards a stronger relationship

between TechNews and SGA so that we can make the SGA section a regular again, where all students can read about the projects that SGA is working on, get regular updates on their progress and find out more about ways in which they can be involved or share feedback.

As we work towards a more sustainable university and world, reducing recyclable waste in the form of unread newspapers is a serious issue I hope to work on. Every week hundreds of papers are left untouched around campus and if we can find ways to cut down on production rather than recycle afterwards, we could work towards a sustainable campus faster. A lot of research still needs to be done on this front before any steps can be taken, but we are starting to discuss ways in which this goal can be achieved within the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank you all for reading this article and look forward to receiving any questions and/or feedback at editor@technewsiit.com. I am incredibly excited by this opportunity to work with the Illinois Tech campus community and I look forward to my year as Editor-in-Chief of TechNews.