

Student org feature: Residence Hall Association

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TECHNEWS WRITER

What is the main mission of RHA on campus?

Hayes: The main goal of RHA is to work for residents and ensure they have a voice on campus. We take any feedback and suggestions given by students to the offices and have a chance to make a change. Also, we try to foster a welcoming environment and an inclusive community for students to stay on campus. We are the main governing body for residence.

What are some services/resources available to residents who live in campus housing that they may not be aware of?

Hayes: Committees form an integral part of RHA – the different committees are essentially involved in specific aspects of residence life. The dining committee attends meetings with Food Advisory Board and addresses concerns of the students. The housing committee takes into direct consideration the requests of the students from the halls and brings it to the notice of the Residence and Greek Life (RGL) office. The programming and publicity committee plans multiple events for the

residents to create a better community.

Hayes added that students also have access to RHA's DVD library where they can rent out DVDs for free on a daily basis. The members of RHA's executive board have office hours Monday through Friday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and from 5 to 6 p.m. on the weekends. During this time, executive board members are available to provide feedback or answer questions that students may have.

What do you enjoy most about being president of RHA?

Hayes: I love being able to interact with so many people within the residence halls and identify student leadership potential. I also enjoy working with such a great exec board to create experiences for the students that will improve student life.

Why is it important for students to be aware of and involved in RHA?

Hayes: Students need to be aware of the things RHA can do for them and it is important that they give feedback. It is difficult for us to work with no feedback and even if we get feedback it is from a small percentage. With this we will only be able to affect a smaller body of students and satisfy their needs. To be able to affect everyone, we need input and fro

this it is important for people to know us.

Hayes went on to say that RHA is one of the easier student organizations on campus to be involved with and grow as a leader. It also helps if students are interested in becoming student life leaders because RHA works in close proximity with RGL.

How can we, the media and student organization leaders work on improving communication between student organizations and the student body?

Hayes: I believe this article is a good initiative to get word out there and help students to be aware of the different organizations on campus. As student life leaders we have the power to make known to students what resources are available to them and help them reach their potential.

What are some of RHA's upcoming events?

Hayes: On March 10, we have SwiIT in collaboration with ISO for international week. It is a cultural mixer aimed at exposing students to different delicacies or desserts from different countries/cultures. Students from different organizations will be preparing treats which is available to students during ISO's event. This will take place on Thursday at

7-8:30 p.m. in MSV center lounge.

RHA also has an event coming up on March 24 in collaboration with RGL called CRIBS where students who are interested may display their room for visits by interested/prospective students. At the end of the day, the visitors get to vote and the room with the maximum votes wins a prize.

When and where does RHA regularly meet?

Hayes: The RHA meets every Sunday at the Fishbowl in MSV at 6 p.m. Other than that we have general body meetings once in three weeks that are held at one of the lounges in MSV. At the general body meetings, we obtain feedback from students and also have various activities that are planned with students.

How can students sign up to receive updates on what RHA is working on?

Hayes: We have initiated a biweekly newsletter that goes to all current campus residents giving them updates on the current happenings of the organization. Other than that we have an email address to which students can send their questions, suggestions or feedback, rha@iit.edu



Photo by Abhinaya Iyer



Khaleela Zaman, Student Advisor

Why are you involved in RHA?

Zaman: I want to make sure that students have a voice on campus and since RHA is closely working with RGL it is easy to communicate the ideas and suggestions across.



Krithika Subramani, Treasurer

Why are you involved in RHA?

Subramani: I love Arlene!



Rafiul Islam Zareef, National Communications Chair

Why is it important for all residents to care about RHA?

Zareef: It's more about inclusion. People come from diverse cultures and RHA tries its best to make the residence halls a home for every resident. Their participation will help us cater to their needs as part of a bigger picture.



Soren Spicknall, Secretary

Why are you involved in RHA?

Spicknall: I think that RGL truly cares about student life and I want to be a part of the voice in the quality of life improved of the students on campus.

Photos courtesy of Residence Hall Association