

# Staff Spotlight: Stephanie Glover, OCL

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Passing by the Office of Campus Life (OCL) in the MTCC, the more seasoned students probably have noticed the different office set-up and different person behind the desk that used to be Ryan Miller's. Please do not be alarmed! Ryan Miller has simply moved to an office closer to the International Center, and this new person is super nice and welcoming, ready to help with anything you may need OCL-wise. Currently in her fourth month as the OCL Administrative Associate, Stephanie Glover is now "the front face of OCL." Stephanie mostly handles the purchase requests and finances for all the student organizations on campus. For all the treasurers out there, Glover is the one in OCL who reviews and takes care of all those HawkLink purchase requests that are submitted. She also acts as an assistant to Miller, which basically equates to her being involved with "a little bit of everything for Campus Life."

While previously working at Purdue University, Glover conveniently came across this job opportunity with Illinois Tech on HigherEdJobs.com, and "it was a very smooth transition here." She is definitely happy taking on this new position, and she has been loving all the interaction with students as well as the fast-paced environment. Her favorite



Photo by Khaleela Zaman

part about her new position is hands-down the "heavy contact with students"—getting to know them as they get to know her, allowing students to realize they can rely on her, and the fulfillment of knowing she has helped student organizations create successful events.

Surprisingly, Glover has yet to run into too many challenges, although she is sure she will with more time in her position—not that there have been no challenges so far. The one thing she has run into are problems involving pizzas and receipts: "Getting receipts

from pizza orders is the biggest challenge I've had so far." So, if a student organization happens to order some pizza, Glover would really, really appreciate the receipt being given to her.

As far as Illinois Tech in general, Glover absolutely loves "how Illinois Tech involves their staff into the culture." For example, during Homecoming this past week, the staff was invited and so were their families, allowing staff to "feel like [they're] truly a part of the campus community."

If Stephanie Glover could give Illinois Tech students a bit of advice, she encourages every student to "really take advantage of everything." By attending classes students will develop their education, and combining that with involvement in student organizations provides opportunities for developing social skills among other things. Glover is the one in OCL who is given a credit card to purchase the various items requested by student organizations on campus, so she knows the Student Activities Fund (SAF) is truly given back to the students through all the student organizations. She also believes that experiences have an impact like no other, and it is "so great to have an experience outside your normal." Therefore, consider joining "things outside your normal life," and those experiences more than anything "will stay with you forever."

## International Students Feature: China

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If you aren't an international student, you most definitely know one. Take any route through campus and you'll overhear a conversation in another language, turn your head at a phone call you don't understand, or fail to read a poster full of characters you don't recognize. In an effort to more deeply understand this large population at Illinois Tech, this International Students Feature will act as a chance for readers to understand how life in other countries differs from life here at Illinois Tech.

This week, three international students from the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) were asked what they thought were the biggest differences between life in the US and in China. Siyu Wang, a graduate student studying marketing, immediately answered, "Lots of things. The food, of course. ... China is really about food." While American food consists of, in her words, "burgers and hot dogs," Chinese food is much more diverse and has a longer, richer history. However, Wang wasn't too bitter about the drastic diet change. "For me, it's okay." Wang

continued. "I try lots of different kinds of food. I'm not so typically focused on Chinese food. I like Indian food, actually." In contrast, Lei Yan, a graduate student studying electrical engineering, doesn't like the food here as much. "I think Chinese food is better," Yan confessed. "I can't adapt to [American food]. It's very different. Chinese food has so many spices and we can [eat] different food every day ... Chinese food has so many kinds." Yisu Yuan, a graduate student also studying electrical engineering, agreed with Yan, mentioning that he also did not like the food in America as much. Yuan commented, "America has a lot of food from different cultures. But as for American food, I think it's only burgers and sandwiches. And also they're only serving very large sizes." Yuan continued, saying, "In my family, every time we had a meal, we must have rice. But here, it's like a lot of meat." However, Yuan did go on to say that he feels lucky to live so close to Chinatown. Every time he feels homesick, he can easily travel there and enjoy a meal that tastes more like home.

All three students also pointed out differences between school here versus school in China. Before saying anything else, Wang lamented, "Books are really expensive

here." Wang completed her Bachelor's degree in China and said she was used to buying books for 20 RMB, or three US dollars. Additionally, according to Wang, classes are more lecture-based in China. In America, they are more hands-on and collaborative. "Here, you have more projects," Wang says. "You have to invite some partners to do it as a team." Lei Yan commented on the same topic, saying, "Research here [is] different ... [it] is interdisciplinary." Yan's major is electrical engineering, yet he says he frequently works with students of different disciplines like computer science. Another difference between schooling in the US and China, according to all three international students, is that there is more pressure on university students in America. While many Americans believe in the stereotype that Chinese students are placed upon more pressure, this is not necessarily true. According to Yuan, the belief that Chinese schools are harder than American ones holds true only for high school. It is very important for Chinese high school students to perform well due to a college entrance exam after graduation that can only be taken once a year. In Yuan's words, "[High School in China] is hard. It's really hard ... But once you enter

university, it's a lot better. I think the university here has more pressure than in China."

The most obvious difference between Chinese and American culture is the language. Lei Yan thought that this change, above all else, was the hardest to adjust to. In fact, in Yan's opinion, the transition between cultures wouldn't have been difficult if not for the that barrier. According to him, there are many aspects of life that are the same, but the one thing that is most different is language. In Yan's own words, "Adapting to the life here is a problem of language. If I could speak English well, I could live here very well."

China and the US are on opposite sites of the globe, and for international students, the differences in culture can be overwhelming. In fact, according to Yuan, "The first year I got here, I thought China and America might be the most different places in the world." However, understanding the difficulties that international students are facing can make the transition easier, and let others learn about what life is like in a completely different culture.

Next week, look for a International Students Feature on students from the Caribbean!

## Election results revealed, new student organizations approved at SGA Senate meeting

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Illinois Tech's Student Government Association (SGA) cast aside its usual two-week Senate meeting rotation on Wednesday, September 14, holding a second such meeting in as many weeks in order to reveal the results of elections that had taken place the previous three days for the incoming 2016-2017 Senate. Since many Senate candidates were packed into Stuart 113 to hear whether they would be representing the students of their college this coming academic year, Wednesday's meeting was also a chance for SGA's current Senate to run through the structure of its normal business, giving incoming members a chance to see how a typical meeting took place. Even though most observers were present simply to hear election results, those results were held until the end of the meeting in order to put a spotlight on how SGA generally functions.

To start off the meeting, current SGA Executive Vice President Sonia Kamdar introduced a revised set of rules for conduct

and speech. Dubbed "Sonia's Rules" (after a previous revision had been named "Met's Rules" for the former Executive VP who drafted them), changes included a strict limit on discussion time per topic, a one-minute limit on individual speaking terms, and other items means to reduce circular discussion and keep meeting length within a reasonable time overall. These changes were based on discussions held at the end of the previous week's Senate hearing about how Senate meetings could be made more efficient and accessible.

The next portion of the meeting, as usual, was concerned with presentations from prospective student organizations, which must be approved by the Senate in order to exist in an official capacity on campus. The first two organizations, Chess Club and Programming Club, were presented by the same individual, a first-year Computer Science student named Dan Rauch. Within their individual disciplines, both clubs were very similar in purpose, intended to focus on the competitive facet of each topic. However, while

questions from Senators about Chess Club were limited, the concept of a competition-focused Programming Club brought much more concern with it due to the ongoing existence of an Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) chapter on campus. Since ACM serves as the professional development organization for Computer Science students and its national-level organization actually hosts a number of the competitions that Programming Club intended to participate in, some Senators, as well as Finance Board Chair Sung Min Choi Hong, were concerned that creating a separate entity specifically for competition programming might not make sense, and might lead to an unnecessarily split audience.

Rauch countered by claiming that he had reached out to ACM prior to creating his Programming Club proposal, and had been rebuffed by ACM leadership who were uninterested in forming a competitive group or seeking funding for regional, national, and international programming competitions. He also pointed to strong online support for the

organization so far, citing 52 Facebook page likes for a group that hadn't even met yet. In the end, the organization passed by a vote of 11 for, 4 against, and 1 abstaining; Chess Club passed by a higher ratio of 13 for, 3 against, and 0 abstaining. Many among the Senate, though, including Communications VP Jelani Canty, expressed concern about the Senate's willingness to vote through organizations which were largely unstructured without following up and aiding in their growth, and proposed focusing on fostering a positive relationship with new student organizations this academic year to ensure they were equipped with the tools and knowledge to expand and continue to function over time.

The final proposed student organization to present at the September 14 meeting was Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM), a group that classifies itself as a religion, but which originally rose from tongue-in-cheek

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