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IIT remembers Robert A. Pritzker

TechNews

By Ryan Hynes

OPINION EDITOR

Robert Alan Pritzker June 30, 1926 – October 27, 2011 It is with a heavy heart that TechNews acknowledges the passing of Robert A. Pritzker this past Thursday, October 27. The IIT community has lost a great alumnus, benefactor, and true friend.

Mr. Pritzker graduated from IIT with a degree in industrial engineering in 1946. He was 19 at the time. He went on to co-found the immensely successful Marmon Group with



brothers Jay and Donald in 1953, and served as president of the company until selling it to Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. in 2001.

Robert Pritzker's business savvy was rivaled only by his philanthropy. Pritzker established the Pritzker Prize in Architecture, the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago, the Pritzker Family Children's Zoo in Lincoln Park, and the Frank Gehry-designed Pritzker Pavilion in Millenium Park.

Pritzker was a Chicago native and resident all his life, and believed strongly in giving back to the Chicago community. It is

> hard to be a Chicagoan and not notice the impact that Bob Pritzker and his family have had on this town and, if anything, his commitment to and impact upon IIT were even stronger.

Despite his demanding schedule and corporate responsibilities, Bob Pritzker still found time to give back to IIT. He taught night classes, joined and eventually chaired the Board of Trustees, received an honorary doctorate and Alumni Medal, was inducted into the University Hall of Fame in 2002, and, in 2005, Pritzker was elected to the Board of Regents.

Even more impressive than that, however, was the \$60 million pledge Pritzker Photo courtesy of IIT made during the \$250

million IIT Challenge Campaign that led to the renovation of IIT, the construction of SSV and the MTCC, the creation of the Camras Scholars Program, and, a personal favorite of Mr. Pritzker's, the IPRO Program. Pritzker also endowed the IIT Pritzker Institute of Biomedical Science and Engineering.

That Board of Regents has lost two members in as many weeks. Both Robert Galvin and Robert Pritzker were pioneers and champions of IIT. Both men were extremely successful in the corporate sphere, but they did not allow their prosperity or financial gains to define them. Instead, they chose to speak through their actions, through their philanthropy, and through their love for and dedication to IIT.

As a community, we have lost two great pioneers, two men who dedicated a lifetime to IIT, two visionaries who helped to transform this campus into what Forbes Magazine recently called "One of the most beautiful college campuses." We have lost much these past few weeks, and we must grieve and mourn these tremendous men, but we must also take up their challenge.

Who among us will be the next great visionary? Which of us students shares Galvin and Pritzker's passion for IIT? Who is willing to step up to the plate?

We cannot hope to replace Galvin and Pritzker, nor should we, for they are a permanent fixture of this university, whose names will forever be enshrined with the likes of Gunsaulus, Armour, Camras, and Collens. No, the best we can do is to take up the torch that they so inspirationally lit and carry it with the same passion and dedication, so that the future these men envisioned for IIT burns even brighter than they could have ever imagined.

Internship Abroad: Science & Engineering in Germany Hallo, Deutschland!

By Shefali Umrania

TECHNEWS WRITER

It has been two days since I arrived here and a lot has happened already. The first thing being, I'm already facing the second phase of culture shock—disliking any and every difference between my home country(s) and the new country. I wish ice-cream could cure that, but hey, I have a cold, so that won't save me either. Let's go back to the time when I started off from Chicago. Ah, Chicago...

I was showing my parents the photos I have taken so far and my mom noticed my face light up when I showed her the aerial view of "my city," taken from the airplane. Of course, it is my city! It is A CITY! But, more on that topic later. So, I started off on my journey to London, and then Deutschland, with a clogged nose and a much more clogged, and rather heavy, suitcase. Excited? Of course!

think I was more excited about travelling in and around Europe than actually working in Germany. At this point, let me advise you strongly to not fly American Airlines at any cost. How was I to know that if I book from the British Airways website then they would put me on a codeshare flight? The leg room is just not enough, even for a five-footer like me. The seating is just hell for your back and the food lacks any concept of flavor. Although, they did end up serving deep dish cheese pizza once, which earned them some brownie points (but, not quite enough).

It would also be helpful to note that British Airways ain't any good either! They (the two evil airline partners) make you stop at London Heathrow during its closing hours. There is no stable accommodation anywhere around the terminal. They make you get a transit visa when you know going out into the city is out of bounds at 11 p.m. All you can do is curl up on a wooden bench (yes, bench) at your terminal without any food till the airport opens again, at 5 a.m. Well, that's life, I guess.

I did meet an interesting lady named Marion in the middle of one of my naps. She loved criticizing anything and everything related to Heathrow. Marion was a German native working in London for the past seven years. She was very amusing when she compared Germany to Britain and then, of course, out of courtesy to me, America and India. We ended up talking mostly about how capitalism in America has been shaping the psyche of the common American consumer. She gave me her email to contact her in case I needed something while I'm in Germany.

I think my journey was more like a prelude to what I should expect later on in terms of food. I read somewhere that the staple diet of Germans is meat, potatoes and beer—only one out of which I am comfortable consuming, being an underage vegetarian. I had definitely prepared my stomach for a rough summer, but didn't know it would start right from the airplane! Both of my flights offered egg dishes as the only vegetarian options and I had to eat them, although I don't eat egg. This was kind of a big deal, considering how picky I am about food.

The first frightening moment was the twenty minutes after I landed in Stuttgart, which seemed like three hours. I couldn't find my PhD supervisors, Philipp and Chris, and I obviously was smart enough to not have taken down their numbers to contact them. I saw no one holding a placard with my name and the lady at the Stuttgart airport cafe refused to let me use their Internet access. I did know that my internship town, Tübingen, was a university town about an hour away from Stuttgart International Airport. Hence, I had no idea how I would reach Tübingen from Stuttgart or about what I would do in case the two never turned up. I also had thoughts about whether all this DAAD RISE thing was a mistake and/or a prank that I'd fallen for and that no one was ever going to turn up, but I guess I'm just crazy like that. There was absolutely nothing that I could do there but

wait, and that's what I did... until the two finally arrived.

Yes, I drove to my institute in a BMW coup on a freeway without a speed limit, which means we were averaging about 130 mph. "Willkommen in Deutschland" is what Chris said when I took a picture of his car speedometer. How cool was that? The public transport buses and taxi cabs in Tübingen are made by Mercedes Benz. The Mercedes factory is about 30 km from this town and is now on my visit list.

The countryside is beautiful. I remember telling my family that it feels just like vacationing on a hill station. The only difference is that I'm here to work. There is a calm river flowing through the center of the town with Venice-like boats where people can barbecue/party/read/study nature/do whatever they please. People row, swim, canoe, kayak and the like. There is a garden in the middle of the river, with trees on either side, which has become more like a jogger's park now.

For lunch, I had what looked and tasted like mac & cheese topped with sauteed onions which was named Käsespätzle. Apparently, it was an exotic dish! Neat, eh? Oh, and Chris had orange lemonade mixed with Coca-Cola. I should try that sometime. I think I was just starting to discover what Germany is. They had a beer garden in the back of this restaurant where people went to just enjoy their beer among the trees.

The people have been really nice. The guy from O2, where I got my SIM card; the man from the bank who helped me open my bank account; the random people who helped me get a bus from the city to my dorm; and the computer store guy who gave me a free cable for the laptop charger have all been real forgiving that I don't know their native language. All I need to do is learn their language. Philipp and Chris have also been really helpful and I hope I am what they expect me to be.

Till next time, thanks for reading!