

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of TechNews is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TechNews is written, managed, and edited by the students of, and funded in part by, Illinois Institute of Technology. The material herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Illinois Institute of Technology or the editors, staff, and advisor of TechNews. There will be no censorship of TechNews publication by the faculty or staff of IIT. Sole authority and responsibility for publication and adherence to the values set forth in this policy rests with the TechNews staff. This paper seeks to bring together the various segments of the Illinois Tech community and strives through balance and content to achieve a position of respect and excellence. TechNews strives for professionalism with due respect to the intellectual values of the university and its community. All material submitted becomes the property of TechNews, and is subject to any editorial decisions deemed necessary.

SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews’ policy and standards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor may be submitted by anyone, but are subject to review by the editor-in-chief. All letters-to-the-editor become the property of TechNews upon submission. TechNews does not accept or publish anonymous letters.

ADVERTISING

Legitimate paid advertisements, from within or outside the IIT community, which serve to produce income for the paper, are accommodated. TechNews holds the right to deny any advertisement unsuitable for publication. Media Kits are available upon request. Ad space is limited and is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact the Business Manager at business@technewsiit.com for more information.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ADVERTISERS

To place an ad, contact us via email at business@technewsiit.com.

13,500 feet above Earth: Skydiving Chicago

By Shreeyeh Rajan
COPY EDITOR

One of the instructors slid the flight door up. The flight started getting cooler. As everyone evacuated from the flight, my heart started racing; being second to last didn't make it better. As an IIT student would say it, the number of people jumping before me was directly proportional to the number of butterflies in my stomach. We all knelt down, and my tandem instructor kept telling me to move forward. I was next in line. I saw the guy in front of me jump, spin in mid-air and start free-falling. That's when I thought, "What did I get myself into?"

At the beginning of the semester, I found out that I won a skydiving ticket in the lottery conducted by Union Board. A standard \$219 first tandem ticket for \$90 because I'm an IIT student? Oh, yeah! So, I get the ticket.

What's next? Approval from my parents and the \$90. When I told them earlier about my interest in skydiving, they were fine with it. When I told them I won the ticket, hell broke loose. Family members asked me questions like "Didn't you go to college to study?" or "You're paying that much money to jump out of a plane?" and even "Who is that guy who's going to attached to you while you jump?" After a lot of persuasion, they were okay with it.

I remember my Mom telling me to "be safe" and I replied sarcastically, "Yeah Mom, I'll be safe when I jump out of the plane." She didn't find it quite as funny as I did, though.

Back to my first tandem jump scene, I'm kneeling with my tandem instructor, Jeremy, attached to me. He told me about five times what to do when I'm in mid-air, and I'm thinking of how am I going to remember everything.

So, I look down and the camera guy jumps in front of me and holds on to the flight door to record my jump. With wind blowing by at approximately 120 mph, I jump. I'm flying 13,500 feet high and it was the best feeling ever!

I accidentally opened my mouth during before the jump, so it was pretty hard to close it while in free-fall. Jeremy opened up the parachute pulled up the parachute between 5,000 and 6,000 feet (I forgot to open it; I was having too much fun!) and then we were falling at a slower pace. Jeremy spun me around thrice on the left and then I told him I wanted to do the same on the other side. So, we did. We landed safely, since I remembered not to land on my feet.

Honestly, this was one of the best experiences ever! After successfully flying and falling, I feel like I can do absolutely anything else. CS 351 next semester? Bring it on!



Images by Shreeyeh Rajan