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**TUESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 5,**  
**2013**

Volume 175 | Issue 2

technewsiit.com

# TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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## MSI-IIT volunteer program provides students opportunity to educate others

**Kori Bowns**

BUSINESS MANAGER

Each semester, 12 undergraduate students from IIT have a unique service learning opportunity at the Museum of Science and Industry through the MSI Internship Program. Students apply to spend a few days during the semester volunteering at the largest science museum in the western hemisphere, leading science demonstrations to the museum's general audience. Volunteers who complete a required minimum number of volunteer hours at the museum also qualify to apply for a paid internship at MSI over the summer.

Established in 2007 by a common trustee between IIT and MSI, the program aims to foster communication skills in students while making science education accessible to the community through the delivery of several fun and interactive live science demonstrations at MSI. While IIT graduates are generally incredibly knowledgeable in their area of study, a common observation is that that some graduates in the workplace lack the communication skills and confidence to convey technical subjects to an audience with a less technical background. As this is a potential problem in the professional world, the MSI Internship

Program exists to give students practical experience in communicating scientific concepts to a variety of audiences, ranging from young children to trained professionals.

"Whatever field you go in to, you're going to have to communicate with people who are not in your area. Whether it's your boss, a customer, or a colleague in another department, being able to confidently and concisely explain difficult concepts to somebody who doesn't share your background is a real valuable skill," said Lynne Meyer, Director of the Office of Spiritual Life and Service Learning here at IIT. Lynne also says that the MSI volunteer experience helps build confidence in students that will be invaluable in the professional world.

Reception of the program over the years has been overwhelmingly positive. Many students who go through the program and later decided to change their major to include an educational component.

The MSI Internship Program has become a highly competitive opportunity for IIT students over recent years. "These seem like really basic points, but know what you're applying for," Meyer said, about those filling out an application. "Don't just come to an info session, sign in, and not pay attention. Ask ques-

tions. Also, know yourself, and know what the opportunity really is."

"When filling out the application, answer the questions. Take the application seriously enough to think about it, represent yourself, and sell yourself," Meyer added. "Take your time and think about what you're saying. At the same time, have fun with it. If you've got a passion, let us see the passion."

When there are usually at least three times as many students applying than there are spots open for the volunteer portion of the program, students should also remember not to get discouraged if they don't make the cut the first time. Although this program is a very unique partnership between MSI and IIT, one should also know there are many other ways to volunteer within the museum if they'd like to have that experience. Students are also encouraged to try again and apply in upcoming semesters should they not make it on their first try.

In order to be eligible to apply for the MSI Internship Program, a student must attend one of three info sessions. These sessions take place on February 11, 12, and 13 in the Hermann Hall Crown Room from 12:50 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. For more information, contact Lynne Meyer at lmeyer2@iit.edu.



Photo courtesy of MSIChicago.org

## Sig Ep Charter revoked

**Andrew Lemens**

SIGMA PHI EPSILON, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

*The following is a press release from Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity's national office, on the subject of the Illinois Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon.*

January 24, 2013:

In light of the decision of Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) to suspend the Illinois Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon's recognition as a student group due to numerous violations of university policies, the National Board of Directors has elected to withdraw the charter of the chapter and closed the chapter, effective immediately. The chapter had been in continuous existence since 1948.

The Fraternity made this decision in consultation with university administrators and upon the recommendation of the chapter's alumni and volunteers.

"The University supports the Fraternity's decision to withdraw the charter of the local chapter," says Alan Cramb, Senior Vice President and Provost at IIT. "We value the role fraternities and sororities play in the student experience on campus and the University. It is, however, imperative that those organizations meet expectations of behavior and regulations set forth both by Sigma Phi Epsilon and the University."

Sigma Phi Epsilon's mission is to build balanced men. Its leadership programs and educational efforts are based on the value of respect for self and others. Chapters and members are expected to act in accordance with these values. Behavior that is inconsistent with the Fraternity's mission and values is not tolerated. When a chapter fails to meet minimum expectations and is unwilling to work with fraternity and host institution partners to implement the necessary changes to align the chapter with the fraternity's values, we have no other option but to withdraw the chapter's charter.

The return of Sigma Phi Epsilon to IIT will be dependent on an agreement that satisfies the University, the Fraternity, and the local alumni group. "If we can become partners in what going forward would be a mutually beneficial relationship," says Cramb, "then the return of the chapter to campus may be possible in the future."

## Lewis College of Human Science YouTube competition nearing final stages

**Travon Cooman**

TECHNEWS WRITER

Designed to promote the study of the humanities, social sciences and psychology, the IIT Lewis College of Human Sciences 2012 YouTube Video Competition offers a monetary benefit for those contributing to the effort. The competition is now in its final stages!

Who will be the winner? With only

one week remaining until a winner of the second round of the Lewis College Competition is declared, participants are seeking students to view their video and hoping that they would share it with their friends too.

In the second round of the competition, viewers will determine who wins the cash prizes. The most viewed video posted on YouTube wins the competition. If any participant has 25,000 views and places first, his first prize

will be \$5,000.

However, at this point it seems unlikely since any of the videos will have as many views. If they however receive 5,000 views, the prize will be \$2,500. The competition's purpose is to promote IIT's newly formed Lewis College of Human Sciences which comprises of The College of Science and Letters, the Department of Psychology and the Humanities Department.

The current positions are: 1st place, "IIT The Place To Be," with 2,355 views, 2nd place, "Evolution of Pants," with 1,712 views, 3rd place, "The Best Students," with 980 views, and 4th place, "Googling The Next Four Years" with 678 views.

The videos which are all posted on YouTube can be viewed by searching for the titles.