

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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Our mission 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.

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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

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Reply: Student career guidance on campus

Jason Ephraim
TECHNEWS WRITER

I understand the tenor of the previous article and I agree that there is a need for students to connect better with their career advisor(s).

However, I feel that students feel and are to some extent very busy with their academic careers and I too am not stranger to taking more than 18 credit hours in a semester. I have a different story to tell and that is the advising relationship between Sara Dell, my Career Management Center advisor, and myself.

Sara has provided me with many opportunities to ask questions and prepare for upcoming interview and employment opportunities. This past Fall, I had an on-campus interview with a well-known software company, and Sara answered my questions in a timely manner via email and also met with me for an impromptu hour interview prep session. Never once through the process did I feel rushed. Later, I had another urgent interview opportunity and I needed some brushing up, so Sara met with me again in yet another impromptu session. Each time

the receptionist relayed the message to Sara that I had a next-day interview and each time, Sara made time.

As far as the accusations about not receiving timely feedback on resumes; I was a student that was rushing to get a resume done for the Fall 2011 career fair that week and the CMC was quite busy. I still received assistance and a week or two later, my resume was approved for Nacelink.

I believe that the CMC is much more than a “resume approver” provided the student recognizes that the Center offers a variety of services. For example, an ideal process for pursuing a company would be to have a resume prepared and reviewed by the academic advisor a bit before a career fair. Then, the student would interface with that company and obtain contact information. Following that, the student could draft a follow-up to the company with the assistance of his/her advisor. For an interview, there is invariably updates to the resume and then after the interview, there is a 24-48 hour later return email/letter to the recruiter that I was not cognizant of until Sara told me and provided an example and also offered to proofread before I would send it out.

You see, the advisers at the CMC

have tools and guidance that a student can apply to really provide a complete package to companies and their recruiters.

In addition, the CMC has been working to bring companies on campus for smaller, more intimate, recruiting sessions and I was fortunate to participate in one this past Fall. In this case, students were able to interface more closely with the various companies and the student to recruiter ratio was much smaller as the event was capped to 300 people. With good preparation, students experienced good success at this event. In fact, there was one company who ultimately made multiple offers to IIT students as a result of such an event.

In closing, I believe that students should get involved earlier with the CMC and steps should be taken to do so. I also believe that the responsibility also lies with the students to take advantage of the opportunities and resources that the CMC provides and to provide feedback and requests where more opportunities should exist. Personally,I have nothing but great things to say about the CMC as Sara Dell, my advisor has really honed my portfolio and job-seeking skills as an undergraduate here at IIT.

Berlin: tours of historical landmarks, zoo

Neesha Narayanan
TECHNEWS WRITER

Berlin, although it holds the badge of capital city of Germany, is also known as the cultural capital. Berlin is culturally rich and beautiful city with a lot of things to offer for everyone. This city emotionally touched me. I want to recommend few places that one should certainly see when visiting Berlin.

Check Point Charlie is the crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin during the Cold War.

This is one of the historic places that you cannot avoid; it is an ultimate symbol of Cold war, erected in 1961. This checkpoint was a significant sign of the division of Germany as well as political disorder.

The best thing about Berlin is that it is easy to go anywhere without being dependent on anything or anyone.

There are subways, buses, and you could even go around by foot. You could buy a day ticket if alone or a group ticket if with family or friends.

A peculiar thing about German subway is that you don't have to insert your tickets into any kind of machine, it is all trust, and no one will ask you for tickets. However, sometimes there are certain days that subway officials will randomly pop into trains and ask for your ticket.

There are enough museums to tell you the history of the city; not even the city but also Germany. There is Deutsches Historisches Museum, which is a phenomenal

representation of 2000 years of German history. There is Altes Museum, built in 1830 by Prussia's greatest architect, Friedrich Schinkel. Another place to go is the Holocaust Memorial.

With around 2700 stone slabs, designed by Peter Eisenman in 1999, the design is very unique to the purpose of creating a memorial for Jews who lost their lives before and during World War II.

The paths between the slabs undulate, creating a feeling of unsteadiness and a sense of disorientation.

If one wants to really indulge in the city's history, there are many conductor tours that happen throughout the city which show people the real picture of what it was like during war, the architecture and all the information that tends to take you into the past, for example, the Berlin wall.

The tours are helpful for tourists to understand all the significant events that take place before and during the war.

You should experience the Berlin bunker tours, which show how people lived in the underground bunkers during the war.

You should also see the secret subway stations. It sometime seems very depressing to see all these places that are significantly connected to the lifestyle of people going through war at that time.

If you want to see the beauty of the city, you should buy a day ticket and take bus no. 100 and/or 200, sit near the front and enjoy the view. The best way to see the city is to take a double-decker bus.

To your surprise, you will find that all the beautiful palaces and monuments

will be in East Berlin while West Berlin will have a modern look, for example, Schloss Charlottenburg which is the largest palace in Berlin. You should also visit Brandenburg Gate.

In most of Germany, it is difficult to find people on street on a Sunday; however, in Berlin the streets are filled with people from different parts of the world.

No city in Germany reflects the struggle of Germany's history as Berlin does. Though most of the cities of Germany were destroyed by war, no city has witnessed and seen as much of German history as Berlin.

Potsdamer Platz is good example of urban renovation, making Berlin into 'New Berlin', which can be reached by public transports. Berlin houses the Reichstag, which is the seat of the German Parliament.

One has to make reservation in advance as this place is always overflowing with tourists.

The Berlin Zoo is another major attraction for tourist as the zoo has an excellent variety of wildlife to offer.

The place is big enough for you to be occupied for a full day.

Berlin overall is more bubbly than other places I have visited in Germany. It is known as a cyclist's heaven as you can ride everywhere with no undulation in the streets.

You should indulge into bratwursts and currywursts, which are bigger than normal size of sausage but phenomenally tasty.

Lastly, you should not forget to sip famous German beer, because experiencing Berlin without Beer is like cupcake without icing on it.

Updates: expanding ARC, course repeats

Harshita Iyer
SGA SENATOR

The Illinois Tech Student Government Association (SGA) has always striven to better understand the needs and concerns of IIT students. Tools like VoteBox and the SGA Thoughts Table (which is in the MTCC every Wednesday during lunch) have been very useful in understanding students’ concerns.

At the same time, it is also important that you, a member of the IIT student body, know what is happening within your Student Government. That is the purpose behind this column. This column will discuss what happens at Senate meetings every other Tuesday, including the new projects that SGA has taken

on as well as what new student organizations were approved at the last Senate meeting.

This past week, Senate went over all of the awesome new projects that are starting (like this column in TechNews). An exciting project that SGA is now working on is expanding the ARC so that students can have a place to study as well as get questions answered, especially during midterm/finals season.

Another project that has been underway for a while, but is now gaining momentum, is revising the course retake policy to allow students to retake classes whenever they want instead of within a year. Something that you might see very soon on campus is the architecture lounge in 3410 (the Tech Park building all the way by the 35th street end of campus).

Also, as many of you might already know, the Finance Board met last weekend to allocate the Student Activities Fund for this round of proposals. The next round of proposals will be due Feb 23rd. All you student organizations, start thinking about what you want to propose! In other announcements, SGA Executive Board nominations will open February 19. SGA Week is scheduled for the week of February 25th to 28th. More on that next time!

If any of these topics interest you, you are always welcome to be a part of SGA! Everyone attend the Committee Meetings that happen every off week from the Senate Meeting. There will be meetings happening in the Colored Rooms in MTCC tonight at 9:15pm. You are also welcome to the Senate meeting that will be next Tuesday at 9:15pm in the MTCC Auditorium!