

# TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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### MISSION STATEMENT

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 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. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsiit.com.

### 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 or stories.

### 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.

# Awareness of good beyond appearances

Ameena Payne  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Last year, I was on the CTA (Chicago's Transit Authority) heading to class to take an exam. Rather, I should say that I was rushing to class. I wasn't running late, but I often got caught up in the hustle and bustle of Chicago during morning rush hour.

Something about the "rush hour" energy made me feel a bit anxious; I—along with others—am at the mercy of the CTA with its frequent delays, rarely do riders strike up conversations with fellow passengers.

After making my usual transfer to another train line, I was able to find a free seat (which is hard to come by during rush hour), and I sat down.

I acknowledged the woman I was sitting near just enough to immediately write her off as being someone I wanted to ignore. She looked at me and smiled, and I gave a half smile back but turned slightly away to make it clear that I didn't want to engage in chit-chat.

I am a warm person, hardly ever without a smile and usually very open, but I was having a day where I just felt nonchalant toward other people. The last thing I wanted was to feel "trapped" in a conversation with a "lowly" woman on the train who might pester me for money.

I pulled out my textbook, clutch in hand, to begin "reviewing" for my exam.

She began engaging me in small talk and after a few minutes, my disposition changed. My short answers became longer, and I became

genuinely interested in what she had to say.

A year or so later, I have forgotten the specifics of everything she said to me, but I remember getting off the train feeling light-hearted after she told me a bit about her life. We had a short but beautiful conversation.

I got off at my stop, walked the couple of blocks to class, and entered the classroom when I realized I left my clutch on the train.

No time is a good time to lose your wallet, but I was leaving for the Middle East soon and would have to replace everything before my trip.

Well-played.

"Distract someone with small talk in hopes they'll leave something behind," a peer commented when I retold the story (after the incident had played out). I actually felt a bit at ease despite the situation, and the thought of trickery didn't even pass my mind.

My professor excused me, and I headed back to the station, chalking it up to my carelessness, thinking, "I've really got to slow down. What was I rushing for at any rate? Life is not about rushing."

I got to the station, and as I explained that I'd forgotten my wallet/clutch, they informed me that a woman had notified a CTA employee—just as the train left the station where I'd gotten off—that someone had left a clutch on the train, and that I'd gotten off at the specific stop.

I rode the train to its last stop where all the lost and found items are dropped. When the CTA employees handed me my wallet, everything was inside.

I learned a few valuable lessons that day, not to prejudge someone's character because of their appearance; always be open because you never know who will be in a position to lend a helping hand.

At times, living in the city, it becomes so normal to ignore each other and to write each other off. I am so thankful to have had a humbling experience that showed me that when we allow ourselves to slow down and be receptive to others, we can learn, and we can be helped by people from all walks of life.

This experience reminded me (and may remind you) to: Slow down.

We expect everything to be instant. In fact, when something is "new and improved," it is always faster. We miss out when we live our lives like this. The quality of our lives cannot be measured by their speed. Rushing produces shallowness because you never have time to dig beneath the surface of another person. Try to minimize criticism and judgment.

Be aware when you're judging another. Deeply consider the roots of judgments. Respond to others with compassion rather than reacting on a fearful or indifferent impulse.

Be more receptive and approachable. We all have those days when we feel like we don't want to be bothered with others. While I strongly advocate quality alone-time, I feel that when we're agitated by others, that's usually when a smile or a kind word from someone else can go a long way.

Be open to others' kindness. Live with a sense of curiosity; every moment is an opportunity for connecting and learning.

sga@iit.edu **SGA**

# SGA Senator Spotlights



## Ryan Gann, College of Architecture

**Name:** Ryan Gann

**Position:** College of Architecture Senator

**Email:** rgann@hawk.iit.edu

**What prompted you to join SGA?:**

SGA is the tool that allows students to voice concerns and opinions regarding their educational experience at IIT. Being a part of an advocate group that invests in change and leadership is what prompted me to become a senator.

**Which projects have you worked/working on?:**

This year I have focused on my constituency in the College of Architecture by beginning conversations about the health and wellness of students. This started with a survey and analy-

sis of 100+ responses, allowing for further action and needs of architecture students to be identified.

**What aspect of the university experience are you most passionate about improving?:**

I am most passionate about the continued development of student life at IIT. Extracurricular activities are an important aspect to a well rounded education and valuable graduate entering the work force.

**Cool fact about you?:**

I will be serving on the AIAS National Board of Directors as the Midwest Quadrant Director for the 2013-2014 term. This position entails the liaison between 30+ schools in the Midwest region.

## Kevin M. Roemer, School of Applied Technology

**Name:** Kevin M. Roemer

**Position:** School of Applied Technology Senator

**Email:** kroemer1@hawk.iit.edu

**What prompted you to join SGA?:**

When coming to Illinois Tech I wanted to continue my involvement with the student community and listen to their needs. In order to form a more perfect student union, students must congregate for a cause that is greater than them. That cause is the needs of the student community at IIT. I joined SGA so I could hear from students and represent ones who needed it. IIT is a strong place but student representation and opinion voicing is not always prevalent so I am here to help change that.

**Which projects have you worked/working on?:**

Projects that I am currently work-

ing on via the Communications Committee are the International Poster Campaign which reaches out to students using their native dialects to foster an environment of comfort. The ultimate goal is to bring students together for a common goal. I am also working on the IIT Assassins Game and many other marketing campaigns. In future the ComCom and I would like to accomplish goals such as adding the ability for students to utilize RFID tags to more easily open the parking gates and academic building doors.

**What aspect of the university experience are you most passionate about improving?:**

I want to create exponentially more inter-cultural communication between students.

**Cool fact about you?:**

My family owns a Pizzeria which holds the title "Best Pizza in Chicago."

