

Person you should know:

Ken Smith



Joannas Joseph
TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT is known to have one of the biggest University career fairs in the Chicago area, and for that we must give the Career Management Center (C.E.C) a significant amount of praise. One of the main individuals laying the foundation of the career fair over the past 2 years has been Ken Smith. Smith holds the positions of Senior Employer Relations Specialist (S.E.R.S.) and Student Employment Coordinator (S.E.C.) here at IIT. If you are a student employee hired over the past 3 years at IIT, your paperwork has been handled by Smith and you may or may not have had a meeting with him. Smith's duties include assisting in bringing employers to campus to recruit students, making employers aware of IIT's programs (S.E.R.S.); processing all payrolls for student workers, ensuring that student workers get paid, and making students aware of jobs available on campus (S.E.C.).

Smith has been at IIT for just over 3 years, and in that time his name has become synonymous with student employment and all things career related. With a M.S. in Human Resources from Robert Morris University, he came into the Student Employment role initially temporarily and his experience at IIT with dealing with students was thus the catalyst to increase his impact on students, and also provided the zeal to remain IIT. "There's a part of me that wants to go in Human Resources but there is also a part that wants to remain in career services, because I can have a really great impact on students minds...I enjoy working with students more than anything, one-on-ones and giving them tough love," said Smith when asked whether or not he would like to enter the field which he initially studied.

During his tenure, the two biggest

issues he has encountered with students are that they are unable to find jobs on campus and that a lot of students do not understand the importance of searching for a job whether it is an internship, part-time or full-time job. His approach to rectify these have been being proactive and finding out what are the needs of various departments and broadcasting available posting to the student body, having one-on-ones and also doing presentations to student organizations. "I don't believe in jobs, I believe in careers... You are not in college to get a job but a career" noted Smith and is a notion he continuously tries to engrain within the minds of students.

One program which Smith thinks was especially beneficial at his previous institution and could have equal benefit to IIT was the requirement that every undergraduate student have an internship before they graduate. Although difficult to include immediately into IIT's curriculum, it would be beneficial to students in the long run.

One suggestion may be to introduce it to individual colleges, then make it a campus wide requirement.

Outside of IIT, Smith is a father of two children and an avid Chicago sports fan, namely the Bears, Cubs, Bulls and Blackhawks. He still plays video games, stating that Grand Theft Auto is his favorite and is currently waiting patiently before purchasing GTA-V.

To students, Smith's words were, "Your career is your responsibility; where you go in life is your responsibility, there's nothing wrong in asking for help." "It takes a village to get someone prepared for their career... faculty and staff need to help students get ready for their career," and everyone involved in a student's life should play an active role.

Smith has an open door policy and is open to any student coming in seeking career advice, job search or even to talk sports.



GREEK of the WEEK

Meet Hans Griese.

"Your life is yours alone - rise up and live it."

Year: Fourth

Major: Architecture

Greek Affiliation: Triangle

Hometown: Barrington, IL

Leadership Positions at IIT: President of Triangle

Hobbies: Soccer, football, running (which I still think I am crazy for doing), video games, architecture

How has Greek life developed you as a person and a leader?

Greek life has provided such a wide variety of obstacles and challenges to me. At the same time, it also provides the community to overcome them. I have learned so much about how to utilize leadership to surmount difficulties. I have also developed towards becoming a man of outstanding character, all thanks to my time spent with Triangle.

What would be your advice for an incoming student?

GO GREEK!! While it may seem common to say, and there are many stereotypes fighting that idea, going Greek is the best thing you can do for yourself, your education, your career, and your quality of life. It truly will create the best version of yourself that is possible.

If you could visit any country in the world, where would you go and why?

I have far too many amazing memories thanks to Triangle, it would take forever to even list them in an attempt to pick a favorite. But Greek Week Dance off has to be very near the top. Always a thrill.

When you were a kid, what did you want to grow up to be?

I'm assuming this means after the Fireman and Policeman stages. I always either wanted to be an architect, sky-diver, teacher, or professional musician (percussion)

Questions? Email orderofomegaiit@gmail.com


ORDER OF OMEGA

iit feminists united
presents

Take Back The Night Week

monday 10/21 - Between Friends
speaker 12:45-1:45 MTCC Brown Room
betweenfriendschicago.org

tuesday 10/22 - Self-Defense class
6:30-8 MTCC Ballroom
register @ tinyurl.com/selfdefense2013
hosted by Women's Services

wednesday 10/23 - Keynote speaker
7 PM Siegel Auditorium

thursday 10/24 - Sex Ed Boot Camp
7:30 E1 Auditorium

hosted by Student Health and Wellness Center

friday 10/25 - Walk A Mile In Her Shoes
registration @ 6:30 bandshell on the Quad
march @ 7

sign up @ tinyurl.com/iitwalkamile

iit.feministsunited@gmail.com

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