

Ursula Christiano leaves IIT

Rebecca Nicholes

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SYSTEMS

Ursula Christiano is the face of IIT's Customer Service. For over 15 years, when anyone walked into IIT's Main Building and looked to the right the first thing you would see was Ursula's smiling face. If you were not sure where you were going, instead of reading the directory next to the elevator, you would make that right turn and walk up to Ursula's desk to ask your questions or make your inquiry. Or if you were waiting for the long wait for the elevator, you would stop by her desk to say hello.

Students, faculty, and staff knew that she would always be able to provide assistance or find the right person to answer your question. Students would often bring

their visiting families to meet Christiano, the person who helped them through the first few months of being in a new place and made them feel welcome. Faculty and staff would stop by to share the latest news, personal family updates, and introduce new faculty or staff.

Those of us who worked closely with Christiano in the office would know that if it was a stressful day, she would be able to bring a smile to our faces with her quick witted replies to our questions or comments. For example, when someone would leave the office and say, "I'll be back!" she would reply, "I'll be front!" That comment never failed to bring forth a groan and a smile.

When we all moved out of the Main Building, it was difficult for Christiano to be away from the direct contact of students, faculty, and staff. Her placement at the One Stop was the perfect fit for her.

Christiano has been nominated numerous times and has received the Staff Excellence in Service Award. She is devoted to her family--especially her grandchildren, her church, and her faith in God. She is a loyal friend and co-worker, passionate about Connie's Restaurant, and secretly in love with Tom Selleck, Frank Sinatra, and anything Disney.

Christiano is truly one of a kind and she will be sorely missed at IIT. She is the employee that helps those who pass through this campus remember their experience at IIT as a good one, where people care about each other and those we serve. Personally, I have had the great privilege to work with her for 20 years and I am honored to call her my friend. You will be missed, Ursula, but we all rejoice with you as you begin a new chapter in your life.

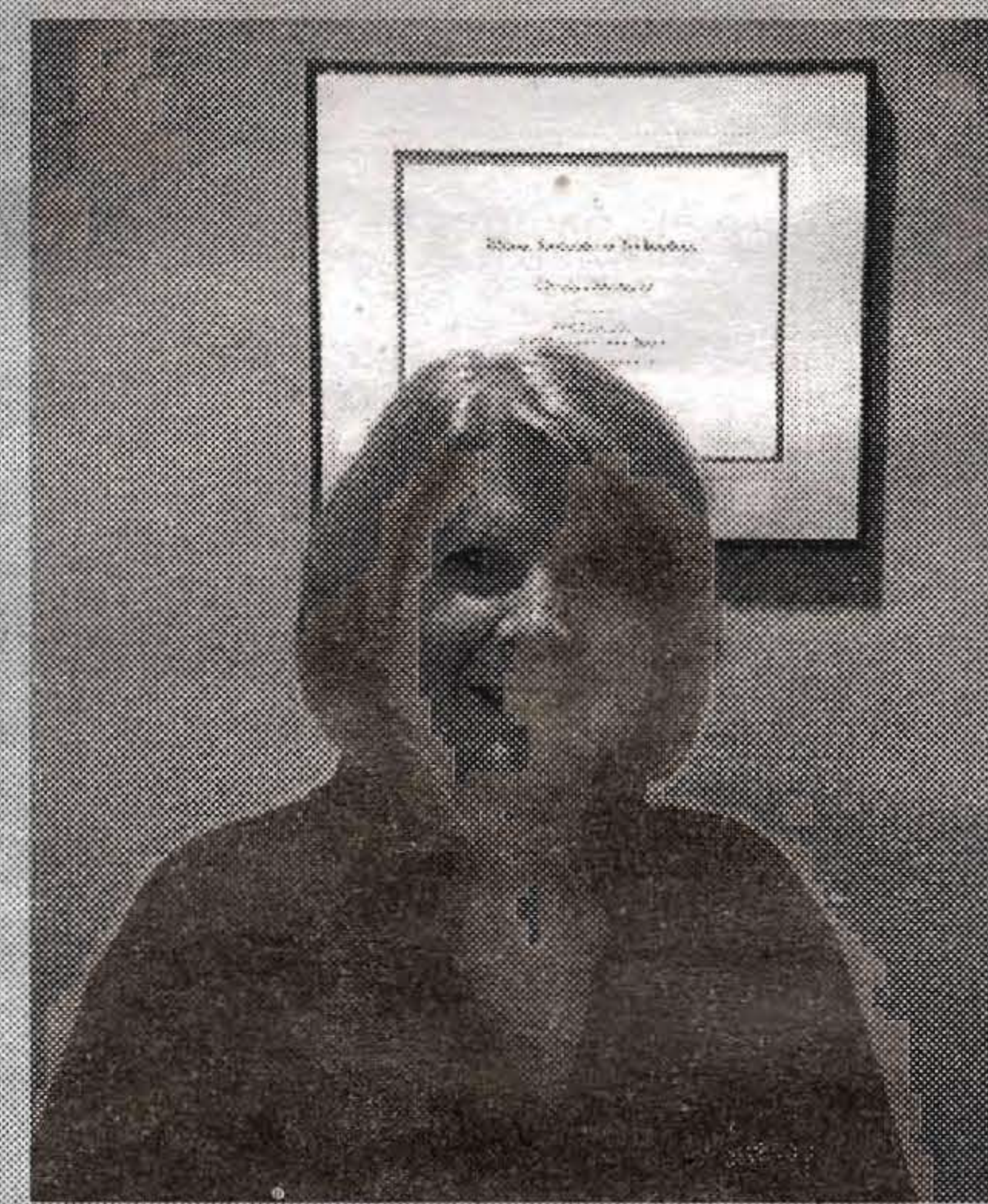


Photo by Rebecca Nicholes

TEDxIIT returns to campus for spring events

Nirja Shah

TECHNEWS WRITER

TED talks at IIT have made a major impact in the last few years, not only at IIT, but also around the immediate Chicagoland community and the world around us, especially with the power and reach of social media.

This year is definitely no less. Following the previous themes of "Breakthrough", "Gaining Momentum" and "Exponential," this year's theme is "Infinite

Impact." All of the board members and Ms. Amy Lee Segami, TEDxIIT founder, have worked for hours to come up with a theme that follows the legacy of TEDxIIT's themes for the past couple of years.

So, what is TED? Google "TED talks," there are extremely motivational speakers in the videos, inspiring everyday people to do wonders.

Ms. Segami, the founder of TEDxIIT brought the TED talks to IIT. Anyone related to IIT can be nominated as speakers for the TED

event that occurs every April: the students, alumni, professors, or any staff who made any impact to the IIT community.

For this, they request all the students, staff member and faculty to nominate anyone who they think deserves to share their story of success, so that it can have an infinite impact around the globe at the TEDxIIT event this year.

The following is the link to nominate a speaker: <http://tinyurl.com/myc67ee>. Remember, all the guidelines for speaker nominations are mentioned here. Being a TED

speaker is a great honor, so spread the word and start nominating! The deadline for nominations is February 19.

TED events are what you make out of them, so the team will be more than happy to have you in the planning committee.

All TEDxIIT meetings are held every Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Tower. For more information about joining the TEDxIIT committee, email nshah53@hawk.iit.edu or tedxiit@gmail.com.

sga@iit.edu

SGA

Newly remodeled SGA website goes live today

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

SGA's website has been outdated for a while now and in need of some noteworthy replacement.

SGA called on one of IIT's most prolific web developers and my friend, Tameem Imamdad, to give the site a much-needed makeover.

The old SGA page was pretty much dead; some people were even surprised there was one to go to! Imamdad spent a large part of his winter break working with the leader of the SGA's Communications Committee to complete

the massive overhaul.

"The hardest part was simply getting access to everything. A website is not something you can build carelessly; it has got to be the main page and really put forward a good image of IIT as a whole. The site and documentation I started with was half-baked," said Imamdad.

The new site throws out much of the old design and brings SGA's page to the front of technology. The design of the site is the currently trendy flat page design similar to those of Microsoft and Google.

The front page now features a slider and easy to navigate drop-down menus as opposed to a web of hyperlinks. Further down

on the front page, an events calendar and Senator Spotlight are proudly displayed. The site is even mobile optimized for students to stay up to date on the go with their multitude of touch devices.

This site is part of SGA's plan to create a better connection with the student body.

The site is prebuilt with expansion in mind—posts and even new pages are easy to create and aimed at non-techies, and do not require any coding skills.

Students can now like and share their favorite posts on social media like Twitter and Facebook. Perhaps the best feature is that the site is search optimized so posts can easily be

found, giving students greater visibility of their work.

There are a few plans for the future but it largely depends on the technology. There is hope for Vote Box—IIT's petition page similar to petitions.whitehouse.gov—to be integrated with the site.

Online voting and election results of SGA, with any luck, are something to look forward to in the future. Imamdad says that the biggest goal for the future is to "just keep doing it right."

The new site will go live today, Tuesday, February 11, at sga.iit.edu. Be sure to check it out!

SGA SENATOR SPOTLIGHT

ELVIN MOY

What prompted you join SGA?:

I decided to join SGA as a way to better represent my college. I believe that the students of Armour College need to have their voice heard in all matters of IIT. I want to strengthen that connection by communicating with students in all fields and disciplines on what we can do to build a better school. In addition, being a senator would allow me to communicate with faculty and administration and have a higher purpose in it all.

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

I think the most important part that IIT needs to improve on is its clubs and activities. IIT has a plethora of them yet as a member of many organizations, I find that communication, networking and contacting between students and other organizations cumbersome. Every club should be able to run in an efficient manner and should adopt a universal policy in working with the student body and with each other. I think the most important part that IIT needs to improve on is its clubs and activities. IIT has a plethora of them yet as a member of many organizations, I find that communication, networking and contacting between students and other organizations cumbersome. Every club should be able to run in an efficient manner and should adopt a universal policy in working with the student body and with each other.

Cool fact about you?:

Guilty pleasures include baking obscene amounts of desserts and Kpop.

