

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 a 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 technewsit.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@technewsit.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@technewsit.com for more information.

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Shimer College cross-enrollment valuable to IIT students

Austin Gonzalez & Kyle Stanevich
OPINION EDITOR & BUSINESS MANAGER

It's no secret how great cross-enrolling at Shimer is as an Illinois Tech student. The change of pace is striking and dramatically different. Instead of lectures and PowerPoint presentations, you have discussions and instead of memorizing equations, you focus on the inception and refinement of your own ideas. It's usually a lot of fun, low stress, and enlightening, so if you're in town this summer and have time, why not knock out some humanities credits at Shimer?

These past two semesters, we have taken the film classes offered at Shimer, first Stanley Kubrick and now Alfred Hitchcock. Once a week, we would watch a

film, read some books and BOOM! A fantastic class discussion is born! The Shimer students are awesome to talk to. You never know what you will hear in the hallway, whether it be about the existence of aliens or famous German philosophers (or at least a billion others we've never even heard of) there is never a dull moment. And the class conversations are just as varied. While still structured in some sense, our discussions are usually free flowing, revolving around relevant assigned readings and film viewings. We cannot speak to the structure of the other classes, but it cannot be terribly different.

The idea of Shimer is much different than that of IIT. Unlike our technical college, they have a great books education. This means there are no lectures or mechanical textbooks, only primary

sources and conversation. And you will never find yourself overcrowded by people; each class has a cap at 12, just enough to fill up a table and keep the discussion intimate. Ideas will fly. Opinions will change. What you thought for sure before class will probably have changed. As IIT students, we can sometimes be caught inside our boxes. Shimer will definitely break you out of that rut and get you thinking again.

This summer Shimer is offering a multitude of courses in session A from May 19 to June 28, and in session B from June 2 to July 26. So get away from your computers, models, and textbooks, and sign up for a Shimer class. You'll love the way you learn, we guarantee it.

To find out more, go to IIT Today (or Google) and search for Shimer summer classes.

Trip to Iowa produces fabulous Easter

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Like every other college student, I promise myself every morning that tonight I will sleep early so I don't have to wake up with guilt. By the time you are done with your classes and work, you are so super active that you forget the promise that you made to yourself. Last Monday, I made this promise to myself once again and I did fulfill this promise by going to bed at midnight. I was about to sleep when I got an email, which made me so excited that I couldn't sleep and was all energetic again.

Now you must be wondering that what was that email about. Well, that email was sent to me by Jessica Sheley, who works with Bridges International and IIT to arrange different events for international students on and off campus, so they can help them improve their English conversation and have a better insight of their religion. She was arranging a trip to Iowa for the Easter weekend to experience some Amish and Mennonite culture and guess what? The only cost we had to pay for was the gas (about \$10 per person) because there were Mennonite families who hosted the students in their homes.

This was one of the best road trips I have experienced in my life. I only knew two people out of 14, but by the time we got there, I knew everyone (if you know me you should not be amazed by this.) The trip was very comfortable; we all introduced each ourselves to everyone and starting to learn quick, funny and witty words in each other native languages. We were also playing songs in our native language, which we had to translate to each other. It was a fun thing to do because the songs actually made sense to us.

Soon we reached Iowa Mennonite School, where we attended the Good Friday service. It was my first ever Good Friday service and I enjoyed it a lot, especially the singing part. I loved the way all the people were singing it, in one tone and with the same energy. To be honest, at first I thought it will be boring, but I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it and would love to go back there next year. Once the services were over, we all were sent



home with our host families.

I was staying with a lovely couple named Edwin Miller and Mary Janes. They were simply adorable, as sweet as sugar and as caring as grandparents. It has been quite a while since I lost my grandparents, and this was a chance for me to relive that relation once again. I loved the way they took care of me and my friends. Although they usually go to bed early, that night they stayed awake for us to share their background and listen to us (or maybe just me because I talk a lot.) They showed us their family tree and shared their culture with us, which was again a good experience because although we come from different cultures but we had so much in common.

The next morning, we woke up early, had good English breakfast and left for church where we met our other fellow humans. We all sat in our vans and left to explore Kalona, IA. Though it's a small town, we had so much to see, especially the Amish Buggy. Every time we would see one, we all would start running toward it so we could take some pictures with it.

First of all, we went to an Amish Pastor, Vernon Yoder, who shared with us the background of Amish of people. He also showed us his house, where we learnt that even in 2014 people can live good life without technology and electricity. They also gave us some freshly baked Amish cookies

and later showed us their church and farm.

Then we went to a modern farm which was owned by Dave Yoder, another awesome person to know. He took us around his farm and shared with us how his farm works and how inflation has affected his business. He showed us some modern equipment used in farming. One of his pieces of equipment had such a big tire that even I could fit in it (you can see it in the picture.) From there, we went to an Amish furniture shop, JK Artisans, where they made beautiful wood furniture. We had a tour of the factory and the owner was such a lovely lady, she made sure that we understood everything about her and her business. They were so sweet that they also gave free souvenirs. But this was not the end of it; we also went to an Amish bakery where we tried their pies, oh my god! I wish I could explain how good they were. All of us just loved them. Before dawn, we also got a chance to go to a Cheese Factory, where we tried the free sample of every cheese they had and we also got some cheese curds. In the end, we returned to the church and watched a movie about Jesus. Soon, it was time for our host families to pick us up and we went back to them and shared our experiences.

Next morning was Easter morning, so we all had breakfast in the church with our friends and host families. The Pastor did a special prayer for all of us and thanked us for joining them on this big day. Then we went back with our host families and had our Easter dinner with them. Soon they all bid us farewell and we were on our way back home.

Everyone there was very loving and caring; we never felt that we were meeting them for the first time. I would like to thanks Jessica for arranging this awesome trip and Jeff Miller for helping her out to make things possible. And my special thanks to Edwin Mary Janes for bearing me and my long talks and loving me like their own kid. I could not have been more blessed, having them as my host family. Not only me, but each of us had very loving host families and we shall always remember them in our prayers. It was really good to experience Mennonite life. Once again, thanks Jessica and Jeff, you made our Easter the best Easter ever.



Photos courtesy of Shireen Gul