

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.

Letter from the Editor:

Welcome to IIT!

Illinois Tech is a pretty interesting place. We have the benefit of having a small local campus-community, but we're also located in the middle of one of the largest cities in the United States. The environment our school provides is a unique one. Our campus also provides many opportunities for IIT students to learn both in- and outside the classroom.

IIT is a wonderfully unique place, and every student who takes the opportunity to get out and experience what it has to offer is guaranteed to have an excellent few years here.

TechNews is all about promoting and supporting this IIT community. TechNews,

the student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928, began printing a summer issue in 2012 to serve incoming and returning students as a resource to help them get to know about things happening on campus and around the city. This issue has everything you need to catch up on campus life, experiences on campus, and some cool things to do in the city before classes get started soon in August. New students will benefit greatly from checking out a few of the tips and suggestions offered within.

The information in this issue will also help those returning for another year here at

IIT. Hopefully, this issue will keep you up to date with new developments on campus and in the Chicago area.

So, on behalf of all of the staff here at TechNews, I'd like to welcome you to Illinois Tech. I hope your fall semester goes well, I hope you learn more about yourself, and I hope I get you see you around campus this semester! See you soon!

Sincerely,

Kori Bowns

Editor-in-Chief, TechNews

International Students in for learning experiences at Illinois Tech

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Illinois Institute of Technology is a home for many international students. We leave our homes and families and come this far to begin the journey of knowledge for a better future. But how does it feel to be an international student here? It's way better than what you might have thought. I know when you are getting on the plane here you have many questions on your mind: What kind of place is it? Is it safe there? Will I be able to make new friends? Will people accept me for who I am or I will have to change myself?

So, I have a simple answer to this question: IIT is what you make it for yourself. I am saying this because if you socialize and work hard, then you will never find a better place than IIT and if you don't, you might not like it as much as you should. I have been living in America since 2011 and I have been to many places around the States but I never knew that I will end up here in Chicago for my final degree because I simply didn't like the harsh weather here. But when I started living here last year, I became one happy girl.

I still remember my first day on campus; I was a short girl with a high ponytail and turquoise dress, carrying two big bags, one backpack, and a tired and worried face. I was trying my best to enter Herman Hall. Someone saw me and opened the door for me to guide me to the check-in point for orientation. After someone offered to help me with my bags, I checked in and got my HawkCard. Then the real struggle started for me; I had zero knowledge to help me navigate around campus. I had to go to MSV from Herman Hall and I seriously got stuck in MTCC for 10 minutes while looking for an exit.

As an international student, there are many rules and regulations that are different and unexpected. One thing that became irritating was the rules regarding working off-campus and volunteering; it is sometimes difficult

to navigate. There are many immigration procedures that become barriers. You can, however, work as a student assistant on-campus which is really fun. Sometimes it's a bit of a struggle to get an on-campus job, but if you will work hard and show your leadership skills on-campus, you'll be rewarded.

Since for most of us English is not our first language, we might face some problems in getting used to the environment where we have to speak in English most of the time. You should not feel bad about not speaking like others because we all are learning here. Trust me, there have been times when I made so many silly mistakes while speaking English that I opted not to speak. There are many phrases which don't make sense in English but are funny and common in my native language. If you come across the same situation, please don't panic or give up; it's normal. Although I have been speaking English since I was three years old, at times it is difficult or I am just too tired to speak English.

Now comes the most sensitive issue for me. Yes, this girl is talking about food. When I came here and I would see people eating the food served at the Commons (which I wasn't a fan of at first) I felt guilty thinking about all those times when I skipped any meal back home or would leave some food in plate because I was too full to finish it all. But guess what? Now our this problem is also solved because the staff of the Commons make authentic ethnic food every day! You'll get used to the food on campus and grow to love it in no time.

When any international student comes here they face a lot of problems adjusting to the educational system here because it's quite different from most of the countries. I would personally suggest you to talk to your professor beforehand to get an idea of what is his grading criteria and his expectation from his coursework. Another thing that amused me is the practice of not addressing your professors as Madam and Sir. In fact, you generally call them by their last name; some might ask you to call

them by their first name. As I said earlier it's all about time and soon you will get used to it.

It will also take some time to get to know the neighborhood and make new friends but it won't take a lot of time because 46 percent of the students here are international students. Soon you might meet many people from your own country. I would still suggest you make as many international friends as possible because that will not only make you a global citizen, but it will also give you a better vision of the world we are living in. It will help us to compare and contrast different cultures, religions, and traditions and bring us to the conclusion that we all are not that different.

Remember, there will come time when you will feel homesick and might feel like quitting, but remember that it can be the same time you will learn how strong you are and how far you can go. Skype with your family or call them; after you are done with talking to them, go out and meet your friends from school. Your friends here can be your family here. I remember when I was ill last semester and was laying alone in my bed thinking of how lonely I am here and how I have no one to look after me—suddenly there was a call on my cell. I picked it up and my friend heard my voice before I could tell him that I am not feeling well. He came along with my other friends to my room with hot tea, cookies, and medicine. They were there with me until I fell asleep and would keep a check on me every few hours. That was the time when I knew how blessed I am and how much I am loved by my friends here.

There are many other stories that I would love to share with you about my positive experiences as an international student at IIT. If you ever need any kind of help or support please don't hesitate to contact me at sgul1@hawk.iit.edu or email the international center at icenter@iit.edu for any challenges you might face.

