

President - Preena Shroff

1. Why do you want to be President of CCI?

When I first arrived at CCI on move-in day, I felt overwhelmed by the idea of living away from home. Walking in and seeing so many new faces, students setting up their rooms, parents saying goodbye; somehow, everything seemed finalized. Like- okay, so you're here now. That's it. No turning back. It felt impossible to find comfort in a place filled with unfamiliarity. But over the past two quarters, I've had conversations that changed my perspective, made memories and friendships to last a lifetime, and found CCI's community to be this strong support system where students are able to connect beyond just being peers and grow closer as a family. Being able to ask Ayers exec for advice in everything from how to cool down the oven without setting off the fire alarm to how to drop a class in CAESAR after realizing it might not be the best plan to do a 10-minute sprint from Allison to tech in the dead of winter (thanks, Lauren) has shown me how influential having a class to look up to can be. I hope that I can encourage our residents to be there for one another in the same way Ayers has shown me the value in building strong relationships with our residents. There isn't just one way to foster a sense of community. By working with other res colleges, hearing ideas from my fellow exec members, and most importantly, connecting with residents, I will learn how to build a strong CCI network. I remember that feeling of uncertainty on my first night, but thanks to this community, I am now proud to call Ayers my home.

2. State an idea that you have on how to improve CCI. Then analyze the feasibility of that idea, stating any potential problems that might arise in accomplishing this and how you could possibly rectify each problem in order to achieve that goal.

I believe CCI's community can be improved by a little competition and a lot of team spirit. I propose we bring munchies back to its former glory. When CCI was first created, Munchies were not just a grab-and-go. Residents would plan munchies and compete for the best presentation and food. Having floors compete against one another for some sort of incentive (such as free merch) would build Ayers camaraderie and encourage members to build stronger, more collaborative relationships. A potential problem that may arise is incentivizing members to participate. This would require collaboration among multiple exec members to plan budgeting and prize distribution accordingly. This could be organized by spreadsheets and proper delegation of workload. Another problem could be liability in allowing Ayers residents to place food orders during the quarter. If this were to be an issue, the exec would be able to create other games or competitions for Ayers residents to compete by floor.

3. What are some ways you have already demonstrated your enthusiasm for CCI?

Aside from attending numerous CCI events and Fellows lunches, I make sure to engage with the CCI community. Whether it be stopping for a quick conversation with Senor Mardo on my way to Spanish class or working with friends through a problem set in Ayers study rooms, I have built meaningful connections with people belonging to our CCI community.

4. How would you describe your leadership style?

I am a participative leader, meaning that if I have a plan to execute, I make sure to communicate my ideas with my peers and hear out their opinions before taking action. Getting everyone's input before making big decisions is very important to me; I believe that as a potential leader of Ayers exec, I can encourage our exec members to communicate well with one another and make decisions with the best interests of our residents in mind.

5. Use 10 last words to say anything you want; make it interesting!

Lead with respect and humility; carry on the Ayers legacy.

Vice President - Shreya Mahesh

1. At times, it is difficult to get people involved in CCI activities. How do you plan on encouraging residents to attend events on a weekly basis?

I think it is important to get student feedback and hold events that students would be interested in participating in. I would send out biweekly a Google Form to gauge student interests in what activities they would like to see. This will likely increase the participation in the weekly events. Additionally, it would be nice to have more consistent events that residents can look forward to. For example, we can have monthly movie nights where students vote on the movie.

2. Points are cumulative and may get messy sometimes. How do you plan on maintaining organized and accurate point totals for each resident?

It would be important to further break down point values by week. Especially with the quarter system, Northwestern students often think of their lives in weeks. In a single Google Spreadsheet, I would have a separate sheet for every week of a given quarter. This would make it easier to identify when events were and if students attended. This organization would make points easier to keep track of.

3. As VP, you have a little freedom with your position. Any ideas for upholding the CCI family and making ourselves more known across campus? (Think about why people would want to live here and what you can do to make it more appealing to the type of person CCI attracts.)

Many people enjoy living in Ayers because of the strong sense of community. As trivial as it may seem, my favorite part about Ayers is always seeing someone in the Fishbowl or the Game Room, ready to strike up a conversation about our days. This is facilitated best by our smaller community. As Vice President, I would be sure to uphold this atmosphere. Additionally, I think it is important to not necessarily market CCI as a dorm only for people interested in economics. Initially, I was averse to ranking Ayers on my housing list because I was worried everyone living here would be econ majors. However, I'm very glad that it is a community with diverse interests. This diversity of passions should be emphasized more to incoming freshmen as well as non-res sophomores.

4. Your funniest joke or wisest anecdote.

I thought this joke was hilarious for a really long time:

Person 1: Hey bro, can you hand me that pamphlet?

Person 2: Brochure.

Treasurer - Julia Xu

1. Why do you want to be treasurer?

I want to be treasurer of Ayers because I've come to love Ayers. I would like to be more active in the Ayers community by running for exec, and I believe that the position of treasurer best fits my personal skills and interests.

2. How do you keep yourself organized?

To keep myself organized, I keep detailed lists of all of my upcoming assignments and tasks. That way, I never forget anything and I complete all of my assignments on time.

3. Do you have any experience managing money?

I have prior experience managing money. I worked as a cashier at Tropical Smoothie Cafe. Additionally, I currently work at the Cashier's Office at Norris. At Norris, I help student organizations handle checks, debit cards, and other financial accounts.

4. What's #1 on your bucket list?

I want to learn how to do a backflip.

Academic Affairs - Anurag Chapagain

1. Being able to network with professionals and professors is an essential skill involved in this position. What are your experiences with networking, and what kind of events do you see yourself hosting in this position?

One of my biggest passions is to connect with people and talk to individuals on the top of their field. I have had many experiences related to this. I co-founded an initiative with a company and now it has more than 200 contributors in it. I have been involved in teaching and was awarded Glocal teen hero 20 under 20 for my initiatives back in Nepal. It was all possible because I could get people together and connect with important people to make things possible. In terms of academic achievements, I have published 3 papers in international research journal, including one in law journal. To make those possible, I had to collaborate with professors and get them involved in my work. Hence, in terms of talking to professors for talks, and inviting industry alumni for entrepreneurial events, I believe I can provide a unique capability. I would host chem talks inviting professors from chemistry and materials science department, with huge achievements in the field for students interested in that domain. I would invite industry leaders who were Ayers alumni for talks in entrepreneurship etc. I would also encourage sophomores and interested freshman to conduct firesides or lounge talks about perhaps cool research they are doing, or non-profit they are involved in, or internships and how they got them etc.

2. Name at least one academic/fellows event that took place this year and how you would change or improve it.

Fireside with Vincenz: How To Be Premed and Keep a Life, was one of the events conducted. I would make the fireside more appealing for students to attend. The way I would do that would be to involve a student who was premed in northwestern also be a guest along with Vincenz to share their insights.

3. What ideas do you have to change or improve the interactions between residents and fellows?

Encouraging open and transparent communication between residents and fellows through regular meetings and feedback sessions can help build trust and foster collaboration. Offering cross-training opportunities for residents and fellows to learn from each other and understand each other's perspectives can improve mutual understanding and respect. A good idea might be encouraging residents to interact with one another through room or suite mixers can help break down barriers and build relationships.

4. Although we are united under a broad business theme, many residents have different interests. How will you ensure that different firesides remain engaging to all residents?

We can survey residents and gather feedback on the topics they would like to see covered in firesides can help tailor the content to residents' interests. Providing flexibility for residents to suggest and organize their own firesides can help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage with topics that interest them.

Academic Affairs - Ved Muthusamy

1. Being able to network with professionals and professors is an essential skill involved in this position. What are your experiences with networking, and what kind of events do you see yourself hosting in this position?

As part of the exclusive consulting club SCNO, I have learned how to network with other alumni of the club who have gone to top consulting firms and investment banks. I have contacted them in person and over the phone in order to establish relationships. I maintain good relationships with my professors and meet them and other professors at events hosted by the economics and history departments. I plan to hold events using my network of professors and professionals by giving them a platform to connect with younger students at Ayers. I would invite them to Ayers in order for Ayers students to network with them, exchange resumes, and do related things.

2. Name at least one academic/fellows event that took place this year and how you would change or improve it.

I remember the graduate fellows meet and greet. While many explanations were given as to why no economics or business institutions

professors attend academic/fellows events or are Ayers fellows, I will not take no for an answer. With my good relationship with TAs and professors in the economics and business institutions departments (spanning both Weinberg, McCormick, and Kellogg faculty and alums), I will be able to rope them in to an academic/fellows event to correlate with the Ayers theme and appeal to a higher subset of the population. I will also structure the event in such a way that food would be served after some initial talks and Q&A to prevent students from just taking food and heading out. That would defeat the purpose of such an academic/fellows event.

3. What ideas do you have to change or improve the interactions between residents and Fellows?

I think we could hold regular office hours between residents and fellows. As the fellows are not really our professors, the hours can be much shorter and done in only one day. However, through this, students can ask questions to their residents that do not fall under a narrow academic area (like an assignment), which they could go to their main professors' office hours for. This could also foster community between several students and a fellow or fellows through perhaps having breakout rooms for each of the fellows (the office hours can be virtual to be flexible to the fellows).

4. Although we are united under a broad business theme, many residents have different interests. How will you ensure that different firesides remain engaging to all residents?

By prioritizing firesides that pertain to general academic themes/skills, like research, writing, networking, internships, and applying knowledge to jobs.

That way all students can benefit without prioritizing the business/econ theme (although I feel this theme does need more attention).

Internal Social - Jane Gou

- 1. Explain one idea you have for a Wildcat Welcome Week event and why it would help bring freshmen into the CCI community.**

- I think it would be a good idea to hold events where freshmen have opportunities to get to know each other. One idea for Wildcat Welcome Week is to get snacks for people to enjoy, and they can also use that time to socialize. Ayers can also have fun games or activities so that other freshmen may be interested to check out the CCI community even if they don't live in Ayers.

2. Briefly describe two ideas for social events (besides Wildcat Welcome, holiday parties, and formal) that you would like to plan for CCI next year.

- I think a trivia night would be a fun social event for students to participate in. People can play in groups, an opportunity for students to get to know each other better. An incentive to join could be prizes, such as snacks or dining dollars. Additional social events could include watch parties for various movies, shows, or sports games.

3. Do you have any ideas for formal this year?

- I think formal this year should be cute and could be semi-casual. Formal could be spring-themed if it's during spring quarter. I think there should be a photobooth with fun props. I also think there should be a range of diverse dietary options.

4. If you had to live in a fictional universe for the rest of your life, which would it be and why?

- I would live in the world of Inside Out. I wouldn't want to navigate the mind of a teenage girl, because that might be too stressful, but anyone else would be pretty cool.

External Social - Nayeon Kim

1. Explain one idea you have for a Wildcat Welcome Week event and why it would help bring freshmen into the CCI community.

One idea I have for Wildcat Welcome Week is a trivia night. If the trivia questions are mainly focused on Northwestern and CCI facts, I believe it will be a good way for incoming freshmen to learn more about the school and community. If we put the freshmen into random teams, it will also be a good way for them to meet new people and make potential friends.

2. Briefly describe two ideas for social events (besides Wildcat Welcome, holiday parties, and formal) that you would like to plan for CCI next year.

One idea I would like to plan for CCI next year is a game night. We can set up various board

games around the fishbowl, and it will be a good way for the students to come together and destress. Another event idea I have is an ice cream social/cookie decorating event. We can set up mini stations with various flavors and toppings that students can pick and choose from.

3. Do you have any ideas for formal this year?

A formal theme idea I have for this year is “Black and White”. By having all the decorations be in black and white, I feel like it will be a good way to make everyone’s outfits pop, if they happen to be wearing other colors, and I think it will look very classy overall.

4. If you had to live in a fictional universe for the rest of your life, which would it be and why?

If I had to live in a fictional universe for the rest of my life, I would pick Hogwarts. I feel like learning spells and witchcraft would make school so much more fun outside of just plain academics.

Communications - Ayaan Kamal

1. Sending the bi-weekly newsletter is likely the most important part of this job. How do you plan to stay organized?

If I am to be elected into this position, my plan to keep myself organized is maintaining frequent communication with the other officers and the Ayers community in general. I also plan on keeping a detailed planner on all deadlines related to my responsibilities as the Communications Chair in order to guarantee that I am able to send a bi-weekly newsletter to the Ayers community in a timely fashion.

2. What’s your favorite movie and why?

My favorite movie is Inside Out. I really like this movie because it depicts the very real struggle of balancing all kinds of different emotions, especially as a child or teen. I liked that this movie created an easily digestible story for the general audience while spreading awareness on being able to communicate our emotions properly. Also, I found the premise of the movie in general to be very cute. :)

Philanthropy - Nick Grabon

1. What ideas do you have for philanthropies that Ayers can volunteer with or give to?

As a residential college with many premed students, I think we should take advantage of Northwestern's medical connections to volunteer with hospitals. Whether we do something small like card making or make occasional trips to local hospitals or nursing homes, I think events like these would encourage widespread participation from the Ayers community. Other small activities like clothes donations would also be easy and impactful ways to give back to the Evanston community. Many students already have causes that they are passionate about, and I would take suggestions from Ayers residents to find other organizations to get involved with.

2. What famous person would you like to get a meal with?

I would like to get dinner with Rafael Nadal because I'm a huge tennis fan and Rafa has been my idol since I was little. He's an incredible tennis player but he's also an amazing person who has done a lot of good for the sports and is arguably one of the greatest competitors of all time, so I'd like to have the chance to talk to him about his experiences and get some life advice from him. He also has one of the most intricate between-point routines on the pro tour and I'm interested to see if he has any similarly strange habits while at the dinner table.

Business Chair - Ian Lundeen

1. Describe a few problems college students face and some potential solutions.

One problem is the inefficiencies around dining dollars and meal exchanges. Either you have too many or not enough. Some weeks I'm at Norris every day other times, never. There could be a platform where people can buy and sell dining dollars and meal exchanges increasing market efficiency.

Another problem is with events. There's soooo much going on all at once. Sports, plays, area events, reshall events. But I haven't found one place where I can see everything that is going on. There could be a platform for that.

2. What is your favorite business and why?

I'm a little biased but I'd say my own, slowpoke skate. We make grip tape for skateboards and apparel. It's really fun to work different skate shops and connect to the culture. I also get to practice all sorts of skills like marketing, sales, graphic design, and finance.

Technology Chair - Caleb Nunes

1. What is one suggestion you have for smoother operations in the jobs listed in the description?

I think the best means of improving the way Tech's jobs are carried out is by working closely with the Communications chair. Given they have similar but distinct jobs, a close working relationship between the two would make organizing the Google Calendar and updating social media very smooth. If I were Tech chair, I would closely consult the Communications Chair about events and the best way of publicizing Ayers's activities.

2. What is your favorite website and why?

My favorite website is hands down Wikipedia. As generic as the site is, I love how it enables me to go down deep dives of research about whatever topic I have most recently been obsessing over. From the rich related readings section to the numerous hyperlinks on most proper nouns, everything I need for a good research binge is right in front of me. While not the most aesthetically pleasing, the simplicity of Wikipedia allows the easy access to information from seemingly endless sources.