

MIT Parents News

A publication to inform parents of MIT activities and programs

Vol. XVI, Issue # 1 Published by the MIT Parents Association and the MIT Alumni Association

Fall 2006

Family Weekend 2006

Join us at Family Weekend, October 13-15, to experience the depth and breadth of MIT firsthand. MIT's prominent professors and researchers will be featured at Family Weekend favorites such as the Nobel Laureate Luncheon, the Keynote Address and Special Lecture Series. Professors Tonegawa, Armstrong, Barnett, Kanwisher and Lauffenburger will present on topics ranging from Neuroscience, Bioengineering and Aviation Safety to MIT's new Energy Initiative.

Visit the Open Classes and Department Receptions and get to know the professors "up front and personally." Enjoy the artistic side of MIT by attending the Friday night Wind and Jazz concert featuring the MIT



Students present their work during Department Receptions at Family Weekend 2005.



Photos by Ming Tai Hub '03

Chamber Chorus. Meet the MIT president, Dr. Susan Hockfield, and top administrators at the Community Meeting, and learn about their vision for MIT. Root for the Engineers at one of the MIT home games. It's also a great opportunity to spend time with your student and explore his or her world at MIT.

Global Ambitions: the New Dean of Undergraduate Education

By Alycen Ashburn, MIT Parents Association



Hastings as the Director of the Engineering Systems Division at the ESD Community barbeque last fall. Photo by Lois Slavin, ESD Communications Director.

On January 1, 2006, Daniel (Dan) Hastings AA '80 assumed his newest role at MIT: Dean of Undergraduate Education. With thirty years of MIT experience behind him and holding multiple advisory positions, most within the federal government, Hastings is well prepared for the challenges ahead.

Hastings first arrived at MIT in September of 1976 as a graduate student. After earning his masters degree in Aerospace Engineering, Hastings remained at the Institute to obtain his doctorate. Following this, he left to do research "out in the world," as he puts it, but returned soon after as an assistant professor in 1985. It seems as though he's been here ever since.

"I've been teaching classes, both undergraduate and graduate. I've had a number of administrative positions. I've run educational programming. I've served as the associate department head of a department (and then the) department head of a department. All those things prepared me for how you deal with faculty, how you deal with students, how you deal with budgets," replied Hastings when asked about his prior positions.

One cannot doubt that Hastings has a solid history of Institute involvement, but what does he have planned for the future? Somewhere amid his days full of meetings with undergraduate offices; senior administration; faculty; and students

(Continued on next page)

seeking resources, Hastings finds time to tackle broader issues affecting the Institute.

“We want to make the MIT educational experience the most sought after educational experience in the world, nothing less than that,” Hastings summarized when asked about his aspirations. Realizing that this ultimate goal must be focused into smaller, attainable parts, a strategic planning committee has now decided upon six themes to examine:

- **Catalyzing the Undergraduate Commons, the core educational components all undergraduates must fulfill:** Hastings emphasizes that his department must “understand and orient and energize what we give as the core of our education to all undergraduates... as opposed to what they get in the departments.”

“We aim to give students a deeply analytical education.”

- **Incorporating information technology in a way that enables—as opposed to complicates or interferes with—students’ ability to learn**
- **Understanding how to develop a student holistically:** Hastings explains this as “understanding how to build up self-confidence and leadership skills in our students.”
- **Determining what kind of experiences MIT should provide for its students to prepare them to be competitive in the global economy:** A faculty/staff committee is currently reviewing available MIT opportunities like Study Abroad, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), summer internships, externships in January during the Independent Activities Period, and potential classes to be offered. Hastings is “expecting this faculty/staff committee to come back with (ideas of) how we can put together all these different opportunities in a way that’s coherent.” He goes on to say, “We’re looking at what we can actually teach and what we expect

the students to take away from those experiences.”

- **Generating a cultural shift within MIT — the change of focus from teaching to learning:** As Hastings clarifies, “Teaching is the input; learning is the output.”
- **Exploring ways to further diversify the student body:** “We’ve been actually quite successful in the undergraduate population, but our graduate population lags behind fairly substantially,” Hastings informs. He goes on to say that the planning committee is concentrating on how MIT can better prepare students, especially underrepresented minorities, for the transition to graduate school.

While Hastings and his committees reevaluate and tailor modern education to best benefit the students, what can parents do to help their offspring at MIT? Hastings offers this advice: “We’re here to give (students) the best possible education we can. This education, we think, is very good, but it’s also hard. Parents need to be appropriately supportive of their sons and daughters.”

Hastings urges parents to encourage their children to take advantage of all that the Institute has to offer. He added, “Don’t encourage them to do everything because you can’t do everything and do it well. It’s an issue of time management.”

Finally, knowing what a treat it is for students to be taken out to dinner by their parents during a visit, the Parents Association asked Hastings to recommend a local restaurant. His reply: “In Cambridge, probably the place I go to more than anything else is Legal Sea Foods. They have very good food there. Take ‘em there.”

For more about the Undergraduate Educational Commons, please visit: <http://web.mit.edu/committees/edcommons/>.

Word travels quickly in the Cambridge area, and after the Dean’s endorsement, the Legal Sea Foods in Kendall Square was pleased to extend the following offer.

Welcome all parents and students of MIT.



Present this article or a valid MIT ID during your next meal at our Kendall Square location, and we’ll treat your party to a complimentary cup of our famous New England Clam Chowder!*

*Kendall Square location only. One cup per person with purchase of meal.

Housing @ MIT

By Robin Smedick, Assistant Director of Undergraduate, Summer, & Guest Housing

The MIT Undergraduate Housing System offers students flexibility and the satisfaction of making informed decisions throughout their undergraduate stay. Since student housing contentment is often vital to how students perform in other areas of college life, a system has been developed that fosters the ability to make housing choices.

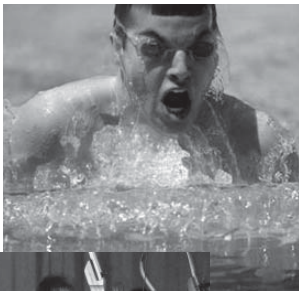
Our goal of enhancing student satisfaction begins with the distribution of information well before the scheduled arrival of incoming freshmen for Orientation in August. Many students are happy with the building selected for them during the Freshmen Summer Lottery in July and continue to live there after Orientation. However, not all freshmen are content with this assignment and are given the opportunity to enter an Adjustment Lottery where, if successful, they can move to a preferable environment before classes start.

Housing choice continues to be valued and encouraged throughout a student’s career at MIT. Students often wish to change residences from year to year, as well as mid-semester. It is for this reason that we have developed a housing change process for all MIT undergraduates. Students can submit

a Housing Request Form online at any time at <http://web.mit.edu/housing/undergrad/application.html>. They will have the option to select up to four buildings on this form, as well as list any special circumstances that may impact their housing request. Once a student has submitted a form, he or she is added to a waiting list for a housing switch. Students on this waiting list are served strictly in the order of their application, and for fairness and consistency, no preferential treatment is given based on the seniority of a student. Emails are sent throughout the year with offers for a potential housing switch, and students can also participate in two housing switch lotteries, one held in December and the other in April. A detailed description of the housing processes can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/housing/undergrad/process.html>.

We hope students find that our system meets their needs and always welcome feedback. The office is available to assist and answer questions on the housing change process and can be emailed at residence@mit.edu.

A sampling of athletics offered through MIT: (top to bottom) swimming, archery, and soccer.



Photos provided by DAPER

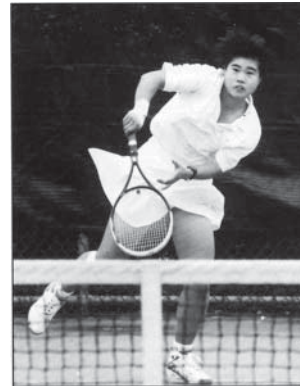


Physical Intelligence: Athletics 2.0

By Cynthia Stanton

Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER)

During a Physical Education class in the beginning of her freshman year at the Institute, Carol Matsuzaki '96 picked up a tennis racquet for the first time. By her senior year, she had captained the tennis team three times. After studying Biology and Literature at MIT, she completed a graduate degree in Sports Psychology from Boston University in 1997 and returned to the Institute. She would never have guessed that she would become Head Coach of the MIT Women's Tennis Team and a three-time New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Coach of the Year. In addition to her coaching duties, Matsuzaki offers tennis classes for those working to meet their Physical Education requirement and also a class aptly called Ropes Adventure.



Carol Matsuzaki '96

While Matsuzaki's story may be unusual, her participation in Physical Education classes is an experience shared by all MIT undergraduates. As part of the General Institute Requirements, each student must earn eight points through Physical Education classes and meet the swim requirement. The six-week schedule of classes allows a student to try two classes per term. Approximately 4,000 registrants take a total of 350 sections each year. The goal for students is to develop basic skills and instill confidence in an activity for a lifetime of enjoyment.

Far from the stereotypical gym classes of the past, each Physical Education course teaches health and wellness concepts as well as specific instruction skills. Each quarter, the full-time faculty coaches and certified part-time instructors offer more than 25 courses — everything from beginning swimming to SCUBA, tennis, squash, basketball, martial arts, pistol, yoga, and dancing. The changes

in climate create seasonal opportunities as well: outdoor hiking, sailing, skiing, snowboarding, and ice-skating among these.

The faculty hopes that students will include exercise in their daily routine as they balance the demands of life after MIT.

This pioneering construct to educate the whole student, mind and body, is part of a wider collaboration with the Dean of Undergraduate Education, the Dean of Student Life, and MIT Medical. Almost one-third of DAPER faculty instructors, including Matsuzaki, serve as Freshman Advisors. Coaches fill the traditional advising role, and more than twenty

MIT faculty members mentor our varsity athletes.

Physical Education courses complement the academic offerings at the Institute, as well. Noah Riskin, who coaches gymnastics, continues to develop his expertise in Physical Intelligence, which considers the body “the very basis of our experience in the world, the very foundation on which cognitive intelligence is built.” He also states that, “Though we appear to move beyond such physical learning early in life, our thinking, learning and understanding are constantly referencing this experiential base.” For further details regarding Physical Intelligence, visit http://web.mit.edu/sp.251/www/core_syllabus.html.

True to the mission of Physical Education, Matsuzaki and Riskin put their curricula online as part of the Institute's OpenCourseWare initiative. View their work and information from other instructors, at <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html>.

For more information, contact DAPER: physedoffice@mit.edu or 617-253-4291.

Parents Association: UPDATE



Meet the Team!
(L-R) Front: Michelle Tom (Family Weekend), Lauren McLean (Student Programs); Middle: Tish Callanan (Parents Association), Katie Casey (Student Programs); Back: Alycen Ashburn (Parents Association) and our new Director, Jamie Brogioli.

Mykidis@mit.edu

Send your MIT-related questions to the Parents Association via this email address, and one of our staff members will answer your question or forward it to the appropriate department.

Parent Connectors

We have a core of dedicated volunteers called Parent Connectors who serve as a resource for MIT parents and parents of prospective students who may have questions about MIT. These volunteers answer questions submitted through the Parent Connector Web site (<http://alum.mit.edu/parents/connectors/>) and attend events on campus and in their regions.

Get Involved

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Connector or learning more about ways you can become involved with the MIT community, please fill out our online interest form: <http://alum.mit.edu/ccg/parents/connectors/npc.html>.

Summer Send-Off Events



Hillsborough, CA



Oklahoma City, OK

Thanks to all the Parents who hosted or assisted with a Summer Send-Off event.

There were 56 events this summer located in venues across the globe.

If you are interested in helping with or hosting an event next summer, please contact mykidis@mit.edu

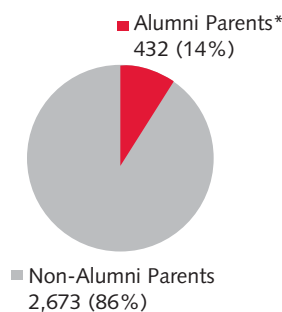
Parents Fund

Fantastic News! The Parents Fund has set a new bar by raising \$977,572 from 2,747 donors!

Thanks to all donors for your incredible support of the Parents Fund. It truly makes a difference.

If you would like to contribute, please visit:
<http://giving.mit.edu/>.

Total MIT
Parent Support
for 2006 Fiscal Year



*Alumni parents of current students only

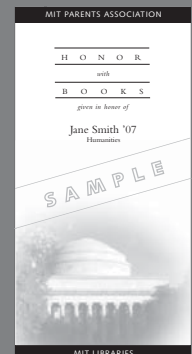
Honor with Books Opens to All

All parents are now invited to celebrate their student's achievements by participating in Honor with Books.

For each \$100 donation, a bookplate bearing the name of your student will be placed in a newly purchased book for the MIT Libraries' collection.

For more information and an online donation form, visit:

<http://alum.mit.edu/parents/honor-with-books/>

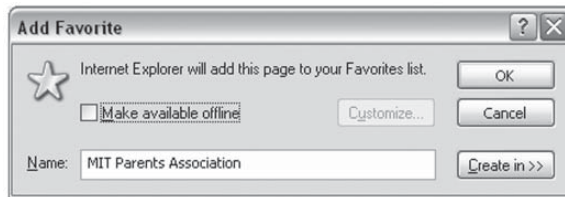


Class of 2010: Welcome



<http://web.mit.edu/firstyear/2010/>

For incoming students, the "First Year" Web site is a wonderful resource, providing locations and descriptions for everything from the academic calendar to The Writing Center, Student Services Center, Careers Office, and more. The Parents Association also encourages parents to visit this frequently updated site to access the information most pertinent to students throughout their first year.



<http://alum.mit.edu/parents>

For parents of MIT students, the Parents Association Web site should be a favorite bookmark in your Internet browser. It directs you to the latest information on Family Weekend and Commencement; connects you with parent volunteers; and even lists the best places to contact should you wish to order a birthday cake for your student.

CLASS PROFILE

Schooling:

- 71% attended public school
- 29% attended private, religious, or foreign schools
- <1% were home schooled

Gender:

- 55% male
- 45% female

Geography:

- 49 states
- 49 countries

Did you know that The Princeton Review's "Best 361 Colleges - 2007 Edition" ranked MIT #1 in their list of the "Ten Toughest Schools to Get Into?"

QUICK REFERENCE

Academic calendar

<http://web.mit.edu/registrar/www/calendar0607.html>

MIT Medical

<http://web.mit.edu/medical/>

TechCash

<http://web.mit.edu/mitcard/>

Housing

<http://web.mit.edu/housing/>

Dining

<http://web.mit.edu/dining/>

Events Calendar

<http://events.mit.edu/>

Class of 2007

Countdown to Commencement

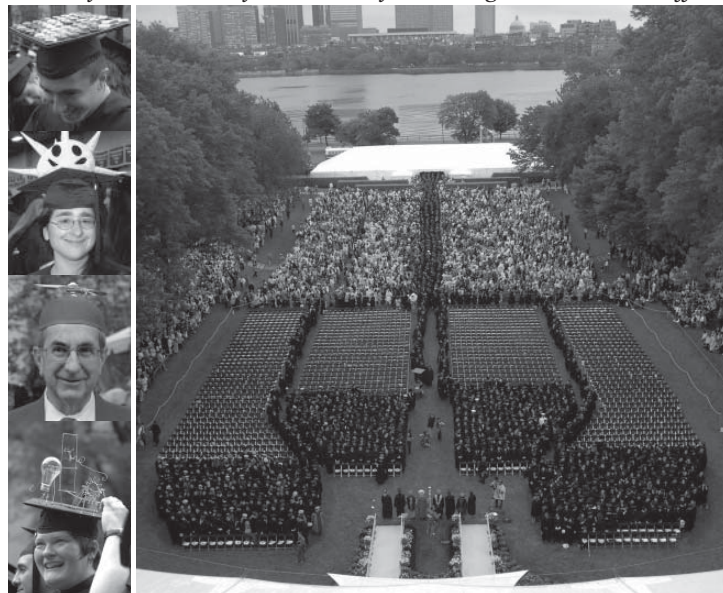
Commencement will be held on the morning of **June 8, 2007** in Killian Court.

Details will be available *in January* at:
<http://web.mit.edu/commencement/2007>

The Web site above will include information such as ticket allotments per graduate, ticket distribution dates, renting or purchasing of regalia (cap & gown), accommodations, parking, and more.

Photos at right from Commencement 2006. Far right: Aerial view of graduates in Killian Court. Left column: Graduates and alums alike show their individuality with creative headwear.

Photos by Donna Coveny and L. Barry Hetherington; MIT News Office





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MIT World is a free, open streaming media web site of the most significant public events at MIT. It features the most recent speakers and guests from across the campus and around the world. It is a project of the Professional Education Programs at MIT's School of Engineering.

MIT World has archived videos since 2001 and adds approximately 75 new videos per year. They come from all 5 Schools at MIT, and a wide range of labs, programs, centers and departments. All videos are permanently archived in the MIT World database, and are available on demand 24/7.

To view To sign up for email notices on upcoming programs go to:
<http://mitworld.mit.edu/>

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POINT OF PRIDE:

MIT Earns Top Ranking for Record of Service

Visit the News Office for this story and more:
<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/topic/awards.html>

FALL 2006	<u>September</u>		<u>October</u>	
	25	Student Holiday	9, 10	Columbus Day (no classes)
	30	Insurance Waiver Deadline	13-15	Family Weekend
	<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>	
10	Veterans Day (no classes)	13	Last Day of Classes	
23, 24	Thanksgiving Vacation	18-22	Final Exams	