

MIT Parents News

A publication of the MIT Parents Association

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Fall 2007

Summer in the 'Global Marketplace of Ideas'

"I hope that you will avail yourself of the many opportunities MIT provides to make sure that you step boldly and intelligently out into the global marketplace of ideas," said Professor Richard Samuels PhD '80, the director of the Center for International Studies, as he addressed incoming freshmen and their parents during the keynote lecture at MIT Freshmen and Parent Orientation this August.

Meanwhile, this summer, many upperclassmen did participate in global activities. A sampling includes perfecting and seeking investors for the production of an alternative to wood cooking in Haiti; launching a unique journal discussing world problems *and* their solutions; and convening at the first International Development Design Summit to discuss practical solutions to problems in the developing world.

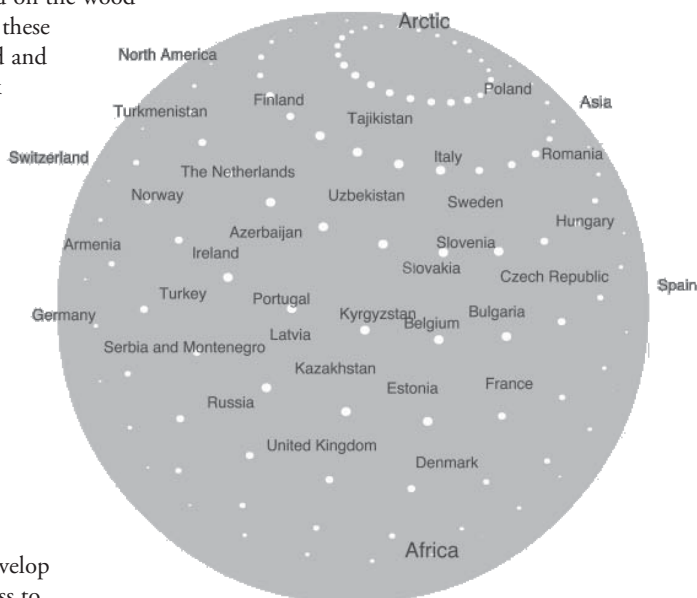
Jules Walter, computer science major and now a senior, spent his "summer vacation" with a team of fellow MIT students in his native country, Haiti, where they sought to combat the deforestation that has already consumed 98 percent of the island's forests.

The depletion of trees is not only a

problem for the environment, but also for the families who depend on the wood to cook their food. It is these families who have tested and who now prefer to cook with briquettes made from plant waste. This simple solution to help alleviate deforestation resulted from a project initiated in 2003 through MIT's D-Lab. The briquettes reportedly burn longer, are easier to light, and produce less smoke than burning wood. The team is currently working to develop a manufacturing business to distribute the fuel to the people in Haiti and in other developing nations on a larger scale.

Reaching out to the global community directly from campus, Ali W'yne, a senior, and Raphael Farzan-Kashani, a recent graduate, launched a journal that has already been recognized officially as part of the MIT Global Initiative. The focus of *MIT International Review* (MITIR) is on discussing solutions to worldwide problems. In addition to surveying global perspectives, the journal aims to incorporate scientific and technological viewpoints with those based in the humanities. To view the journal online, visit <http://web.mit.edu/mitir>.

Drawing the international community to Cambridge was the First International Design Summit, where innovators gathered to brainstorm solutions to problems in the developing world.



globalMIT

After splitting into design teams, the participants identified a problem in developing countries and collaborated on possible solutions. The final projects included off-grid refrigeration for rural areas using evaporative cooling methods, microbial fuel cells that utilize the surrounding environment to generate electricity, and a low-cost modular water filtration unit to provide clean drinking water. For more information about the summit, visit <http://www.iddsummit.org>.

These projects are just a small sampling of MIT's international outreach. To learn the extent of MIT's global engagements, please visit the Institute's state-of-the-art searchable database: <http://global.mit.edu/>.

PARTICIPATE NOW ▶

This issue highlights the many ways that parent participation makes a positive difference in the MIT community. Whether sharing important information with your student, attending a regional MIT event where you live, volunteering as a Parent Connector, or making a gift to the Parents Fund, your participation counts!

Student Health Insurance Waiver Deadline:

September 30, 2007

Students are automatically enrolled in and billed for membership in the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan.

Should you waive the extra coverage?

To find out, visit: <http://web.mit.edu/medical/p-studentextended.html>



MIT Travel Program: Dinosaur Dig

The MIT Alumni Travel Program organizes tours throughout the world for the MIT community, including alumni, spouses, faculty, staff, and parents.

Exciting programs planned for next year include some far-flung places such as New Zealand, Cyprus, and South Africa.

Closer to home is the FAMILY DINOSAUR DIG, July 19–25, 2008.



Bring the whole family on an expedition in the Grand Valley of the Colorado River, a region teeming with dinosaur fossils and a variety of natural wonders. Dig side-by-side with scientists and explore the science of paleontology. Other activities include rafting the Colorado River, riding horses to the base of Uncompahgre Plateau, and hiking in Colorado National Monument. This is just one of over 40 trips planned for 2008.

For more information on the programs available, contact the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749 or compass@mit.edu, or visit <http://alum.mit.edu/travel>

Overcoming “Test Stress”

At the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness at MIT Medical, we are often asked for tips to help reduce stress before exams so that students can perform their best without being derailed by panicky, anxious feelings. New students are especially concerned about how challenging their first tests at MIT will be. If you would like to help smooth your child's transition to MIT, read <http://web.mit.edu/medical/services/s-parents.html>

Learning stress management is an ongoing pursuit to be practiced consistently, rather than right before exams. It is akin to brushing one's teeth—if we want to keep the plaque from building up, we need to create a daily habit. There are a number of resources on campus to help students consistently manage stress and learn to conquer test anxiety. See the listing to the right for strategies and outlets you can pass on to your student. (Some of these guidelines are adapted from the mental health advocacy organization freedomfromfear.org)

Zan Barry is Health Educator for Stress Management and Resiliency at the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness at MIT Medical. She can be reached at bars@med.mit.edu

Health Tips & Resources for Students:

- Take advantage of the workshop “Got Test Stress?” by visiting <http://web.mit.edu/medical/services/s-support.html#teststress> or call 617.253.2916
- Download an MP3 called “Reduce Test Anxiety” to help practice calming techniques: <http://web.mit.edu/medical/h-library.html>
- Join study groups, attend tutoring sessions, and get academic resources at <http://mit.edu/arc/learning/>
- Get plenty of sleep. It is impossible to function at your best when overtired.
- Exercise or take a brief walk as a study break. This may help to increase your alertness and sharpen your mind.
- Call the MIT Relaxation Line 617.253.CALM (617.253.2256) for a recorded breathing technique to help you focus.
- Have breakfast. A balanced breakfast will help sustain focus and energy during the exam. To find a nutritious meal anywhere on campus see <http://web.mit.edu/medical/wellness/eatwell/index.html>
- Allow plenty of travel time. Aim to arrive at the test location early.
- Choose a seat where you will not be easily distracted.
- Do a reality check. How important is this one exam in the grand scheme of things? Put it in perspective.
- Repeat a phrase to help keep things in perspective: “I've done this before, I can do it again.” or “I have all the knowledge I need to get this done.”

If a student would like to discuss this issue in depth, resources include:

- Student Support Services (5-104) 617.253.4861
- MIT Medical:
 - Mental Health Service (E23-3rd floor) 617.253.2916
 - The Center for Health Promotion and Wellness at MIT Medical (E23-205) 617.253.1316
 - Internal Medicine (E23-2nd floor) 617.253.4481

Summer Send-Off Events: Made Possible by YOU!

The Parents Association and the class of 2011 thank the volunteers who gave their time and effort in planning and hosting the welcome gatherings for enrolling students, known as Summer Send-Off Events.

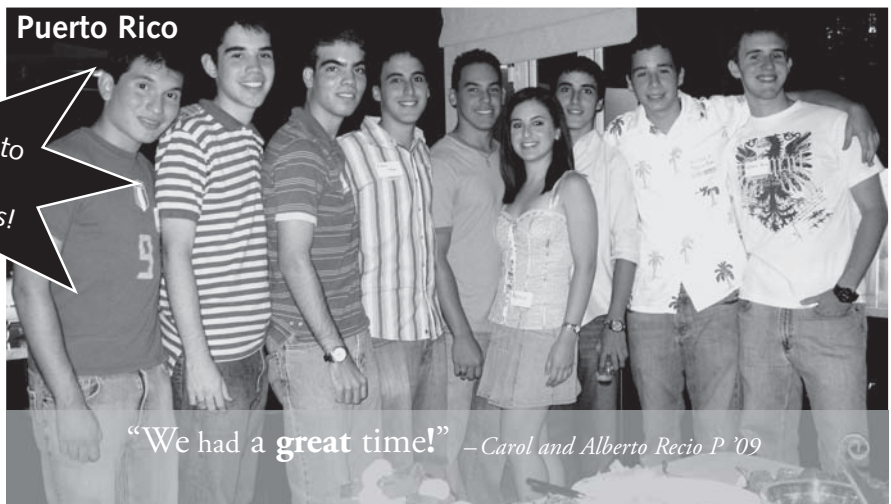
The volunteers are comprised of MIT Alumni Club members, Parent Connectors, Educational Counselors, and affinity group participants across the globe. Their work made it possible for the Parents Association to coordinate a grand total of 58 events, covering 45 cities and 12 countries.

What is the purpose of a Summer Send-Off Event? Hong Kong event hosts Cindy and Timothy Poon P '05, '09 expressed this idea most eloquently: "We do hope the party will not only be a good start for our new students and families in their MIT experience, but also be a catalyst for future connection between the students, alumni and parents in (our area). Together, we hope we'll further strengthen the sense of belonging and spirit of unity in the local MIT community."

The Parent Connectors responsible for the successful summer of 2007 are recognized below. If you would like to host an event in 2008, please email mykidis@mit.edu.

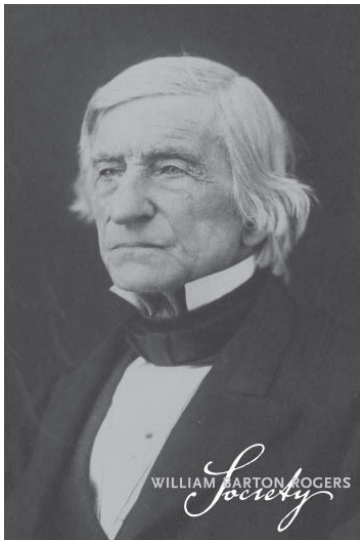
Sheila Davidoff P'02
Julie Dietz P'09
Angela Galloway & Joe Marshall P'09
Leanne Galloway-Waddell P'08
Carol Herder P'09
Diane Hopp P'08
Jennifer Kleckner P'10
Peter & Gianna Krey P'08
Joy Masoff P'10
Sharon McGraw P'08
Joseph & Jen Myers P'08
Nemezia Neis Coleman P'07
Alice Ovsey P'10
Cindy & Timothy Poon P'05, '09
Carol Recio P'09
Myrna Santos P'02
Eric & Sara Seifter P'07
Charley Vogt P'08
Dee Wakeman P'08
Shirley Zanton P'10

Thanks to
Our
Volunteers!



The MIT Parent Connectors are our dedicated volunteers who serve as a resource for both MIT parents and parents of prospective students. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Connector and/or participating as a Send-Off Event host for the class of 2012, please call us at 617-253-8183 or submit an interest form online: <http://alum.mit.edu/parents/connectors/npc.html>

The William Barton Rogers Society: Inspired Donor Recognition at MIT



“This is not a country in which retiring merit is ever likely to be rewarded. There are no kind patrons of genius, ever ready to assist its efforts, ever active in drawing it forth from the haunts of obscurity and want. Here talents cannot succeed without enterprise, and every man is expected ‘to achieve his own greatness.’ ”

William Barton Rogers
MIT FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT
MARCH 1830

The founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the culmination and crowning glory of William Barton Rogers’ life’s work. A brilliant scientist, a gifted orator, and a friend to all who knew him, Rogers devoted the last 29 years of his life to seeing his noble educational vision realized: the creation of a polytechnic institute to serve the unmet needs of a country then on the verge of the Industrial Age.

“Rogers saw the need for a new kind of academic institution — one that could train students to put the advances of modern science to work for the betterment of humankind,” said MIT President Susan Hockfield, on the occasion of William Barton Rogers’ 200th birthday. It is this vision, she said, that “...set the course that the Institute has followed for nearly a century and a half.”

The MIT of today continues to serve as a reflection of William Barton Rogers’ quest to develop an institute “conducive to the progress of invention and the development of intelligent industry,” a philosophy that lives in the entrepreneurial spirit still found on our modern and thriving campus.

As a means of tribute to our founder and his timeless vision, we have created the William Barton Rogers Society, a community of alumni, parents, and friends who support the empowering legacy of the Institute’s first president, and, in his stead, share a commitment to MIT’s boundless future.

Your annual support to MIT— and your membership in the William Barton Rogers Society — demonstrates your clear commitment to sustaining the Institute’s future as a leader in higher education, fulfilling the vision set by our founder nearly 150 years ago.

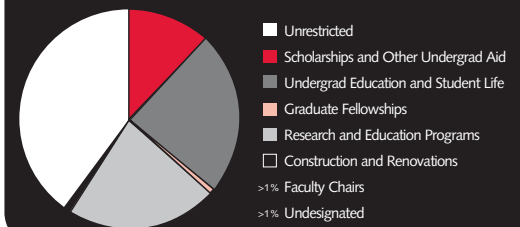
Please join us, year after year, as we continue to build this new society of MIT’s alumni, parents, and friends.

Membership benefits for \$1,000+ donors include:

- Invitations to special events
- Commemorative MIT calendar
- Acknowledgement of membership at events
- Recognition in the Annual Report

For more information on membership in the William Barton Rogers Society, call 617.252.1491 or e-mail wbrs@mit.edu. To make your gift to the MIT Parents Fund, please visit <http://giving.mit.edu/parents>

Parents Fund: Gifts by Designation
July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007



MIT Founder Stars in Donor Presentation

Donors and non-donors alike will be delighted by MIT’s newest expression of heartfelt gratitude.

You may notice while watching that our founder makes a personal appearance. Why has William Barton Rogers come back from the great beyond? He hopes to inspire you to help keep MIT the foremost teaching and learning institution he originally envisioned, brimming with potential—to solve critical problems, embrace new challenges, and cultivate the leaders the world needs now. We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our donors.



For a bit of fun, visit: <http://giving.mit.edu/test-your-strength/>

Honor Roll Now Online

Coinciding with the unveiling of the William Barton Rogers Society is the transition of the MIT Parents Fund Honor Roll from the printed page to the Web page. This update is not only beneficial to the environment but also adheres to the technology-forward inclinations of the MIT culture.

To view the donors from the fiscal year of 2007 (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007) visit the Recognition and Results page on our giving site: <https://giving.mit.edu/liveRoster/index.vhtml>

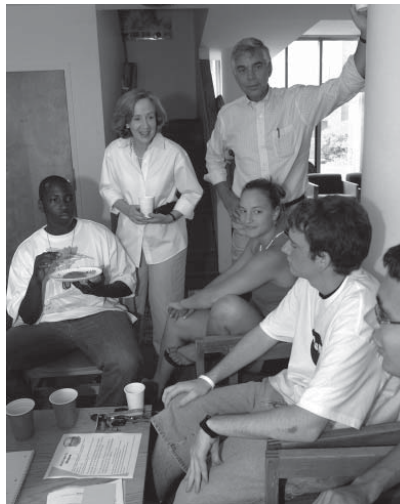
MIT's Sesquicentennial Class

Standing at the head of Killian Court during the August 26 Convocation and Welcome, President Susan Hockfield formally greeted hundreds of students and their parents with a call to embrace history and invent the future.

"Welcome to the epicenter of science and engineering, of economics and entrepreneurship, of global studies and urban planning and more," Hockfield said. "MIT is where society and science converge. We're counting on you to make our world a better place."

Hockfield noted that the students gathered in the audience were members of what will become MIT's sesquicentennial class. Their graduation in 2011, 150 years after William Barton Rogers founded MIT, will be an important milestone in the Institute's history.

Hockfield told the incoming students that they had been selected from the largest and most competitive pool of applicants in the Institute's history. Their ranks, she said, include science and math Olympians, winners of the nation's most prestigious academic prizes, world-class musicians, athletes, circus performers, and at least one cow breeder.



Above: President Susan Hockfield and husband Dr. Thomas Byrne visited dorms after Convocation on Sunday afternoon. Photo by Donna Coveney.

Chancellor Phillip L. Clay and Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel Hastings also took turns addressing the audience. Reprising a theme from last year, Clay encouraged students to applaud their parents for helping them on the journey that has led them to MIT.

First published by the MIT News Office, August 27, 2007.

Tips for Visiting MIT: Hotels and Parking

Whether preparing for your first visit to campus since attending Parent Orientation or planning for what may be your last visit to campus during Commencement 2008, there are some key points you should know when traveling to and within the Boston/Cambridge area.

HOTELS

- Make your hotel reservations at least one year in advance when possible, especially for the months of October and June.
- Increase your chances of finding a place to stay and cutting costs by considering hotels four to ten miles from your ultimate destination.
- Expand your options with residence inns and bed and breakfasts: <http://www.bnboston.com>
- Rates that can be reserved through negotiation are not always the best available. Compare with online specials before booking.
- No matter when you intend to visit, you can request the "discounted MIT rate" at the Hotel @ MIT.

PARKING

- Whenever possible, park your car at the hotel and use public transportation.
- If you must drive to campus, metered parking and public lots are available for a fee.
- For a listing of nearby public parking and where and when parking on campus is allowed without a permit, please visit http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/parking/visitors/public_parking.html
- To discuss special needs with the parking office, call 617-258-6510 Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm, or 617-253-2997 after hours. You may also email mitparking@mit.edu.

Class Profile: 2011

GENDER

Male54%
Female46%

ETHNICITY & CITIZENSHIP

US Citizens & Permanent Residents: 92%
* African American 9%
* Asian American26%
* Caucasian38%
* Mexican American 7%
* Native American 1%
* Puerto Rican 2%
* Other Hispanic groups 3%
* Other 6%

International citizens 8%

GEOGRAPHY

New England12%
Mid-Atlantic15%
Southeast & PR19%
Midwest & Plains States13%
South/Southwest12%
West Coast19%
Abroad10%

States represented 49
Countries represented 58

SCHOOLING

Public school69%
Private school14%
Religious school 9%
Foreign school 6%
Home schooled<1%

High Schools represented 833

JUST FOR FUN

Most popular boy name: Michael
Most popular girl name: Elizabeth

Longest distance traveled:
Tangerang, Indonesia

Least distance traveled: Brighton, MA

The one US state not represented:
North Dakota



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 Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

FALL 2007

September

- 5 First day of classes
- 24 Student Holiday
- 30 Health Insurance enrollment/waiver deadline

October

- 8, 9 Columbus Day
- 12-14 Family Weekend

November

- 12 Veterans Day
- 22, 23 Thanksgiving Vacation

December

- 12 Last day of classes
- 17-21 Final Exams
- 22 Winter Vacation begins

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POINT OF PRIDE:

MIT Retains #1 Ranking

For the full story, visit:
<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2007/usnews-0817.html>



Family Weekend

Friday, October 12–Sunday, October 14 2007

<http://alum.mit.edu/parents/family-weekend>

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