

MIT Parents News

A publication to inform parents of MIT activities and programs

Vol. XIV, Issue #2 , Published by the MIT Parents Association and the MIT Alumni Association Spring 2004

Commencement Speaker Announced excerpts from MIT News Office



Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and an early pioneer in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques will be the speaker

at the MIT's 138th Commencement exercises on Friday, June 4 in Killian Court.

As its 15th director, Zerhouni initiated a new research vision for NIH, focusing

the attention of the biomedical research community on new pathways of discovery, research teams for the future and re-engineering the clinical research enterprise.

In making the announcement, MIT President Charles M. Vest called Zerhouni "an innovative scientist and administrator who has made significant contributions to the world" since he came to the United States from his native Algeria in 1975. After earning a medical degree from the University of Algiers School of Medicine, Zerhouni was accepted as a radiology resident at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Since becoming director of the NIH, Zerhouni has named directors for five institutes and has overseen the doubling of the NIH budget.

A member of the Institute of Medicine, he served on the National Cancer Institute's Board of Scientific Advisors from 1998-2002.

The Commencement Exercises will be held on Friday, June 4. The academic procession into Killian Court will begin at 10 a.m. and the opening remarks at approximately 10:30 a.m. Each graduating student is allotted four tickets for the event.

At the Start of Student Life: The Freshman Advising Program

The beginning of a university education is a major life transition for students. Adapting to life on their own, meeting new and rigorous academic challenges, developing self-management skills, adjusting to living in a new community are all major challenges for freshmen. Nevertheless, these experiences are also opportunities for growth, diversity, and enrichment. Freshman advising is an important key to making a successful transition. It's also an excellent way to tap into many MIT opportunities.

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is the academic department for freshmen until majors are declared at the end of the first year. The ARC oversees all aspects of first-year advising, including assigning freshmen to their advisors. Freshman advising is designed to help make the

adjustment to university living a successful one. With an 8:1 ratio of students-to-advisors, freshmen enjoy more intense and individualized attention and advice than most upperclassman.

During the first-year, a student will be advised in one of two ways: by a Traditional Advisor, or within a Freshman Advising Seminar. Incoming students select the advising option that suits them best.

Incoming students receive information about freshman advising in the pre-



Resident Associate Advisors in a training session/Photo from ARC

orientation mailing; complete information is on-line at <http://web.mit.edu/firstyear/2008/advising/index.html/>.

Advising assignments (continued on page 4)

News Briefs

Vest to Step Down from Presidency

excerpts from MIT News Office



Photo: Justin Knight

Charles M. Vest, the 15th president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has shaped his 13-year presidency into a campaign of determined advocacy for research, science, and diversity

and openness in education and research, announced today at the quarterly meeting of MIT's board of trustees his intention to step down from that post.

Vest, 62, who has led one of the most intense periods of change at MIT since the post-World War II years, said he was stepping down because "the time is fast approaching when MIT should benefit from the renewal that comes with selecting a new president and developing the next stage of its vision and programs."

An engineer and former university provost, Vest was appointed MIT president in 1990. In the past 100 years, only Karl Taylor Compton (1930-1948) has served longer as president of MIT, which was founded in the mid-19th century by William Barton Rogers. Vest's tenure ranks him sixth in seniority among the 62 presidents in the Association of American Universities.

In a letter announcing his decision to faculty and staff, Vest wrote: "Becky and I are privileged beyond measure to live and work at MIT—an extraordinary community comprising distinguished faculty who blaze new trails of knowledge, Nobel laureates, dedicated teachers, the people who create and maintain our facilities, those who do the administrative work that makes it possible for our faculty and

students to realize their dreams, those who look after our safety and health, and above all, the wonderful young men and women who study here."

Radio Removes the Veneer

excerpts from story by Denise Brehm
MIT News Office

Maria Zuber listened to "Slide" by the Goo-Goo Dolls during the many plane trips she took while serving on a government review panel. Alan Oppenheim loves the percussion of stomping Irish dancers. And President Charles M. Vest gets "thrills up his spine" when he listens to a certain song from *Cats*.

These tidbits offer just a taste of the fare on junior Eric Chemi's radio show on WMBR (88.1 FM), "Dinnertime Sampler," which offers a peek under the academic veneer of MIT professors and administrators. The show airs on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Guests bring their favorite CDs to play and they chat with Chemi between songs.

"I love the show because it provides a window into the culture of MIT and the surrounding community," said Zuber, head of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. "The shows are all over the map in terms of genre, and from one week to the next you have no idea what kind of music you'll hear. It provides a wonderful cross-section of the diverse personalities that make up MIT."

The show's conversation and music format started two years ago on a whim. Chemi, an electrical engineering and computer science major, had jokingly invited his physics professor, Walter Lewin, to join him on his radio show, which in those days aired at six o'clock in the morning.

"He arrived at 5:45 with this tape recording of Tibetan monks singing, and one of frogs," said Eric about his first guest. "The phones just started lighting up. So I decided to make it recurring."

And recur it has, on WMBR most Wednesdays since October 2002.

Mushing Toward an Arctic Understanding

MIT News Office

While many college students are preparing to spend spring break in their bathing suits, 28 MIT freshmen packed their heavy coats and spent March 19-29 in Alaska, hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), to learn firsthand about the benefits and pitfalls of drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Below are edited excerpts from an online journal by freshman Matthew Zedler chronicling the trip.

Saturday, March 20, 2004 Flying in

I neglected to mention my interesting seatmate on the plane. Jeff worked on the Trans-Alaska pipeline and had driven rock trucks and water trucks to make ice roads for oil rigs. He talked about the Athabaskan natives, especially how the old men hang out in the bars in Anchorage. He also told me the most snow he had seen fall at one time was five feet. That five feet was blown by gusts of wind against his mobile home, forcing him to dig out and up when he opened his door.

Tuesday, March 23 The pipeline

On the way back to the hotel, the bus stopped briefly at the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline so we could see what we had been talking about first semester. It was cool to actually see the pipeline, and it made our research seem so much more concrete. Unfortunately, my team also decided to throw me in the snow under the pipeline.

Wednesday, March 24 Icy inn

Later at Chena Hot Springs, a tour guide took us out to the ice hotel that was built last year. It is the only one of its kind in the United States, and guests pay about \$600 a night for a room. The beds are made of ice but have a reindeer hide and several blankets to sleep on and under, so it is supposedly rather warm. The engineering and architecture behind it was pretty amazing, but I definitely wouldn't have spent the night there unless someone paid me.

You can see a photo by Matt Zedler on page 4 of this issue or read his full journal and see more photos on his Web site:

web.mit.edu/mzedler/www/alaska.html

Headlines

Senior Week 2004 Information for Parents

Senior Week is a time for the Class of 2004 to celebrate their accomplishments at MIT. Events are planned by a committee of seniors and are sponsored by the Association of Alumni and Alumnae of MIT. Family and guests are invited to register for events to be held Wednesday, June 2 and Thursday, June 3. *Families are also invited to purchase student-only events as gifts for their graduating senior.*

This is a very exciting time for parents and there are many activities planned for Senior Week that parents can be involved in. Parents planning on participating in Senior Week activities should plan ahead by checking the schedule and purchasing tickets. You are encouraged to sign up early for the activities offered to parents and families of graduating students as events sell out.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit <http://web.mit.edu/seniorweek>, call 617-253-4547, or email srweek-request@mit.edu.



Photo: Maggy Bruzelius

Alumni staffer Heather Kispert talks with members of the Senior Class at the annual Senior Gift Kickoff held on March 2, 2004.



The Web site features the Family Weekend Keynote address "You Teach History at MIT?" by Pauline Maier *William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of American History*

MIT World is a free, open, video streaming Web site that provides on-demand video of significant public events at MIT. Check it out!

<http://mitworld.mit.edu/video/164/>

Schedule of Events for Senior Week

Sunday, May 30

Boston Red Sox vs. Seattle Mariners (Seniors only)

Class of 2004 Trip to Fenway Park

Game time: 2:05 p.m.

Cost: \$18.00

Monday, May 31

Monday Madness!!! (Seniors only)

Class of 2004 Official Scavenger Hunt

The Hunt begins at the Thirsty Ear. 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Scour Cambridge and Boston to find clues that will win prizes!

Class of 2004 Party at Felt Boston

8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Celebrate the day in style at one of Boston's premier nightclub locations. Prizes awarded for Scavenger Hunt participants. Commemorative gift handed out at Felt.

Cost: \$5 ticket admits Seniors in both events!

Tuesday, June 1

Class of 2004 Trip to Six Flags New England (Seniors only)

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per person - includes transportation

Class of 2004 Tuesday Night @ 'Roads (Seniors only)

Time TBA. Celebrate with your classmates at Crossroads!

Wednesday, June 2

Class of 2004 Boston Duck Tour (Open to All)

Ducks leave from the MUSEUM OF SCIENCE.

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person

Class of 2004 Farewell Reception (Open to All)

Museum of Science - Blue Wing

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Thursday, June 3

Class of 2004 Breakfast with the Professors (Open to All)

Morss Hall, Walker Memorial (Building 50)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Tech Night at the Pops (Open to All)

Symphony Hall

Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

(Complimentary shuttle bus leaves campus at 6:30 p.m.)

Join MIT alumni for our annual MIT-only performance.

Ticket price: \$60/floor, \$40/1st Balcony, \$25/2nd Balcony

Please note: 5 ticket limit per senior. Tickets will go on sale

Tuesday, May 11, 10 a.m. at Tech Tix (formerly The Source).

For more information visit or to order tickets securely online using Visa, Mastercard or American Express by going to:

<http://web.mit.edu/seniorweek>. All tickets will be sent to the student's address. For more information contact the Alumni Association at 617-253-4547 or e-mail sherryc@mit.edu.

Student Life - Freshman Advising

(Continued from page 1) are made according to information incoming students provide to the ARC in June. Students may choose Traditional Advising (no credit earned) or a Freshman Advising Seminar (worth 6 units of academic credit during the fall semester). Freshmen keep the same advisors through the spring semester.

In addition to individual advising meetings, most freshman advisors host group events including dinners, museum tours, and other outings for their advisees. These advising group meetings provide valuable social interaction outside of the classroom and living environment. They help foster stronger ties with their advisor, with each other, and with the MIT community, and also provide unique opportunities to learn more about the Cambridge/Boston area.

Freshman advisors are MIT faculty, researchers, and senior administrative staff who volunteer their time. Developing relationships with professors and MIT staff, particularly those with longevity and broad knowledge of the campus, are very important to overall student satisfaction. Freshman advisors not only present a positive perspective of the Institute but also help students with accessing resources as necessary. Advisors not only serve as mentors; they provide assistance with choosing a major, learning more about

opportunities for study abroad, finding a summer job, writing a recommendation, etc. They can help with identifying appropriate outside-of-class learning opportunities, such as UROP or internships. For freshmen who may be challenged or overwhelmed in their first year, advisors can refer them to tutors or to counseling and mental health programs. They may also contact faculty or teaching assistants and advocate on behalf of a student.

"It is better to ask for help and NOT need it, than need it and not ask." Kaitlin Lewis '05

A special advising option for some freshmen is Residence-Based Advising (RBA). Freshmen who elect to live in McCormick Hall or Next House participate in the Residence Based Advising (RBA) program, which is aimed at enriching the student's first year at MIT by combining living with learning. Advising through RBA includes both the Freshman Advising Seminar and Traditional Advisor options.

Most advisors also team up with Associate Advisors, who are specially trained peer advisors. Associate advisors offer invaluable first-hand experience in classes, programs, social and living situations as well as empathic advice. Associate Advisor Kaitlin Lewis '05 offered this advice in

The Associate Link newsletter, "Asking for help and receiving it is often the key to succeeding at MIT." She added, "It is better to ask for help and NOT need it, than need it and not ask."

It's important to remember that students often get out of the advising experience what they put into it. Advisors will reach out to their advisees, but advisees also need to take responsibility and keep in regular contact with their advisor and attend scheduled meetings.

Families of students often want to know what they can do to assist in the advising process, especially when a student is stressed or challenged. Students say that knowing that their parents love them, no matter whether they get all A's or not, is the most important thing their parents can offer them. Parents need to remember to provide unconditional love and support.

With the emotional support of family combined with the guidance of the Academic Resource Center and freshman advising, a student will develop skills in self-reliance, making the important transition period of freshman year a successful and rewarding experience.

To learn more about MIT freshman advising and the first year at MIT, go to Academic Resource Center's website for freshmen: <http://web.mit.edu/firstyear/>.

Special opportunity for Freshmen: A LOOK AT MISSION 2007

Mission 2007 is the MIT subject 12.000 Solving Complex Problems designed for entering freshmen only. This 9 unit subject provides an opportunity for freshman to gain first-hand experience with working as part of a team to focus on dealing with real-world problems that have no simple solutions.

A new "mission" is undertaken each year by incoming freshmen and involves an interdisciplinary approach built around a large-scale problem. The curriculum includes assignments on the study of economic, ecological, political or social impacts of these problems. Past projects included the exploration of life on Mars,

an Atlantis-based design to build two underwater laboratories, and a study on the Amazon rainforest. The focus for Mission 2007 was on the impact of oil exploration and drilling on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Freshmen choose over the summer if they would like to participate in this class. They may take 12.000 as a stand-alone subject, in which case they are advised by a Traditional Freshman Advisor. However, freshmen who join the Terrascope freshman learning community are enrolled in 12.000 but are also advised by Terrascope faculty.



Mission 2007 team members in Alaska during this recent Spring Break. Photo courtesy of Matthew Zedler '07

For more information go to: <http://web.mit.edu/firstyear/mission2007/>

2004 MIT Parents Fund

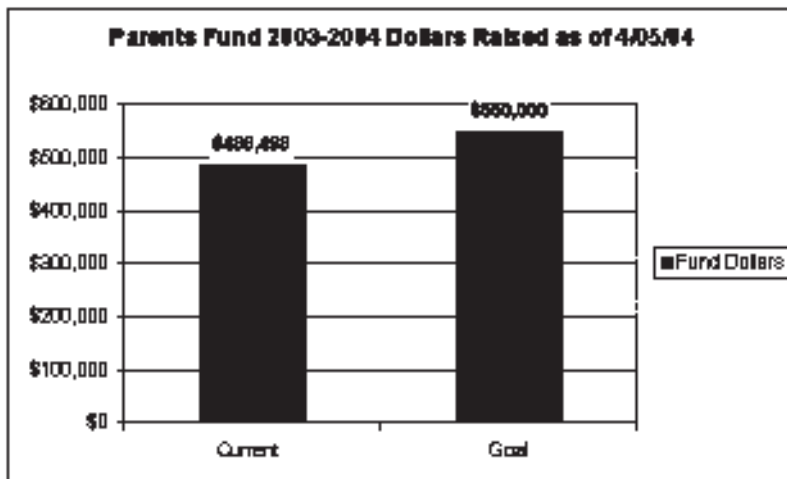
2004 MIT Parents Fund Update

The generosity and enthusiasm of MIT parents is invaluable to the Parents Fund. Much of the Parents Fund success is due to the support and commitment of the Parents Fund Committee and all of the generous parent donors! As of April 5th, the Parents Fund has raised \$459,663 of the \$550,000 goal from 1,401 generous donors out of a goal of 1,600 donors.

Every gift, regardless of the size, plays a crucial role in student life and learning at MIT. Through the Parents Fund, parents demonstrate the vested interest that parents have in the Funds priorities--UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program), Scholarships, Athletics, IRDF (Independent Residence Development Fund), and Student Life Now. In addition, parents may designate their gift to a particular program that they wish to support. All programs and funds directly impact the lives of MIT undergraduate students.

The Parents Fund Committee, Co-Chaired by Barbara and Charles Griffith P'04, looks forward to working to expand outreach to the parent community and to increase Parents Fund participation.

For more information on the MIT Parents Fund or to make a gift online, please visit <http://web.mit.edu/giving/who/parents/index.html> or <http://web.mit.edu/giving/>



Matching gifts

Many companies offer employees a matching gift benefit that, in effect, could actually double your gift to MIT. Matching gifts make a critical contribution to the Parents Fund.

As of March 1, 2004 there were 64 Parents Fund donations that were matched by participating employers, bringing an additional \$9127 to the Parents Fund.

To learn more about matching gifts contact your human resources department and find out if your company participates or go to: <http://web.mit.edu/giving/how/mechanics/matching.html>

Many thanks to the 2004 Parents Fund Committee

Executive Committee

National Committee Chairs

Class of 2004 Co-Chairs

Barbara and Charles Griffith P'04

Parents of Alumni Chairs

Eileen and Simon Chow P'03

Class of 2005 Co-Chairs

Timothy Poon and Cindy Choi P'05

Class of 2006 Co-Chairs

Shlomit and Chaim Edelstein P'01, '06

2004 Committee Members

Paige and William Baker P'05

Ki and John Basel P'06

Ellen and Robert Caplin P'07

Pheabe Chan P'04

Mohammed and Sherry Chaudhry P'06

Ramesh and Pramodini Dave P'91, '03

Deborah Edelin P'07

Diann Gentile P'06

Jessica and Jeffrey Gaynor P'04

John Gazak P'06

Robert and Su-Ling Hung P'06

Russell Jaffe P'07

Joanne Konowich P'06

Sherry Kwei P'05

Jeffrey Lindsay P'06

Angela and John Lisy P'07

Sophia Kao Lo P'06

Malvindek and Parveen Makhni P'05

James Meehan P'05

Mary Jane and Richard Miller P'05

Constance and Joao Neves P'06

Soraya Rafat P'06

Linda Rozeboom P'06

Chwen and Chusak Siripocanont P'05

Soledad and Noboru Sugai P'05, '06

Grace Yen P'06

Dianne and Dale '76 Zeskind P'01, '03

Parents Association and Fund

Kathryn Hankin, Director

Tish Callanan P'05, Associate Director

A Slice of Campus Life

Where does their money go? 3 PROFILES IN STUDENT SPENDING

A question that often comes up from parents and new students is, “How much are the day-to-day living expenses for an MIT undergraduate student?” According to *MIT Facts 2004* gauging the 9 months of attendance, *undergraduate room and board is approximately \$8,710, with actual costs dependent on the student's housing and dining arrangements. Books and personal expenses (including clothes, laundry, and recreation, but excluding travel).*

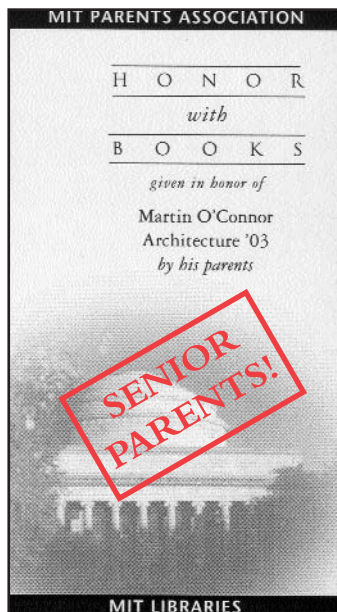
In order to give parents and new students the living expenses incurred for an MIT student, we asked three undergraduate students to record day-to-day expenses for the week of Sunday, February 23. Here are the results:

| PROFILE A | PROFILE B | PROFILE C |
|---|--|---|
| Class Year: 2005 | Class Year: 2006 | Class Year: 2007 |
| Major: Biology | Major: Material Science & Engineering | Major: Aerospace Engineering |
| Residence: Burton-Conner House | Minor: Biomedical Engineering | Residence: MacGregor House |
| Activities: Drama, Singing, Fine Arts, Smile@MIT (Student Chapter of Operation Smile), International Host Office, African Students Association, part-time campus job | Residence: Alpha Phi (FSILG) | Activities: Student Ambassadors, MIT Undergraduate Research Journal, Rocket Team, learning Spanish through newspapers & television, writing poetry, cooking & watching cartoons; taking six classes. |
| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Sunday</u> |
| Food \$12 | Parking \$6 | Food \$25 |
| <u>Monday</u> | Retail \$12 | <u>Monday</u> |
| Food \$6 | Food \$11 | Food \$7 |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | Entertainment \$3 | <u>Tuesday</u> |
| Food \$6 | Church & Transit \$8 | Food \$8 |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Monday</u> | Textbook \$74 |
| Copying \$1 | Food \$11 | <u>Wednesday</u> |
| Food \$5 | Entertainment \$5 | Food \$12 |
| <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> |
| Food \$10 | Food \$9 | Food \$7 |
| <u>Friday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Friday</u> |
| Laundry \$3 | Food \$2 | Food \$9 |
| Food \$6 | <u>Thursday</u> | Entertainment \$14 |
| <u>Saturday</u> | Food \$17 | <u>Saturday</u> |
| Laundry \$1 | Entertainment \$5 | Laundry \$4 |
| Entertainment \$10 | <u>Friday</u> | Entertainment \$3 |
| Food \$4 | Food \$51 | Retail \$15 |
| Retail \$2 | Retail \$210 | Entertainment \$10 |
| Food \$43 | Transportation \$7 | |
| | <u>Saturday</u> | |
| | Food w/ friends free | |
| | Entertainment \$3 | |
| | MIT parking \$15 | |
| Total: \$109 | Total: \$375 | Total: \$188 |

Parent News would like to thank Liz Zellner, Justin Wong, and Melissa Latigo for assisting us with this project.

For Your Information

Honor with Books Program



Class of 2004

The MIT Parents Association invites senior parents to celebrate their child's achievement by participating in Honor with Books.

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

Contact

Kathryn Hankin
Director, Parents Association
khankin@mit.edu
(617) 253-8280

For more information and an online donation form visit:
<http://alumweb.mit.edu/parents/honor-with-books/>

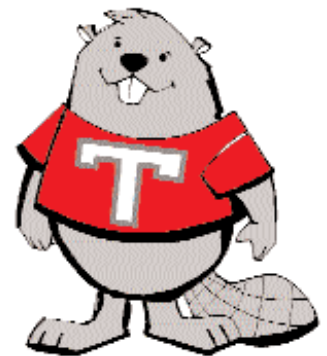
MITPAY - Student billing

Beginning in July, all student account billing will be done electronically and no more paper bills will be sent. Consult with your student about setting up your account in this system. More information is posted on <http://web.mit.edu/sfs>.

If you have questions, please contact Student Account Services at: ssc@mit.edu or call 617-258-8600.

A Call for E-mail Addresses

The Parents Association collects e-mail addresses for a quarterly Parent E-Newsletter. This will help parents stay better connected to the MIT Community, receive updates, and hear about regional and campus events. Please e-mail your name and address to: mykidis@mit.edu.



Parents Event Photos

Above left: ROTC Tri-service Color Guard Flag Ceremony from Family Weekend 2003.

Above Right: A group of parents in attendance at the presentation, *Student Life and Learning at MIT* held in February 2004 in Northern California. The event featured Dean Larry Benedict and Candace Royer, Dept. Head/Director of Athletics.



Lower Left: Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Poon hosted a gathering of parents in Hong Kong. Bill Hecht '61, CEO Emeritus of the Alumni Association gave a presentation that was well received by the parent guests and 5 newly admitted students to the Class of 2008.



MIT Parents Association
 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Building W59-200
 Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

.....
 connect

.....
 participate

.....
 explore

SAVE THE DATE
 OCTOBER 15-17, 2004
 FAMILY WEEKEND

MIT Parents Calendar Spring 2004

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Campus Preview Weekend | 4/15-4/18 |
| Last Day of Classes | 5/13 |
| Final Exams | 5/17-5/21 |
| Senior Week | 5/30-6/4 |
| Commencement | 6/4, 10:00 am |

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *Commencement Update* page 1
- *Freshman Advising Program* page 1
- *News Briefs* page 2
- *Senior Week* page 3
- *A Slice of Campus Life* page 6
Student Expense Survey

MIT Parents News, Lauren McLean, Editor, laurenm@mit.edu

Phone: (617) 253-8183, Fax: (617) 258-6211, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room W59-200, Cambridge, MA 02139
<http://web.mit.edu/alum/connect/parents>