allow for this, measures were taken to handle anticipated surges of walk-ins. For example, every Monday, a sports clinic for non-varsity athletes is held to treat the sports-related injuries that tend to occur over the weekend. Without this outlet, students with minor sports injuries could potentially overwhelm urgent care. This service for students also condenses an examination and therapy into one visit, eliminating the need for additional visits and battling the other aforementioned obstacle to student health: time.

One of the concerns voiced by students was that they had not been taken seriously when they came to MIT Medical: Taking the Time to Listen

By law, a child becomes an adult at the age of eighteen. What is overlooked, observes Kristine A. Ruzycki, Director of Student Health, is that undergraduates often exist in a stage between adolescence and adulthood. In the past, the parent probably made appointments, provided transportation to the doctor’s office, picked up prescriptions, and handled insurance matters. Now, the newly independent student must tackle these responsibilities, and Ruzycki has approached student health with this in mind.

Currently Chief of Nursing Services, Ruzycki has additionally been the director of student health services for almost two years. With the understanding that student health is a concept and not just a place, her first act in the position was to determine the needs of the students. She worked with the Student Health Advisory Committee, the Division of Student Life, and MIT’s health educators to develop her understanding of how student needs differ.

“Students come in [to MIT Medical] when they have time or when the pain [of the illness or injury] is too much to bear,” notes Ruzycki. They typically do not call ahead to make an appointment. MIT Medical must be able to treat students as they arrive. To allow for this, measures were taken to handle anticipated surges of walk-ins. For example, every Monday, a sports clinic for non-varsity athletes is held to treat the sports-related injuries that tend to occur over the weekend. Without this outlet, students with minor sports injuries could potentially overwhelm urgent care. This service for students also condenses an examination and therapy into one visit, eliminating the need for additional visits and battling the other aforementioned obstacle to student health: time.

One of the concerns voiced by students was that they had not been taken seriously when they came to
MIT Medical continued

MIT Medical. “You need to take the time to listen,” affirms Ruzycki. The new patient/provider communication program is structured around listening and understanding. “Both the clinician and patient must agree on the treatment. You don’t want to set up a plan to fail,” she explains. Ruzycki knows that students must comprehend not only what the treatment should be but why it is necessary. Then, the clinician and patient should work together to find a treatment that can fit reasonably into the student’s heavy schedule.

The Brass Rat

MIT lore states that if a graduate walks into a job interview wearing his or her MIT class ring, the grad will walk out with a job offer. Upon reflection, the tale seems less than myth and quite plausible. The ring represents the ideals of the Institution: the effort, the accomplishment, and the pride. To wear one is an act of significance.

In 1929, the first MIT ring committee gathered. Their design featured the school’s mascot, a beaver, on the bezel, while the main building and class year adorned separate shanks. At a distance, the beaver on the bezel is thought to resemble a rat. Thus, the MIT ring, officially named the Standard Technology Ring, is more commonly known as the “Brass Rat.”

In addition to Chief of Nursing Services and Director of Student Health, Ruzycki is also known as “Mom.” As the parent of a young adult, she truly appreciates the impact of student outreach and prevention. Through increased personal contact and by partnering with various departments, including housing, athletics, and the Parents Association, she communicates the wealth of health resources available from MIT Medical. With guidance, a student can learn how to navigate the system and take advantage of all resources, including the five health educators, each with a focus on a common issue for young adults; twenty-four hour medical care; mental health services; custom workshops; wellness classes; and more.

For answers to frequently asked student questions about MIT Medical, please see the link at http://alum.mit.edu/parents. You may also contact Kristine Ruzycki directly at ruzy@med.mit.edu or (617) 258-7068.

For more information on MIT Medical, see their Web site at http://web.mit.edu/medical/.

Scores of sophomores wait in line to enter Kresge Auditorium for the unveiling of their class ring design. Photo by Ricky Ramirez ’06

Top: A spoof bezel. Right: The true bezel appearing on the class of 2008 ring.

that stretched from Kresge Auditorium to Massachusetts Avenue. The committee revealed a very traditional ring with the exception of a modernized bezel, pictured above. Moments later, when the true bezel was revealed, a tense crowd erupted with cheers and audible sighs of relief.

Rings are traditionally ordered during a student’s sophomore year. A promotional ordering period of two to three weeks follows a short period after the unveiling. After this time prices increase, but the adjusted price will remain stable until the graduation of the class.

For more information on the ring for the class of 2008, please visit http://web.mit.edu/2008/ring/. To order rings from years past, see http://alum.mit.edu/shopping/.
Parents Association

Family Weekend: Experiencing the Campus Evolution

Thanks again to all the families that participated in Family Weekend 2005. We were pleased to offer an unequaled number of lectures, concerts, department receptions, open classes, tours, and presentations to an unprecedented number of attendees, all of whom survived a record amount of rainfall!

Our increase in the activities offered is due in part to MIT’s evolving campus. One of the most ambitious building initiatives in the history of MIT is now nearing completion. Over the last five years, more than ten major construction projects have transformed the campus, including the Stata Center for Computer, Information and Intelligence Sciences; the new Brain and Cognitive Sciences Complex; the Zesiger Sports & Fitness Center; and Simmons Hall.

As MIT expands its horizons, the campus must accommodate these endeavors. For instance, brain and cognitive sciences have emerged as important scientific frontiers, thus the campus now hosts the largest neuroscience center in the world. The Institute has also renewed its commitment to athletics, seeking to engage the whole student, mind and body, and provide facilities that will encourage a wide variety of physical activity.

With many projects still underway, we hope to feature an even greater number of campus enhancements during Family Weekends to come.

The Parents Association will begin sending information for Family Weekend 2006 (Oct. 13-15) in June. For the most current information, visit http://alum.mit.edu/parents/family-weekend/.

Parent Connector Activities

SPRING BREAK RECEPTIONS
March 26 – April 2, 2006
Hosted regionally by local Educational Counselors and Alumni Clubs, spring break receptions are a way to welcome newly accepted students. The events help the students decide whether to attend MIT, a choice that must be confirmed by May 1, 2006. Parent Connectors serve an important role at these events, interacting with prospective parents and sharing personal MIT experiences.

CAMPUS PREVIEW WEEKEND
April 6-9, 2006
Hosted by the Admissions Office, Campus Preview Weekend is an opportunity for all newly accepted students and their parents to experience MIT’s campus and vibrant community. Parent Connectors and the Parents Association act as ambassadors of hospitality, addressing concerns, easing anxiety, and sharing what it is really like to be the parent of an MIT student.

SUMMER SEND OFFS
July – August, 2006
Summer send offs are an occasion for Parent Connectors to host small local gatherings in their home towns for students and their families prior to the freshman students’ move to campus in August.

Guest speaker Candace Royer (right), Department Head and Director of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER), talks with Jennifer Kleckner, parent of an early admit, at the Northern California event this past February. For more information on DAPER, visit http://web.mit.edu/athletics/.
Parents Fund Update

As of March 20, 2006, the Parents Fund has raised $910,256* from 1,653 donors — exceeding our goal of $625,000! Last year at this time, we had raised $478,624 from 1,676 donors. We are elated with the 90% increase in dollars and hope to bridge the gap in donor participation before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2006. We attribute the increase in dollars to the stewardship and outreach from the Parents Fund Committee members, the increased communication to parents, and the overall growth in parent involvement with their students’ college experience.

* This reflects capped reporting—that means only the first $100,000 of any gift is counted in these figures. Capped reporting allows us to more accurately gauge progress toward our goal.

Many thanks to the 2006 Parents Fund Committee!

Executive Committee

National Committee Chair:
Soraya Rafat P’06

Parents of Alumni Co-Chairs:
Timothy and Cindy Poon P’05, ’09

Class of 2007 Co-Chairs:
Ellen and Bob Caplin P’07

Class of 2008 Chair:
Laishan Lam P’08

2006 Committee Members

Winnie Chan P’08
Jose A. DeLeon P’06
Deborah H. Edelin P’07
Joy and Bill Fotsch P’08
Cathryn & John Gandolfo P’08
John Gazak P’06
Praveen K. Gupta P’09
Anthony Hay P’07
Carol & Charles Herder P’09
Russell Jaffe P’07
Urmila & Jayant Khettry P’08
Joanne Konowich P’06
Gianna & Peter J. Krey P’08
Janie & Larry Lai P’08
Angela & John Lisy P’07
Sophia Kao Lo P’06, ’08
Parveen & Malvindek Makhni P’05, ’07
Constance & Joao Neves P’06
Joanne & Brannock Rudd P’08
Zoya & David Soane P’08
Susan & Jeffrey Stritar P’07
Soledad & Noboru Sugai P’05, ’06
Dolores Wakeman P’08
Leslie & Frederick Witten P’08
Grace Yen P’06
James Yuan P’08
Dianne & Dale ’76 Zeskind P’01, ’03

Goals for 2005-2006

This year, under the leadership of Parent Fund Chair Soraya Rafat P’06, we have set our sites on a participation goal of 2,300 donors. Participation at all levels is needed — every gift makes a difference, no matter what the amount. If you haven’t done so already, please consider making a gift this year. Remember, you can designate your gift to an activity, sport, or department important to your student. For more information about giving to MIT and designating your gift, go to: http://giving.mit.edu/.

Parents Fund

Honor with Books

Noboru & Soledad Sugai P’05, ’06 pose with their son Bruno ’05 at the Honor with Books reception in June.

Photo by Justin Knight

MIT Parents Association
http://alum.mit.edu/parents/
mykids@mit.edu
Senior Week is a time for the Class of 2006 to celebrate its accomplishments at MIT. Events are planned by a committee of seniors and sponsored in part by the Association of Alumni and Alumnae of MIT. Family and guests are invited to register for events taking place on June 8, 2006. Student-only event tickets can also be purchased by family members as gifts for their graduating senior.

Parents intending to participate in Senior Week should sign up early for the activities offered to families of graduating students; the events sell out quickly.

For more information and to order tickets securely online, visit http://web.mit.edu/seniorweek, call 617-253-4547, or email srweek-request@mit.edu.

**Senior Week: A Time of Celebration**

**Friday, May 26**  SENIORS ONLY - PARENT GIFT IDEA

**Boston Red Sox vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays**

7:05 pm, Fenway Park, bleacher seats

$23 per ticket; limit (3)

**Sunday, June 4**  SENIORS ONLY - PARENT GIFT IDEA

**Cheers to ’06! - Wine Tasting (21+)**

7 – 10 pm, MIT Faculty Club

$20 per senior, $30 per student guest

**Monday, June 5**  SENIORS ONLY - PARENT GIFT IDEA

**Trip to Six Flags New England**

10 am – 8 pm (Transportation included.)

$25 per senior, $35 per student guest

**Tuesday, June 6**  SENIORS ONLY - PARENT GIFT IDEAS

**Strikes & Spares at Kings**

2 – 4 pm, Kings Bowling Alley

$10 per senior, $15 per student guest

**Just for Laughs**

8:00 pm, Comedy Connection @ Quincy Market

$10 per senior, $15 per student guest

**Back Bay Pub Crawl (21+)**

Food: FREE. Drinks: Pay as you go.

Time and locations TBD.

**Wednesday, June 7**  SENIORS ONLY - PARENT GIFT IDEAS

**Senior Sail & BBQ**

Noon – 2 pm, MIT Sailing Pavilion

$7 per senior, $15 per student guest

**Senior Sale on Newbury Street**

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Special discounts for the Class of 2006!

**Thursday, June 8**  OPEN EVENTS - PARENTS WELCOME

**Alumni Association Signature Events**

Friends and family are encouraged to attend.

**Breakfast with the Professors**

9 – 10:30 am Morss Hall, Walker Memorial

$15 per ticket

**Boston Duck Tour**

1 pm – 2:30 pm, Ducks leave from the MIT campus.

$25 per ticket

**Tech Night at the Pops**

8 – 10 pm, Symphony Hall

$60–Floor; $45–1st Balcony; $25–2nd Balcony.

(Complimentary bus leaves campus @ 6:30 pm.)

Join alumni for our MIT-only performance.

**Please note:** Only students may purchase Tech Night tickets; 6 ticket limit; available mid-May, first come, first served.

**Class of 2006**

The MIT Parents Association invites senior parents to celebrate their student'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.

For more information and an online donation form, visit: http://alum.mit.edu/parents/honor-with-books/
2006 MIT Parents Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Confirmation Forms Due</td>
<td>4/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patriots Day - no classes</td>
<td>4/17-4/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>5/22-5/26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Move Out Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Move Out Day (Graduating Students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Move In</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>9/6</td>
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Quick Links for Parents

*These Web sites are great references for parent questions:

- **Academic calendar**

- **Commencement**

- **MIT Medical**

- **Summer storage**
  [http://alum.mit.edu/parents/storage.html](http://alum.mit.edu/parents/storage.html)

- **Update your parent information**