**FOCUS**

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

As the calendar year comes to a close, the Clubs and Affinities group would like to thank you so much for the valuable work that you do in areas around the world on behalf of MIT. We are lucky to have a network of dedicated, innovative alumni who succeed at raising MIT's profile internationally through high caliber, engaging programs.

Some of the events to highlight this past fall included the kickoff events for the 100th Anniversaries of the Clubs of Northern and Southern California, featuring Professor Pawan Sinha, the Club of New Hampshire dinner with President Hodckfield, and the inaugural networking reception held by MITSAAA (South Asia Alumni) in Cambridge. We were also pleased to see so many volunteers from clubs and groups back on campus for the annual Alumni Leadership Conference in September. In particular, we would like to thank Scott Chandler ’81, Jeff Roberts ’02, Marissa Martinez ’82, Jennifer Maxwell ’01, and Ross Meisner SM ’97 for preparing and delivering excellent presentations for their peers at the Clubs Workshop on Friday and several workshops on Saturday. It is always exciting and inspiring to hear from volunteers about their ideas for raising the bar in engaging alumni and spreading MIT’s messages to a global audience.

I would also like to thank all of you for your patience with us while we were down a staff member these past six months. We did feel that it was incredibly important to take the time and due diligence to find the correct person to fill the Associate Director position. It was worth the wait, and are pleased to announce that Rob Butler, formerly staff of the MIT Enterprise Forum Cambridge Chapter, will be joining our team as of January 7, 2008. Rob will bring a strong skill set in volunteer management, marketing, and membership recruitment to the position.

He is engaging, enthusiastic, and very excited to start working with the clubs in the Midwest and West coast as well as the Affinities Groups of BGALA, LAMIT, and MITAAA. We will be distributing the contact information for Rob shortly after January 1 and are thrilled that we will be returning to full staff and providing all alumni groups with thorough and timely customer service.

Have a healthy and happy holiday season,

Sincerely,

Melissa Marquardt,
Director, Clubs and Regional Programs
MIT Alumni Association

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**Clubs and Regional Programs staff:**

Melissa Marquardt, Director
(Boston, International Clubs)

Moana Bentin, Associate Director
(East Coast Clubs, AMITA, BAMIT, BGALA, CAMIT, MITSAAA)

Rob Butler, Associate Director
(Midwest, West Coast Clubs, BGALA, LAMIT, MITAAA)

Russell Boulais, Staff Assistant
(data requests, website management)

Tony Tavares, Staff Assistant (print production, campus room reservations)

Marilyn Finlay, Staff Assistant (email listserv management)

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**MIT Teacher Award Program**

We are pleased to see how many clubs have already held events to honor a teacher selected from their area to receive the inaugural MIT Alumni Association Inspirational Teacher Award. Here is a brief statistical accounting of the program:

- **Total number of teachers nominated:** 49
- **Number of teachers selected to receive award:** 29
- **Number of clubs with selected teachers in area:** 17
- **Number of club events honoring teachers to date:** 6
- **Number of club events scheduled in future to honor teacher:** 4

We encourage those clubs who have a chosen teacher in their area and have not yet selected an event at which to honor them to do so as soon as possible. Several clubs have elected to recognize their teacher at a speaker event as those events often provide substantial audiences and lend an air of importance and sophistication to the awards presentation.

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**Alumni Leadership Conference**

**Learn, Share, and Practice**

More than 400 volunteers attended the 2007 Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC), held on campus September 28-29. The conference theme was “Learn, Share, Practice: Foundations of MIT.” As President Susan Hodckfield said in her address, “The ALC themes remind us that all of us, all of the time, are both students and teachers. You are the information army—you convey how an MIT education can change a life and how that life can change the world.”

Volunteers received important Institute and research updates and celebrated 31 individuals and 7 groups. Club officers were well represented in the various national award categories. Among this year’s winners being honored were Henry Houb ’89 of the Club of Boston; Lola Ball ’91 of the Club of Puget Sound; Robert Gurnitz ’60 of the Club of Southwest Florida; Wan Lik Lee ’85 of the Club of Hong Kong; Gary Brackenridge ’97 of the Club of New York; Lauralee Grizzaffi ’91 of the Club of Tampa Bay; Andrew R. Y. Lee ’80 of the Club of Hawaii; and Joanna Tan ’74 of the Club of Southern California. In addition, three groups received Presidential Citation Awards: the MIT Club of Colorado for its 115th Anniversary Event, the MIT Club of Northern California for its Clean Tech Open and BGALA’s Gay in the Day event.

In all, over 120 Club Officers hailing from 28 US states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico, and 5 countries took part in the dynamic exchanges that occurred at various workshops. The content included highlights of how MIT groups are serving their local communities, how to build community with Web 2.0 features, updates on the Inspirational Teacher Award, the new William Barton Rogers Society, and information on member recruitment.

If you missed this year’s ALC and would like to refresh your memory on the content of some of the programming offered, visit http://alum.mit.edu/ne/alc/presentations.html to view some of the presentations made at this year’s ALC.

Save The Date for next year’s Alumni Leadership Conference, September 19 – 20, 2008!
MIT Enterprise Forum® News

The MIT Enterprise Forum is partnering with NASDAQ for our January Global Broadcast Series. We invite your Club to join us as a viewing site – live or delayed – and receive world-class MIT programming in your home region! Read our FAQ on the turnkey steps to take to sign on - http://enterpriseforum.mit.edu/participate.html

Thursday, January 24th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm Eastern is the date and time for “Are You Ready for IPO? Strategies and Steps For How and When to Take Your Company Public.” Presented in association with the NASDAQ Educational Foundation, this broadcast will feature successful entrepreneurs discussing the challenges and triumphs of their IPO journey, as well as the view from the financial world of how best to position a company for going public.

To sign on, or for information about the MIT Enterprise Forum programs, please contact Greg Wymer at 617-253-0015 or mitef@mit.edu. Look for email announcements of additional Enterprise Forum broadcasts in the coming months focusing on topics like life sciences and leading technologies. We welcome your participation!

Affinity Group News

Groups organized by ethnicity, gender, or affinity interest are a strong part of the alumni community. Seven groups are currently recognized within the Association’s worldwide network. AMITA (Association of MIT Alumnae), BAMIT (Black Alumni of MIT), BGALA (Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alumni of MIT), CAMIT (Chinese Alumni of MIT), LAMIT (Latino Alumni of MIT), MITAAA (MIT Arab Alumni Association, and MITSAAA (South Asia Alumni of MIT) and. All groups are based on a self-identified constituency. Each group has its own board of directors and hold programs relevant to their mission and MIT as a whole. The Alumni Association encourages alumni clubs to include an Affinity Group representative on their boards to ensure collaboration in the regions. More information can be found on http://alum.mit.edu/ccg/affinity/index.html.

MIT South Asian Association Extends Association Outreach

Following their successful inaugural event on September 27, 2007, the MIT South Asian alumni have been actively engaging alumni in New York and Boston through a variety of events. On October 6, a group met in New York City for an intimate luncheon with visiting Retired Indian Ambassador to Mexico, Alan Nazareth. Another group teamed up with the Pakistani students on campus to hear two Nobel Peace Prize winners on “India Arriving: How the Economic Powerhouse is Redefining Global Business.”

On November 15, another group met in New York City for a book signing event. The group also co-sponsored a talk by Vijay Vaitheeswaran ’90 on Sunday December 9 with the Club of Boston and the MIT Energy Club. A big thank you to the MITSAAA volunteers for their hard work this fall!

Faculty Broadcasts

On November 16, alumni in sixteen cities gathered for “It’s a Small World” the first of two faculty broadcasts scheduled for this academic year. A panel of three MIT faculty members, from a variety of disciplines and research areas, discussed the various aspects of nanotechnology and the ways in which MIT is paving the way in this field. The next broadcast will be held March 12, 2008, and will discuss virtual communities. For more information about either broadcast, visit http://alum.mit.edu/broadcasts.

If you would like to be a viewing site for the March broadcast, contact your Alumni Affairs officer.

Toast to IAP…

The fifth annual Toast to IAP is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2008. Over 30 clubs around the world will participate by gathering MIT10 alumni to celebrate Independent Activities Period. If your club would like to participate this year please contact Elena Lee at elenalee@mit.edu.

Shine the Spotlight on a fellow volunteer! Do you know of a club volunteer who went above and beyond the call of duty for an event or program? Don’t wait till it’s too late! Nominate them for the Alumni Association’s Volunteer Honor Roll of Service. Nominations are being accepted for services from July 1 - December 31. The nomination deadline is December 31.

For more information on the honor roll, visit our Web site at: http://alum.mit.edu/gv/volunteer/recognition/honor-roll.html and nominate today!

Beaver Badge of Excellence:

We have selected the Club of Northern California to receive this issue’s Beaver Badge of Excellence Award. The MIT Club of Northern California kicked off its 100th Anniversary speaker series with a superb event on October 23, 2007. They partnered with Google to host the event as well as LightSpeed Ventures, a sponsor of the entire series. At the event, alumni were greeted by a friendly, engaging group of volunteers who warmly welcomed alumni and guests to the event. The evening began with gracious and touching presentations of the MIT Alumni Association Inspirational Teacher Awards to three local teachers who had successfully inspired current students at MIT to achieve excellence. This was followed by an interesting presentation by Professor Pawan Sinha. In appreciation the Club presented Professor Sinha with a framed certificate and a book of cartoons - a personal interest of his which had been researched by the club. The club videotaped the evening for their archives, another fine touch for a professional and high quality event. Congratulations to the volunteers who coordinated this event!

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