



DAVID DA HE—THE TECH

The Boston July 4th Fireworks went according to schedule despite thunderstorm alerts and a temporary downpour during the show.

For more photos
check out page 8!

Nine dorms to have RLADs in coming fall

RLAD candidate interviews underway

By Jingyun Fan
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Last Monday, July 2, new details regarding the Residential Life Area Director positions were released. On-campus interviews will begin next Monday, July 15. The selected RLADs would step into their roles no later than Aug. 3.

RLAD candidates have already been interviewed via phone by deans Barbara A. Baker, Henry J. Humphreys, and Julie E. Rothhaar. Baker and Humphreys are student life and residential life deans, and Rothhaar's title is director of the first-year experience.

A month ago, Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 wrote to housemasters that RLADs would be introduced in nine dorms in the fall. His letter was leaked to students in an anonymous email.

Students and Graduate Resident Tutors expressed surprise and con-

cern in response to the leaked letter, especially since the GRTs had recently renewed their contracts, but heard no mention of the new RLAD positions.

According to the Division of Student Life website, only five of the nine original dorms — Maseeh, McCormick, New House, Next House and Simmons Hall — will have RLADs. In a previous interview with the *Tech*, Grimson said that some of the dorms needed more time for dialogue to give students a sense of what is going to happen.

Various student representatives including Undergraduate Association President Jonté D. Craighead '13, met with Grimson, Humphreys, and Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo several times over the past weeks in an effort to hash out a plan that would include students in the RLAD selection process.

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Higgs boson developments

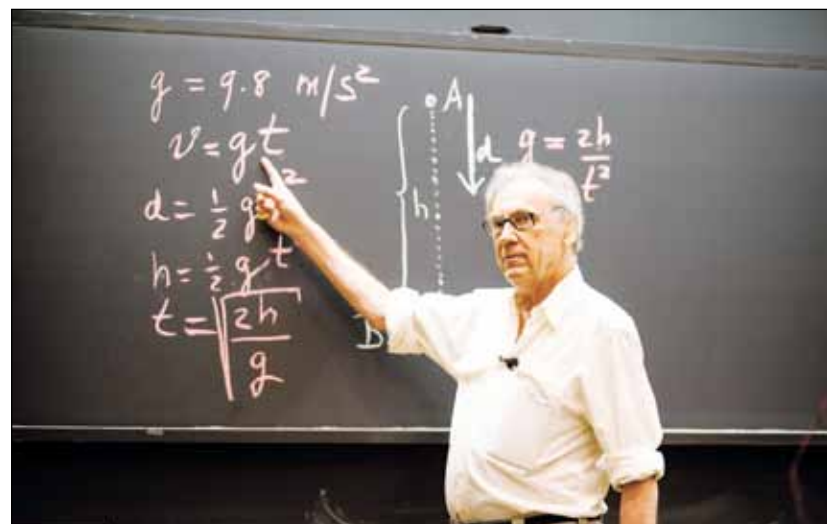
First-hand observations of Higgs research at CERN

By Austin Hess
STAFF REPORTER

This summer I have had the opportunity to work with the MIT physics faculty at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, near Geneva, Switzerland. CERN is home to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), and I am here with a group of MIT professors, postdocs, grad students, and undergrads working on the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS). And yes, this is at the heart of the search for the Higgs boson. I have witnessed most of the biggest behind-the-scenes events over the past month and will share them here.

What is the Higgs boson? It is an important part of the Standard Model, which is a theory in physics that explains three of the only four fundamental forces in nature — strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, and electromagnetic force — that mediate all interactions of subatomic particles. The Higgs boson is part of a theoretical mechanism proposed by several physicists in 1964 for the electroweak symmetry breaking in the Standard Model, which is the phenomenon where the photon — the mediator of the electromagnetic force — is massless, while the W and Z bosons —

Higgs boson, Page 10



ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

Walter Lewin gives a special lecture on Friday June 29 titled "Trajectories in Moving and Accelerated Reference Frames" to a packed audience in 6-120. This was one lecture in an 8-lecture series that will continue until July 20.

Car Talk will move to syndication

Show remembered for humor and insight into car problems

By Jaya Narain
STAFF REPORTER

The popular radio show *Car Talk* hosted by MIT alumni brothers Tom Magliozzi '58 and Ray Magliozzi '72 will stop new episodes in September; reruns will continue in syndication. *Car Talk* was first broadcast by WBUR in 1977, and was picked up by the National Public Radio ten years later. *Car Talk* has been broadcast on NPR for the last 25 years.

The decision to stop was largely motivated by Tom's desire to retire from the show. While Tom was not available for comment, Ray explained, "Tom was ready. He's 75, so that's a long time to be working."

Ray said that he had mixed feelings about the move to syndication. "It's a transition because I feel I could have gone on — but I couldn't have gone on without him. Either doing this show by myself or having another co-host just wouldn't feel right."

The *Car Talk* dynamic

As co-hosts of *Car Talk*, Ray and Tom are

known for their humorous banter and insightful advice for callers' car problems. *Car Talk* receives thousands of calls from listeners with car issues per week. The calls are pre-screened, and selected callers are then contacted for taping. All participants for a single show are placed on hold for the duration of taping, allowing callers that appear later in the show to listen and refer to earlier calls. Recording usually occurs the Wednesday before a Saturday show. The time between taping and airing is used for production and editing.

Ray noted that the comical dynamic between him and his brother dates back to when they were kids. "That's the way our household was. Talking to callers on the air was basically like sitting around the kitchen table when we had invited a guest over, you know. It was always pretty lively. It was always fun."

The Magliozzis tried to incorporate humor into the show and keep the atmosphere light and accessible. "The show started off pretty seriously," said Ray. "When we realized that we were basically

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Former provost L. Rafael Reif is now MIT's president. Check out the interactive timeline we put together of his journey to the presidency at

http://tech.mit.edu/V132/N28/reif_timeline/index.htm or scan the QR code!

IN SHORT

MIT personal certificates expire Thursday, July 31. Certificate renewal isn't automatic, so renew them in the coming weeks!

MIT President-elect L. Rafael Reif will be inaugurated on Friday, September 21. Mark your calendars!

Former president Susan J. Hockfield was appointed a director of Qualcomm yesterday. She received 2109 shares of deferred stock in compensation, which will vest in one year, currently valued at \$116,000. Hockfield is also a director of General Electric.

The Team HBV Boston Event is Saturday, July 28. The event is designed to educate people on Hepatitis B and C prevalence, and will be located at Boston Common at the intersection between Park St. and Tremont St.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

MECH-E GETS A MAKEOVER

Inside look at the new 2-A curriculum options. NEWS, p. 11

UBELLACKER MAKES A SPLASH

MIT senior competes in the Olympic Trials. SPORTS, p. 5

MIT PHONE HOME...

But not from your dorm room. NEWS, p. 11



PIXAR PRINCESS HITS THE BIG SCREEN

Meet Merida, Pixar's newest heroine. ARTS, p. 6

FRESH FOOD IDEAS FOR THE SUMMER

Seasonal granola and coleslaw recipes. CL, p. 16

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GUEST COLUMN

Presidential Transition Advisory Cabinet Formed

Dear students:

Earlier this summer, the Undergraduate Association (UA) and Graduate Student Council (GSC) collaborated with President Rafael Reif to form the Presidential Transition Advisory Cabinet (PTAC). This goal of this cabinet is to provide the President with direct access to student representatives who will advise on issues pertaining to the undergraduate and graduate student experience. The charge of PTAC is as follows:

1. To identify existing MIT-wide issues as well as strategies for new opportunities.
2. To serve as a confidential sounding board to the President by providing student feedback to difficult questions and new ideas.
3. To provide input into the long-term vision for student academic, research, and community life on campus.

In addition, a public report will be released following the official discharge of PTAC in December.

Although student advisory committees to the President have been formed in the past, PTAC will differ from previous groups in a few important ways. First, as a faculty member and senior administrator with decades of experience at the Institute, President Reif already possesses significant insight into the essential character of MIT, enabling discussions to focus directly on solutions to campus issues.

Second, the Cabinet's work is able leverage the outreach efforts and findings of the MIT Presidential Search Committee and thus can place additional focus on issue articulation and constructive idea generation. Finally, PTAC will engage the entire community in the development of its report by hosting monthly forums to assist in sourcing and vetting new approaches to student concerns. In short, PTAC will link students to the President in a way that best equips the President to address the community's toughest challenges.

A diversity of viewpoints was critical in nominating students for such an important role, and we are proud to note PTAC's membership below. These members, with the exception of the Presidents of the UA and GSC, were nominated jointly by the UA

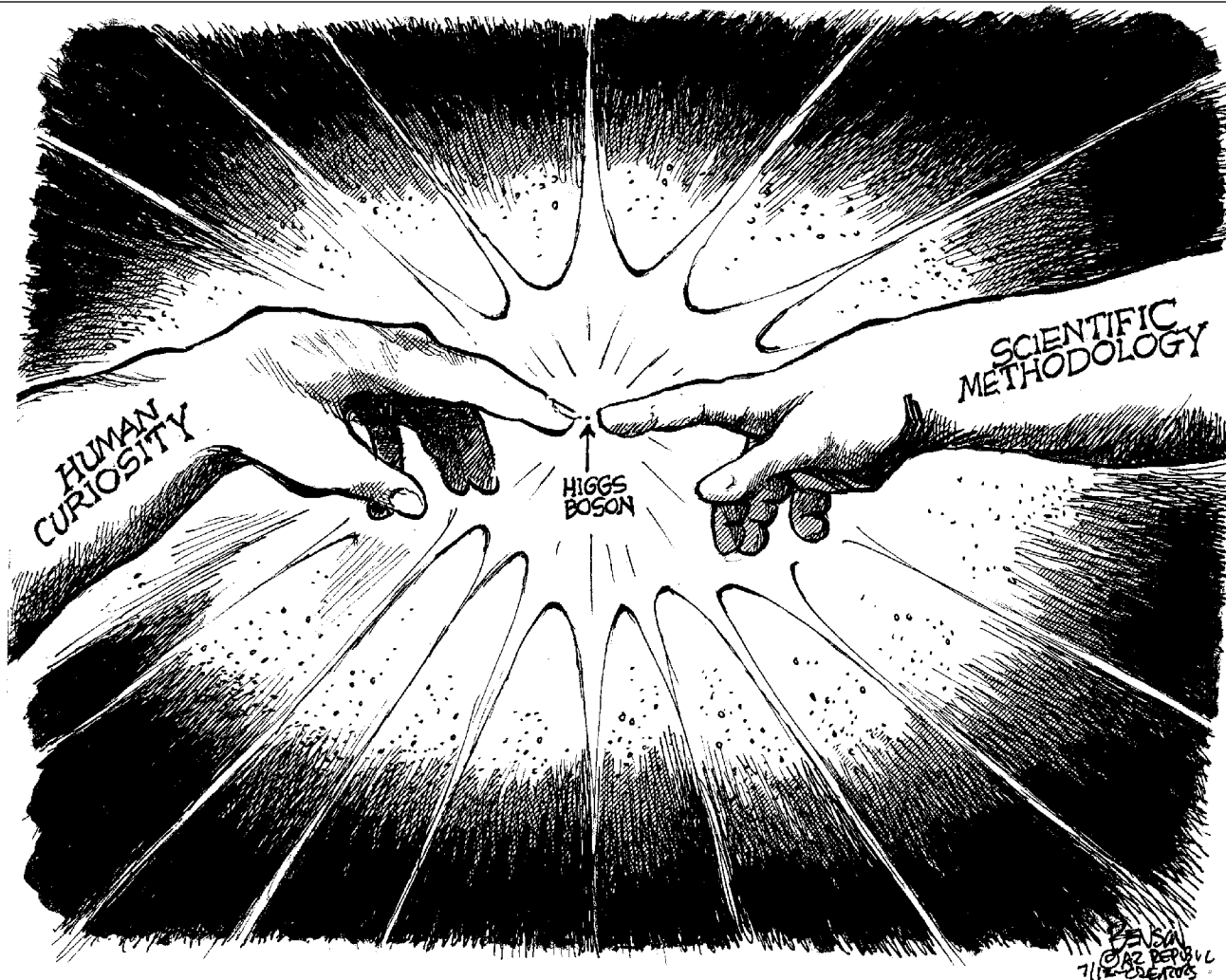
and GSC from among several dozen applicants. The UA and GSC are currently investigating options for additional direct student involvement resembling the UA-GSC Joint Task Force on the Presidential Search.

To effectively represent the student perspective, PTAC will actively be seeking student input. A website (<http://web.mit.edu/committees/ptac>) will be kept up to date displaying the schedule for meetings, and the topics for discussion. We would love to hear any ideas or opinions that you have to offer. Please feel free to contact PTAC at ptac@mit.edu for comments, questions and opinions. This is an exciting time for MIT, and we want you to be as connected as possible.

Regards,

Michael Walsh, UA PTAC Nominations Chair
Eric Victor, GSC PTAC Nominations Chair

Undergraduate	Graduate
Jonté Craighead, Civil Engineering (1)	Brian Spatocco, Materials Science (3)
Catherine Olsson, EECS (6)	Angela Kilby, Economics (14)
Alexandra Ghaben, Chemical Engineering (10)	Aalap Dighe, Mechanical Engineering (2)
Eduardo Russian, Mechanical Engineering (2)	Bryan Owens Bryson, Biological Engineering (20)



CORRECTIONS

The article about the Inman Square shootings in the June 13 2012 issue of *The Tech* incorrectly noted that the shooting happened "on Sunday night". The shooting happened on the previous Sunday, June 3.

OPINION POLICY

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Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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Ubellacker '13 at the Olympic Trials

By **Phill Hess**
DAPER STAFF

Rising senior Wyatt Ubellacker '13 completed his U.S. Olympic Trials experience Saturday June 30 with an outstanding swim in the prelims of the 50-meter freestyle event. He finished second in his heat with a personal record time of 22.78 seconds. Ubellacker also competed in the 100-meter freestyle trials on Thursday and finished with another personal record of 51.39 seconds.

On Thursday June 28, Ubellacker started his Olympic Trials experience with the 100-meter freestyle. He finished third in his heat, receiv-

ing a time of 51.39 102nd overall out of the 165 swimmers that competed. He was seeded 156th with a time of 51.40 seconds.

Ubellacker, the first MIT swimmer to compete at the U.S. Trials, just missed out on moving to the semifinals in the 50-meter event. With the top 16 times advancing to the semifinals, Ubellacker was just 0.1 seconds shy of moving on. He finished 21st overall out of 167 competitors in his first Olympic Trials. Swimming in the 10th heat of the day, he was the third swimmer to break 23 seconds. He entered the Trials with the 76th fastest qualifying time of 23.23 seconds.

Federer takes No. 1 at Wimbledon

Reclaims title as top in the world

By **Nidharshan Anandasivam**
SPORTS STAFF

Roger Federer of Switzerland won his seventh Wimbledon Championship last Sunday at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London. On his path to the championship, he defeated first-seeded favorite Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the semifinals in four tough sets (6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3). In the finals, Federer rallied back to beat the fourth-seeded Andy Murray of Scotland in four sets after dropping the first set (4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4).

Second-seeded Rafael Nadal of Spain received an early exit from the tournament after losing unexpectedly to 26-year-old Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic, who is ranked No. 100 in the world. Nadal's loss probably made winning the final match much more feasible for Federer, who has lost quite a

few Grand Slam Finals to Nadal, including the 2008 Wimbledon Finals. Nadal lost to Rosol in five grueling sets in a match that Rosol claims was his best ever.

Thirty-year-old Federer holds the record for Grand Slam singles titles with seventeen titles, and Nadal is tied for fourth with eleven titles. Among other active players, Djokovic has five. Although Federer's number seems hard to beat, 26-year-old Nadal and 25-year-old Djokovic still have plenty of time to assert their dominance over the 30-year-old.

Federer regained the No. 1 ranking in the world with his brilliant performances over the last two weeks, but he will have to use this momentum to perform well at the US Open, which starts on August 27, if he hopes to retain the number one position at the end of the year.

Olympic swimmers chosen

Stay tuned as heated battles from trials intensify

By **Sarah Weir**
SPORTS EDITOR

We're currently midway into July. That means it is hot and humid in Boston, there are less than two months before school begins, and the London Olympics are only a few weeks away. The USA Olympic team is currently being assembled for the Games which begin on July 27th. From June 25th to July 2nd, the Olympic team trials for swimming were held in Omaha, Nebraska. The big story from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games was Michael Phelps' domination of the pool—he earned eight gold medals to become the most decorated Olympic athlete in history. He will be competing in seven events (four of them individual) at this year's Olympics. However, there are other superstars this year, including Missy Franklin in freestyle and backstroke and Rebecca Soni in women's breaststroke. Here are some things to watch out for in the coming Olympics:

Lochte has been catching up to Phelps and consistently dominating

Michael Phelps vs. Ryan Lochte

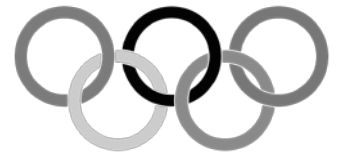
One of the highlights of the Olympic Trials was watching Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte battle it out in different events. For the past few years, Lochte

has been catching up to Phelps and consistently dominating. At the Trials, he upset Phelps in the 400 meter individual medley for which Phelps currently holds the American record. However, Phelps edged out Lochte by a few milliseconds in the 200 meter individual medley. Needless to say, this year's Olympics will likely be an interesting cat-and-mouse display as both swimmers try for gold.

Missy Franklin just turned 17. She will enter her senior year of high school in the fall as the first woman to qualify for 7 events. Her first event at the Trials was the 100 meter backstroke, where she earned first place and broke the American record. She then moved on to qualify in the 100 meter freestyle, the 200 meter freestyle, and the 200 meter backstroke (where she also handily beat the competition). Will Franklin have a story similar to Michael Phelps' domination at the 2008 Olympics? She has the world's fastest time in the 200 meter backstroke this year, and her obvious excitement will likely lead her to the podium in multiple events.

Allison Schmitt and Jessica Hardy

Schmitt will be competing individually in the 200 meter freestyle and the 400 meter freestyle. At Trials, she won the 400 free, and beat Missy Franklin in the 200 free by two seconds. She is known for her upbeat personality on the deck, but she certainly transforms once she enters the water. On the other side is Jessica Hardy, who dominated the sprinting events



in Omaha. Hardy edged out Missy Franklin to win the 100 meter freestyle and also ruled in the 50 meter freestyle. These two girls have a lot of competition facing them at the Olympics, but there is certainly a chance that they will medal.

She will enter her senior year of high school in the fall as the first woman to qualify for 7 events

Cullen Jones

Jessica Hardy's mirror on the men's side is Cullen Jones, who also qualified in the 50 meter and 100 meter freestyle events. He was part of the 2008 Olympic 4 x 100 meter freestyle relay that set a world record and won a gold medal. However, this will be his first Olympics competing in two individual events. He currently holds the American Record for the 50 free, which he set in 2008. The times are so close for competitors in Olympic sprinting events that it is entirely possible he will take home a medal, or get unlucky and end up at the bottom.

The Olympic indoor swimming competition begins on July 28th and culminates on August 4th.

Depression is a serious threat to anyone that has a brain.

Depression is a suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone. It can make life unbearable, but it is also readily, medically treatable. And that's something you should always keep in mind.

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Memorable Fourth of July show!

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stan Gill
NEWS EDITOR

Earth, wind, rain, and fire were on the menu for this July 4th. I gathered my blanket and camera, donned my backpack, and was ready to sit on the esplanade through the weather to see the fireworks spectacular that so many people descend upon Boston to get a glimpse of. As someone who spent their life watching fireworks on TV, I was more than excited to see the Boston Pops Fireworks spectacular on July 4th.

The day before the fireworks, July 3rd, was the dress rehearsal concert. They ran through the entire program that would be performed on July 4th, including the cannon shots, but not including the fireworks. I was fortunate enough to get a seat close to the stage. The Boston Pops played along with every performer that came to the stage, including the Dropkick Murphys, Kaye Tuckerman from *Mamma Mia!*, the US Navy Band Sea Chanters, and Jennifer Hudson. The way the orchestra blended with the sounds of each performer was incredible - there isn't an adequate word that can describe how well

the timbres of each individual section in the orchestra melded with each soloist. I could feel the music, and it's not because of the terrific speakers that pushed the sound out of the hatch shell and broadcast the concert all around the river. Hearing the orchestra perform the 1812 overture and feeling the rock of the cannons firing off in time with the high points of the piece is a memory that will remain with my days in Boston after I graduate.

The dress rehearsal, while incredible, was promised to be made even more awesome by the fireworks set to happen the next day. Some of my friends had staked out a nice spot on the esplanade right in front of the fireworks barge. Despite rain in the forecast, until around 9pm, everything was going smoothly. Then, amidst storm clouds spewing thunder and lightning, a voice came in over the speakers and told all the people outside to seek temporary shelter as the storm would pass through. A few minutes later, several service members, donned in traditional army camouflage, came by attempting to evacuate everyone from the esplanade. Being as ill-suited for rain as we were, most of our party decided to

head back to the Cambridge side, resolved to watch the show from Walker Memorial where we would have quick access to shelter should the rain start up and render conditions inhospitable. We got about halfway across the Harvard bridge when we realized the music had come back on, the concert was continuing!

Not wanting to go further away or put ourselves in a position to get engulfed by the inevitable crowd of people that would be exiting the river after the show, we decided to stay right there and watch from the bridge. Just as the rain started to fall from the sky, the first firework went up. Through the downpour, mist, and wind, the fireworks lit up the sky and overpowered the sound of thunder. Fortunately, one of my friends had brought an umbrella, so I didn't get too soaked, but even if I did, it was worth it.

The show on the 4th, despite being delayed by the weather, was an experience I will never forget. I can understand why people travel from all around to see the show, seeing it in person and feeling the energy of the fireworks and the crowds of people around you is something you simply can't get from just watching the show on TV.

1. The Green Building lights up in sync with the music before the July 4th fireworks.

2. The U.S. Navy Sea Chanters open the Boston Pops July 3rd Independence Day Concert at the Hatch Shell singing the Star-Spangled Banner.

3. The U.S. Navy Sea Chanters sing *America the Beautiful*.

4. Firing tubes that have been loaded with fireworks shells stand on the fireworks barge on Sunday before Wednesday's fireworks show.

5. The Dropkick Murphys perform I'm Shipping Up to Boston during the concert.

6. Jennifer Hudson performs "Feeling Good" for a large crowd at the concert.

PHOTOS BY TAMI FORRESTER AND DAVID DA HE—THE TECH



Are you a tetris ninja?

Use your powers for good!

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Elusive "God Particle" closer than ever

CERN experts present Higgs boson findings at ICHEP in July

Higgs boson, from Page 1

the mediators of the weak nuclear force responsible for radioactive decay of subatomic particles — are 80 and 91 times heavier than protons, respectively. The consequence of this prediction is a Higgs field that permeates all space and interacts with some elementary particles, causing them to appear massive, while particles that don't interact with the field remain massless.

The Higgs boson decays so quickly, however, that the detectors cannot possibly observe it. The decay products can be observed, though — the mass at the center of the event can be reconstructed. Many standard processes produce similar decay products, so there is a great deal of "background," but if the Higgs boson exists, there should be an excess of events with its mass. When plotting histograms of events per mass, this excess shows up as a bump in data whose statistical significance can be measured. There are several types of decay processes — i.e. channels — that the Higgs boson undergoes useful for this type of study, and different teams work on producing the extensive analyses for each decay. In December of 2011, CERN announced a small signal excess at the mass of 125 giga-electronvolts (GeV), but definitive conclusions couldn't be drawn until the signal significance reached the level of five sigma (five standard deviations above background).

I arrived at CERN in early June. Following the December announcement, CERN decided to intensify the data collection for the Higgs search, conducting dedicated runs of the LHC between April and June. This step was taken in the hopes that the analyses would produce enough data to present significant results at the International Conference of High Energy Physics (ICHEP) in July. To prevent any bias in designing the complex analysis algorithms, the numerical region of interest for the Higgs mass was kept hidden ("blinded") in the new data. With the analysis architecture completed, it was time to "unblind" the region of interest, all just a week after I arrived.

On a Friday afternoon in June, I joined

hundreds of CMS physicists gathered in a large room at CERN for the unblinding meeting. If the signal "bump" reappeared in the new data, it would almost certainly be due to the proposed explanation, while its absence would strongly suggest that the previous finding was a fluke and possibly exclude the Higgs boson entirely. The information on a few Pow-

seminar were on a different level entirely. I began waiting outside the door of the auditorium at 2 a.m. for the 9 a.m. meeting and there were already fifty people in front of me. By 7:30 a.m., over one thousand people, ranging from college kids to research scientists, were waiting outside, and most did not get a seat. The media was out in full force, and CERN had

I briefly met Peter Higgs, and watched normally laid-back scientists get swarmed by the media.

erPoint slides would essentially tell us if we were heading toward a confirmation or rejection of a major theory in particle physics. MIT graduate student Mingming Yang G delivered the talk for the analysis of the decay channel of Higgs to two photons. She announced that the 2011 and 2012 data revealed a four sigma signal excess at 125 GeV for this single channel. This elicited a great deal of excitement from the audience. Other analysis channels reported smaller excesses — most notably three sigma from the channel of Higgs to two Z particles to four leptons — but it was clear that the two-photon channel would drive the result, and a combination with other channels would produce an excess close to or exceeding five sigma. Despite the excitement, the results had to stay within CMS.

The next few weeks were a flurry of activity. These results had to be presented and approved by publication committees. There were important meetings almost every day, and the schedule became even tighter when CERN announced that there would be a seminar with an update on the Higgs search just one day before ICHEP. I was impressed how intensely all the physicists scrutinized the results, even discussing details of single plots or histograms for extended periods of time. The analyses then had to be "topped up" with the new data collected since the unblinding, and these results also had to be approved. The combination of the results from each channel was presented, producing a 4.7 sigma excess before the final data was added.

The scale and hype of the announcement

invited the original theorists of the mechanism, including Peter Higgs, to attend. Finally, in a fashion more dramatic than one would expect from a physics presentation, Joe Incandela, the CMS spokesperson, announced that CMS' analyses produced an overall significance of 4.9 sigma, or 5.0 if only considering the most sensitive channels. The ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC Apparatus) collaboration at the LHC, which worked completely independently from CMS, also announced near identical results, with a signal also present at 125 GeV.

The excitement following the announcement was extensive and somewhat amusing. I briefly met Peter Higgs, and watched normally laid-back scientists get swarmed by the media. In the end, I was simply grateful to have witnessed some of the biggest events leading up to an important event in the history of physics. Perhaps I am a bit spoiled to only see it at the most exciting time, but this experience has given me more respect for the scientific method as implemented in large inquiries, even when bureaucracy and media leaks get in the way.

The real question that remains is what this all means. It is true that we have not yet observed the Standard Model Higgs boson per se. We do know beyond a reasonable doubt that there is a new state (i.e. particle) at 125 GeV and we do know that it is a boson. It seems consistent with the Higgs exactly as theorized, but it is still possible that there are major differences that could lend support to other alternative theories, like supersymmetry. But I wouldn't bet against it.

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New 2-A curriculum to be introduced in the fall

Class of 2015 may choose new or old options, later classes will go into new curriculum

By Edward E. Burnell

This coming fall, students in Course 2 (Mechanical Engineering) will see the introduction of a new Course 2-A curriculum, the modified, more flexible version of the traditional Course 2 track. Incoming sophomores, the class of 2015, will have their choice between the current 2-A curriculum and this new one, while students from the class of 2016 on will go into the new curriculum. For more information, see *The Tech's* previous coverage of the announcement of the new program in April <http://tech.mit.edu/V132/N17/2Aprogram.html> Edward E. Burnell '12, a Course 2 senior, sat down with Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Course 2-A program coordinator Annette Hosoi, to ask about the proposed changes.

Edward Burnell: Why is there a new 2-A curriculum?

Annette Hosoi: When 2-A was created in 1934, there were only a few students in the program. With only six to seven students per year, we didn't have the resources to offer a separate core tailored to the needs of the 2-A students, so the old 2-A core was by necessity tied to existing Course 2 offerings. Now that 2-A is almost the same size as Course 2, we have a new opportunity to design a unique core to serve the needs of our growing 2-A population. In designing the new core, we felt that the jewel in the crown of 2-A is the concentration. So one of our primary goals in designing the new core was to create a program that will enable students to excel in any concentration they choose.

EB: Is the new curriculum accredited?

AH: The new 2-A is accredited. One of the things we've learned is that accreditation is important to the students: as soon as 2-A was accredited in 2002, enrollment took off. And not only that, we started to see more and more rigorous programs. There is a cohort of students coming out of the 2-A program who are demonstrating aptitude, not only in traditional mechanical engineering fields, but in specialized areas like energy or robotics. I think these skills and the success of our graduates sells the degree more than anything we could possibly do.

The other thing that the accreditation agency told us, the last time they were here was, "You know, you could accredit 2-A as a mechanical

engineering degree if you wanted," and I think the consensus was that we didn't want that, that 2-A is something special.

EB: You mentioned that the fraction of 2-A students taking it as a 'course of least resistance' is very small, but that image is a huge concern among some 2 and 2-A students.

AH: This is actually a very interesting cultural shift. People complain about going through the accreditation process, because it's a pain in the neck; but this is a case where I think it's done something really valuable. When the program became accredited, there were a number of strict guidelines put in place

I think we saw a shift not only in the number of students, but also in the culture of students who were taking Course 2-A.

regarding what is allowed in the program. I think we saw a shift not only in the number of students, but also in the culture of students who were taking Course 2-A. Very few of this new cohort of students are taking the easy way out. The most popular track is robotics, which is a blend of 2 and 6. These are people who want to take both Course 2 and Course 6, and it's hard to argue that that's an easy way through MIT. I sit down and talk with each of the 2-A students, and it is a small, small minority who are doing it because they're in trouble with their Course 2 classes. There will always going to be some, but it's a small percentage.

EB: How do employers view the 2-A degree?

AH: We've polled our alumni and we have not seen any difference in opportunity or ability between 2 and 2-A alumni.

EB: How long have you been working on the new curriculum? It seems very sudden, but surely something like this doesn't come about so suddenly.

AH: (laughs) It's pretty sudden. The last curriculum reform we did took years; with this one, we started thinking about it seriously last summer, which is an extremely short time to roll this out. But the reason it went through so quickly was that, well, we looked at the program, and recognized that the growth of 2-A has given us a real opportunity that we've never had before. Now that half of our student population — it's actually more than half in the entering sophomore class — is in 2-A, we have the ability to split our resourc-

es, to put some in 2, and some in 2-A. There was a lot of support (both among the the students and the faculty) and I think that's why the proposed curriculum went through so quickly. It was a well defined challenge with well defined constraints, and we said "We think we can design something that's better than what we have, so let's do it."

EB: How did you start designing the new curriculum?

AH: The two things we heard from the students were "Let us build right out of the gates, and give us some kind of programming experience that we can use in our upper-level courses." Both of those are in

the new curriculum: we've given you the design classes and the Matlab classes early.

EB: And the 6 unit classes?

AH: As far as 6-unit vs. 12-unit classes, there are trade-offs on both sides. There are some classes where it's obvious that you need 12 units; like the capstone: for 2.009, you need 12 units. For 2.671, you need 12 units. But there are other places where it makes more sense to go to a 6-unit structure.

For example, we discussed the key topics that must be in the program; we talked to faculty, alumni, and students to find out what they wanted, and everyone wanted us to add statistics and linear algebra. On the other hand, there are serious constraints on the number of units we can require; obviously we can't grow the program indefinitely. The new core has actually shrunk by 3 units: we were very strict with ourselves on that constraint.

Having those constraints forced us to think very carefully about what are the most important concepts we teach; this was actually a very good (and ongoing) exercise for the faculty. We found that, to hit all of the key topics, you can't do it if your granularity is 12 units. So the natural next step is explore the possibility of 6 unit topics. Now, having said that, a lot of the new courses can be thought of in terms of 12 units; for example, in mechanics, you take 2.01, and then you either go into 2.02a or 2.02b. So, you should think of that as a 12-unit sequence with a branch in the middle. Note: it's not required to take 2.02a or b in the

same term as 2.01.]

In fact, all of the 6-unit classes we've proposed, if they're standard lecture-and-lab classes, are half term. We've done that deliberately to try to constrain the faculty — we (the faculty) are very exuberant, and we all want to put lots of stuff in our classes, and if you give us the whole semester to do it, we're not going to be able to restrain ourselves to six units of material. So all of the new lecture classes are half term classes. The two exceptions are the build classes, the new design class and electronics class, which extend over the entire term. This was done both for logistical reasons and to give students more time to iterate on their projects.

EB: How will students be affected by all these 6-unit classes?

AH: One of the things that I'm very excited about — and this wasn't even on my mind when we started doing this — is that when I started laying out the schedules, I realized this new format gives you a lot of flexibility regarding time management, which is especially important in majors like Course 2 and 2-A which have a lot of build classes. Those build classes, no matter how you run them, are going to take up a lot of time at the end of the semester. The six unit classes give you the opportunity to frontload the semester, which I think is a good thing; I think this will help students spread their effort more uniformly across the semester.

The other thing that's exciting about the new format is that it meshes beautifully with many of the ideas coming from the Dean's office in the School of Engineering about a "Junior semester anywhere." They're

The six unit classes give you the opportunity to frontload the semester, which I think is a good thing.

encouraging departments to think about ways to allow students to take advantage of opportunities that broaden their educational experience in other places. For example, whenever I teach 2.001 or 2.006, there are always some students who are involved in the solar car team, who go to Australia for a few weeks. The question is, how can we make it so that going away for, say, two weeks to participate in these extraordinary opportunities, does not hose your semester? These are exactly the types of projects we want our students to be doing; we want

you to be building and innovating; but we don't want you to blow off a semester.

These 6-unit chunks, will make it much easier to balance your semester if you know you're going to have an opportunity to, say, do an internship in China, or to go and build bicycles in Italy. The School of Engineering is promoting these types of approaches, and I think the new 2-A core fits in nicely with those ideas. I suspect that new ways of offering our courses will be something that will become more widespread throughout MIT. These might not be in the form of 6-unit chunks; there are lots of other ways, like MITx: 6.002, is a perfect example of a format that allows you to go somewhere else while taking the class. If you're away for three weeks that's okay. I think more and more departments are starting to think about ways to allow you to take advantage of these unique opportunities that are an important part of your MIT education.

EB: How can students get their questions about the new curriculum answered?

AH: Besides the information posted on the blog <http://course2A.wordpress.com>, we're going to start a student peer advisory group. The ASME student chapter has put together a group of upperclassmen who will meet with us once a month or so, who can tell us "Here are all of the questions I've been hearing," and we can give them answers to propagate back to the general student population. I think that's one way to get answers back to you quickly.

But one thing to bear in mind is that each 2-A curriculum is a very in-

dividual program, so I think that it's important for the students to meet individually with faculty advisors, and we're working on ways to improve that connection, to make sure that everybody gets their questions answered.

One of the nice things about rolling out a new curriculum is that it's a good time to evaluate where we are, and what we could be doing better. I think this is a time when people are very receptive to changing structures, so it's a good time, if you have suggestions on how to do things differently, to tell us.

Interviews for RLAD candidates to begin

RLADs begin no later than August 3

RLAD, from Page 1

The timing of the decision was a concern, because most students are not on campus during the summer.

"It is challenging for students to stay informed because they don't see their student leaders during the summer as much," said Craighead, emphasizing that students should focus on how to best utilize the RLADs and make them a strong, trusted part of the community. He said that community discussion needs to continue even after implementation.

GRTs are concerned that the RLAD position described in the leaked letter would undermine trust between students and their GRTs, and that a residential system with RLADs is incompatible with the current system of faculty housemasters and GRTs.

According to Angela E. Kilby G, a Senior House GRT (and member of the class of 2007) who started a working group to discuss RLAD issues: "As a body, GRTs haven't yet received any

official communication about this issue from the administration."

Kilby says that the administration seems to be advocating for the RLADs as an improvement based on residential systems at other schools. However, she says her preliminary research found no school with a hybrid RLAD-housemaster system. Schools tend to have either a residential system based on RLADs and undergraduate RAs, or one based on faculty housemasters and graduate advisors.

Furthermore, Kilby said, peer institutions, such as Harvard and Princeton, tend to have a housemaster-based system; other support personnel are part of the academic system, and hold PhDs, lecture classes, etc. The RLAD position is one that is already well-established in the field of higher-education administration. However, it is generally not found alongside a housemaster system.

"If they wanted to make it a primarily supportive role, they could have chosen a name to reflect that," Kilby said.

Landlines set to be removed from dorm rooms

According to a statement released by the Division of Student Life last week, landline telephones will be removed from all on-campus dorm bedrooms by the end of summer.

To compensate for the removal of phones from individual rooms, Information Services & Technology is working on several initiatives, including installing analog telephones in public areas within the dorms and installing additional cell phone antennas to improve cell coverage in residential and non-residential areas alike. House manager, Graduate Resident Tutor, and Residential Life As-

sistant spaces will continue to have analog or VoIP telephones.

Installation of hallway wall telephones has been completed in undergraduate dorms. IS&T and Residential Life & Dining hope to have the telephones removed and jacks disabled in undergraduate rooms by sometime this month. For graduate dorms, the expected completion date for wall telephone installation is Aug. 3, with removal of phones from bedrooms when the graduate dorm rental contracts expire after Aug. 15.

—Stan Gill



BLOG

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CarTalk bros retire from radio

Magliozzi brothers finish 35 years of radio broadcasting

CarTalk, from Page 1

doing the same thing that we would be doing at the garage, we decided that we weren't having enough fun. And, at that point, we decided to joke around with the callers a little bit more." As the show progressed, the brothers tried to use humor to put callers' woes in perspective. Ray explained, "I think that, unconsciously, we tried to just improve people's lives a little bit — trying to get them to appreciate the fact that their problems were relatively small in the giant scheme of things... And whatever was wrong with your car or other things in your life, it's fixable. And most things are fixable."

Ray said that his favorite moments on the show were when the callers made them laugh. He recalled a particular instance when they received an angry letter after reading a spoof in *The Onion* piece about a "vowel drop" initiative to aid the Bosnian people.

"This fellow said that he didn't know how NPR could possibly tolerate two individuals like this who poke fun at a people who've been downtrodden for much of their existence," recalled Ray. "And the letter was signed Zzyzhkik — the guy had like one vowel in both his

first and last name! To this day I don't know if the letter was legit or how it came to be in front of us, but when Tom read the fellow's name, we just couldn't stop laughing." Through their years on the show, Tom and Ray tried to make sure that laughter played a consistent role in *Car Talk*.

Leading up to *Car Talk*

Ray began his time at MIT in the department of mechanical engineering. But, after a gap year after his sophomore year with Vista, a domestic volunteer corps, he decided that he wanted to pursue teaching and graduated with a degree in Course 21B (now 21S, Humanities & Science) in 1972. Tom graduated from MIT with a bachelor's degree in Course 10 (Chemical Engineering) and Course 14 (Economics) in 1958.

The Magliozzis' foray into radio was a result of a series of the brothers' ventures. After graduation, Ray relocated to Vermont to teach junior high school. While there, he received an invitation from Tom to return to the Boston area to open a do-it-yourself garage. The two eventually moved away from the do-it-yourself concept towards a traditional mechanic-run garage.

They also began to pursue other endeavors.

Ray said that he and Tom obtained most of their mechanical knowledge through work in their auto-repair shop, Good News Garage. Working hands-on with their customers' automobiles allowed them to recognize what types of symptoms accompany what problems and apply this knowledge to on-air problems. By using data they obtain from their show feature "Stump the Chumps," in which previous callers are invited back to discuss how useful the advice given was, Ray and Tom correctly remotely diagnose callers' automobile problems 80 percent of the time.

"We had been running the garage for a few years, and Tommy was between wives," said Ray. "He wanted to meet young ladies, and he had this brainstorm that we should teach these adult education courses and gear them towards women. I guess someone from WBUR must have taken one of our courses and felt that we were fairly competent and articulate, and that led to an invitation to participate in a panel discussion."

Initially, Ray declined the offer to participate in the panel discussion, but Tom accepted. When none of the other invitees to the panel showed up, Tom answered questions by himself. The segment was successful and led to WBUR extending an invitation to both Tom and Ray to do a regular segment that eventually morphed into the version of *Car Talk* that is now broadcast on NPR.

Ray said that while Tom is permanently retiring from the radio business after *Car Talk*, he could perhaps see himself working with radio in the future in ventures un-



ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

Ray Magliozzi '72 talks about the creation of *Cartalk*, its most memorable moments, and why he and his brother decided to discontinue the show.

related to automobiles. But, he said that he could not envision doing anything outside the realm of NPR after enjoying their support for so many years.

Working with NPR allowed Ray and Tom to give honest opinions about cars and models as they did not have to worry about upsetting sponsors. "A couple of times we ran afoul of GM and Chrysler and Ford and others, and NPR had our backs which was wonderful because we were able to tell basically the truth," explained Ray. "I think our listeners really appreciated that, and they knew that no matter what, no-

body owned us. And I think that's important."

Ray and Tom's radio show was the subject of *Car Talk: The Musical*, a show produced by Suffolk University; it is playing at the Central Square Theatre through August 12. The brothers also inspired an animated *Car Talk* spin-off, *Click and Clack's As the Wrench Turns*, which aired on PBS in 2008.

Both of the Magliozzi brothers plan to continue their work at the Good News Garage in Cambridge, maintaining the <http://cartalk.com> website, and writing their newspaper column.

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Chris Kaiser becomes provost

Chris A. Kaiser PhD '87, former head of the department of Biology, assumed the role of provost on July 2. He succeeds L. Rafael Reif, who became president on July 2. The provost is the Institute's senior academic and budget officer and is in charge of recruiting faculty as well as MIT's educational programs.

Kaiser, 55, received his PhD in biology from MIT in 1987. He became faculty in 1991, and was the chair of the department of biology from 2004 until this March. Kaiser was nominated to head the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) last October, but withdrew this April, citing personal reasons.



DOMINICK REUTER

The provost studies protein folding and intracellular transport, using yeast as a model organism. Kaiser taught 7.03 (Genetics) from 1992 to 2011, and was named a MacVicar Fellow in 1999 for his work with the class.

"I am delighted that Chris Kaiser has agreed to join the Institute's leadership team. His scientific vision, collegiality, effective leadership and commitment to cultivating a diverse student body made him highly successful as head of our Department of Biology," President Reif said in a statement to the MIT News Office. "I have no doubt that he will thrive as provost."

—Jessica J. Pourian



ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

The Institute held an Ice Cream Social on July 2 to celebrate L. Rafael Reif and Chris A. Kaiser's PhD '87 first days as president and provost, respectively. Hundreds of members of the community lined up along the Infinite Corridor to get ice cream and to chat with Reif and Kaiser.

Zoning changes for Kendall begin to gel

At tonight's meeting of the Cambridge Planning Board, the City's Community Development department presented a draft recommendation of planned zoning changes for Kendall Square.

Copies of the current recommendations are available at <http://tech.mit.edu/V132/N29/kendall/>. The presentation should be available by noon today at <http://cambridgema.gov/k2c2>, city staff said.

The meeting was one of several steps along the process to zoning changes that may support MIT's future vision for more development on the east side of campus, and other property owners' version for the future of Kendall Square.

The process began with the city's Kendall-to-Central study in July 2011. Since then, an advisory committee has met repeatedly and its recommendations, along with those of city staff and the city's consultants have lead to

the recommendations before the board. It will conclude with city staff finalizing their recommendations to the Planning Board and translating them from bullets points into both a report as well as finalized zoning language.

The finalized zoning recommendation will go before the city council for approval.

City staff hope to have an early draft of the zoning language and more detail available at the Aug. 7, 2012 meeting of the board.

The meeting consisted of a 2-and-a-half hour discussion presented by Iram Farooq, a senior planner in Community Development. Farooq presented to the board, while encouraging discussion and taking questions from board members.

Board chairman Hugh Russell submitted written comments on the current proposal. An issue he identified is that the proposal that buildings meet the aggressive LEED Gold standard for sustainability was likely in opposi-

tion to having middle-income rental pricing. Russell noted that only ten residential buildings in Massachusetts currently meet the LEED Gold standard, and suggested \$3000-4000 rental prices would be required to support that standard.

Other board members provided oral comments, generally supportive of the process but seeking additional information and clarification on many points.

Many board members commented on the differences between the city's proposal and a study funded by the East Cambridge Planning Team, a neighborhood group. The study was produced by CBT Architects in March after members of the ECPT expressed concern about the direction of Kendall Square advisory committee meetings.

Board members said they look forward to how city staff will integrate the CBT study with their own planning work.

—John A. Hawkinson

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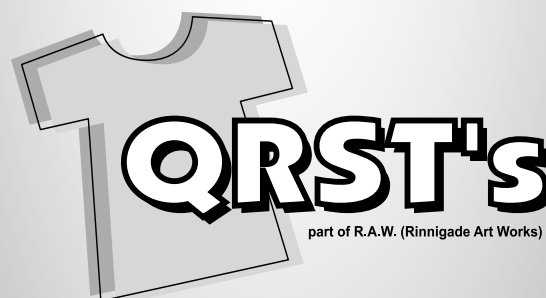
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Solution to Techdoku

from page 14

4	3	1	5	2	6
6	5	3	1	4	2
2	1	5	3	6	4
3	2	6	4	1	5
1	6	4	2	5	3
5	4	2	6	3	1

Solution to Sudoku

from page 14

2	7	4	5	1	6	9	8	3
8	9	6	4	3	7	5	2	1
1	3	5	2	8	9	7	6	4
7	1	2	9	5	3	6	4	8
6	5	3	7	4	8	1	9	2
4	8	9	6	2	1	3	5	7
9	2	7	3	6	4	8	1	5
3	4	1	8	9	5	2	7	6
5	6	8	1	7	2	4	3	9

Solution to Crossword

from page 15

R	A	F	T	A	P	O	R	F	U	J	I
A	F	R	O	H	A	N	O	I	U	S	E
W	R	O	T	E	A	N	E	S	T	I	M
B	A	L	E	R	S	T	I	N	E		
A	M	I	N	P	R	R	A	G	E	V	E
R	E	C	E	I	V	E	D	A	N	O	R
		A	E	T	N	A		T	I	G	E
F	I	A	T	S	O	N	A	R	L	E	S
A	P	L	U	S		K	N	O	C	K	
C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	D	T	H	E
T	D	S		E	A	U	Y	E	A	U	M
		V	E	S	P	A		R	A	N	A
A	C	C	E	P	T	E	D	P	A	Y	M
R	O	A	R		E	L	D	E	R	F	A
M	Y	M		R	O	S	I	E		M	U

