

## Sloan grad student found dead

### Heng 'Nikita' Guo passed away Friday, death a suicide

By Jessica J. Pourian  
and Bruno B.F. Faviero  
EDITORS

Heng "Nikita" Guo, an MBA student in MIT's Sloan School, passed away last Friday in her apartment in Cambridge. Her death has been ruled a suicide by the Medical Examiner's office. She was 28.

Her death certificate, filed Oct. 30, states that she hanged herself. She was discovered by her husband, Bochao Zhang, on Friday evening.

Guo was born in Lanzhou, China on June 5, 1984. She lived in Shenzhen, China before moving to the U.S. in 2001 to pursue a BS in electrical engineering

at Texas A&M University. According to her LinkedIn profile, while in college, she was involved with The Academy of Future International Leaders, the Asian Presidents Council, and the Aggie Band.

Upon graduating in 2006, Guo moved to New York City and worked on Wall Street in investment banking, private equity, and hedge fund roles before enrolling in Sloan's MBA program in 2011.

Nikita was also the Founder and CEO of Natural Loong Group, a startup tackling preventive healthcare by combining technology and traditional Indian and Asian healthcare knowledge, according to Guo's blog.

She was expected to graduate from Sloan in 2013.

Sloan in 2013.

The news was announced to the MIT community on Tuesday, through a campuswide email from President L. Rafael Reif. "Such a loss of a promising young person is intensely painful," wrote Reif in his email. "Our hearts go out to Ms. Guo's husband and her family."

He encouraged students to reach out to those around them, with a reminder that students should contact Mental Health Services at 617-253-2916 if they need to talk to someone.

A private funeral service will be held on Saturday. Those looking to send flowers to the service should email [jm-wong@mit.edu](mailto:jm-wong@mit.edu).



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MIT NEWS OFFICE

Heng 'Nikita' Guo, an MBA student, was found dead in her apartment last Friday.

## A note from the Chancellor

This death is a tragedy for the MIT community. Our hearts go out to Ms. Guo's family — and to the larger MIT community of which she was a valued part. At this time, I urge all members of the MIT community to take especially good care of themselves and

of one another at this difficult time. MIT's full range of student support and mental health services is available to you all. Students can also turn to their housemasters and graduate resident tutors (GRTs) for support, as well as resident advisors in the fratern-

ities, sororities, and independent living groups (FSILGs). All members of the MIT community are encouraged to take advantage of grief counseling offered by Mental Health Service at 617-253-2916.

—Eric Grimson PhD '80, Chancellor

## Underclassmen donate \$4,000

### Giving Campaign donations fund student service projects

By Emily Kellison-Linn  
STAFF REPORTER

The Underclassmen Giving Campaign (UGC) wrapped up last Friday, with students donating a total of \$3966 to fund their classmates' public service projects. As in past years, an anonymous MIT alumnus will match all student donations, doubling the amount raised to \$7932.

929 students made a donation during the five days of the cam-

paign. Total participation in the campaign is down slightly from last year, when 1000 students contributed a total of \$4300 dollars before the matching donation.

All money raised will go toward the MIT Public Service Center's Expedition Grant fund to support undergraduate service projects abroad. In contrast to previous years, in which the campaign was structured as a competition between different classes, no competition was held

this year. Contributors to the campaign could vote on which of four undergraduate service projects to fund. The four projects were finalists chosen by the Public Service Center from all grant applications.

The two top vote-getters — which will both be funded — were the projects of Sherry Fu '14 and Jordan M. Downey '15. Fu plans to teach a series of computer lit-

Undergrad giving, Page 7

## Peer Ears: here to listen

### New peer based student support program

By Kath Xu  
STAFF REPORTER

Feeling stressed but don't know what to do? Starting next spring, students will be able to take advantage of a new student-run program called Peer Ears, designed to allow students, or "peer ears," to refer their peers in need to the proper MIT support resources. The program was founded by Divya Srinivasan '13 and Emad Taliep '14, who felt that many students were not always sure where to go if they encountered a problem. Unlike MedLinks, however, peer ears will not be trained to handle mental health issues themselves.

Peer Ears is the second mental health program that will launch in the spring, joining Peer2Peer, an anonymous email-based support program that was created partially in response to the closing of Nightline two years ago.

"Peer Ears will be the first program of its kind to interface with the residential safety net," explained Srinivasan. "Our 'peer ears' — the program's

student advocates — would help GRTs check up on floormates, guaranteeing that a few people are always aware of the general well-being of their neighbors." Students who need help can go to their peer ears at any time, who will be trained to direct them to a support service.

To achieve this goal, Peer Ears plans to offer a two-week training course during the second half of IAP to train selected students to deal with a wide variety of issues. The course will be taught by professionals from MIT's Mental Health & Counseling Services.

An application will be sent out in early November. From there, a list of peer ears will be selected based on interviews and written applications.

"Our two liaisons to the program from Mental Health and Counseling will review that list and recommend a certain set of candidates," said Taliep. Afterward, residents of the dorm who have not applied to the program will be

Peer Ears, Page 6



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

A structure was constructed from triangular styrofoam pieces in the lobby of building 7 on Thursday, and passers-by were invited to add new pieces to it. The project was part of the open house for prospective students in the Master of Architecture and Master of Science in Architecture Studies programs.

### IN SHORT

**Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday at 2 a.m.** Remember to set your clocks back!

**Election Day is on Tuesday!** If you haven't sent in your absentee ballot, do it now!

**The deadline for applying to the IAP EMT Class has been extended** until Nov. 4 at 11:59 p.m. Check out the application at <http://ems.mit.edu/apply.php>.

**If you see simulated emergencies or gunfire in Boston tomorrow, do not be alarmed!** The city of Boston is hosting a 24 hour large scale public safety simulation for emergency personnel including the Boston and Cambridge Police. There is no danger to anyone in the area and most exercises will be done in areas away from the public.

**Send news information and tips to** [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

### THE DESIRE FOR GREATER COMMUNITY

President Reif responds to Lydia K. **LETTERS, p. 4**

### GUESS STATES, WIN PRIZES

Take part in *The Tech's* election game! **INTERACTIVES, p. 6**

### SIX STORIES, THREE DIRECTORS

*Cloud Atlas* seamlessly weaves together a number of narratives. **ARTS, p. 8**



### SPOOKY SKATERS

MIT students turn out for free ice skating and Halloween fun in Johnson. **VIDEO, <http://bit.ly/spookyskate>**

### CLOSING

#### ARGUMENTS: 2012

Obama's economic accomplishments warrant re-election.

**OPINION, p. 4**

### SECTIONS

World & Nation ... 2  
Opinion ... 4  
Arts ... 8  
Fun Pages ... 10  
Sports ... 16







**Chairman**  
Aislyn Schalck '13  
**Editor in Chief**  
Jessica J. Pourian '13  
**Business Manager**  
Moya Chin '13  
**Managing Editor**  
Connor Kirschbaum '13  
**Executive Editor**  
Ethan A. Solomon '12

## NEWS STAFF

**News Editors:** Anne Cai '14, Deborah Chen '14, Stan Gill '14; **Associate News Editors:** Margaret Cunniff '13, Stephanie Holden '14, Leo Zhou '14, Austin Hess '15, Janelle Mansfield '15, Jaya Narain '15; **Staff:** John A. Hawkins '98, Joy E. Lee '13, Clara Park '14, Isabella Wei '14, Jesse Kirkpatrick '15, Adisa Krueyatiade '15, Naina Mehta '15, Tushar Kamath '16, Leon Lin '16; **Meteorologists:** Allison A. Wing G, Vince Agard '11, Roman Kowch '12, Shaena Berlin '13.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

**Editors:** Sarah Ritter '14, Ian M. Gorodisher '15; **Associate Editor:** Annia Pan '15, Anthony Yu '16; **Staff:** Fareeha Safir '13, Stephanie L. Ku '14, Kezi Cheng '15, Maiko Kitaoka '16, Kath Xu '16; **Illustrators:** Monica Gallegos '11, Robin L. Dahan '12, Rachel Fong '12, Alison Malouf '12, Syster Wagner '15.

## OPINION STAFF

**Editor:** Andy Liang '14; **Associate Editors:** Mike Veldman '14, Jacob London '15; **Staff:** Florence Gallez G, Keith A. Yost '08, Rachel C. Bandler '13, Ryan Normandin '13, A.J. Edelman '14, Sam Shames '14, Haldun Anil '15, Feras Saad '15.

## SPORTS STAFF

**Editors:** Shelley Ackerman '13, Sarah Weir '14; **Associate Editor:** Katie Bodner '15; **Staff:** Michael Gerhardt '12, Zach Hynes '12, Nicholas Myers '12, Carlos Greaves '13, Russell Spivak '13, Nidharshan Anandasivam '14, Shri Ganeshran '15, Felicia Hsu '15, Austin Osborne '15.

## ARTS STAFF

**Editor:** Kathryn Dere '13; **Associate Editor:** Samuel Markson '12; **Staff:** Bogdan Fedeles G, Roberto Perez-Franco PhD '10, Philipp Diesinger '11, Jeff Z. Chen '12, Maggie Liu '12, Jaimie Chung '13, Yu Linlin Huang '13, Emily Nardoni '13, Jenny Xie '13, Angelique Nehmzow '14, Nathida Wiwatwicha '14, Grace Young '14, Carolyn Zhang '14.

## PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

**Editors:** Elijah Mena '13, Jessica L. Wass '14, Christopher A. Maynor '15; **Associate Editors:** Tiffany Ira Huang '13, Jasswanth Madhavan '13, Tami Forrester '15; **Staff:** Ekaterina Botchkina G, Kailiang Chen G, David Da He G, Arthur Petron G, Melissa Renée Schumacher G, Manohar Srikanth G, Scott Johnston '03, Biyeun M. Buczyk '10, William Yee '10, Yuanyu Chen '12, Nicholas Chornay '12, James X. Sun '12, Meng Heng Touch '12, Feng Wu '12, Arfa Aijazi '13, Elizabeth D'Arienzo '13, Samira Daswani '13, Akimitsu Hogge '13, Vivek Dasari '14, Jennifer Wang '14, Priya Garg '15, Jared L. Wong '15, Emily Kellison-Linn '16, Andrew Swazey.

## CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

**Editor:** Deena Wang '14; **Associate Editor:** Kali Xu '15; **Staff:** Fangfei Shen G, Ranbel Sun G, Paul Woods '13, Jacqueline Durazo '14, Sam Trabucco '15; **Cartoonists:** Joshua Meisel G, Irving E. Wang G, Michael Benitez '12, Elise Stave '13, Amanda Aparicio '14, Ramya Swamy '14, Paelle Powell '15, Steve Sullivan '15, Timothy Yang '15, Dohyun Lee '16.

## COPY STAFF

**Copy Chief:** Bruno B.F. Faviero '15; **Associate Copy Chief:** Laura E. Forte '15; **Staff:** Jacob Austin-Breneman '13, Sylvan Tsai '15, Aidan Bevacqua '16, Gustavo H. Braga '16, Christina Curlette '16, Jake H. Gunter '16, Julia M. Longmate '16, Madeline J. O'Grady '16.

## BUSINESS STAFF

**Operations Manager:** Jennifer Fong '13; **Staff:** Joseph Maurer '12, Wendy Cheng '13, Allison M. Lee '13, Arturo Gonzalez '14, Sarine Shahmirian '14, Rachel Agyemang '16, Maria I. Fabre E. '16, Nayeon Kim '16, Ding Ma '16, Joyce Zhang '16.

## TECHNOLOGY STAFF

**Staff:** Kiran Bhattaram '13, Maja R. Rudolph '13, Alex Chernyakhovsky '14, Emad William '15.

## ONLINE MEDIA STAFF

**Editor:** Joanna Kao '13; **Staff:** Aaron L. Scheinberg G, Lourdes D. Bobbio '15, Vivian Liu '15, Mario Martínez '15, Stephen Suen '15, Jake Barnwell '16, Sarah Coe '16.

## EDITORS AT LARGE

**Contributing Editors:** Jingyun Fan '12, Pearle Lipinski '12, Sam Range '13, Michelle E. Szucs '14; **Senior Editors:** Brian Hemond G, Jeff Guo '11, Michael T. Lin '11, Judy Hsiang '12, Maggie Lloyd '12, Ana Lyons '12, Robert McQueen '12, Nina Sinatra '12, Greg Steinbrecher '12, David Zhu '12, Jessica Liu '13, Derek Chang '14.

## ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry S. Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan E.D. Richmond PhD '91, Karen Kaplan '93, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Satwiksai Seshasai '01, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Jordan Rubin '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Keith J. Winstein '03, Akshay R. Patil '04, Tiffany Dohzen '06, Beckett W. Sterner '06, Marissa Vogt '06, Andrew T. Lukmann '07, Zachary Ozer '07, Austin Chu '08, Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08, Omari Stephens '08, Marie Y. Thibault '08, Ricardo Ramirez '09, Nick Semenkovich '09, Angeline Wang '09, Quentin Smith '10, B.D. Colen.

## PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

**Editors:** Ian M. Gorodisher '15, Annia Pan '15, Leon Lin '16; **Copy Editors:** Christina M. Curlette '16, Alyssa M. Napier '16, Jake H. Gunter '16.

*The Tech* (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-4324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2012 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Company.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## MIT is one community

This past Monday, Lydia K, a junior who blogs for MIT Admissions, posted a powerful account of her feelings of academic strain and anxiety. It is impossible not to be moved by her experiences and by her bravery in sharing them. But her post also generated an outpouring of thoughtful, appreciative responses from current MIT students and alumni as well as students at many other colleges and universities. In other words, her post declared in a poignant way her desire for a greater sense of connection and community; many of those writing comments said they felt the same way. Yet the comments themselves also offered overwhelming evidence that our community is full of caring people eager to reach out to one another.

It is not clear to me that there is a magic wand of institutional action that would address the issues that Lydia highlights, in ways that would be acceptable to the MIT community as a whole; many of those posting comments shared this view, too. But the sheer number of people who

responded to her post, and the warmth, respect and support evident in their comments, tell me that we should try to broaden and deepen this conversation across our community. I would urge every member of the MIT community — faculty, students, staff and alumni — to read Lydia's words and try to imagine how we might respond, as individuals, as groups within the Institute and as an institution overall.

Fortunately, we're not starting from zero. We have a good system of student support in place, and it is benefiting from faculty committees that consider issues around academic stress as well as a working group convened by the chancellor last term to look at opportunities for improvement. I am open to considering many further possible steps. I am also asking Chancellor Grimson to hold a forum sometime soon to give members of our community an opportunity to talk openly about these issues and learn from each other's points of view. I am encouraged that this conversation has begun, and I am grateful to Lydia and her supporters for leading us here.

President L. Rafael Reif

## Giving the president his night in New York

## The economic record warrants four more years

By Jacob London  
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

With just a few days remaining before the election, and with the presidential candidates locked in a dead heat, polls suggest that the outcome will depend on the last-minute decisions of a handful of voters who are still undecided, especially in critical swing states. Sampling in various polls also indicates that among likely voters, the economy will be the overriding issue.

What is troubling is that after the polls close, and after the dust settles, we may learn that these voters — and those who have already made up their minds — made their decisions based on misinformation, distortions, and misperceptions about the candidates' economic records and philosophies.

The national dialogue in the run-up to the election has been dominated by misperceptions of both candidates. Those about Romney — that he's an out of touch elitist, a greedy, corporate raider unconcerned about the plight of the poor — relate largely to his character. However, the misperceptions about President Obama — that he believes in unchecked government spending to create jobs — are more directly related to his handling of the economy, and run counter to the way most Americans try to balance their checkbooks.

These misperceptions lend credibility to the Republican axiom that theirs is the party of fiscal responsibility. They lend credibility to Romney's mantra that he is the last bastion of hope for preventing the financial ruin that would be wrought by Obama's re-election. They lend credibility

to the idea that when it comes to the economy, conservative solutions are grounded in reality, while liberals have their heads in the clouds. Finally, they lend credibility to the claim that the president cannot run on his economic record.

He can.

The most significant moment of the second presidential debate wasn't about "binders full of women" or the attack in Benghazi. It came during the president's response to the very last question, when Barry Green, a town hall participant, asked the candidates, "What do you believe is the biggest misperception that the American people have about you as a man and a candidate?"

The president chose to focus on the perception that he is hostile to the private sector, that he believes government can create jobs better than the free market. "I believe that the free enterprise system is the greatest engine of prosperity the world has ever known," he answered. "I believe in self-reliance and individual initiative and risk-takers being rewarded."

Those words were long overdue. What's more, had he been given the time to expand on them with concrete examples, he could have spoken long into the New York night.

The president's economic policies not only staved off depression, but promoted growth in a fiscally responsible manner; for fiscal responsibility shouldn't be measured only by costs averted and cuts in spending. Fiscal policies should be judged according to a more rigorous cost/benefit analysis, based on the good they've done for the economy as a whole, given the

## Together campaign

It is good news that the MIT Student Life program is coming "Together" for wellness, but I believe that this endeavor should be linked to community-wide health and wellness promotion efforts. As the site describes, it is important to de-stigmatize and de-mystify offering and asking for help. One can do this graciously, as the Charm School mini-session "How to tell somebody something they'd rather not hear" has taught for almost 20 years. The session was mentioned in last spring on CBS Sunday Morning.

The success of these programs begs the question: could "charm school" be made mandatory for the entire MIT community? Doing so would resemble Safety Office trainings. They would not be optional, and would have to be held more than once a year. If the Institute chooses to take this path, I believe it would improve cooperation, intensify congeniality, irritate complacency, invigorate creativity and instill a capacity for positive change. This is not a new suggestion, but it may be timely.

Eve Sullivan is a former Senior Editorial Assistant for parentsforum.org.

economic conditions in which they were implemented.

Take the example of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 — colloquially known as "the stimulus" — which conservatives attack as fiscally irresponsible. The roughly \$800 billion combination of tax cuts and spending was designed to halt the economic free fall caused by the worldwide collapse of financial markets. Some of the spending — unemployment insurance benefits, food stamps, medicaid, and rent subsidies — kept people from falling below the poverty line. Other spending on infrastructure, and public workers like teachers and firefighters kept state budgets afloat. A variety of independent analyses have pegged the number of jobs saved or created by the stimulus to be between 1.6 and 2.4 million. Twelve months after the stimulus passed, the private sector began to create more jobs than it was losing, and has continued doing so.

## Many conservative economic arguments rest on misperceptions regarding the president's economic record.

Charges that the stimulus was wasteful are also largely exaggerated. Republicans relentlessly focus on a failed loan to Solyndra, but in reality, less than two percent of loans to green energy companies have gone bad.

Fiscal responsibility, from Page 4

## CORRECTIONS

Tuesday's *Tech* ran a crossword that did not match up with the clues given. The correct crossword has been provided for the original clues, which have been reprinted on page 10 of this issue.

## OPINION POLICY

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Aislyn Schalck, Editor in Chief Jessica J. Pourian, Managing Editor Connor Kirschbaum, Executive Editor Ethan A. Solomon, and Opinion Editor Andy Liang.

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

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or

condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech's* Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

## TO REACH US

*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to [general@tech.mit.edu](mailto:general@tech.mit.edu), and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing [eic@tech.mit.edu](mailto:eic@tech.mit.edu). Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu). Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tech.mit.edu). The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://tech.mit.edu>.

# Fiscal responsibility — setting the record straight

**Fiscal responsibility**, from Page 4

Take the example of the president's decision to help save the failing U.S. automobile industry. The administration had a difficult choice to make. Letting Chrysler and GM go bankrupt would have had disastrous consequences. On the other hand, an unconditional bailout would have set a dangerous precedent. Instead, the administration urged firms to undergo bankruptcy protection — a process by which debtors are insulated from punitive measures from creditors while they can reorganize their finances. The administration also imposed the condition that firms receiving bailout funds would have to strip away unneeded capacity. As is usually the case with legislation of this scale, a small portion of taxpayer dollars wasn't efficiently allocated. And, claims that these loans have been paid in full warrant skepticism. But a substantial majority of tax dollars have been paid back, the trend is continuing, and the American auto industry is rebuilding.

These major Keynesian interventions, in tandem with the Troubled Asset Relief Program initiated by the Bush administration, cost U.S. taxpayers over \$1.5 trillion. But even if one didn't account for the loans being paid back by banks and automobile firms, these decisions were still fiscally responsible. If one accounts for what would have happened to our economy without these interventions, then it becomes clear

that they were cost-effective.

With an economic crisis averted for the time being, the Obama administration set out to realize the cornerstone of its domestic agenda — reforming the American healthcare system. Opponents of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") immediately charged that it would explode the deficit and lead to soaring healthcare costs. They are still saying it today. So is Mitt Romney.

But the Congressional Budget Office has projected that the law will reduce the deficit

## The administration's immediate response to the financial crisis was cost-effective.

by \$100 billion over the next 10 years, and by more than \$1 trillion between 2020 and 2030. The law will do so in several ways. By including a larger number of healthy individuals in the healthcare market, the individual mandate will lower prices for care, and reduce the number of people who rely on the emergency room as their only source of healthcare. Other reforms in the ACA will significantly reduce administrative costs, and require that a certain ratio of premiums will be spent on health coverage instead of other costs incurred by insurance companies.

After a brutal legislative battle over the ACA drained the administration of most of its political capital, the president and Congress had to decide whether or not to

let the Bush tax cuts expire. The tax cuts, signed into law in 2001 and 2003, cut taxes for nearly all U.S. taxpayers. In December 2010, the president signed a bill that temporarily extended both the Bush tax cuts and the payment of unemployment benefits. The measure prevented an average tax increase of roughly \$3,000 for every American household. Furthermore, the extension of unemployment benefits served to keep those who were struggling afloat. In December 2010, the economy was in a more fragile

condition than it is today, and any increase in the tax burden for middle class families could have plunged the economy back into recession.

The misperception of Obama as a fiscally irresponsible "big government" spender has also been fueled by relentless attacks from conservatives saying that he has stifled economic growth by imposing burdensome regulations. The truth, however, bears no resemblance to the charges. On Jan. 18, 2011, the president signed executive order 13563. The order called on all federal agencies to begin a "regulatory look-back" — an analysis of existing regulations designed to modify, streamline, or repeal those which had proven to be ineffective or unduly burdensome to businesses. Through April of

this year, the net monetary benefits of this process have exceeded \$90 billion, and that number will only increase as more and more agencies strip away laws that breed inefficiency. In comparison, the corresponding figure for the George W. Bush administration is \$3.4 billion, and for the Clinton administration, \$14 billion. Not only has the president's directive saved money, but it has encouraged growth in industries that were previously overburdened by federal regulation.

Based on his economic record, the president had a real chance in this campaign to define himself clearly as a new kind of Democrat — one who had resorted to Keynesian crisis management but had recognized the economic burden of overregulation, the merits of conservative solutions to important issues like healthcare, and the need to keep taxes low on the middle class and small business owners. He also had the chance to correct the misperception that he is fiscally irresponsible — certainly much earlier than he finally tried to do in the second debate — and to undermine the notion that conservatives are always fiscally responsible while liberals are reckless spenders.

His campaign may have failed to take full advantage of those chances, and it certainly failed to communicate his economic record effectively. But if the president is denied reelection, critics should point to a failure in communication — not performance.

# Do you HTFP?

The Tech is running a  
survey about stress at MIT.

Send question ideas to [surveys@tech.mit.edu](mailto:surveys@tech.mit.edu).

# Peer Ears planned for spring

## Students will refer their peers to MIT support services

Peer Ears, from Page 1

able to provide input to make the final decisions.

In a way, Taliep said, Peer Ears can be likened to a human version of MIT Together, which launched two weeks ago and aims to aggregate all of MIT's support resources into one place. However, he and Srinivasan stressed that Peer Ears is different from other support services that are already in place.

"It's different because we also want that interaction with a peer ear to be no different than seeing a friend," said Taliep.

The program's first year will be funded from leftover discretionary funds given by Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80. Peer Ears will create a budget for future years depending on the results of the pilot program.

Srinivasan added, "The student service is going to begin next semester as a pilot in a few dorms and FSILGs. We are currently working with the residential staff and student governments within these different residences to determine how to tailor the Peer Ears service to the dorm and residents' needs."

**Peer Ears can be likened to a human version of MIT Together.**

The idea for Peer Ears first came up in 2008 among the founders of MIT's Active Minds chapter, a club that aims to promote awareness of mental health issues and general mental well-being. However, development was stalled un-

til members Srinivasan and Taliep took up the program. The club's advisor and two liaisons from MIT Mental Health guided the formation of the program. In addition, Srinivasan and Taliep consulted the Dormitory Council, representatives from the Division of Student Life, MIT's law office, and people who run similar programs at peer institutions.

Taliep said, "In putting this together, we're thinking maybe this will get some important things right; maybe it won't. But whatever happens, we'll set a precedent for involving our campus in this process of shoring up our services and building up and supporting our community. That's all that we could ask for."

Students who have any questions about the program can email [peerears-contact@mit.edu](mailto:peerears-contact@mit.edu).

## Introducing the *Predict the 2012 Presidential Election* contest

Do you think you can predict the 2012 presidential election? Which direction will the swing states swing?

The general elections are coming up next Tuesday, and *The Tech* has created an election contest centered on presidential predictions. We're opening the contest today, and you can find it at <http://tech.mit.edu/elections2012>.

On the contest website, you can fill in your predictions for the way a state will vote. Click on each state to assign it to the Republican or Democratic party. The electoral vote counts are shown on top.

All current MIT students, staff, and faculty are eligible to enter the contest, but the site is open to everyone to play along. The contest will be open for predictions until 11:59 p.m. EST

on Monday. At that time, you will be able to log in, see your scorecard — your predictions as well as the results as they come in — and see how you stack up against other players.

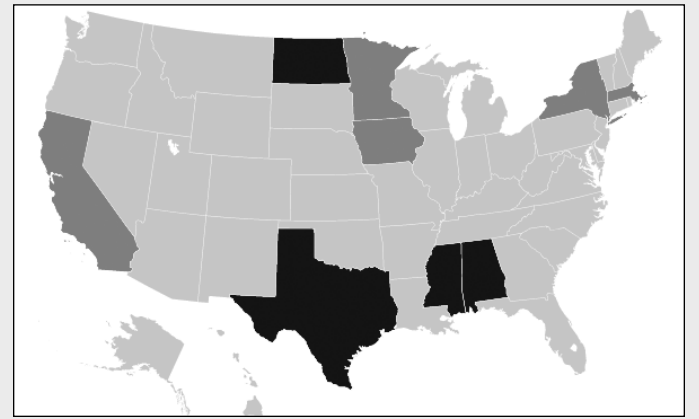
We will announce the winners of the contest on our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/TheMITTech>) and Twitter feed (@thetech).

Have fun, and good luck!

—Joanna Kao



<http://tech.mit.edu/elections2012>

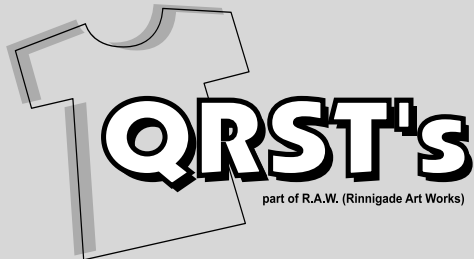


# T-SHIRTS

...a necessary fact of College!



- Deal direct...no middlemen
- Fast turnaround
- Award winning & computer literate art dept.
- Free delivery & reasonable pricing \*Cambridge & Boston Area
- Full color t-shirts and coffee mugs - no minimum!
- Locally owned & operated in Somerville, MA.
- ...and best of all - no boring lectures



ph - 617-625-3335

email - [info@qrsts.com](mailto:info@qrsts.com)

[www.qrsts.com](http://www.qrsts.com)

serving the M.I.T. Community since 1989

### Solution to Techdoku I

from page 12

2	1	3
3	2	1
1	3	2

### Solution to Techdoku II

from page 12

2	3	1
3	1	2
1	2	3

### Solution to Crossword

from page 12

SPASM	WHIZ	FIFE
POLKA	HONE	LORE
OUTIN	FORCE	AWOL
TRIMARAN	EXAMS	
	NAM	FACE
	AWAY	INAMANGER
OGLE	ALPS	SAY
SOOEY	RFK	HOUSE
LOO	EMIT	WITS
OFFON	TANGENT	
	ATOZ	YOU
BABKA	AMARILLO	
AXEL	GONET	SEED
BITE	POET	PLEAD
ASHY	SOWS	EARN

### Solution to Crossword

from page 10

IDOUBT	IT	BARCAR
NEUTRINO	OMERTA	
ANTEATER	NOTARY	
SAW	YURT	GRAZE
EDIE	STUN	RITE
CATCH	IGET	IDEAS
	RARA	AVIS
MTFUJI	FLATLY	
EVA	JOBOFFER	
ARCHITECT	TOSCA	
LETA	ECHO	DOER
MOLAR	LEND	FRI
DOTIME	UNCOATED	
ETUDES	DRUGDEAL	
CEMENT	EYESONLY	

### Solution to Techdoku III

from page 12

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

### Solution to Sudoku

from page 12

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

# Got Something to Say?



Now you can!  
Introducing **comments**  
on *The Tech's* website  
**Make your voice heard**

Meet your fellow tech staff.  
(aka, your new 3 a.m. pset support group)



[join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)

W20-483, 617-253-1541

SMBC from Page 11

IN CHINA, IT'S "THE SHENZHEN RULE."



## Swartz gets high-powered attorneys

Aaron Swartz has a new legal team. The Internet activist accused of mass downloading files from JSTOR through the MIT network has hired top San Francisco law firm Kecker and Van Nest to represent him, according to court filings on Wednesday. Kecker is a medium-sized law firm specializing in intellectual property law.

Swartz's Kecker legal team will be lead by Elliot R. Peters. Peters notably represented the now-discredited athlete Lance Armstrong when he was investigated for doping by the Department of Justice — an investigation that ended early this year with no charges against Armstrong.

Peters was named one of sixteen "Attorneys of the Year" by *The Recorder*, a California legal trade publication, for his work representing Major League Baseball. Kecker was named "Litigation Boutique of the Year" for 2002-2005 by *American Lawyer* magazine.

Kecker also represented Google successfully in *Oracle v. Google* earlier this year; Google prevailed and Oracle's copyright claims were ruled invalid, or in the case of nine lines of code, irrelevant.

Kecker's filing said they do not intend to ask for any schedule changes; Swartz's trial is currently scheduled for Feb. 4, 2013.

Swartz was previously represented by Martin Weinberg, a sole proprietor in the Boston area specializing in criminal defense.

Peters declined to comment, and did not answer an inquiry of whether he was being paid to represent Swartz.

MIT, when asked in October about its release of network transaction logs of suspicious activity to law enforcement, said it did so to "protect its network." When asked, MIT declined to provide further information, saying that their policy is not to comment on pending litigation.

— John A. Hawkinson



PHOTO COURTESY OF KECKER & VAN NEST, LLP

Elliot R. Peters is an attorney at Kecker and Van Nest.

# Students donate to PSC fund

## New campaign format highlights service projects

Undergrad giving, from Page 1

eracy classes to staff at HIV clinics in Togo (a small country in Africa), while Downey plans to upgrade the kitchen area at a children's center in Costa Rica. Fu and Downey will each receive an Expedition Grant of up to \$3000 from the Public Service Center, and plan to do their projects during IAP this year.

Campaign leaders felt that the class competition format of past years obscured the ultimate purpose of the campaign, which is to fund student service projects. The new format of voting for projects was intended to draw students' attention back to that goal.

Jordan A. Haines '15, co-chair of the UGC, was pleased with the changes.

"Showcasing the four candidates this year provided a very tan-

gible reason to give to UGC that may have been glossed over in the past," Haines said in an email to *The Tech*.

According to Rosheen B. Kavanagh, associate director of Student Philanthropy Programs, 86 percent of contributors cast a vote, which campaign leaders consider a success.

Kavanagh attributes the slightly lower participation this year to the extra effort required of donors to fill out a voting form after donating. Voting was not required, but only those who donated could vote.

Co-chair Chandler R. Schlupf '14 was satisfied with the way the campaign's new format emphasized the service element of the campaign.

"This new method made it very clear we were asking for money for the Public Service Center, and not just asking for general donations to MIT, which in my opinion is a much

greater incentive to give," Schlupf said in an email to *The Tech*.

According to Haines, UGC leaders implemented the new format in response to a drop in participation between last year and the year before. The changes did not raise participation as hoped. However, Haines and Schlupf are confident that the changes represent a move in the right direction, and believe that participation can be raised next year as students and volunteers become familiar with the new system.

Volunteers for the UGC solicited donations at a Lobby 10 booth throughout last week. The UGC also held a study break for each class, at which students could make donations.

Descriptions of the candidates and their projects can be found on the UGC's website at <https://giving.mit.edu/underclassmen-campaign/>.

Graduate Women at MIT  

## Leadership Conference

November 5-8, 2012

### Take Charge!

---

**Keynote: "Take Charge of Your Vision"**  
 Assume leadership to turn your vision into a reality.  
**Carley Roney**, Founder/Editor-in-Chief of TheKnot/XO Group.  
*Reception to follow.*

Mon. 11/05  
5:30 - 6:30 pm  
32 - 155

---

**Look Like a Leader Workshop** (RSVP required)  
 Present yourself effectively and develop your personal brand.  
**Dr. Erika Ebbel Angle**, CEO of Science from Scientists and Counterpoint Heath Solutions; Miss Massachusetts 2004.  
*Lunch served at 11:50 am.*

Wed. 11/07  
12 - 1:30 pm  
6 - 104

---

**Leadership in Academia & Industry Panel**  
 Learn how to lead in academia or industry from a panel of successful women.  
**Prof. Sara Seager** (MIT), **Dr. Afarin Bellasario** (Transtrategy, Inc), **Dr. Nancy Whitehead Levy** (BioHealth Management, LLC / BU ), **Dr. Andrea Schievella** (Cancer Research Technology).  
*Reception to follow.*

Wed. 11/07  
5 - 6:30 pm  
Institute Auditorium

---

**Build your Dream Team Workshop** (RSVP required)  
 Develop the skills and approaches required for managing global teams.  
**Dr. Danielle Merfeld**, Technology Director, GE Global Research.  
*Lunch served at 11:50 am.*

Thurs. 11/08  
12 - 1:30 pm  
32- G449

---

**Become an Innovator Workshop** (RSVP required)  
 Conceive, develop, market, and distribute your innovative ideas.  
**Prof. Neri Oxman** (MIT).  
*Reception to follow.*

Thurs. 11/08  
5 - 6:30 pm  
32 - G449

**Information and RSVP: <http://leadership.gwamit.org>**

REDUCE YOUR ACCENT NOW!

FREE SCREENING at [mylanguagemaster.com](http://mylanguagemaster.com)

Learning English is not enough. You must speak clearly with confidence and ease. Reduce your accent up to 90%.  
 FREE ACCENT SCREENING at [mylanguagemaster.com](http://mylanguagemaster.com).  
 Get a personalized assessment of your accented speech.  
 First person to respond to this ad gets one free session.

MOTORCYCLE TRAINING IN BOSTON

\$275 includes use of motorcycle and helmet.  
 2 days. Pass the course, get your license.  
[www.StreetwiseCycleSchool.com](http://www.StreetwiseCycleSchool.com)  
 781-974-2474

SPERM DONORS

Earn up to \$1200 per month

Invest minimal time

Make a real difference in the lives of families

Receive free health and genetic screenings

APPLY ONLINE:  
SPERMBANK.com

- convenient Cambridge location

Do you like doodling during class?  
 Are your psets covered with drawings?  
 If so, become a Tech Illustrator!

E-mail [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)

# BLOG

Established 1881

Do you want to be a part of  
*starting a new Tech department?*

The Tech is looking for bloggers.

E-mail [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)



CONGRATULATIONS TO

# Ethan Peterson

MIT

**2012 Winner of the National Football Foundation's  
National Scholar-Athlete Awards presented by Fidelity Investments.**

Fidelity Investments and the National Football Foundation salute Ethan Peterson for his work on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

As a leading provider of workplace retirement plans for not-for-profit organizations, Fidelity is dedicated to helping higher education professionals develop a retirement game plan.

**Put our team to work for you.**  
Call **866.715.6111** or visit  
**Fidelity.com/nff** to learn more.

Turn here®



NATIONAL  
FOOTBALL  
FOUNDATION

The National Scholar-Athlete Awards



Retirement

Planning

Trading

Investments

Investing involves risk, including the risk of loss.

Third-party trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of FMR LLC.

Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC, Member NYSE, SIPC. © 2012 FMR LLC. All rights reserved. 623339.1.6









**HELLO!**  
 WE MAKE *THE TECH*, MIT'S  
 STUDENT NEWSPAPER!

If you like writing, graphic design,  
 photography, business, technology,  
 (or pretty much anything else)

**there's a place  
 for you here!**

**NO EXPERIENCE  
 NECESSARY!**

**So if you think you might  
 be interested**, or even if  
 you just want to see what we  
 do, **join us for dinner** in our  
 office on the fourth floor of the  
 Student Center (**W20-483**) on  
 Sundays at 6 pm, or email us at  
[join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)

## Institute Double Take



**By Emily Kellison-Linn**  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The bright sunlight provides a dramatic contrast with the dark clouds and the Boston skyline as seen on Tuesday morning. The exposure used tries to find a middle ground and capture the eerie calm after Hurricane Sandy passed.

**Aperture:**  
*f/20*

**Exposure Time:**  
1/2500 sec.

**Sensitivity:**  
ISO 1600

**Effective Focal Length:**  
18 mm

# Fine dining. On *The Tech*.



Be a restaurant critic.

[arts@tech.mit.edu](mailto:arts@tech.mit.edu)

# Sport Taekwondo takes 2nd place

*Team earns 200 more points than in the previous year*

TKD, from Page 16

ing both New York University and Harvard in order to face archrival Cornell in the finals. The final match was very tense, with Chen edging out Cornell's Hilary T. Monaco to take the gold. The women's A2 team (Shan He G, Vernelle A. Noel G, Lorraine Ling G) also had a very strong showing, making it all the way to the quarterfinals.

The men's A teams also had solid performances. The A1 team (Weinberg, Aziz Abdellahi G) soundly defeated the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute team but faced a tough loss against Brown in their quarterfinal match. The A2 team (Edgardo Farias '15, Henrique P.O. Pinto '13) also beat RPI but fell to the University of Connecticut's team.

MIT's B (intermediate) teams all had remarkable performances in this tournament. The women's B1 team (Tam Nguyen '13, Teresa Lin, Shannon X. Yang '13) fought fiercely against Boston University, Tufts, and Cornell, securing a silver medal. The women's B2 team (Maria Z. Tou

'14, Tsang) was only a two-person team, but that didn't stop them from muscling their way to a bronze medal. The men's B1 team (Isaac Fenta '14, Gabriel Jimenez '16, Pinto) clawed their way through tough matchups against the University of Vermont, Johns Hopkins University, and Penn State to snatch a silver medal.

**The final match was very tense, with Chen edging out Cornell's Hilary T. Monaco to take the gold.**

Both the men's C1 and C2 (beginner) teams went undefeated throughout the entire day in a very tough bracket. The men's C1 team (Kevin Hu '15, Berdibek, Danilo J. Ondina '14) tore their way through Connecticut, Penn State, Johns Hopkins, and RPI to secure a gold medal despite an injury early on. The men's C2 team (Adam J. Spanbauer G, Brandon

H. Baker G, Cecilio Aponte '15) faced off against Connecticut, Tufts, Brown, and Cornell before bowing out to MIT's C1 team to lock in the silver medal. The men's C3 (Jianqiang Lin, Geoffrey M. Gilmore '16, Diego A. Giraldez '15), C4 (Jacovie D. Rodriguez '15, Steven C. Browne '16, Erwin Hilton '16), and C5 (Tahin F. Syed G, Benjamin I. Shaibu '14) all had very strong debut performances and show great promise for the future.

As for the women, the C1 team (Jessica J. Yang '15, Casey L. Denham '15, Sarah J. Bricault G) easily won against Vermont and BU and left the ring with a silver medal for their efforts. The women's C2 team (Tiffany F. Chen G, Colon, Kathryn E. Biegel '15, Jean Chow) was right behind them with a bronze medal.

As the tournament drew to a close, the MIT Engineers walked away with a total of 504 points, only narrowly losing to archrival Cornell with 534 points. After a great deal of intense training both during and outside of regular practice, the team is ready to strike back this Sunday, Nov. 4 at the next ECTC tournament at Cornell.

# XC wins 15th straight NEWMAC

*Men's team ranked sixth in New England*

Cross country, from Page 16

K. Leung '15, Ian P. Tolan '16, Edgar Gridello '16, and Matthew G. Jordan '16, all within seven seconds of each other, taking places eight through 11. Tolan received NEWMAC Rookie of the Year honors for his ninth place finish.

Following soon after Jordan and narrowly behind Zach Pietras of Springfield, Benji Xie '15, who was last year's NEWMAC Rookie of the Year, broke the tape in 13th position with a time of 26:30.34. Logan M. Trimble '13 finished less than a second later (26:31.05) in 14th place. Wrapping up the top 20 runners was Ricardo Paez '15 in 18th place with a time of 27:04.74.


The Engineers will continue with their season at the New England Regional Championship on Nov. 10.

SPORTSSPORTSSPORTSSPORTSSPO

DO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES?  
 THE TECH IS LOOKING FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS.

DO YOU LIKE ASKING TOUGH QUESTIONS?  
 DO YOU ENJOY NOSING AROUND AND COLLECTING EVIDENCE?  
 IF SO, WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!

JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU



join@tech.mit.edu

laughs ninjas

full bellies friends technology

fooooood? pset help superpowers

