Summer recap
RLADs, new edX partner, Institute files amicus brief

As you enjoy your burrito from the new Chipotle that opened up in Kendall this June, you may wonder what else has changed on campus over the summer. Here’s a summary of some of the topics The Tech has covered to get you up to speed.

New RLAD position stirs controversy and debate

This fall, many dormitories will see new faces in their house teams in the form of Residential Life Area Directors (RLADs). RLADs will live in the dorms and assist housemasters and Graduate Residents (GRTs) with administrative and operational tasks. These changes were revealed June 2, when an anonymous source leaked a letter, written by Chancellor Eric Grinnell PhD ’80 to MIT housemasters, which spoke of imminent changes in residential life. The information caught many students and GRTs off-guard, sparking campuswide controversy and debate.

After the letter was leaked, the administration continued to move forward with the implementation of the RLAD system. “It was not our intent to roll out the position the way we did,” said Henry J. Humphreys, dean of residential life and dining. “Once we decided to go forward, we needed to move quickly, as the need for hiring officials for the position in the summer is small.”

The official RLAD job description was released July 23, and stated that the responsibilities of the RLADs would include working to promote a sense of community and belonging, following up with residents on “medical, psychological, and personal issues,” providing updates to house teams and the Department of Student Life, and “support[ing] the housemasters in their roles as the supervisors of the GRTs.”

On-campus interviews for the RLAD positions began mid-July, and by early August five candidates were hired to serve in MacGregor Hall, McCormick Hall, New House, Next House, and Simmons Hall.

Major players in online education market
Comparing Khan Academy, Coursera, Udacity, edX missions, offerings

By Bruno B. F. Faviero STAFF REPORTER

With most new markets comes competition, as is the case with online education. In this market, there are four major platforms that produce content specifically for online instruction: Coursera, Udacity, and edX, which provide university-level content, and Khan Academy, which largely targets K-12 education. While they all offer content designed specifically for web-based instruction, they differ slightly in missions, delivery, and focus.

Khan Academy
Khan Academy is an educational nonprofit founded in September 2006 by Salman A. Khan ’04. According to its website, its mission is to “change education for the better by providing a free world-class education for any- one anywhere.” Khan conceived the idea after making a website to help tutor his niece in 2004, and two years later he would post the first public video. The website has since grown to contain over 3,300 videos, most of which were made by Khan himself. There are also over 400 million interactive problems, grouped loosely into 47 “courses,” ranging from addition to linear algebra and macroeconomics. Khan Academy receives over six million unique users each month, has around 300,000 YouTube subscribers, and has had 170 million views so far. The organization is supported by donors such as Google Inc. and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Khan Academy’s Metal Chapel
An up-close view of the MIT Chapel’s metal sculpture. PHOTO, p. 9

Redditor President Obama’s AMA
By David Carr

There are many ways to measure the traction of a social media platform: time spent, page views or unique users. But it might be useful to add one more metric: if the leader of the free world stops by to answer questions from your users, you’re probably doing OK.

On Thursday, President Obama signed up for an “Ask Me Anything!” (A.M.A. in geekspoke) session at Reddit, a vast social site that is a staple of digital life for the young and connected, but less well known among grown-ups.

The president answered a few north ern questions — Michael Jordan is his favorite basketball player! — along with a few tough ones, including a request to explain his administration’s approach to Internet regulation. He even posted a picture to prove he was the one at the keyboard when he typed, “Hi, I’m Barack Obama, President of the United States. Ask me anything.”

While the Republicans were cele brating the potential end of American business at their convention in Tampa, Mr. Obama was validating one example of business success on an entirely different platform. Reddit, which was founded by two fresh graduates of the University of Virginia in 2005, has just 20 employees, but...

Weather, p. 2

TUE: 95°/88° Cloudy
WED: 77°/67° Rain showers
THUR: 79°/67° Partly sunny

In short

Classes start tomorrow! Don’t forget to wake up in time!

Interested in seeing a movie? The Lecture Series committee is playing The Hunger Games at 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. today, and new students get in free! Women’s and Gender Studies is also host ing an on-campus screening of the film, directed by Tanya Wexler.

The MIT Writing Center, which serves the entire community, will be open for the first appointments of the year tomorrow. Go to http://writimg.mit.edu to schedule a slot.

Staf reporter

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Volunteer opportunities! Find an opportunity at the MIT Community Service Fair tomorrow at 1 p.m. in Lobby 10. Learn more at http:// mit slut/s/whattodovolunteer/programs/services.

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MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper

MIT Chapel’s Metal Chapel
An up-close view of the MIT Chapel’s metal sculpture. PHOTO, p. 9

A LONE SHIMER
An up-close view of the MIT Chapel’s metal sculpture. PHOTO, p. 9

Summer, Page 15

EdX kicks off a weeklong series of events.

The Tech's Week in Photos

An MIT student focuses intently during a chess match at the MIT Chess Club’s table at the ASA Activities Midway. Over 200 ASA groups were represented at the Midway, which was held on last Friday in the Johnson Athletic Center.

Redditor President Obama’s AMA

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In Beijing, Clinton to discuss island disputes

BEIJING — As tensions between China and its neighbors over islands in nearby strategic waterways, China has scored some subtle victories, making the United States and its allies increasingly uneasy about the potential for military confrontations.

China is in a dispute with Japan over potentially energy-rich islands in the East China Sea, and with the Philippines over an island that China has effectively blocked to Filipino vessels, which will come to a head when the Secretary of State as well as the Chinese counterpart visit their foreign ministers on Thursday.

“We will need the nations of the region to work collaboratively to resolve disputes — without coercion, without intimidating, without that kind of nastiness,” Clinton said Monday evening after arriving in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

—Jane Perle and Steven Lee Myers, The New York Times

U.S. prepares economic aid to bolster democracy in Egypt

WASHINGTON — Nearly 16 months after first pledging to help Egypt's faltering economy, the Obama administration is nearing an agreement with the country's new government to relieve $1 billion as debt of its part of a U.S. and international assistance package intended to bolster its transition to democracy, administration officials said.

The administration’s efforts, delayed by Egypt’s political turmoil and by wariness in Washington about new leaders emerging from its first free elections, gained new urgency in recent weeks, even as the United States risks losing influence and investment opportunities to countries like China. President Mohamed Morsi chose China for his first official visit outside of the Middle East. In addition to the debt assistance, the administration has thrown its support behind a $4.8 billion loan being negotiated between Egypt and the International Monetary Fund. Last week it dispatched the first of two delegations to work out details of the proposed debt assistance, as well as $375 million in financing and loan guarantees for U.S. financiers who invest in Egypt and a $90 million investment fund for Egyptian businesses.

The assistance underscores the importance of shoring up Egypt at a time of turmoil and change across the Middle East, including the relatively peaceful uprisings in Iraq and Tunisia, the unfinished transition in Libya, the show-down over Iran’s nuclear program and the war in Syria.

Given Egypt’s influence in the Arab world, the officials said, its economic recovery and political stability could have a profound influence on other nations in transition and ease wariness in Israel about the tumultuous political changes under way.

The administration’s revived push came after Morsi won the presidency in June and overcame a constitutional showdown with the country’s military rulers.

By Steven Lee Myers

As growth flags, China shies from stimulus

HONG KONG — As evidence has mounted that the Chinese economy is slowing, Beijing has kept the world guessing on whether the country can stoke up the engine of growth, none of the big, headline-grabbing economic stimulus measures many analysts have predicted.

Two months have passed since the government launched a flurry of policies as it tries increasingly as if the Chinese government is hiking its tone, avoiding measures that could reignite another round of property and other asset booms in 2009 and 2010. The authorities are taking "a very reactionary, cautious approach," said Wang Tao, China economist at UBS. "They do not want to repeat the excesses of last time."

The latest sign of China's flag- eing economic health came Saturday in the form of an official manufacturing-sector survey. This shrank more than expected, to 49.2 in August, falling below the level of 50 that separates expansion from contraction for the first time since 2009.

In the eurozone, manufactur- ing contracted more than initially estimated in August, suggesting that the economy might struggle to avoid a recession in the third quarter, according to a survey.

A gauge of manufacturing in the euro area based on a survey of purchasing managers was revised lower, to 45.4, from the reading of 45.3 estimated earlier, Markit Eco- nomics said Monday.

The index, which stood at 44 in July, has held for 13 months below 50.

Many analysts took the indica- tors of China as a signal that policy-makers would soon announce another cut in the reserve require- ment ratio for banks, a step that would free up more cash for them to lend.

Some say Beijing may also cut rates to reinject momentum into the slowing economy. Project approvals have been accelerated, for example. However, more than eight weeks have passed since the last rate cut, while the reserve ratio requirement remains lowest in May.

Increasingly, analysts think Bei- jing is playing for time before it re- sorts to more sweeping policy tools again.

By Bettina Wassener

WEATHER

Remnants of Isaac to bring rain to region

After a lovely Labor Day Weekend with sunny skies and high temperatures, rain will return to the area just in time for the start of the season.

The remnants of what was once Hurricane Isaac, which battered Louisiana and Mississippi last week, will make it to the Northeast. While some showers are possible this afternoon, it looks like the bulk of the rain will hold off until tonight. Rain showers, which may be heavy at times, are most likely in the area through tomorrow eve- ning, so you definitely want to consider bringing an umbrella with you as you head to your first classes tomorrow morning!

By Allison A. Wing

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with showers likely. High 75°F (24°C). Winds from the southeast at 7-10 mph.

Tonight: Rain showers likely. Low 68°F (20°C). Winds from the southeast at 7-10 mph.

Tomorrow: Rain showers. High 77°F (25°C). Low 64°F (18°C). Winds from the southeast/south at 8-12 mph.

Tomorrow Night: High 79°F (26°C). Low 67°F (19°C). Winds from the southwest at 5-10 mph.
US vehicle rammed by suicide bomber in Pakistan

By Ismail Khan and Aamir Qureshi

NEW YORK — Tuesday was no exception in size: 3,000. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad confirmed the attack, adding that two Americans and two Pakistani employees of the consulate were injured. It denied earlier reports that an American had been killed.

A Pakistani government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said a U.S. backup vehicle immediately responded to two women who were killed and 13 were injured, including two police officers. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad confirmed the attack, adding that two Americans and two Pakistani employees of the consulate were injured. It denied earlier reports that an American had been killed. A Pakistani government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said a U.S. backup vehicle immediately responded to two women who were killed and 13 were injured, including two police officers. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad confirmed the attack, adding that two Americans and two Pakistani employees of the consulate were injured. It denied earlier reports that an American had been killed. 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Established 1881

The Tech Tuesday, September 4, 2012

OPINION

Chairman
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Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397928, Cambridge, Mass. 02397-9289, 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. Columns, letters, 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) 258-8226. 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, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing editor@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to newsdesk@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://tech.mit.edu.

CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error, the events for Sigma Phi Epsilon in the Daily Confusion were incorrectly listed under Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The two fraternities are distinct — the list of events for Sigma Phi Epsilon can be found at http://tech.mit.edu/V32/.

NKS/dailyconfusion/sigep.html.

An article published on Friday about the housing lottery incorrectly stated that 753 freshmen ranked Maseeh first in the summer lottery. The number is actually 383. 753 refers to the number of freshmen who ranked Maseeh in their top four choices.

OPINION POLICY

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

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

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TO MINE OWN SELF BE TRUE
Orientation and REX in review

Despite some repetitive events, freshman enjoyed introduction to MIT overall

By Maiko Kitaoka

Although Rush and Recruitment are continuing around campus, orientation and Residence Exploration (REX) events are officially over. How has it been?

For the past week, freshmen have heard from professors, administrators, orientation leaders, and upperclassmen about life at MIT. As With Campus Preview Weekend, free food and introductions abounded all over campus. Incoming freshmen were given The Hitchhiker's Guide to MIT Orientation 2016 at check-in, describing several events awaiting the new students. Meanwhile, each residence prepared its own events and activities to become unique and have freshmen participating in the First-Year Residence Experience. From President Reif’s Convocation to the freshman photo, orrientation was a busy week for freshmen.

Typical of first days at a new school, freshmen began to bond and find friends. While orientation groups provided a base for friends, informal interviews with a number of freshmen revealed disappointment at being chauvinized to their groups.

The variety of orientation events had mixed reviews — The Tech Theatre, Sex Signals, and Diversity sessions were considered successes, mostly. Margaret G. Guo ‘16, commented that the Diversity session “helped bridge the gaps between people and allowed you to get closer to people you normally wouldn’t.”

As for the REX events, the highlights seemed to be Baker House and East Side parties.

The meaning of sexual consent presented in the Tech Theatre and Sex Signals sessions was met with laughs, though some freshmen found the material redundant. Since the incoming 2016s were required to participate in Sexual Assault Prevention Program over the summer before arriving on campus, many had seen the information before.

Lakshmi Priya Subbaraj ‘16, said that the Sex Signals session was “a funnier version of the online video, but with the exact same material.” Likewise, the Core Blitz session was almost identical to the videos posted on the Class of 2016 website. Many students mentioned that they left Core Blitz before the end of the presentations or didn’t go at all, favoring REX events (or sleep) instead. Rather than just a PowerPoint presentation from each professor, a professor panel where students could ask any lingering questions might have made the event more interactive and helpful to students, considering that most had already watched the online videos before arriving on campus.

In contrast, the Academic Expo and Action Midway were huge successes, and the Johnson Ice Rink was packed full of freshmen asking questions about departments, programs, or student organizations they found interesting as they received free swag from every booth.

One new event for this year was called “By Students, for Students: Conquering the Class” where six current upperclassmen told their stories, concentrating on some common issues students face as they transition into MIT, such as illness, stress, and loneliness, among others. After listening to the speakers, freshmen met with their orientation leaders and had discussions with a representative from MIT Medical. Many freshmen in the orange orientation group found this session to be helpful in pointing out the different student resources available, such as Student Support Services (V) and MIT Medical. A number of suggestions were made to improve the event for next year, such as allowing listeners to ask about the speakers’ experiences.

As for the REX events, the highlights seemed to be Baker House and East Side parties. Baker projected its music to the rest of campus, and the East Campus courtyard was filled with hand-built rides for the frosh. Both had their respective parties on Monday, Aug. 27. While several freshmen attended both, the overwhelming response favored East Campus. Baker’s Skyline Party was described afterwards as being so exciting not many people were there. Everyone seemed to be at the East Side party instead.

However, some attendees thought Baker’s party was still a highlight of REX. According to the Skyline Party’s description, it is the “largest party of REX” since “over 500 freshmen attended last year!” Perhaps the lackluster response from Baker’s party resulted from its being scheduled on the same day and at the same time as the East Side party.

All in all, freshmen are enjoying their last few days before classes after a week of orientation and REX events, getting textbooks, finding their way around campus, and meeting new people!

IT’S ALL GREK TO ME

Choices, choices

Deciding which sorority to join is a holistic process

By Katherine Chasins

“All’s Greek To Me” tells the individual stories of MIT sorority girls. Check in every Tuesday to hear a new voice. Katherine Chasins is a junior in Courses 2-A and 15 and the vice president of public relations for the Panhellenic Association.

The reason one chooses to become a part of a sorority is hard to define and even harder to describe. It is the result of personal conversations and experiences, the effect of stories that have been shared with you, and the impact of individual members you have met. Each sorority on our campus is unique, has different things to offer, and will be the best for your needs.

All of this is very vague though, and deciding which sorority would be the perfect reaction. I wanted to find girls whom I could be close to in that way — close enough that they could laugh and make jokes so that I wouldn’t take myself too seriously, because that ability to make light of an uncomfortable situation was something I needed. Most importantly, I wanted to find them because of their love for me that I would never doubt it.

A story is told that is sometimes repeated during recruitment as a way of helping girls decide which sorority is best for them, and it is one that I was told when I was in that final stage of the decision making process, unsure if the choice I was making was the right one. It goes something like this: “The woman you have become a member of is having a formal event. Everyone has been instructed to wear white dresses and to be exactly on time. You are running a little late, but you grab a bite to eat. When you get your plate, you spill tomato sauce all over the front of your white dress and have no time to fit it. You have to walk into that room full of pristine white dresses with tomato sauce all over you. Which group of women do you want waiting for you inside that room?”

When I considered this question, I never felt that any of the sororities I was considering would judge me or be cruel to me if that were to happen. I think that all MIT sorority women are better than that. However, I could envision them reacting in different ways. Some I could see passing it off as if nothing had happened; others I imagined rushing to take care of me, asking what had happened and offering to help fix my dress. But when I envisioned the reactions of the MIT women who would end up being my sisters, I saw them laughing with me, teasing me for being clumsy. And it made me realize that for others that those were the girls I wanted to make my sisters, but for me that would be the perfect reaction. I wanted to find girls whom I could be close to in that way — close enough that they could laugh and make jokes so that I wouldn’t take myself so seriously, because that ability to make light of an uncomfortable situation was something I needed. Most importantly, I wanted to find them because of their love for me that I would never doubt it.

That ability to make light of an uncomfortable situation was something I needed.

Luckily for me, I have remained equally as convinced of their love every day since then. I made the right decision because I made it for myself, and I couldn’t be happier. Making the right choice can seem really hard, and each person will have a different decision and different reasoning, but I hope the girls going through recruitment can find their way around campus, and find the same happiness that I feel so lucky to have found.
SATURDAY STUMPER

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by Anna Stiga

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326 According to my map of the yellow woole, this road diverges here.
346 It doesn't matter which road we take: later we'll just TELL people we took the more indle one!
366 Nice! I'm glad we didn't misunderstand this quote as it is commonly done
386 (C) 2012 Ryan North
406 WWw.DWANZ2.COM
416 FAMOUS QUOTATIONS IN SINGLE PANELS
426 I'm not sure if my time machine sent me back too far! Quick: what time, age, epoch, and season is it?
446 best and worst, wisdom and foolishness, belief and incredulity, flight and hope, and darkness and despair!
456 okay
506 Meat-
Your Summer To Do List

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku
Solution, page 13

Techdoku
Solution, page 13

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

[1102] Fastest-Growing

A WEBcomic of ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE
by Randall Munroe
Platforms seek to bring online education to world

MIT and Harvard spearhead edX, while Udacity and Coursera have ties to Stanford

education, from Page 1

Most of the videos, which tend to be around 10-15 minutes long, are on YouTube, with the exception of the Computer Science section, which contains integrated coding.

The instruction is oriented toward the casual learner as a supplement to traditional classroom learning. The videos have practice problems with hints and solutions, and there are no "exams" like in edX or Udacity. Users can earn badges based on their time spent on the site and how many assignments they have completed. Students have individual profiles, which allows teachers, coaches, and the students themselves to view summarized performance and achievement data. There is also a feature that fosters collaboration between students.

UDACITY

Udacity is an organization founded in 2011 by Stanford researchers David Stevens and Mike Sokolsky, and Google VP and former Stanford professor Sebastian Thrun, with the goal of "democratizing" education.

The idea began last year when Thrun, then a Stanford professor, of- fered his artificial intelligence class online so it could reach a broader audience. This audience would grow to over 300,000 students from 190 countries who enrolled in what would become Udacity's first class.

The organization is funded by Charles River Ventures and $300,000 of Thrun's own money, will offer 14 STEM courses this fall in topics including algorithms, building a web browser, and cryptography. It currently has around 132,000 "activ- itive" students and instructors, with 750,000 total registrants. Instruction is offered in the form of free courses consisting of short, closed-captioned video lectures by university professors, supplemented by quizzes and homework. Students can enroll in a course anytime after its launch, and all course content can be completed at the student’s pace.

Udacity has a unique system of certifications. Upon completion of a course, students receive a certificate of achievement signed by the instructor, with levels ranging from "Certificate of Accomplishment" to "Certificate of Achievement with Highest Distinction." In some courses, students can pay a fee — as little as $49 — to become a proctored exam at one of 4,500 test centers and earn a "Certificate of Mastery," which allows them to provide "credit from employers, universities, or Udacity’s partner schools." Upon successful completion of an exam, students can "opt in" for valuable, premium services, according to a Times article that "learners should ‘opt in’ for valuable, premium ser- vices," which will generate revenue for the company.

edX

EdX, unlike the other organizations, is a venture spearheaded by universities themselves — and was conceived as a platform to provide an MIT-calibre educa- tion to anyone who wants it. EdX announced in May, grew out of the MITx initiative — the brainchild of MIT President L. Rafael Reif (then MIT provost) and Professor An- drew Ng. It was branded as a "free and open online education course provider," and was conceived as a platform that "will offer learners who just want to browse. Like its competitors, edX may eventually seek revenue through partnerships with private companies, connecting high-performing and certified stu- dents to suitable jobs.

Hello, we’re Hudson River Trading. Give us a few nanoseconds and you’ll be hooked. We are MIT, Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, and more. We are bankers, masters and PhDs; physicists & statisticians, engineers & mathematicians. At HRT, responsibility is distributed according to individual strengths, so a systems engineer will spend every day working on challenging computer science problems. Become an algo developer and you might find yourself looking at massive amounts of market data and using a variety of tools to come up with complex strategies. If you are a hacker who wants to work in a powerful computing environment, we want programmers who can reduce latency and increase throughput, in a place where every second counts. And don’t be fooled — we’re not a typical finance company; our coders are the most important investment we have — and they know it. It’s no secret that your compensation will be high and you will be rewarded based on performance. Unlike other firms, our developers work in parallel with algo, because we know programming skills are a major part of what makes us successful. We know you might think we’re a bunch of suits, but that’s simply not true. We’re geeks who use FreeBSD and even have kernel committee on staff. So, if you’re thinking about going to Stanford Valley to work for a tech company, remember that’s what we are and more: grub-loving, football-playing, challenge-seeking problem solvers. Sound like you too? We hirt you. <3

HRT will be on campus for the fall career fair on September 25 and for an info session in Building 24, Room 302 on September 17, 6 PM. For more information and to apply, www.hudson-trading.com/careers

Tuesday, September 4, 2012

The Tech
One of the many metal plates in the sculpture in the MIT Chapel, sculpted by Italian-born artist Harry Bertoia, is angled just so, reflecting bright evening light into the lens while the others dimly radiate a soft glow in other directions.

**Institute Double Take**

**Christopher A. Maynor**

Aperture: f/1.4  
Exposure Time: 1/250 sec.  
Sensitivity: ISO 800  
Effective Focal Length: 24 mm

---

**Taste the Adventure.**

**Birthright Israel Trip Winter Break 2012-2013**

**Registration**

For previous applicants: September 10, 12pm  
For ALL APPLICANTS: September 12, 10am

**Steps to register:**

1. Go to israelwithisraelis.com  
2. Create a login and fill in your personal information  
3. Select Shorashim as your trip provider and MIT/Boston Campus as your trip.

**Questions?**

Email Shoshana at Birthright@mit.edu

Info Session: September 9, 6:00pm, WII (Small Dining Room)

---

**Are you a font fiend? Do you like making presentations SHINE?**

We’re looking for people to help us design infographics to highlight writers’ content!

The **Production Department of The Tech** might be just the place for you!
The Tech Tuesday, September 4, 2012

Milk Street Cafe

WELCOME BACK MIT!

Milk Street Cafe is happy to help you plan ahead for the fall semester!

PLACE A CATERING ORDER BY SEPTEMBER 14TH TO RECOVeR 20% OFF YOUR LARGEST ORDER* 
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*Orders must be placed by September 14th for delivery through December 21st, 2012. May not be combined with other promotional offers or discounts. Discount may not exceed $100 and will be applied to the fourth order. Limit one per customer.

Tuesday, Sept. 4
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Reception Under the Stars ($, 21+) [Hayden Library]
This cocktail reception co-hosted by the MIT Graduate Student Council and the MIT libraries is a chance to pull out your party dresses, feast on hors d’oeuvres, and sip on a glass of wine while surrounded by great works of literature. Guests can explore the library or head out to the courtyard to chat below the stars. *The event is open to spouses & partners but is not suitable for children. *Alcohol and admission require a 21+ photo ID (U.S. issued ID or passport). *A ticket must be purchased at the Info Booth prior to the event. *Ticket price: $7 MIT *Business casual required.

Wednesday, Sept. 5
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

GSC Dinner & Open House [Morse Hall]
Come meet-and-greet leaders of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and get the inside scoop for the upcoming year while enjoying a fantastic dinner and free drinks! In addition to great company, this open house will feature manned stations, each dedicated to discussing a certain aspect of the GSC mission. GSC programs and initiatives, like graduate student orientation, rely on the dedication and involvement of graduate students. This is a great opportunity to consider how you can get involved! *The event is open to spouses & partners but is not suitable for children. *Admission open to all. Alcohol requires a 21+ photo ID (U.S. issued ID or passport).

Thursday, Sept. 6
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Spouses & Partners Happy Hour (21+) [Champions Sports Bar]

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Diversity & Minority Networking Social [Black Student Union]
The MIT Office of the Dean for Graduate Education (ODGE) and the Graduate Student Council invite you to the annual Graduate Welcome Event for minority students. This is your opportunity to meet new grad students and reconnect with old friends as well as familiarize yourself with the ODGE and GSC resources. Hors d’oeuvres will be served. *This event is open to spouses & partners.

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(And, yes, you can highlight and make notes in your rentals!)

Know something important we should write about?
(We probably don’t know about it.)
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FREE Vehicle Navigation Dock when you purchase a MOTOROLA ATRIX™ HD.

Limited 4G LTE availability in select markets. LTE is a trademark of ETSI.

Limited-time offer: Motorola Atrix HD requires a new 2-yr wireless agreement with voice (min $39.99/mo) and monthly data plans (min $20/mo). Beginning July 15, 2012, through November 2, 2012, customers can receive a free Vehicle Navigation Dock (SKU4034A) with the purchase of a Motorola Atrix HD at the 2-year pricing. Offer ends 11/2/12. Subject to Wireless Carrier Agrmnt. Credit approval required. Activation fee $36/line. Geographic, usage, and other terms, conditions, and restrictions apply and may result in termination. Coverage and call not assured everywhere. Taxes and other charges apply. Mobile hotspot requires DataPro 5GB plan and a compatible device. Data (att.com/dataplans): If usage exceeds your monthly data allowance, you will automatically be charged overage for additional data provided. Early Termination Fee (att.com/equipmentETF): After 30 days, ETF up to $325. Restocking fee up to $35. Other Monthly Charges: Line may include a Regulatory Cost Recovery Charge (up to $1.25), a gross receipts surcharge, federal and state universal svc charges, and fees and charges for other gov't assessments. These are not taxes or fees levied by the government. Monthly discount: Service discount applies only to the monthly service charge of qualified plans and not to any other charges. Available only to qualified students and employees of colleges/universities with a qualified business agreement. Other service discount qualifications requirements may apply. Restrictions, other terms, and conditions apply (see store for details). Visit a store or att.com/wireless to learn more about wireless devices and services from AT&T. Screen images simulated. All other marks used herein are the property of their respective owners. ©2012 AT&T Intellectual Property.
Mostly left alone by parent company, Reddit operates autonomously and flourishes.

After $20 mil sale in 2006, Reddit sees great success.

During that time, it threatened to become an also-ran in the what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world of social media. That kind of deal was about to begin in which a clueless old media company snaps up a hot Web property and proceeds to squeeze the life out of what it just bought. But that is not what happened.

Steve Newhouse, the chairman of Advance.net, decided very early on that his company would not be the blob that ate Reddit, and for the most part, left well enough alone. "We had some ideas about what would be good, but it might not have worked," Mr. Newhouse said. "We paid attention to the community instead."

In two founders, Steve Huffman and Alexis Ohanian, stayed on after the sale for three years -- a feat unto itself. And when it became clear that Reddit was hamstringing in competition for leadership and engineers as part of Condé Nast, the company was spun out as an operationally independent subsidiary in 2011.

During that time, it threatened to become an also-ran in the what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world of social media.

"Strategically, what they have done should be a model of how to create and support a virtual start-up within a larger corporation," said Anil Dash, a writer and entrepreneur in digital realms. "Condé gave it enough rope and left the people there to their own devices. I don't know whether it was a brilliant strategy or accidental neglect, but the founders did not leave, the community stayed intact, and the site grew beyond anybody's expectations."

In the context of a company that owns Vogue and The New Yorker, Reddit is a deeply weird place. Links are voted up or down by a community that is full of pseudonyms, which has the odd effect of prompting users to be very intimate and remarkably candid, albeit as avatars. The community is chiefly young, male and extremely wired. It can be a casually misogynistic place, and the site has all the retro graphic appeal of Craigslist, which is to say, not much.

Reddit is not an exception to the rule in the digital world. Like many digital media companies, it has a big audience and minuscule revenue. Bob Sauerberg, president of Condé Nast and a member of the board of the independent company, says that is fine by him.

"We think it has huge potential and we want to make sure that we scale that," he said. "There will be ample opportunity to monetize what they have built as it grows, and it will be a very big business."

In the spring, Advance hired Yis- han Wong, a former software engi- neer at Facebook and engineering manager at PayPal, as the chief ex- ecutive -- an unconventional choice because he had little executive man- agement experience. But Ohan- nian came back as a board member, yet another odd circumstance.

"When we sold the site, I ended up with a life-changing -- at least for me -- amount of money, and I thought the least I could do was make good on my end of it, so I knew I would stay for the life of the contract," he said. "We've had quar- terly meetings with Steve, but for the most part, Steve just seemed to think that if we were able to start the company on $12,000, that we probably wouldn't screw it up."

It can make for some jarring juxtapositions. Advance is a privately held company that keeps a tight rein on information of all sorts, yet Red- dit is built on open-source software free for the taking or breaking. The site has harnessed user energy and creativity to self-police the forums and grow in all sorts of unpredictable directions. It is, in media terms, about as far away from the glossy editorial values of Condé Nast as you can get.

We ran into some annoying hu- man resources bureaucracy when we tried to hire people, but we run lean and don't make a lot of hires, so that didn't come up a lot, " Mr. Ohanian said. "For the most part, we were given a ludicrous level of autonomy. You have to give them credit where credit is due."

Solution to Crossword

AGRI PPS CUSTOMS ZEALOUS EPHELIA BATS LION CAMELINES AMETHYSTS CONFESSIONS BEARING WILD ANIMALS ARBIRIAN JACOBU CRAB DOLPHINS FROATS AIROFENSIVE OW NKI PRE EMBARGO SKEWING SCOUTS SOFTIES

Get Credit for Studying?!

Come for the Info Session: Tuesday, September 4, 2012 12 pm Room 4-237
Most adults who want straighter teeth shy away from wearing uncomfortable and unattractive metal braces. But how do you achieve a more attractive smile, quickly and without enduring a mouth lined with metal? Invisalign clear braces! Kraft & Associates is dedicated to providing beautiful smiles and lasting oral health and has been named an Invisalign Premier Preferred Provider. Contact our Government Center office before October 30, 2012 to receive a free Invisalign consultation, a free professional tooth whitening, and $1,000 off the full case fee. Save up to $1,500!

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THUR, AUG. 30th @ 4:00 PM – BOATHOUSE BBQ

and/or

WED, SEP. 5th @ 5:30 PM – INFO. MEETING

For more information please contact: acabooth@mit.edu

**Solution to Techdoku**

from page 7

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**Do you wish your sport was covered?**

Hello, Athletes, look at the sports page, now back to you, now back to the sports page, now back to you. Sadly, your sport isn’t there, but if you started writing for The Tech, it could be. Look down, back up, where are you? You’re on the front page. Anything is possible when you write for The Tech.

[**sports@tech.mit.edu**](mailto:sports@tech.mit.edu)

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8:30 pm Swing

Ballroom night! Lobby 13
Thursday, September 6
7:30 pm Foxtrot
8:30 pm Waltz
9:30 pm Free Ice Cream!

Team Match! Sala de Puerto Rico
Saturday, September 8
1:00pm – 5:00 pm Cha Cha, Team Match, and FREE PIZZA

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  Latin American & Latino
  Middle Eastern
  Russian & Eurasian
Science, Technology, and Society
Theater Arts
Urban Studies & Planning
Women’s & Gender Studies
Writing

shass.mit.edu/undergraduate/minors
Summer, from Page 1

Two others from Boston-Conner House and Maseeh Hall were promoted from their previous position of Residential Life Associate (RLA), a role that was phased out at the end of the previous academic year as part of the RLAD implementation. Last week, however, The Tech learned that the former MacGregor RLA is no longer employed by MIT. Humphreys said that he hopes to find a new person for the position as quickly as possible.

The RLAs will be living in the dorms in apartment spaces previously dedicated to RLAs. In dorms where these spaces do not exist, notably in MacGregor and New House, renovations are being made to consolidate rooms to make these apartment spaces. The construction of three dorms — Baker House, Bexley House, East Campus, Random Hall, and Senior House — will meet with their respective communities about their RLAs in the early fall.

The remaining dorms will meet with their respective communities about their RLAs in the early fall.

Berkeley joins edX

On July 24, University of California, Berkeley joined edX — the online education venture started by MIT and Harvard University — and will offer two online classes this fall, including Berkeley X’s courses “Software as a Service” and “Artificial Intelligence.”

Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau of Berkeley — also former dean of science at MIT and Harvard University — will contribute $30 million toward the initial offering.

MIT files amicus brief in Fisher v. University of Texas

In mid-August, MIT and 13 peer institutions filed an amicus curiae brief before the Supreme Court of the United States in Fisher v. University of Texas.

In mid-August, MIT and 13 peer institutions filed an amicus curiae brief before the Supreme Court of the United States in Fisher v. University of Texas, supporting the respondent University of Texas in the view that race could be used as one of many factors in a holistic admissions process. The brief highlighted the importance of diversity in college admissions, warning that “a decision questioning or repudiating the principles in [Grutter v. Bolinger] could significantly impair [their] ability to achieve their educational missions.”

Concerns over the courtyard security, requiring Novartis to come back with a new proposal. Novartis agreed to keep the courtyard open in response to requests and feedback from the Cambridge Planning Board.

The new Novartis campus on the east side of Massachusetts Avenue will be 50 percent devoted to a public green courtyard, as a condition of the zoning petition that allows some parts of the new campus to reach 125 feet in height, as well as other miscellaneous zoning relief.

The new campus is currently under construction and is expected to be finished next year.

Prosecutors were seeking $30 million from MIT for relief.

On July 17, the Cambridge Planning Board approved Novartis plans for new office building for Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

Fisher v. University of Texas was brought before the U.S. District Court in 2008 by Abigail N. Fisher, a white applicant who claimed the University of Texas at Austin’s admissions policy unconstitutional after being denied admission. The district court upheld the university’s decision, citing the 2003 case Grutter v. Bolinger, in which the Supreme Court upheld the affirmative action admissions policy of the University of Michigan Law School in a 5-4 vote. Fisher has since then brought her case to the Supreme Court, where it will be decided by an eight-member Court on Oct. 10, 2012. Because Justice Elena Kagan — who had previously played some role in the case as a U.S. solicitor general — withdrew from the case, according to SCOTUSBlog, it is possible the Supreme Court decision could come to a 4-4 ruling, which would uphold the University of Texas admissions policy.

Summaries compiled by Deborah Chen and Stanley Gill
Volleyball team wins 4 matches
Sweeps Regis Invitational

By Paul Dill
TEAM COACH

MIT Women’s Volleyball swept all four of its matches this past weekend to take the Regis Pride Invitational Championship. Kristine A. Bunker ’14 was named to the All-Tournament Team and Tatiana Berger ’14 was named the Tournament MVP.

MIT defeated Husson in their match of the tournament, 3-0, as 13 of the 16 MIT players that saw the floor registered at least one kill in the 25-16, 25-10, 25-13 win. Meryl E. Gibbs ’16 led all players with six kills, while Berger was instrumental in getting the team big kills when they needed them. Helping set up the offense, Nicole C. Gagnier ’15 and Alyssa L. Rothman ’13 combined to hand out 19 assists. Katie K. Spielbauer ’13 led the Engineers with six digs, while Leonard added five of her own in the win.

After a slow start in their second match, the Engineers dropped the first set before coming back to defeat Worcester State, 3-1 (25-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-15). Bunker posted a match-high 12 kills, while Trinity P. Leonard ’13 just missed double-digit kills, adding nine kills. Gagnier ’15 dished out a match-high 36 assists and added five kills and four digs. Spielbauer ’13 paced the Engineers defense with 14 digs, while five MIT players combined for seven total blocks.

In the tournament final, MIT needed four sets to dispose of WPI.

MIT advanced to the Championship Match of the tournament with a 3-0 (25-13, 25-15, 25-13) win over host Regis College in the semi-finals. Sharon S. Hao ’14 was also instrumental for the win, playing with tremendous defense, good passing and free-service aces. In the tournament final, MIT needed four sets to dispose of WPI as the Engineers took home the Pride Invitational Championship with a 3-1 win by set scores of 25-14, 22-25, 25-18, 25-10. Bunker notched a game-high 12 kills and added four block assists to lead MIT. Berger and Astrachan added eight kills apiece while Gagnier handed out a game-high 38 assists. Berger also added three service aces to go with 10 digs for the Engineers.

Next weekend the Engineers will travel to Chicago to play in the North Park University Invitational Tournament.

Scott A. Stephens ’14, in black, looks for a pass in the water polo game against Diablo Valley College in the Labor Day Invite on Sept. 1. MIT lost to DVC 13-7 but defeated both Harvard and Yale earlier in the day, 19-7 and 23-7 respectively.

For 50 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share, 3400 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (AD4), Washington, DC 20008.