Junior found dead in Next House Investigation ongoing; police say no danger to community

By Anne Cai

This past month, Associate Provost of Neuroscience James DiCarlo was announced as the new head of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS). The BCS department is home to the Course 9 major, and it is the academic home of most of the faculty members for both the Boston Center for Learning and Memory, the McGovern Institute for Brain, Mind, and Cognitive Sciences, and the new Simons Center for the Social Brain, headed by ongoing BCS head Steve Grossman.

The Tech caught up with DiCarlo at his office to talk about his goals for the future of BCS. (To read about the new BCS head, a little bit about Jim. Oh, sorry, Professor DiCarlo.)

JD: My undergraduate students call me Professor DiCarlo, and that still sounds a little weird to me. So it’s totally OK to call Jim. Or JD. Yes, I’m excited about being the new department head.

JD: First, it’s a real honor. The confidence that so many people have given me is overwhelming and humbling. We are the world’s leading neuroscience and cognitive science depart-

ment, and handing me the reins to that is really an honor and a chal-

enge...

Brian G. Anderson ’13 was found dead in his third-floor Next House dormitory room by MIT Police slightly before noon yester-

day. He was 21.

Anderson was found dead when campus police were doing a welfare check at Next House late yesterday morning. The Cam-

dbridge Police Department and his family were notified. The Massachusetts State Police and the Middlesex District Attorney are conducting an investigation, according to the MIT News Office. The MIT Police reported that “there is no imminent danger to the MIT community.”

Questions lingered about the circumstances of this death,” said MIT Chan-

cer Professor James Di-

neuroscience, all the way up to cog-

We are all deeply saddened by the pass-

ings of G. Anderson, a member of our com-

munity, and the third death of a student on this campus during this academic year. Any one of these events stuns us; to have three in a year is incomprehensible.

I know that many of you will struggle to make sense of this, and I want to take this opportunity to remind all of us — students, faculty, staff — that communities support one another during challenges like this. Un-
til the official investigation is completed, the appropri-
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ment of our strength is our diversity, from our size almost 50 percent to nearly 40

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of loss when a promising young life ends.

The final exam schedule

will be announced Thursday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m.
at web.mit.edu/registrar/classrooms/

exams/finals/index.html.

The Spring UROP Direct Funding application deadline is Thursday, Feb. 23.

Minor Completion forms must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 24 for final exams; forms will be charged a $50 fee.

Send news information and tips to

news@tech.mit.edu.

COMMUNITY WEIGHTS IN

Responses from around campus come on affirmative action issue. OPINION, p. 4–5

DIVERSITY STRENGTHENS MIT

Prof. Hazel Sive and Paula Hammond lend their voices. LETTERS, p. 4–5

GETTING IN SHAPE

Workouts aren’t as onerous as you might think. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 15

PHYSICS SAVES LIVES

According to the latest Least Action Principle. FUN, p. 7

ENGINEERS FANS DRESSED IN PINK

Women’s basketball failed to Clerk 61-50 but for campaigning awareness fund. SPORTS, p. 16

WEATHER, p. 2

TUE, 1/26: 40° Partly cloudy

WEED: 39° Partly cloudy

THUR, 1/28: 41° Mostly cloudy

 tech.mit.edu

Established 1881

Volume 132, Number 5 Tuesday, February 1, 2012

DiCarlo to head BCS
Neuroscientist’s term begins March 1

By Bruno B. F. Faviero

This past month, Associate Professor of Neuroscience James DiCarlo was announced as the new head of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS). The BCS department is home to the Course 9 major, and it is the academic home of most of the faculty members for both the Boston Center for Learning and Memory, the McGovern Institute for Brain, Mind, and Cognitive Sciences, and the new Simons Center for the Social Brain, headed by ongoing BCS head Steve Grossman.

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Of course, our thoughts at this time go out to Brian’s family, to his colleagues on the wrestling team, to his peers from the former-

ly active Beta Theta Pi fraternity and from Next House, and to his friends from class, and from Course 9. We all feel a deep sense of loss when a promising young life ends. This sense of loss can affect us in different ways, and I personally hope that each of you takes a bit of time away from your academic routine to reflect on your connections in our community and on your sense of personal well-being.

If you find this event causing you to feel overwhelmed, please reach out — to a friend, to your housemaster, to a member of the student support staff, to a mentor, to one of the deans, to a faculty member, to a de-

partmental administrator. If you need guid-

ance, support or just a sympathetic ear, MIT faculty and staff are here to help. Remember that you can find links to a wide range of re-

sources at http://web.mit.edu/student/per-

sonal/support.html. I hope this will be a time when we join in strengthening our MIT community by reaching out to peers, colleagues, friends, and mentors to renew our sense of connection; by taking advantage of MIT resources for help in dealing with the emotional chal-

lenges brought on by these events; and by reflecting on our goals and aspirations, indi-

vidually and together.

—Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD ’80

MIT SPORTS

Swim & Dive take NEWMAC title
Next stop for Engineers is NCAA Div. III Nationals

By Gordon Glover

Our Engineers got off to a decisive start at this year’s NEWMAC swimming and diving finals this weekend. The men’s and women’s teams opened the meet winning a combined 8 of 13 events. By the end of the first day, the men’s team led with an impressive 323 points to second place United States Coast Guard Academy with 220 points. The women’s team held a strong lead with 323 points over Springfield College’s 256. Early Friday evening, rising star Emily A. Ryan, a freshman from Indianapolis, put her stamp on the meet as she placed first in the women’s 50-yard freestyle. Ryan dominated this event from the start as she maintained second overall leads in each of her 15-yard split times. By the end of the race, she finished a dramatic

Swim & Dive, Page 16

IN SHORT

Classes today are on a Monday schedule.

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DiCarlo, Page 10

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**Mexico and US agree on oil and gas development in Gulf**

By John M. Broder and Clifford Krauss

**THE NEW YORK TIMES**

WASHINGTON — The United States and Mexico reached agree- ment Monday on regulating oil and gas development along their mari- time border in the Gulf of Mexico, ending years of negotiations and po- tentially opening more than a mil- lion acres to deeper drilling.

The agreement, if ratified by Mexican and U.S. lawmakers, would mark the first time the two countries have joined to regulate a joint in- ternational territory of the two nations’ rigs in the gulf. Until now, neither was au- thorized to oversee the environment- al and safety practices of the other, even though oil spills do not respect international borders.

“Each of the nations will main- tain sovereignty and their own regulatory systems,” Ken Salazar, the interior secretary, said from Los Cabos, Mexico, where the agree- ment was completed. “But what this signifies, and what may be the most significant part of the agreement, is that we’re moving forward jointly with Mexico to ensure we have a common set of safety protocols.”

“At the Mexicans move into deeperwater development,” Salazar said, “we want to make sure it’s done in a way that protects the environ- ment and is as safe as possible.”

The Transboundary Agreement, as it is called, will make up to 1.5 million acres of offshored territory claimed by the United States avail- able for leasing as early as June, though the leases will not become active until a pact is ratified. The In- terior Department estimates that the territory contains as much as 300 million barrels of oil and 800 billion cubic feet of natural gas, relatively mod- est amounts by the oil-rich gulf’s standards.

Mexico’s oil production has been a major source for the United States for more than 25 years, and it is the single most important revenue-rais- er for the Mexican government. But its output has been in sharp decline in the last decade, as energy demand by its growing middle class has risen.

In response, Mexico’s national oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos, known as Pemex, has started a deep- water drilling program in recent years despite concerns that it is not sufficiently experienced for the task. Under Mexico’s Constitution, Pemex cannot bring in a foreign partner like Royal Dutch Shell or Exxon Mobil to develop the gulf reserves, even though those companies have much more expertise in drilling in chal- lenging waters.

Pemex has drilled more than a dozen exploratory deepwater wells since 2005, but the results have been mixed. It plans to drill six more wells this year, including at depth of up to 6,000 feet, where well pressure is customarily high and the possibility of a blowout is greater than in shallower wells.

The program has been contro- versial in Mexico, especially after the BP accident two years ago. Juan Carlos Zepeda, Mexico’s oil regulator, has warned that Pemex is not prepared to control a possible leak from the two deepest wells it is planning this year and that the Na- tional Hydrocarbons Commission, the 3-year-old agency Zepeda over- sees, may be overwhelmed when it comes to regulating deepwater drilling.

**Bill requiring ultrasound before abortion nears vote**

By Sabrina Torresme and Erik Lohse

**THE NEW YORK TIMES**

RICHMOND, Va. — A bill requir- ing a woman to get an ultrasound be- fore an abortion is poised to pass Virginia’s Legislature this week, placing it on track to be signed into law by Gov. Bob McDonnell.

The bill, which could pass the Republican-led House of Delegates as early as Tuesday, is one of the strongest ultrasound laws passed by states in recent years. If it is adopt- ed, Virginia will become the eighth state to require ultrasounds before abortions, a rule that anti-abortion forces hope will cause some women to change their minds but that wom- en’s advocates call an effort to shame women and interfere with their privacy. The bill, which is sweeping through the House defeating or delaying the entire bill.

McDonnell, a Republican who has supported similar legislation when he was a lawmaker, joined voiced strong support. But the bill has drawn intense public attention, and a spokesman said a more muted sound over the weekend, a shift that opponents said was an attempt to weaken the governor’s support. McDonnell, a spokesman struck a more muted tone over the weekend, a shift that opponents said was an attempt to weaken the governor’s support. McDonnell, a spokesman struck a more muted tone over the weekend, a shift that opponents said was an attempt to weaken the governor’s support.

The atmosphere of legislation is particularly important for McDon- nell, political analysts say, because he is seen as a possible contender for vice president on the Republican ticket and could be calculating how the bill will be perceived by a nation- al audience.

Requiring ultrasounds before abortions has become one of the principal tactics of the anti-abortion movement, with similar rules now in effect in seven states and being up by legal challenges in two more — Oklahoma and North Carolina.

While the Virginia bill does re- quire an ultrasound, it does not require the woman to view it, mak- ing it less strict than laws in Texas and Oklahoma, where the doctor must place the screen in front of the woman.

In its current form, Virginia’s bill requires that the ultrasound find and monitor the fetal heartbeat and provide an image of the shape of the fetal spine. In Texas, it requires that the woman view the fetal heartbeats on a screen.

The noninvasive abdominal ultrasound, on the other hand, often cannot capture the fetus at all small size in the first trimester, when most abortions are performed.

As in other states, Virginia’s rule would impose a 24-hour wait be- tween the ultrasound and the abor- tion, which critics say adds unneces- sary expense and inconvenience, in the bill, the cost of the ultra- sound will be borne by the woman.

**Weather**

Unusual warm spell to continue

By Shaena Berlin

**STAFF REPORTER**

With sports stores already selling their “end-of-sea- son” sitst and cyclists comfort- ably riding outdoors, it seems that Cambridge completely skipped over the winter nights that normally drip up its roads and sidewalks. Next time you complain about how “freezing” it feels outside, consider, since many days have been 10 to 15 degrees above aver- age thus far this year. For the upcoming week, expect warm air to bring more melted moisture and a chance of rain. In contrast to the north- eastern situation, several southern states received co- nsiderable amounts of rain last weekend; this precipita- tion should help ease some drought-stricken regions that are predicted to receive below-average seasonal precipitation again this spring due to La Nina conditions.

Extended Forecast

Today: Clear in the morning, then growing cloudy. High of 48°F (6°C).

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. Low of 39°F (4°C).

Wednesday: Warm, with highs near 57°F (14°C) in the afternoon. Low of 37°F (3°C). Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain.

Thursday: Cloudy and warm. High near 57°F (14°C).
Saleh cedes power in Yemen as his authority crumbles

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave up power in a deal sealed under the watchful eye of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies, and announced his successor, Prime Minister Haider Mansour Hadi, will be named by parliament. Saleh ceded power in Yemen on Tuesday, bowing to demands from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia for an end to the time-bomb al-Qaeda stronghold in the Middle East, three months after a deal to force him to step down was scuttled. The agreement brokered by Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United Nations split Saleh’s tiny Arab country into two, with Hadi’s government exercising authority in the capital, Sana, and Saleh retaining power in the southern provinces. The deal will bring to an end the conflict between Saleh and the Muslim Brotherhood-backed group Ansar al-Sharia, which has carried out suicide bombings and other attacks on Saudi troops and Yemeni government forces since the Houthis took over the capital in September 2011. The Houthis have been blamed for numerous attacks in Saudi Arabia, including the bombing of a mosque in a Saudi military zone in January 2012, which killed 12 people. The Houthis are also blamed for an attack on a Saudi intelligence base in January 2012 that killed two police officers and a soldier. The Houthis have also been accused of hacking into the computer systems of the American embassy in Sana and the U.S. military command center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The Houthis have also been accused of killing a Saudi police officer in a firefight in the capital, Sana, on March 15, 2012, and of killing a Saudi soldier in a firefight in the southern province of Taiz on March 17, 2012. Saleh had been in power for 33 years and was the most powerful leader in the Middle East. He has been accused of human rights abuses, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and disappearance of political opponents. Saleh’s government has been accused of corruption, mismanagement, and failing to provide basic services to its citizens. Saleh’s government has also been accused of failing to combat the spread of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. Saleh’s government has been accused of failing to secure the release of journalist Graham Phillips, who has been held by the Houthis since March 2012. Saleh’s government has also been accused of failing to secure the release of journalist Graham Phillips, who has been held by the Houthis since March 2012.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**MIT never lowers its standards**

I am writing in response to the letter published by Brandan Briscoe, published last Friday in The Tech, which addresses questions surrounding efforts to achieve diversity at MIT the letter is welcome, as it highlights misunderstandings surrounding efforts to achieve diversity at MIT, and so indicates the need for continued dialogue around this topic, among our community.

In fact, the author of the letter states the idea that MIT has never given me or my student and faculty member that I have ever met at MIT the intelligence and ambition of MIT students to be “subpar” to be “redundant.” This is not correct MIT never lowers the standards. We holistically and intentionally look for outstanding people, but this doesn’t change the standards that those hired or promoted have to meet. I could really end this note here, as we all agree on this important point. But, for the sake of clarity, let me explore a few other points.

Although the terms “excellence” and “diversity” are sometimes put into the same phrase, there is no discussion at MIT of a “balance” between excellence and diversity, as the author suggests, that would imply an inverse relationship. The only point at MIT is to identify outstanding, “excellent” candidates for its ranks, from the student to the professor. Thus, MIT is a “meritocracy,” as the author would like. But there is confusion surrounding the meaning of this term, because, while “meritocracy” is a subjective concept, thus people may have their own interpretations and identify themselves. In the School of Science, we actively encourage excellence but contrary to popular opinion, we are not suffering from a shortage of qualified applicants. Most of the students who apply are academically prepared to study here. Once applicants’ preparedness has been determined, they are judged based on how well they took advantage of the opportunities they were given. MIT seeks people who can create opportunities for themselves and who consistently exceed expectations. Just as MIT does not accept students deemed to be academically unprepared, undergraduate faculty members are not given positions at MIT. Successful faculty search processes entail identifying qualified individuals and extending offers to seek positions at MIT. Sometimes those invited are women and minorities, and sometimes they are not. Faculty members are hired based on an overall positive fit with MIT and the research group they would join.

That said, as a result of these processes — especially undergraduate admissions and student search processes — we can struggle to tease out the human element. But we do think that the holistic approach is a large step in the right direction. Pursuits outside of schoolwork and extracurricular activities are important, but they should be directed to students’ ability to devote themselves to a passion.

**The holistic admissions process at MIT takes into account the whole student, including upbringing and obstacles to success**

Affirmative action is crucial to maintaining the integrity of our meritocracy. The holistic admissions process at MIT takes into account the whole student, including upbringing and obstacles to success. If we do not recognize that different groups of students face different opportunities, we will be tempted to judge people based on absolute measures of raw ability. For instance, we may question the selection of an applicant from a disadvantaged background. In contrast, we should be normalizing people’s achievements based on the resources they had.

The 2010 Report on the Initiative for Faculty Diversity at MIT found this to be the case, and so indicates the need for continued dialogue around this topic, among our community. We do need to pay attention to the importance of diversity at MIT. This term means that opinions, of which we are unaware, shape how we think about someone. Unconscious bias, including the view that people in one population group are less talented than others, really happens, and can be hard to root out. We are making strides toward recognizing those who are less talented than us is true in the School of Science.

**CORRECTIONS**

A photo caption published last Friday incorrectly identified the “senior” in the picture as Environmental Research Council (ERC) chair’s name. Chair. The name is Dana Entekhabi, not Dana Entekhabi. A brief published on Jan. 11 incorrectly titled Shiva Ayyadurai and colleagues with the wrong email address. He is a faculty lecturer. Also, while he holds a copyright from 1982 titled “EMAIL,” Ayyadurai is not the inventor of email, which was invented in 1971.

**OPINION POLICY**

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of student editors. Letters to the editor, columns and cartoons are the opinions of their respective author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. 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 397292, Cambridge, Mass. 02397-2929, 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 author’s 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.

For all correspondence submitted, all personal information will be removed. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech website, which may be cached by major search engines in any format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish any material that appears in The Tech.

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Excellence with diversity

The false idea that the inclusion of people from different groups (race, gender, nationality, etc.) leads to a lowering of standards is one that MIT must counter with real people in historical context, and not abstracted against — if he wants to be competitive rather where you live and how you’ve lived. And the struggle of women and minorities are, on the whole, equal in terms of achievement and in a class of 12, there were 13 languages TA asked us how many languages we spoke, and “white-male” complex.

I believe that some opinions are better off an opinion piece is just that, an opinion, and “white-male” complex.

The author of the piece is, I’m sure, factu-

Letters, from Page 4

Science, to ensure that top candidates are not unfairly set aside, we are making sure that application folders, including letters of recommendation, are read carefully, to fully understand the talent of each individual ap-

but we have no numerical goals, or quotas, for hiring from specific population groups, as the author worries. Rather, we feel that if we use fair procedures to enlarge the pool of outstanding candidates and to ensure that the final hiring decision is a fair one will sort themselves out, just as the author hopes.

There can be a consequence to ad-

There is an incorrect assumption, typi-

The Tech

The false idea that the inclusion of

The writer’s letter never defines either excellence or diversity, and one-dimensional scale on which the excel-

The writer calls for true fairness, inclusive-

We have departments that have not hired a single underrepresented minority faculty member in 20 or 30 years.

History tells us that we must make additional efforts to find the research-

We refer readers to the comments section of Broscio’s article, where arguments have been posted both in support and opposition to the letter-writer’s views.

The Tech stands by its decision to print Broscio’s column. We feel the issue of diversity at MIT is an important one, and we encourage you to respond.

We take our role as a public forum and sponsor of campus debate seriously. Readers who are curious about our editorial process are welcome to email The Tech’s ex-

Paula T. Hammond ’84

Professor of Chemical Engineering

Former Chair of the MIT Initiative on Faculty Race and Diversity

Strength in diversity

I recently read The Tech’s guest column about the “wrong direction with affirmativa-

action action.” While I do respect the fact that an opinion piece is just that, an opinion, and I believe that some opinions are better off not being published in a newspaper, especially ones that edge into that gray area of sexism and “white-male” complex.

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We take our role as a public forum and sponsor of campus debate seriously. Readers who are curious about our editorial process are welcome to email The Tech’s ex-

Paula T. Hammond ’84

Professor of Chemical Engineering

Former Chair of the MIT Initiative on Faculty Race and Diversity

Strength in diversity

I recently read The Tech’s guest column about the “wrong direction with affirmativa-

action action.” While I do respect the fact that an opinion piece is just that, an opinion, and I believe that some opinions are better off not being published in a newspaper, especially ones that edge into that gray area of sexism and “white-male” complex.

The author of the piece is, I’m sure, factu-

The writer calls for true fairness, inclusive-

We have departments that have not hired a single underrepresented minority faculty member in 20 or 30 years.

History tells us that we must make additional efforts to find the research-

We refer readers to the comments section of Broscio’s article, where arguments have been posted both in support and opposition to the letter-writer’s views.

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Excellence has many dimensions
And MIT, flourishing by including all of them

By Eric Grimson, Daniel Hastings, Christine Ortiz, and Chris Colombo

The广州市 of 17 Feb 2012 issue of The Tech, Brandon Briscoe, a former MIT faculty member, wrote an opinion column criticizing MIT's policies of preference and inclusiveness. The column has sparked a debate about the role of affirmative action in education. Briscoe's column has been widely criticized for its narrow view of diversity and its implications for MIT's academic excellence.

In the opinion column, Briscoe suggests that MIT's efforts to increase diversity have led to a decline in the quality of education and that the university should focus on meritocracy rather than diversity. He also criticizes MIT for using quotas and affirmative action policies to increase the number of women and minorities on campus, arguing that these practices undermine the concept of meritocracy.

In response to Briscoe's column, guest columns have been published in The Tech. One of these columns, written by a group of MIT faculty and students, argues that MIT is flourishing by including all of its students, regardless of their background. The column points out that diversity is essential for creating a dynamic, innovative, and inclusive campus, and that MIT's efforts to increase diversity are necessary to ensure that the university remains a leading institution.

The debate continues, with many commentators arguing that diversity is essential for creating a truly meritocratic environment. MIT, like many other institutions, has a responsibility to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background.

Opinion

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OPINION

Unconditionally brilliant
At MIT, ‘diverse’ is not the opposite ‘qualified’

By Emad Talaip

In responding to Brandon Briscoe’s guest column, I won’t recount my successes as a minority student at MIT, since my father, a former employee and a graduate student, and I have already done that. I simply acknowledge that I benefited from a broad and deep pool of applicants that have traditionally been marginalized.

And so does MIT. It flourishes by including all of them.

By Christine Casas

As a Mexican-American alumna of MIT, I felt conflicted by Brandon Briscoe’s admission that “don’t get me wrong, every student and faculty member I have ever met at MIT...” I believed that the Institute policies which I had benefited from also allowed me and other appropriately qualified minorities into the university.

I am also taught that Briscoe is concerned about the “quality of experience that these same females, minority students, and faculty experience here.” Did Briscoe actually read the Report on the Initiative for Fairness in Financial Aid? I can’t help but wonder if he might have thought a little bit harder about the ambitious ideas he expressed in his column, which to me seem to confirm — rather than dispel — the need for affirmative action policies at the Institute. He also might have avoided coming across as someone who is uncomfortable discussing the little about the minority experience at MIT.

First, regarding his defensive claim that recent Initiative reports regarding diversity at MIT “found zero evidence of any systematic treatment of minorities.” To be more accurate, he should have replaced the word “systematic” with “systemic.” Of course there is no official discrimination against a group that comprises a mere six percent of the total faculty. Why waste time officially discriminating against a group that already experiences the subtle and often overlooked effects of racism at MIT and its respective communities?

Does it bother Briscoe that, according to the Report, “a shocking 42 percent of black male faculty report being mistreated as trespassers?” Or that the URM faculty respondents reported feeling marginalized? I suppose these facts are of little importance to him. Or maybe they are acceptable to him. He might accept that eyes women and minorities are the beneficiaries of “reverse discrimination.”

Which brings me to my next point. Asigning moral equivalence to our country’s supposed “War on Terror” and the discrimination of minorities and women (and the resulting disenfranchisement of and exclusion of these groups from higher education opportunities) is, at best, thoughtless, at worst, deplorable. Briscoe points to the US vs the concept of which is used to argue that being a woman to obtain speaking slots as if this is some kind of pivotal evidence for women and minorities. Is this a joke?

Furthermore, as the Report pointed out, there already is an acknowledged tension between “excellence and diversity.” It is my job to argue that this tension is an essential part of the human talent and intelligence (as well as all other human traits, positive and negative) spans across all races, nationalities, and ethnicities. MIT’s job is to find the most excellent people, whatever group they belong to, and to make efforts to include groups that have traditionally been marginalized in society.

The challenge of doing this, of course, lies in the fact that people do not exist in a vacuum. Opportunity is not handed out equally — due to socioeconomic forces that are beyond the scope of this piece: discrimination in housing, jobs, varying education opportunities, and access to health care. The myth of pure meritocracy, the concept of which is a thinly veiled, too frequently used, counterargument to efforts to include minorities and women in various organizations, only distracts from the issue and betrays Briscoe’s unconscious assumptions and discrimination of non-minority people — which might be why he took time to argue that higher education can’t be “deserved to be here.” (It’s unclear to me how everyone is qualified but not white in 150 years.)

He writes that “such thoughts and assumptions...” He also states, “most people believe that minorities and women are qualified enough to be at MIT...” He is right, but it never goes away, nor can they.” While the self-doubt that minorities and women face is a well-documented phenomenon, to point this out as if it is somehow proof of the wrongness of affirmative action is equally ridiculous. By his own admission, Briscoe is hellbent on holding to this assumption to the point of subjective threat. You are never going to be good enough in my eyes as long as the Institute makes you a priority. What he fails to recognize is that this self-doubt is also an outgrowth of the cultural and racial expectations of minorities. As if the youths of all groups of people can be attributed solely to MIT’s affirmative action policy!

In the end, I’m not surprised that as a white male Briscoe is “offended” by the focus on minorities at the Institute. After all, when you belong to a racial group that has traditionally maintained a comfortable majority in society, business, higher education, and politics, and that majority is losing ground as evidence by the growing numbers of minorities in the population, of course you’re going to feel threatened by other groups wanting (and deserving) your fair share of involvement.

Sure, the number of faculty slots available, and more of them to go to minorities, of course fewer are going to go to the minority groups that are remaining committed to these policies, and hope that they may be able to diversify a community of scholars to pass through the doors of the Institute. But that is reality, not injustice.

I believe that for the good of everyone, MIT must take a new look at the population at large! Briscoe condescendingly claims that “for the good of everyone, MIT needs to stop focusing on gender and race.”

Rather, for the good of everyone, we need to acknowledge our individual biases and difficulties with issues of race, the tensions between racial groups, that MIT is a microcosm of our larger society, and that the best way forward is to actively seek out and seek out taking in all people, and making my campus more welcoming for people of all backgrounds — not maintaining a stigmatized system of privilege and power for some groups and turning a blind eye to the factors and injustices that exclude others.

Christine Casas graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor’s in Biology.
Least Action Principle by Amanda Aparicio

A SUGGESTION ON HOW TO MAKE SOLVING PHYSICS PROBLEMS MORE INTERESTING:

And the charged cube slides through a chute onto a charged semi-circle.

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Why do you need to calculate the energy of a ball needed to just make it up a ramp?

which then launches the conductive cube towards an open circuit which the cube completes, sending a signal to the Physics Lords telling them to end the world?

So you're not just calculating an ENERGY. You're saying lives.

...and the button is attached to a spring that imparts any extra energy from the ball to a charged cube?

So maybe now you won't be so careless with your signs.

Sudoku

Solution, page 14

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Techdoku

Solution, page 14

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

- 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.
Fun Fun Fun

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

The Tech Tuesday, February 21, 2012

A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE,

SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

I have never been as self-conscious about my handwriting as when I was ink ing in the caption for this comic.

Helpdesk by Michael Benitez

by Jorge Cham

Saturday Stumper by Doug Peterson Solution, page 14

ACROSS
1 Paper work
8 Paper work
15 Warsaw Pact member
16 Like some traffic markers
17 Checkout return
18 Steep-sided ridge
19 Heavy duty
20 Clifford the Big Red Dog
poodle
22 F. Murray Abraham and Ethan Hawke awards of 2011
23 Ending like -ule
24 Pieces of puzzles
25 AL East team
26 Get moving
28 Get gloomy
29 Tried to reach
30 When doubled, D
33 Not fancy at all
34 Tumblers, e.g.
36 Hearty brunch fare
38 Causing heads to turn
39 Recurring theme for Kafka
40 Atwitter, with "up"
48 Knocking out
51 “A Nation Prepared” org.
52 Strike site
53 “It’s over”
55 Half-brother of Solomon
57 Battler of Hera in the Trojan War
58 Get gloomy
59 Cop-show staple
60 Faves, perhaps

DOWN
1 Portrait of Don Juan and Robin
2 First strip to win a Pulitzer
3 Checkout line
4 Floppy lids
5 Red
6 “Grand” group
7 Crystal in many a jewel box
8 Toledo’s two-by-four?
9 Hundred Acre Wood denizen
10 Sound
11 Mega-selling singing family
12 Exotic juice berry
13 Dungeons & Dragons weapon
14 Stripes
15 Steep-sided ridge
20 Clifford the Big Red Dog
21 Scenic walkway
24 Concept in economic theory
25 Nectar source
27 Frequent letter ender
29 Tried to reach
30 Merchantsmen have them
31 Struck
32 In case
33 Starbuck’s boss
34 Make a face, in a way
35 Navigate
37 Town SE of Cherbourg
39 Ending like -ule
41 Leg : fibula :: arm : __
42 Brow revealers
43 Chat-room qualifier
44 Have something elegant
45 Machines with SuperDrives and FaceTime cameras
46 Atwitter, with “up”
47 Beat
48 Not very much
49 Starting to come apart
50 Crumb
51 Talk finisher
52 Talk up
53 Nectar source
54 Quaint affirmation
55 Starting to come apart
56 “Dear __, of memory, great heir of fame . . . ”: Milton
57 “A Nation Prepared” org.
58 Get gloomy
59 Cop-show staple
60 Faves, perhaps

Saturday Stumper by Doug Peterson Solution, page 14
A group of students eat from a chocolate fountain at the freshman Snowflake Ball event in the Media Lab, organized by the 2015 Class Council.

MIT MOCHA MOVES PRESENTS

MOTOWN

Guest performance by MIT Fixation

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25

6PM AND 9PM

KRESGE LITTLE THEATER

$5

Tickets on sale at the Student Center
Feb. 13-17 and 20-24, 9am-5pm
DiCarlo aims to make Course 9 best in education, too

James DiCarlo

INCOMING BCS DEPARTMENT HEAD

The Tech Tuesday, February 21, 2012

DiCarlo, from Page 1

What's different today? A lot. And that's a good thing. It's so exciting to be here, and it's so exciting to be at MIT. I think that's an important thing to keep in mind, especially as we think about the future of the department. The future is very exciting, and I think we have a lot of opportunities to make a real impact on the world.

What do you want to see happen here? We've recently made the oral and written qualification system for any organization of the graduate curriculum to convey to students what we know and can't yet predict. This space donated by

This space donated by

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With changes occurring in the digital delivery of course material, internet competition and the transition from physical books to digital, now is a great time to be a COOP director. For more information and to apply please visit www.thecoop.com.
Microtargeting helps campaigns customize ads

By Tanzina Vega
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Political campaigns, which have borrowed tricks from Madison Avenue for decades, are now fully engaged on the latest technologi- cal frontier in advertising: aiming specific ads at potential support- ers based on where they live, the websites they visit and their voting record.

In recent primaries, two kinds of Republican voters have been seeing two different Mitt Romney video ads pop up on local and national news websites. The first, called “It’s Time to Return American Opti- mism,” shows the candidate on the campaign trail explaining how this was an election “to save the soul of America.” It was aimed at commit- ted party members to encourage a

large turnout. The second video ad, geared toward voters who have not yet aligned themselves with a can- didate, focuses more on Romney as a family man. Versions of the two ads were seen online in Florida, Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

Kenneth M. Goldstein, presi- dent of the Campaign and Media Analysis Group at Kantar Media, part of the advertising giant WPP, said Romney’s directed ads rep- resented a sea change in political advertising.

“If forty years ago, you’d watch the same evening news ad as your Democratic neighbor,” Goldstein said.

The technology that makes such customized advertising possible is called microtargeting, which is similar to the techniques nonpo- litical advertisers use to serve up, for example, hotel ads online to people who had shopped for vaca- tions recently.

The chief benefit of microtargeting is that campaigns can spend their money more efficiently by finding a particular audience.

In the past few years, compa- nies that collect data on how con- sumers behave both online and off and what charitable donations they make have combined that vast store of information with voter reg- istration records.

As a result, microtargeting al- lows campaigns to put specific messages in front of specific voters — something that has increased in sophistication with the large buck- ets of data available to political consultants.

Zac Moffatt, digital director for Romney’s campaign, worked with a company called Targeted Victory for the online ads.

“The people in the same house could get different messages,” Moffatt said. “Not only will the message change, the type of content will change.”

Few campaigns like to talk about this kind of advertising. Representatives from the Obama campaign and the Gingrich cam- paign would not confirm whether they were using targeted ads tied to voter data. Saul Anuzis, chair- man of the Republican National Committee on Technology, said he expected spending on digital politi- cal ads to reach 10 to 15 percent of campaign budgets in the 2012 elec- tion season.

Those numbers pale beside what campaigns will spend on tele- vision or direct mail. But the chief benefit of microtargeting is that campaigns can spend their money more efficiently by finding a par- ticular audience and paying $5 to $5 per thousand displays of an ad, Anuzis said.

“We can now literally target the household,” Anuzis said.

Microtargeting is largely done by a handful of campaign consul- tant groups including Aristotle, Campaigngrid and Targeted Vic-...
Data gathering, from Page 12

Data gathering, from direct marketing compa-

nies like Acxiom and Experian. The

companies are reluctant to discuss which

candidates are their clients, but according to a Federal Election

Commission filing, CampaignGrid
does work with the Ron Paul super

PAC, Endorse Liberty.

The process for targeting a user

with political messages takes three

steps. The first two are common to

any online marketing: a “cookie,”
or digital marker, is dropped on a

user’s computer after the user vis-

its a website or makes a purchase,

and that profile is matched with of-

line data like what charities a per-

son supports, what type of credit

card a person has and what type of

car he or she drives. The political

consultants then take a third step

and match that data with voting

records, including party registra-

tion and how often the person has

voted in past election cycles, but

not whom that person voted for.

Throughout the process, the tar-

geted consumers are tagged with an

alphabetumeric code, removing

their names and making the data

anonymous. So while the cam-

paig某个 are not aiming at consumers

by name — only by the code — the

effect is the same. Campaigns are

able to aim at specific possible vot-

ers across the Web. Instead of buy-

ing an ad on any site, say, The Miami

Her-

ald website, a campaign can buy an

ad space — when campaigns need

to strategically pull it down very fast. “

It’s awful for the governor to try

desperately hold on to power by

scaring people,” Christie said at the

debate, “that makes a big difference.

John Simpson, media director at

Blue State Digital, which worked

with the Obama campaign in 2008,
said bidding technology means

strategists can “get a campaign up

and running very fast and also po-

tentially pull it down very fast.”

In 2009, Chris Christie, then a

candidate for governor in New Jer-

sey, worked with CampaignGrid
to respond to accusations from Gov.

Jon S. Corzine that he supported

medical redlining.

Different people getting differ-

ent ideas about a candidate maxi-

mize the chances that a person

would agree with you.”

I think the biggest thing in politics

is just being able to move quickly.

I don’t know if it won us the cam-

paign, but it kept us from losing.”

When Gov. Bobby Jindal of Loui-

siana was running for re-election

last year, his campaign used a num-

ber of ads with different messages.

Blaise Hazelwood, the president of

Grassroots Targeting, the company

that worked on Jindal’s campaign,
said voter registration data was

critical to the success of the digital

campaign.

“We want to hit the people who

can actually go out and vote,” Ha-

zelwood said.

The digital campaign ran in Sep-

tember and October and the com-

pany placed ads online to reach

registered Republicans as well as

registered Democrats. There were

more registered Democrats in the

state, and early polling had shown

that some were “favorable toward

Jindal,” Hazelwood said.

Critics say the ability to limit po-
tical messages to registered voters

ties the line of social discrimina-
tion. Daniel Kreiss, an assistant

professor at the School of Journal-

alism and Mass Communication at

the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill, called some of the tar-

geting techniques a form of politi-
cal redlining.

“These practices, as they get

more sophisticated, leave entire

segments of the population out of

the political communication of the

campaign,” Kreiss said, adding that

“campaigns aren’t going to spend

resources on people who aren’t

seen as being important.”

Professor Joseph Turow of the

Annenberg School for Communi-

cation at the University of Pennsyl-

vania said ads aimed at registered

voters, while efficient for the cam-
paign, benefitted the candidate in

another way.

“Different people getting differ-
ent ideas about a candidate maxi-

mize the chances that a person

would agree with you.”

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<tr>
<th>Clean Energy Startup Competition</th>
<th>WIN $200,000</th>
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<td>Seekin student entrepreneurs in:</td>
<td>- Efficiency</td>
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<td>- Renewable Energy</td>
<td>- Deployment &amp; Infrastructure</td>
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MIT Lutheran Episcopal Ministry

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
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Join us for the best of our Mediterranean
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First 100 online tickets for $5!

Tickets
$10 at http://lebanon.scripts.mit.edu/event/
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Lobdell Dining Hall (W20-208)
Friday March 2nd
8pm-1am
ID required for cash bar
The idea of running 3–5 miles, multiple days per week, would have been so intimidating that I would never have tried to get in shape.

In reality, everyone has to start small. In addition to slow-paced cardio, there are many different avenues for getting in shape. Weight training is a key example. Not only is it an interesting diversion from humdrum ellipticals, it can also be critical for making the most of your workout. According to Jason Shea, founder of the Athletic Performance Enhancement Center (APECs), in the MetroWest Daily News, "When weight training, cardio, and healthy eating are properly combined, one's metabolism may increase as much as 30 percent to 40 percent. All three components are necessary to achieve weight loss and fitness goals."

Girls that lift weights get bulky and ugly. According to Chad Martinovich, MIT’s head football coach and strength coach for the MIT Women’s Lacrosse and campus life, this myth is entirely false. "[Weight training] is not all about getting big. With a good strength routine and proper nutrition, women will "lean out, not bulk up," and even under intense weight training, most will not develop the ‘body-builder’ physique some women fear. Need proof? Just ask some of Coach Martinovich’s trainees on the Women’s Lacrosse or Basketball teams, all of whom generally lift at least twice per week while in season.

If you’re especially concerned with putting on extra muscle, Martinovich recommends adopting a “toning routine,” a weight training protocol that focuses on doing exercises for many reps (8–15). These endurance-improving routines will improve “muscle tone and definition while reducing body fat without adding bulk.” This is true for men, too — think marathon runners or cyclist body types.

Weight training makes you inflexible. False. Weight training is one of the best strength exercises for increasing flexibility. In fact, experienced weightlifters may look more flexible than training on your own or even in a class. The girls who are convinced that this myth was and is completely false.

The new mom worries people will judge her. This isn’t even a myth, but it is a fear that should and can be alleviated with the proper introduction. "Level of comfort in the weight room can be a big hurdle for novices," Martinovich acknowledges. "But weight training classes like those offered by MIT’s PE can teach you proper forms and techniques. Once you become confident, you can take the workout plans you've learned to any gym, anywhere."

In fact, nor is it a fear of being teaching one of the PE weight lifting classes this quarter. He says that the class was revamped last semester to IAP to be more like a varsity weight training session, with fewer breaks and more efficient protocols. “The student response has been really positive. They like how they can get an intense workout in a short time, as little as 35 minutes.”

If you’d rather work one-on-one, hiring a personal trainer can be one of the best decisions of your life. Although training can be expensive, a trainer has to push you to be your best in a safe way will not only improve your confidence, it will make going to the gym a lot of fun! In my own experience, a good trainer will encourage you and help you improve much faster than training on your own or even in a class. The difference is personal attention. When a trainer is on the same page as you about your fitness goals, he or she can personalize your workout routine to maximize your gains. Perhaps more important, your trainer will make sure you’re exercising with safe form and prevent you from overtraining or injuring yourself.

Be careful, though, when choosing a trainer. It’s important to find someone who likes working with you, as well as someone you trust. Choose someone who you feel comfortable with, who makes you feel good about working out. Functional and hilarious. Planning Your Workout: Now’s the time to use your Workout Book. You should aim to lift at least twice a week, one day focusing on lower body lifts, the other on upper body. According to Martinovich and my own strength coach, Mike Jones, splitting up muscle groups is effective because it gives one set of muscles a chance to recover while you continue to train the other.

The students like how they can get an intense workout in a short time, as little as 35 minutes. "

One more tip. As my financial analyst brother says, “If you’re going to invest your money, don’t ask the guy wearing a ‘body builder’ physique some women feel.

stuffed, functional and hilarious. Planning Your Workout: Now’s the time to use your Workout Book. You should aim to lift at least twice a week, one day focusing on lower body lifts, the other on upper body. According to Martinovich and my own strength coach, Mike Jones, splitting up muscle groups is effective because it gives one set of muscles a chance to recover while you continue to train the other.

Your ideal trainer should only make you feel strong, safe, and confident.

If you’d like to do more, you can opt for a three-day schedule, which is what I do. Mondays, I focus on lower body; Wednesdays, it’s cardio, swimming, and body; and Fridays, I do a synthesis workout, with a little of both. Rest days are important, though, so it can be a good idea to limit weights to no more than four days per week. In the meantime, you can relax or do another fitness activity you enjoy, like running, playing a sport, dancing, swimming, etc.

3. Improving Your Workout: Be sure to track your weights and reps in your workout book. Each time you go to the gym, you should try to push yourself a little harder — provided you are properly spotted and if you can do an entire set of an exercise without breaking a sweat; it’s time to add a little more weight. Many trainers recommend that you select a weight where you can just barely finish a set of repetitions with proper form.

Another good idea is to try videotaping yourself. Martinovich says this can be a wonderful way to see if you’re lifting with a full range of motion and with proper form. If you’re not, it can also help you fix your mistakes.

4. Nutrition is equally important. Weight training breaks down muscle, so protein-rich meals are essential for re-building. There are different schools on the subject of protein intake, but you should use, so we will leave that discussion for next week.

Overall. As Martinovich says, “healthy body, healthy mind” — even if you think exercising, particularly strength training, will exhaust you, the truth is this kind of training will keep you from becoming run down as you age. It also helps reduce stress, improve mental clarity, and decrease your recovery time for both mental and physical exercise. The endorphin boost associated with working out and making your trainer will keep you from feeling pain during exercise. Be healthy, train healthy.

Disclaimer: I may be a premed, but I’m not a doctor yet! As always, be sure to check with your doctor before starting any exercise program and ask an athletic trainer for help if you feel pain during exercise. Be healthy, train healthy.

By Allison Hamilos

Weight training can boost your health, make you lean, and protect you from injury.
Swimming and Diving takes NEWMAC title
Next stop for the Engineers is NCAA Division III National Championships

Engineers fall to Clark, 61-50
Basketball celebrates seniors at final home game

By Katie Bodner
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Pink balloons lined Rockwell Cage Saturday afternoon while fans dressed in pink packed the bleachers. Not only was it Senior Day for the MIT Women’s Basketball team’s final home game, but it was also the “Play4Kay” initiative. This fundraiser by the Kay Row Cancer Fund, in collaboration with the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association, aimed to raise funds for breast cancer research and awareness. The team

The fundraiser was a nice way to bring the community together, rally for a good cause, and bring out a competitive spirit in the players and the fans. The Engineers attacked back defensively and also got into an offensive rhythm to oust MIT 8-0 to end the first half at 26-15 (Cougars). The second half was marked by more aggressive play from the Engineers. At the beginning of the half, Clark went on another run and hit its highest lead of the game, 35-20. But the Engineers were not done fighting. Sharon S. Hsiao ‘14 scored a nice jump shot that sparked a new energy in the Engineers. Mari R. Kordell ‘15 went on a 10-1 run against the Cougars, followed by a three from Merrifield, a jumper from Alexxis R. Isaac ‘15. The Engineers brought a great energy that we saw in the second half of this game to next season.

Women’s Swimming and Diving

The next Sectional Competition will be held from March 17-18 at the University of Delaware, and the National Championships will occur April 21-22 at Colorado College.

—David Zhu, Senior Editor

SPRINTS SHORTS

Figure Skating hosts Eastern Sectionals

Over the weekend, the MIT Figure Skating Club hosted the Eastern Sectional Collegiate Team Skating Competition. The USFSA-sanctioned competition included skaters from 20 universities from across the region. The Engineers finished third in the event two years ago, when they finished sixth overall out of 13 schools; this time, they finished seventh overall out of 13 schools. The University of Delaware, Dartmouth, and Boston University took the top three spots with 125, 100, and 88 points, respectively.

The competition consisted of both individual and team events, in the Pre-juvenile, Intermediate, Pre-Novice, and Novice levels. The Engineers won the Pre-Juvenile Ladies division on Saturday and the Intermediate Ladies division on Sunday.

In the Intermediate Ladies division, Maya Pan ‘12, Ashlee C. Greene ‘13, Gwen Getliffe, and Nahyoun S. Y. Oi ‘13 took first in the Senior Men’s Championships. Shawn de Soria finished first and second, and Chantae A. Akiyama ‘15 finished first in her group in the Senior Ladies division. Gannan W. Ryan was not the only Engineer to dazzle the crowds off of her time in the preliminary round. Anna L. Merrifield ‘13 also competed for MIT. In the team events, MIT cut. Rogers, in similar fashion, placed third overall on the 1-meter and 5th on the 3-meter.

After an extremely successful first day, the Engineers came back on Saturday with a renewed energy, immediately evidencing their discipline and lack of complacency. The men’s and women’s teams won out of the day’s 14 events, further solidifying their places at the top. The men finished the day with 828 points ahead of the Coast Guard Academy with 485, and the women finished with 668 points compared to Springfield College’s 544.

On the women’s team, sophomores Calley L. Murphy and Christy K. Rogers made notable impacts on the meet. Murphy commanded the 100-yard breaststroke, winning the event with a 1:04.96 cut. Rogers, in similar fashion, placed first in the 100-yard backstroke in 56.17 seconds, making another NCAA “A” cut for the Engineers. Murphy and Rogers did not stop with these two wins as they each went on to win the 200-yard backstroke and 200-yard breaststroke respectively. The Engineers did not hold off as they entered the third day of competition with confidence and persistence. Continuing to exceed expectations, the men’s and women’s teams took another step of the national day’s 12 events. The Engineers unlatching success over the course of the meet allowed both teams to enjoy a comfortable lead over the other teams. At the conclusion of the meet, the women’s team lead with 1219 points to the Coast Guard Academy’s 735, while the women’s team finished with an impressive 960 points over Springfield College’s 822.5.

The Engineers swimming and diving squads exhibited a remarkable consistency throughout this weekend as they outpaced their other competitors in the conference. Much of the Engineers’ success can be attributed to their determination and preparation throughout the year. The team also benefits from the leadership and experience of upperclass swimmers like Maxwell T. Pruner ‘13 and Matthew R. Chapa ‘12. With a combination of fresh, young talent and rock-solid leadership, the MIT Engineers won the NEWMAC swimming and diving titles with admirable conviction.

Although the NEWMAC championship meet is the end of the season for most swimmers in the conference, many of the swimmers look forward to the upcoming Eastern Sectionals on the NCAA Division III National Championships. Qualifying for nationals is an extremely competitive, but the Engineers anticipate sending a number of their top swimmers. Expect to see in particular Thomas E. Uhlbaker ‘13, Matthew R. Chapa ‘12, Colby N. W. ‘14, and Emily A. Ryan ‘15 to spearhead the Engineers’ effort at the National Championships.

“Sarah” Yu ‘15 also competed for MIT. In the team events, MIT had 12 spots with 125, 100, and 88 points, respectively. Expect to see in particular Thomas E. Uhlbaker ‘13, Matthew R. Chapa ‘12, Colby N. W. ‘14, and Emily A. Ryan ‘15 to spearhead the Engineers’ effort at the National Championships.

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