Two more partners for edX in the past week
Georgetown and Wellesley join, will offer courses in fall

By Leon Lin
STAFF REPORTER

As many of edX’s first courses come to a close, the online learning initiative continues to grow. EdX spokesman Dan O’Connell told The Tech last week that edX had reached half a million unique registrants. Yesterday edX announced its newest partner: Georgetown University, which joins just on the heels of Wellesley College, whose own addition to the list of “X Universities” was announced last week. Wellesley is the first liberal arts college to join edX.

Both Georgetown and Wellesley will begin offering courses via edX next fall, as will the University of Texas perhaps as soon as next summer, according to O’Connell. Next spring, Harvard, MIT, and UC Berkeley will be offering 35 to 20 courses, including edX’s first courses in the humanities. Seven of the nine courses edX currently offers are in computer science or electrical engineering.

For most of the courses on edX, hardly an hour passes without a new thread appearing on the discussion board. The students who just include Massachusetts middle school students, Kazakhastani undergraduates, and 60-year-old corporate managers. On the forums, they share solutions after exams, report errors and glitches, compare grades, complain about the background music in course videos, advertise Facebook groups, express their thanks, and tell jokes (“ultimate bands are so 2000s” gets 26 upvotes on 3.091x Introduction to Solid State Chemistry).

It’s not surprising that edX students are the classroom—A Baker House stairwell window. According to MIT Police Sergeant Amoroso, the individual was transported to Cambridge Hospital and no charges were filed, with further disciplinary action up to the administration. A trail of blood led from Baker, to a bathroom in the Student Center, to the corner of Ames and Amherst.

IN SHORT

This is the last issue of The Tech for the semester! We will resume publishing on Jan. 8.

The student center will be closed from 11:30 p.m. Dec. 21 until 6:30 a.m. Dec. 26. It will also be closed for New Year from 11:30 p.m. Dec. 28 until 6:30 a.m. Jan. 2.

A community Winter Break will be held in Wurker Memorial from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on Dec. 13. Join the MIT community for refreshments and live music!

Shuttles will be running to Logan Airport from Dec. 19 to 22 at scheduled times for a $10 fee. Make a reservation at http://web.mit.edu/activities/transportations/shuttles/airport/flight.

Three anonymous reports of sexual assault at Lambda Chi Alpha

On December 5, MIT Police released a police bulletin stating that they had received three anonymous reports of sexual assaults that occurred on November 2012 at 98 Bay State Road, the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house. The bulletin stated that there is no ongoing criminal investigation as a result of the reports. When contacted, MIT Chief of Police John DiFava confirmed that there was no ongoing investigation and declined to comment further.

“MIT takes the issue of sexual assault very seriously,” Associate Vice President for Communications Naird Nickerson said in an email statement to The Tech. “Criminal investigations sometimes result from communications with people reporting crimes, but only if such investigations are in line with the wishes for privacy, and desired level of participation, of those who have come forward.”

Nickerson added, “The MIT Police investigate all reports of sexual assault.”

Central Square properties for sale
MIT maybe interested in the real estate valued at $15 mil.

By Sara Hess
STAFF REPORTER

Several parcels of land spanning a wide area of Central Square, including several prominent locations along Massachusetts Avenue, were recently listed for sale. Speculation surrounds MIT’s potential interest in purchasing the properties, which include several parking lots and the Quest Diagnostics building. Kathy Fennessy and the Fennessy Realty Trust are the current owners of the property—valued at over $15 million, according to a recent report in The Cambridge Chronicle. Fennessy informed The Tech that the properties are being marketed by Cushman & Wakefield as a single sale but “anything is possible.” The sale properties opportunities for audience question and answer. Each team provided an overview of its target user base, demonstrated its prototype, and presented a business plan for taking the product to market.

Two of the teams focused on products for

2.009 Competition

Students present projects in annual event, this year with the theme “Outdoors”

On Monday, students in 2.009, Product Engineering Processes, presented their final projects related to the theme “outdoors.” The students, all seniors in Mechanical Engineering, worked for three months in eight color-coded teams of 15-19 students each to research markets, choose a focus, design a product, and produce a working prototype with a $6500 budget.

David Wallace, the course instructor, hosted the event in a full Kresge auditorium. The finale included live music, videos of in-class events, eight-minute team presentations, and opportunities for audience question and answer. Each team provided an overview of its target user base, demonstrated its prototype, and presented a business plan for taking the product to market.

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Two of the teams focused on products for

edX, Page 19
**Chinese police detain Tibetans in self-immolation protests**

By Edward Wong, The New York Times

BEIJING — Chinese officials have detained a Tibetan monk and his nephew and accused them of playing a role in a series of self-immolations, according to Xinhua, the state news agency. The move appeared to be part of a campaign to prosecute Tibetans who are accused of inciting others to set themselves on fire in protest of Chinese rule.

The police said the monk who was detained — Langor Konchok, 46, of the town of Samtse in Lhokha, or Shannan, a Tibetan region — was connected with eight self-immolations, Xinhua reported Sunday.

The two men were apparently detained in August, it was unclear when Xinhua did not report on them until now.

The Kirti Monastery, in the town of Ngaba, has been central to the wave of self-immolations that began in Tibetan areas in February 2009, when a young monk from Kirti named Tseyig Sonam set himself on fire in the center of Ngaba. Nearly 100 people in Tibetan regions of China have set themselves on fire to protest Chinese rule, including three over the weekend, according to Tibetan exile groups.

The Xinhua report said that Langor Konchok and his nephew, called Tsering Tse, 31, were suspected by the police of passing on information about the identities and backgrounds of Tibetans who have self-immolated to exiles in India. A Tibetan government-in-exile is based in Dharmsala, India, the spiritual leader of the Tibetans, the Dalai Lama, has long been critical of the self-immolations, saying that they are a form of terrorism.

Xinhua said the report was intended to deter others from taking similar actions. It did not provide details on what the two men were accused of doing anyway.

By Robert Pear, The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration gave conditional approval on Monday to health insurance marketplaces being set up by six states led by Democratic governors eager to carry out President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul.

The six are Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon and Washington.

At the same time, the administration rejected pleas from other states that want to carry out a partial expansion of Medicaid, to cover fewer people than the president and Congress originally intended.

Some states want to expand Medicaid to cover childless adults with incomes up to the poverty level, $19,990 for a family of three.

But Cindy Mann, the top federal Medicaid official, said the federal government would pay the full cost of newly eligible Medicaid beneficiaries only if a state raised the threshold to 133 percent of the poverty level — or 138 percent, with an adjustment allowed by federal law. This would guarantee Medicaid coverage for a family of three with income less than or equal to $26,345.

Matt D. Salo, the executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors, which represents state officials, summarized the administration’s position this way: “No partial expansion of Medicaid. No phased-in expansion. It’s all or nothing.”

In upholding the health care law in the South Carolina Supreme Court’s refusal of an expansion of Medicaid was an option for states, not a requirement as Obama had argued. Still, the White House says the expansion would be a good deal for states because the federal government would pay the entire cost of Medicaid for newly eligible beneficiaries from 2014 to 2016 and then 90 percent or more of the costs in later years.

Republican governors expressed disappointment. “The Obama administration’s refusal to grant states more flexibility on Medicaid is as dishonest as it is shortsighted,” said Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana.

The chairman of the Republican Governors Association, the White House policy, he said, “will make a state’s decision on Medicaid expansion more difficult.”

In a letter last week, Jindal and 10 other Republican governors asked President Obama to meet with them to discuss Medicaid.

Bruce Siegel, the president of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, praised the administration’s decision on Medicaid, saying it was consistent with the letter and spirit of the law, “to expand health care coverage as broadly as possible.”

The administration announced its policies in answers to questions that state officials had asked about the expansion of Medicaid and the creation of online supermarkets known as health insurance exchanges.

Starting in 2014, the federal government will require most Americans to have health insurance, and it will offer financial assistance to millions of people to help them pay premiums.

The six states approved in six states are Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon and Washington.甀overnment ended up extending lifetimes to a number of financial institutions and to companies like General Motors. But it was the bailout of AIG that resonated most deeply among the American public and became a symbol of risk-taking and excess on Wall Street — and Washington’s complicity in it. At one point, the government had made more than $58 billion available to support AIG. Billions of that went to pay claims that the banks had on the insurer.

By Michael J. De La Merced, The New York Times

Long Live the King — or Not

升降朝廷、平定边疆、祭祀先祖、收复失地、冰清玉洁、玉壶生辉、玉液琼浆、玉润冰清、玉色华章、玉质冰心、玉雪好肌、玉照生辉

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

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**Chinese police detain Tibetans in self-immolation protests**
US forecast as No. 2 economy, but energy independent

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON — A new intelligence assessment of global trends projects that China will surpass the United States as the leading economic power before 2030, but that America will remain an indispensable world leader, bolstered in part by an era of energy independence.

Russia’s clear will remain, as will the economic strength of other countries reliant on oil for revenue, the assessment says.

The product of four years of intelligence gathering and analysis, the study, by the National Intelligence Council, presents grounds for optimism and pessimism in nearly equal measure. The council reports to the director of national intelligence and has responsibilities for long-term strategic analysis.

One remarkable development it anticipates is a spreading influence that leads to a larger global middle class that is better educated and has wider access to health care and communications technologies like the Internet and smartphones. The report assesses global trends until 2030.

“One of the growth of the global middle class constitutes a tectonic shift,” the study says, adding that billions of people will gain new individual power as they climb out of poverty. “For the first time, a majority of the world’s population will not be impoverished, and the middle classes will be the most important social and economic actor in the vast majority of countries around the world.”

At the same time, it warns, half of the world’s population will probably be living in areas that suffer from severe shortages of fresh water, meaning that management of natural resources will be a crucial component of global national security efforts.

But these developments also bring significant risks, allowing radicalized groups to enter world politics on a scale even more violent than that of current terrorist organizations by adopting “lethal and disruptive technologies,” including biological weapons and cyber warfare.

Dec. 29

North Korea said it was exercising its right to the peaceful use of space technology by using the rocket to put a scientific satellite, called Kwangmyongsong, into orbit. But the U.N. Security Council, led by the United States and its allies, say North Korea’s purpose is to develop the ability to deliver a nuclear warhead on a long-range ballistic missile. North Korea is banned from testing such technology under U.N. resolutions, and sanctions have been imposed over its previous tests.

By Choe Sang-hun

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Monday that a technical glitch had been found in the rocket it had planned to launch as early as this week to put a satellite in orbit, but that it still planned to try the launching by the end of the month.

North Korea announced on Dec. 1 that it would launch the rocket, called the Unha-3, sometime between Monday and Dec. 22. But on Sunday it said it might have to postpone the launching, without specifying a reason, prompting speculation in the region about what motivated the delay.

On Monday, a spokesman for the Korean Committee of Space Technology said scientists had found “a technical deficiency in the first-stage control engine module” of the three-stage rocket. Although the preparations to launch the rocket were nearly complete, the spokesman was quoted by the state-run Korean Central News Agency as saying that scientists were forced to extend the window for a launching by a week, until Dec. 28.

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US designates a militant Syrian rebel group as terrorists

WASHINGTON — The United States has formally designated the Al Nusra Front, the militant Syrian rebel group, as a foreign terrorist organization.

The move, which was expected, is aimed at building Western support for the rebellion against the government of President Bashar Assad by quelling fears that money and arms meant for the rebels would flow to a jihadi group.

A designation was disclosed Monday in the Federal Register, just before an important diplomatic meeting in Morocco on the political transition if Assad is driven from power. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday.

The decision to designate the group, the register notes, was made by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Nov. 20, in consultation with Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., and Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner.

The State Department appeared to delay the publication of the decision to synchronize it with the expected announcement in Morocco that the United States will formally recognize the Syrian opposition.

“The notice in the register lists the Al Nusra Front as one of the ‘alilaes’ of al-Qaida in Iraq.”


Chinese telecom company to open research center in Finland

PARIS — Huawei Technologies, a Chinese maker of telecommunications equipment, said Monday that it planned to open a research and development center in Helsinki next year, accelerating its investments in Europe, where its business is expanding rapidly.

The move illustrates a trans-Atlantic difference in attitudes toward Huawei. The company has been largely shut out of the U.S. market for network gear because of congressional concerns about possible security threats — fears the company insists are unfounded.

While Huawei has faced difficulties in some European markets, like France, it has done better elsewhere. Huawei employs more than 20,000 people in the region, and it says that total could double in the next three to five years. Huawei already has a research center in Italy and is studying the possibility of opening one in Spain.

The planned center in Helsinki, involving an investment of 70 million euros, or about $90 million, will work on smartphone development, including features like user interfaces and power management, the company said. When the center opens next year, it will employ 30 people, but this could grow to 100 over the next five years, the company said.


Technical glitch delays rocket launching, North Korea says

By Choe Sang-hun

North Korea announced on Dec. 11, 2012 The Tech

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a "technical deficiency" in the first-stage control engine module of the three-stage rocket. Although the preparations to launch the rocket were nearly complete, the spokesman was quoted by the state-run Korean Central News Agency as saying that scientists were forced to extend the window for a launching by a week, until Dec 28.

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A New Class of Industrial Robot

Rodney Brooks

Rethink Robotics

Abstract: Rethink Robotics has been developing a new class of industrial robot for the last four years. They first announced the robot on September 18th, and shipping it to small US manufacturers in late 2012/early 2013. Its total cost of ownership is an order of magnitude cheaper than a conventional industrial robot, its integration time is under two hours, and it can easily be retrained to do new tasks by factory line workers, without they themselves requiring any special training on how to operate the robot. It is safe to work with, and has a very low barrier to entry for companies that have not previously had automation equipment. It is made in the USA, and our goal is for it to make American workers even more productive than they already are, so that US manufacturing of low cost goods can be competitive with other regions.

Bio: Rodney Brooks is the Panasonic Professor of Robotics (emeritus) at MIT, and the Founder, Chairman and CTO of Rethink Robotics. Previously he was Director of MIT CSAIL until 2007, and Co-founder, sometimes Chairman, and CTO of iRobot from 1990 to 2008. He had 27 fabulous PhD students at Stanford and MIT, and has managed to have fun building robots for most of his life.

For more information: www.csail.mit.edu or 617.253.0145

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

The Tech 3
A win for the gay and lesbian community

The election this November was big for the gay and lesbian community. Not only did Maryland become the first state to legalize same-sex marriage via public ballot, but in the past two failed attempts, we also saw victory in three other states. Maryland accomplished this historic endeavor to allow same-sex marriage, while Minnesota voters shut down a proposition to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage. I cannot describe to you the joy I felt watching this historic moments happen in our country. As time numbers climbed in favor of same-sex marriage, my girlfriend (whose last name, incidentally, is Martin) and I grew less and less able to keep smiles off of our faces. And when Maryland was finally called, there was nothing in the world that could have lessened our exhilaration. Finally having numerical proof that a majority of the state you live in thinks like you, is a victory, too, should have basic civil rights is really marvelous, especially when you've spent years seeing the op- position reflected in state constitutions nationwide.

Ultimately, no one really knows how important this issue is to the people around them. It's easy to live in a bubble and support “traditional” marriage on principle, but it's not easy to pop the bubble and take a look at the people affected by these laws. Take, for example, the thousands of kids who are struggling with their sexuality. Being gay, or being same-sex marriage, my girlfriend (whose last name, incidentally, is Martin) and I grew less and less able to keep smiles off of our faces. And when Maryland was finally called, there was nothing in the world that could have lessened our exhilaration. Finally having numerical proof that a majority of the state you live in thinks like you, is a victory, too, should have basic civil rights is really marvelous, especially when you've spent years seeing the op- position reflected in state constitutions nationwide.

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Problem-based education; changing the model

By Byo Dorminy

This week, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case seeking to force states to permit gay marriage. Many expect the Court to reinforce nationwide gay marriage, and in most of the US, gay marriage is now widely supported. While many lead gay marriage as the natural conclusion of homosexuality, inclusiveness, and sexual orientation, students have a homosexual experience for the first time. The students have a homosexual experience, and in the classroom, homophobia and homosexual commitment are very different. Before encouraging gay marriage, many students have experienced homophobia, even at the school—students have been asked to support themselves, and that long-term homosexual commitment is very unusual, and strongly recommended recommendations, even with societal support.

Long-term homosexuality is very rare, indicating that it constitutes a deviant, rather than normative, sexual behavior First, long-term homosexual relationships are rare in most animals, while homosexuality has been frequently observed, long-term homosexuality is very rare. Only when it constitutes a deviant, rather than normative, sexual behavior. Long-term homosexual relationships are also less stable than heterosexual marriages. Data from Vermont (Selomon and Rathamam 2004, in favor of gay marriage) showed that homosexual couples in civil unions had considered or discussed ending their relationships last year. Similarly, long-term heterosexual relations had at the same time. Long-term relationships lasted on average just two thirds as long as heterosexual relationships. Even though these long-term relationships were validated by society, they showed higher instability than similar heterosexual marriages, which leads to lower family success rates and likely psychological damage. Furthermore, human homosexuality has been correlated with an increased rate of suicidal and depression problems, including suicide and depression problems, such as building a robot, the students are encouraged to better engage the students, which they are focusing. Of course, students could also be used for student presentations about the aspects of the problem. Class time can be used to provide face-to-face interactions that the student cannot get elsewhere. Part of this could include professors talking about problem-solving strategies with students, showing them how they think about the aspects of the problem. Class time could also be used for student presentations about ideas they have for the project or about the work they have done. It may include fociucr Seminars, where students discuss case studies of problems similar to the one on which they are focusing. Of course, students can also use class time to work on their projects, e.g., working in the lab or researching in the library. When students learn about the role of the class, professors become free to use class time to better engage students with the material, and case studies designed to illustrate different aspects. The goal is to use class time to provide face-to-face interactions that the student cannot get elsewhere. Incorporating problem-based learning into an education also promises new ways of engaging students in educational practice. Either in place of or in addition to more traditional exams, students can work with a professor to design their own way to demonstrate what they have learned. This could be through traditional methods like papers, posters, and presentations, but it could also be through the completion of interactive online demos, or a video tutorial, building a website where people can learn about a topic, or a portfolio. With each problem comes unique ways for students to demonstrate mastery of course material. Advocates of online learning make many promises about the way in which it can transform and improve formal educational learning. One of the key promises is that online learning offers students a chance to learn about the same concepts and that are currently taught during a lecture, but at the pace of each individual student, combined with instantaneous feedback.
The Taming of the Shrew is a play of textuel, dramatic and historical significance in the history of English literature. The work, with its controversial themes and characters, has been both celebrated and criticized since its first performance. The play tells the story of Petruchio and Kate, a couple whose relationship is marked by gender roles and societal expectations.

The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare is a comedic play that was first performed in 1594. The play is set in a small Italian town and follows the story of Petruchio, a young man from Padua, and his wife Kate, who he marries against her will. Kate is portrayed as a difficult and stubborn woman, while Petruchio is a clever and manipulative man who sets about taming his new bride.

One of the main themes of the play is gender roles and the treatment of women in society. Kate is depicted as a strong and independent woman who refuses to conform to the expectations of her time. She challenges the idea that men are superior to women and refuses to be submissive to her husband. This makes her a symbol of women's rights and independence, which is a significant theme in the play.

Another important theme in the play is the role of marriage. The play explores the idea that marriage is a union between two people, and that it should be based on love and mutual respect rather than tradition or social expectations.

The play is also known for its use of satire and讽刺, as it critiques the societal expectations of the time. The characters are often portrayed as exaggerated and caricatured, and the play is full of humor and irony.

Overall, The Taming of the Shrew is a complex and thought-provoking play that continues to be studied and performed today.

This document was extracted from The Tech Tuesday, December 11, 2012, page 6.
MIT's growing relevance in a shrinking world

By Praveen Subramani

I'm sitting 11,000 meters above the Atlantic Ocean, hurling at 800 miles per hour towards Boston after an exhilarating week at a conference focused on smart cities in Barcelona, Spain. After spending the past three days engaging in discussions with policymakers, researchers, and businesses about the future of technology in cities, it has become highly apparent to me that MIT's recent efforts to expand our global education and outreach programs have truly paid off.

At conferences, workshops, and business meetings around the world, MIT is globally regarded as a leader in innovative thought across a wide variety of disciplines. Faculty and graduate students are spending more time traveling than perhaps ever before, a testament to the growing international relevance of MIT in an increasingly complex and globalized world. Presenting novel ideas at conferences, teaching children in developing nations, and participating in internships in foreign countries are just samples of activities that the MIT community engage in on a daily basis to maintain our global prominence. But we must not take this reputation for granted, as it has resulted from the concerted efforts of students, staff, and faculty to make MIT a truly global university.

When I first arrived at MIT in 2006, international education was not a particularly hot topic of discussion among the student body or the faculty. Notorious for its stringent academic requirements, MIT had largely been reluctant to offer traditional study abroad programs, which faculty and administrators feared would not provide access to the same quality and rigor of the MIT residential education. With a handful of exceptions, such as the Cambridge-MIT Exchange (CME) program, relatively few programs were available to promote the participation of MIT's students in international study or work experiences. Only a minority of students considered studying or working abroad a priority for their MIT educational experience.

However, in the past six years, a remarkable transformation has taken place. Today, MIT abounds with international opportunities for its students, staff, and faculty. And in a world facing global competition and rapid global diversification, it is critical that MIT community members are educated as international thinkers who are experienced at working across borders, rather than becoming victims of globalization.

Programs such as MISTI — MIT's International Science and Technology Initiative — provide opportunities for students to participate in internships abroad, learning not only from cultural immersion and diversity but also from the challenges of developing technology and businesses in an international context. Students can work in research labs at universities and institutions, or be matched with companies that are pioneering new technologies and ideas in industry. My own MISTI experience, an internship in southern Spain in 2008, taught me the challenges of developing hardware in a country without the luxuries of overnight delivery, 24-hour shipping, or easy access to class laboratory facilities. I also learned invaluable lessons about effective communication and engaging in international business that could not have been taught in any classroom. MIT now offers an undergraduate minor in Applied International Studies, which requires the participation in a MISTI internship as well as several courses on global approaches to innovation, communication, and culture.

Students who wish to pursue their own projects in the developing world can apply for funding from organizations such as MIT's Public Service Center (PSC), which provides grants and mentorship for independent research, education, and technology-deployment projects in every corner of the world from Colombia to Cambodia. Those who are passionate about dealing with businesses in poor areas of the world can find opportunities to learn about success in tackling poverty and funding from organizations such as the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation. Meanwhile, our Global Education and Career Development (GECD) office provides students access to outstanding resources and mentorship to help them apply for distinguished international fellowships such as Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, and Gates scholarships. GECD can also connect students with non-MIT study abroad programs and help internationally focused students fit a semester or year abroad into their undergraduate four-year plan, which can be a daunting challenge given MIT's demanding coursework requirements.

Countless workshops during the semesters, IAP, and summer sessions provide students the chance to teach, work, and study abroad. There are opportunities in every field from intensive language and culture immersion programs in Madrid, to the study of Palladian architecture in Italy, to developing technologies for water treatment in southeastern Asia. Recently, courses focused on providing aid to areas struck by natural disasters such as post-earthquake Haiti and post-tsunami Japan have provided incredible opportunities for students to develop new skillsets and deploy impactful projects, while assisting communities in need.

All of MIT's students should take advantage of some of these global opportunities.

All of MIT's students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels should take advantage of some of these global opportunities, or they may face irrelevance in a world where cross-cultural communication and international work experience is increasingly valuable. Whether through an MIT MISTI internship, an international service learning experience, or through an overseas internship or public service project, these global experiences provide a rich complement to the residential campus research and educational opportunities that most students are drawn to MIT for. Undergraduate advisors should encourage students to go abroad and ensure students that a summer spent at a lab in Mexico can be even more educational, eye-opening, and transformative than an internship at a hot Silicon Valley tech company or New York City consulting firm. Meanwhile, graduate student advisors should encourage their students to participate in international conferences, publish in international journals, and engage in collaborative projects with institutions and companies around the globe. Graduate students should also have the opportunity to work as visiting researchers at foreign research institutions to gain international perspectives on the research process and diversify their academic exposure. Indeed, having experience at multiple academic institutions in a variety of geographies can be an important criterion for junior faculty search committees at many universities.

These global educational, research, and work opportunities are not just beneficial for students, they are vital for the preservation of MIT's reputation worldwide. In today's world of international overload, anonymity is irrelevance. Furthermore, these international ties contribute to MIT's mission statement of "generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge, and working with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges." By sharing the results of our latest research and engaging in international projects, MIT's globally minded students, staff, and faculty function as ambassadors who disseminate the knowledge and mission of MIT while fostering vital academic and cultural partnerships for the future. In conjunction with our online educational programs and edX, and our predecessor OpenCourseWare, these ambassadors can impact a wider global community than ever before.

In 2013, I will move to Chile on a Fulbright Scholarship to apply my MIT educational, research, and business experiences to improving the public transportation systems in Santiago through the use of shared, lightweight electric vehicles. I am confident that my time at MIT has prepared me for a productive and engaging year in Chile. Furthermore, I know that I have an incredible global network of MIT's diverse alumni, collaborators, and friends awaiting. From the moment I chose to undertake this project, my colleagues and mentors at MIT jumped in to provide introductions to relevant people, offers of hospitality, and even restaurant recommendations for my time in Santiago. I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues and friends from MIT, in classrooms, boardrooms, conferences, field sites, and airports throughout the world.

This dedication must continue with renewed vigor to keep MIT's researchers and alumni competitive in a shrinking world.

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MIT revises bylaws: Corp. chair to lead Executive Committee

By John A. Hawkinson

New exec board takes IFC reins

A month after they were elected, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) is being run by a completely new group. Headed by Andrew L. Dorne '14 from Phi Sigma Kappa as president, the new executive board of the IFC was inaugurated on Dec. 5.

As president, Dorne says that while his biggest goal is to “develop the IFC to its potential,” his secondary objectives include allowing the fraternities to have of the IFC. “The IFC is often viewed only as a judicial body, but JudComm (our judicial committee), is only a portion of the IFC,” Dorne said.

The bylaws also now start with a preface summarizing their purpose. After the preamble, the first section of the bylaws now sets out, in bullet form, a set of responsibilities, powers, and duties.

The revisions also update the charge to the members. No longer are they merely the “body” of the IFC, but now MIT’s “Governor.” Now the members “hold a fiduciary duty to govern MIT, to oversee the stewardship of MIT’s assets for MIT’s present and perpetual well-being and stability, and to ensure that MIT fulfills the purposes for which it was established. The Corporation also has broad responsibility for the generation of new funds and assets.”

Risk/Audit Committee

MIT’s Audit Committee has been re-christened the “Risk and Audit Committee,” and it enlarged from a fixed size of five; it can now be between five and eight members.

In addition to the audit of MIT’s books and financial/investment records, it will monitor MIT’s “compliance with law, regulation, and standards of ethical behavior [and] risk management.”

Henri A. Termeer, former CEO of Genzyme and chair of the board, told The Tech last month that the new MIT administration wants to think about risk in an “organized fashion.”

While the broadened committee will be identifying risk, “we’re not trying to manage the unusualness of the institution,” Termeer said. He expects MIT to continue to step outside the box “all of the time.”

Other changes

The Corporation Development Committee, responsible for fundraising and the capital campaign, has been split. There is now a Corporation Development Committee Executive Board, with the Chairman, President, and Executive Vice President and Treasurer, as well as a committee of three and five additional members. That CDC Executive Board will oversee a separate Development Committee with members appointed by the Corporation, including honorary members.

Minor bylaw changes include not counting former presidents and chairmen against the 25-member limit on life members; allowing more nominees from the Alumni Association for a vacancy; permitting reappoints of some officers to be omitted from quarterly meetings; requiring the Executive Vice President and Treasurer to be a single person; the Executive Committee approves officer compensation rather than determining it; moving from the possibility of “any investment management company” to the certainty of “the investment management company”; avoiding conflicts of interest in visiting committee appointments; etc.


The Corporation Chairman John Reed was travelling Monday and could not be reached for comment.

Corp. Executive Committee oversight responsibilities

§ 14.2.4 Except as provided in Section 1.1, specific actions to be taken by the Corporation itself as a whole without any delegation, the Executive Committee shall discharge the authority of the Corporation described in Section 1.1. In discharge of such authority, the Executive Committee shall oversee the general administration and supervision of all matters relating to the Institute, including:

(a) scope and excellence of the Institute’s educational and research programs,
(b) performance of the Institute’s administration,
(c) financial planning and operating budgets, including tuition and financial aid, capital budget, and debt policy of the Institute,
(d) investment of the Institute’s endowment and other financial assets and distributions from the endowment,
(e) construction, maintenance, and renovation of the Institute’s buildings, grounds, facilities, and utilities,
(f) acquisition, disposition, development, and management of the Institute’s real property.
(g) organizational structure of the Institute and the Institute’s policies, systems, and controls for operations, financial reporting, risks and risk management, audit, legal affairs, and compliance;
(h) special contract services for the Federal government and other organizations; and
(i) approval of tenure decisions and approval of such faculty and staff appointees and salaries as the Executive Committee from time to time directs.

Source: Corporation Bylaws. Copyright © by The Tech

The Cambridge Fire Department responded to MIT five times on Sunday night to vandalism by a Boston University student. Within a few minutes of each other, fire pull stations in the Student Center and Kresge Auditorium (W16) were pulled shortly before 10 p.m., evacuating both buildings. Within the next hour, the same happened in Building 13, where power was also lost throughout much of the building, presumably from the perpetrator flipping circuit breakers. The Cambridge Fire Department returned to Bldg. 31 for the fifth and last time just after 11 p.m. in response to a water flow alarm. An emergency eyewash on the third floor had been activated, causing flooding on the adjacent record floors, and requiring Facilities engineers to come in and assess damage. Cambridge Fire finally left MIT around 11:55 p.m., and MIT Facilities restored power to Bldg. 31 an hour later.

The Fire Department returned to Bldg. 31 on Monday night and early Tuesday morning in response to an alarm in Building 31 (the Sloan Automobile Lab). MIT Police apprehended the suspected vandal — apparently with the assistance of MIT’s Boston University student. Within a few minutes of each other, fire pull stations in the Student Center and Kresge Auditorium (W16) were pulled shortly before 10 p.m., evacuating both buildings. Within the next hour, the same happened in Building 13, where power was also lost throughout much of the building, presumably from the perpetrator flipping circuit breakers. The Cambridge Fire Department returned to Bldg. 31 for the fifth and last time just after 11 p.m. in response to a water flow alarm. An emergency eyewash on the third floor had been activated, causing flooding on the adjacent record floors, and requiring Facilities engineers to come in and assess damage. Cambridge Fire finally left MIT around 11:55 p.m., and MIT Facilities restored power to Bldg. 31 an hour later.

The Tech is looking for interactive graphic designers to join its online media team.

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A barred owl was spotted in the East Campus courtyard last week. Residents report having seen it and another barred owl hunting mice at night. Another barred owl (perhaps the same one?) was also spotted near the Student Center and near Simmons Hall recently.
Last night, students in 2.009 (Product Engineering Processes) gave their final presentations. The seniors worked on these projects for three months, and displayed their work to a packed Kresge Auditorium.

The Blue Team presents their product, StormShield, which provides environmental protection for cyclists.

The Red Team presents Heatware, a flameless outdoor cooker.

To conclude the event, 2.009 staff exploded cannons of confetti into the crowd.
THE ONLY LIMITATION IS YOUR OWN IMAGINATION.

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Would you like to work in a culture where hard work and innovative ideas are consistently rewarded? Are you a 2013/2014 engineering student looking for a summer internship? If so, our engineers want to meet you! Let us know when you’re available to chat over coffee, tea or whatever at Starbucks on the corner of Ames & Broadway.

To set up a time contact Kristen Walsh at: krwalsh@akamai.com

Learn more at: jobs.akamai.com
Photographs, plots, charts and other visual representations of data arguably constitute the most important part of scientific communication. It denotes the “proportion of a graphic’s ink devoted to non-visualization expert. It denotes the “proportion of a graphic’s ink devoted to non-

The axis labels and tick marks I had to add to Figure 3 are minor details when compared to other challenges in visual-

An author spends anywhere between a few months to a year (or more) working on the write-up of research that may have taken much longer to develop. This prolonged write-up of research that may have taken months to a year (or more) working on the development of a manuscript, I had attended Felice Frankel’s Master Class on Engineering and Science Visualization, sponsored by the Mecha-

The light and shade values were calculated using the rules that Tufte taught in his book. The bars were designed to have an area proportional to the data values and be visually distinct from each other. We also used color to encode categories and compare groups. The simplicity and effectiveness of the visualization were achieved by minimizing the amount of ink used and maximizing the signal-to-noise ratio.
Strangers to Fiction by Deena Wang

The Chocolate Continuum

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun
Fun Fun
Fun
Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun
Tuesday, December 11, 2012 The Tech 13

Saturday Stumper by Lester Ruff
Solution, page 17

ACROSS
1 Pretty soon
8 Engages fully
15 Rescue dog, for example
16 Place of privacy
17 The eyes may have it
18 Anagram of “gyrated”
19 Start of a Genesis query
20 Honey
22 Small, in brief
23 “Ah!”
25 Discordance
26 Knight at the movies
27 Will set one back
29 It may be fishing
30 Betting settings
31 Old-fashioned
33 Show contempt for
35 Ne’er-do-well
36 Exclude
37 Where Bing Crosby grew up
41 Studio stack
45 Word from the Latin for “is lacking”
46 Its disappearance aided bald eagles
48 Need somnoplasty, perhaps
49 Nth degree
50 Works together
52 Expression for the sheepish
53 Team __
54 Author of a 50-million copy best seller
56 Caddy’s holding
57 Place with a theater and bowling alley, maybe
59 Firefighters’ descriptor
61 Approve of
62 Erode
63 Chinese zodiac beast
64 One caught in a trap
66 Third most-populous English-speaking American nation

10 Antlered animal
11 Part of UNESCO’s address
12 Send back, in a way
13 Lead balloon, so to speak
14 Creative one
15 Onetime Einstein home
16 fireplace
17 The very beginning
18 Creative ones
19 Here.
20 Bars on some boxes
21 Rest, with “by”
22 Barbell exercise
23 Seat of Orange County
24 Reservation proof
25 Recycling candidate
26 Emblem of the Pope
27闪现 lights
28 Forebode
29 Antlered animal
30 Reserve proof
31 Earth
32 Thing with a foot and a neck
33 Show contempt for
34 Comcast purchase of 2011
35 Ne’er-do-well
36 Exclude
37 Where Bing Crosby grew up
38 Buddy
39 Seat of Orange County
40 Emmy winner as a Roots ship captain
41 Fashions lights
42 Forebode
43 City east-northeast of Venice
44 With 37 Down, Judiciary Committee member
45 Pistachio portion
46 Its disappearance aided bald eagles
47 Pistachio portion
48 Need somnoplasty, perhaps
49 Nth degree
50 Works together
52 Expression for the sheepish
53 Team __
54 Author of a 50-million copy best seller
56 Caddy’s holding
57 Place with a theater and bowling alley, maybe
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**Sudoku**

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.

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

**Techdoku**

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.

```
90x  48x
20x  21+
6x  8x
10x  1
5+  2x
24x
5x
5x
5x
16+
15x
```

**Beaver Tails** by Ranbel Sun

**IN CLASS**

```
Always, what's that on your face? Did you get a tattoo?!
```

**ON HOMEWORK**

```
DID YOU HIRE A PIRATE CREW, KILLING THE WIT INTERNS, PULLING LADY SERVANTS AND ORGANIZING LICENUES???
```

**ON EXAM**

```
I FELL ASLEEP ON MY KEYBOARD.
```

**MIT MEDICAL IS CLOSED OVERNIGHT. CALL THE 24-HOUR HELPLINE AT 617-253-4481**

**THE THANK YOU LOOP**

A cycle to avoid receiving thank you email for thoughtfulness.

Someone writes a thank you card including a kind additional sentiment.

**Response: thank you email for thoughtfulness.**

Expresses another nice thought.

**PAID ADVERTISEMENT**
Feynman recounted another good one: upperclassmen would use on freshmen physics students: When you look at words in a mirror, how come they’re reversed left to right but not top to bottom? What’s special about the horizontal axis?

Techdoku II
Solution, page 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12x</th>
<th>20x</th>
<th>7x</th>
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<td>20x</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sudoku II
Solution, page 19

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Barker renovation is the beginning

MIT Libraries conducted surveys to tailor library facilities

By Isabella Wei

If you think the Barker Reading Room is the last you’ll see of changes in the MIT Libraries, think again. The renovation of the Barker Reading Room is the first step of a longer process to better serve students’ study needs.

By the end of IAP, the well-loved Barker reading room will be a transformed space. Shawmut Construction, under the direction of Dick O’Connell, project superintendent, along with Joe Collins and Jennifer Combs from MIT Facilities, and Steve Gass, associate director for libraries’ research and instructional services, is renovating the study area by adding four new sources of lighting, improving the sound masking system, and repainting the grilles and dome.

The new reading room will have a ring of LED lights about halfway down from the dome, a series of fluorescent lights behind frosted acrylic panels, and 16 recessed lights just under the dome, and the newly restored oculus. In restoring the skylight of the dome, Shawmut has kept the original steelwork but replicated the small glass blocks that allow light to stream through. They are also adding a sloped protective lid on the dome intended to deter hackers and prevent leaks.

In addition to improving the lighting, Shawmut is upgrading the sound masking system by installing advanced acoustic panels. Another key part of the renovation is the construction of bathrooms right outside the reading room. The furniture in the reading room will remain the same. Upon its reopening in February 2013, the reading room will become a 24-hour accessible space with a seating capacity of about 120 students.

Barker is the beginning of the reinvention of libraries at MIT, according to Ann Wolpert, director of libraries.

The administration of the libraries has begun to construct a set of new long-term aspirations. They hope to take advantage of under-utilized spaces, such as the courtyard by Hayden Library, in an effort to encourage a collaborative and digital learning environment. According to Wolpert, “the vision is fundamental, to continue to take an amazing asset that MIT has built over the last 150 years ... building them into the curriculum, helping students understand how to use these resources so they can continue to be successful once they leave MIT and finding the kinds of spaces that students need to study and work.”

After conducting several surveys and even counting the number of students in each library space at any time, the Libraries have a better idea of how to tailor library hours and faculties to the needs of students.

“If it looks like at the end of the day we’re seating a lot of students out the door, then that was how we tried to respond,” said Janet Con- rad, chair of the faculty committee on library systems. The libraries are also responding to graduate students’ needs for spaces to write their theses — somewhere separate from the lab, where they can easily ask for help finding material. A key part of the libraries’ vision is to make the libraries a place where students can either study alone together or work on group projects. Another need the Libraries are responding to is the demand for group work space. Following the popularity of the Barker group study spaces, the Libraries hope to develop more similar spaces.

In developing a vision for the MIT Libraries, the administration took into consideration libraries at several other colleges, including Georgia Tech, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, North Carolina State, and Stanford. In comparison, libraries on other campuses provide more seating, more group study rooms, more digital learning classrooms, nearby food and coffee venues, and longer hours. A few other libraries also have more advanced technology, with elaborate A/V equipment and automatic check-out systems.

While MIT Libraries are lacking in certain areas, they lead in electronic collections, an initiative that began before any other library realized the importance of the shift from tangible collections to electronic ones, according to Wolpert. The MIT Libraries, recognizing that students and faculty are constantly traveling, have dedicated strong efforts to building a world-class electronic collection. In 2011, 90 percent of the libraries’ acquisitions budget consisted of electronic resources.

Currently the MIT Libraries provide seating for about 1 percent of the student population if every student were to try to sit in the library. The remaining space is allocated to collections, staff, service desks, and instructional spaces. As the Libraries continue to improve their ability to meet students’ needs, next steps might even include a system for tracking the availability of specific study spaces, Wolpert said.

By Stan Gill

A Student Art Association representative talks to potential customers at the SAA’s ceramic sale, held on Monday in Lobby 10. The sale featured ceramic sculptures and vessels by MIT students, faculty, and staff. The MIT Glass Lab also held a sale in Lobby 10. Both sales continue today.

By Stan Gill

The administration of the libraries has begun to construct a set of new long-term aspirations. They hope to take advantage of under-utilized spaces, such as the courtyard by Hayden Library, in an effort to encourage a collaborative and digital learning environment. According to Wolpert, “the vision is fundamental, to continue to take an amazing asset that MIT has built over the last 150 years ... building them into the curriculum, helping students understand how to use these resources so they can continue to be successful once they leave MIT and finding the kinds of spaces that students need to study and work.”

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Reeves hopes MIT will purchase Central Square properties
Real estate valued at over $15 mil. up for sale, MITIMCo declined to comment on MIT interest

Central, from Page 1
include both residential and commerci­
ally zoned parcels indicating that a variety of development op-
tions are possible.
Fennell said there has been “a lot of interest” in the sale, but de­
cided to provide further details in
response to potential buyers or fu-
ture uses for the land. Robert Grif­
fined to provide further details in
lot of interest” in the sale, but de-
tions are possible.
According to Cambridge City Coun­cilor Kenneth Reeves, the
clude both residential and com-
tions can cause unintended con­
ses a unique opportunity for the
Census Board held in City
Councilor Kenneth Reeves, the
tant to MIT's potential purchase of
ings an urban area that draws people to
ment with Quest “moving out of town,
leadership is not interested, MIT-
tate acquisition strategy, Martin A.
property in Cambridge near campus
comes on the market they bring it to
the attention of the senior leader-
s that potential is not of strategic
in the Central Square properties,
in relation to either academic or
commercial use, saying “public comments about possible transac-
s that the Institute's cooperation with
rent development and enhancement of
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s as well as for other participants in the real estate market”
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response a great deal of dis­
s as part of the K2C2 planning study
bicycle commuters. The Blue Team
in the class was seeing beer delivery
most rewarding part of
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2.009 presents final projects on “Outdoors”
Harvesters, bike extras, & cookware
2.009, from Page 1
bicycle commuters. The Blue Team
designed StormShield, an inflatable
cover to serve as rain protection for
cyclists. The Green Team produced a
handlebar system that turns GPS
directions from a rider’s phone into
vibration signals in the hand grips.
Two products were also targeted
to campers. The Orange Team created
Fenlo, a lightweight propane stove.
The Red Team used a chemical re-
action in Heartware, their design for a
self-heating pot for flameless out-
door cooking.
The Yellow Team had a particu-
larly large prototype for a medium-
range spinach harvester, Sprouta-
cis. The Silver Team also targeted
a relatively niche market with a dolly-
specifically designed for moving
beer kegs down stairs. The Purple
Team’s SkyBeacon deploys a heli-
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Why have printed annual reports not been issued since 2005?

President’s part of the annual report missing since 2004, no explanation given for the delay

By John A. Hawkinson

Like any major company, every year MIT produces a detailed annual report summarizing the past year’s work, accomplishments, and aspirations, with a detailed section from every department, lab, center, school, or other unit—or at least that’s the way it’s supposed to work.

Called the Report to the President since 1983, and previously the Report of the President, MIT’s annual reports have recently run over one thousand pages, and provide a narrative from nearly every administrator of something at MIT, and are a source for statistics and numbers about MIT that are comparable from year-to-year.

Printed annual reports have not been issued since the 2005 report, according to Kimberly D. Mancino of the Reference Publications Office, because the office is still waiting for critical reports to come in—such as the section of the reports penned by MIT’s presidents.

“Report of the President”

“Getting them in years late is the same as not getting them in,” said Richard L. Schmalensee ’65, professor of management and former dean of the Sloan School of Management.

The “Report of the President” section is missing for the years 2004–2012: one year of President Charles M. Vest, one year of overlap, and seven years of President Susan J. Hockfield.

(The 2004–2005 academic year overlapped both presidents, and in lieu of a report from either Vest and Hockfield, the 2005 report contained a summary attributed to the MIT News Office.)

In the “Report of the President” section, the MIT president discusses his or her priorities for the Institute, and what is being done to achieve the Institute’s goals at a strategic level. The section typically offers a small history lesson and some narrative associated with the management of the Institute. It helps to explain what the President did and why, as well as how.

Running late

The publications office makes electronic versions of the individual reports available at web.mit.edu/annualreports/ while waiting for all the reports to arrive.

Mancino said that the 2011 report was running about six months late, and that the piecemeal electronic version should have been available in May. Most of 2011 has been submitted, but it has not been completely finalized, she said.

In addition to missing the sections authored by President Hockfield from 2006 onwards, the report also lacks the report of the MIT Corporation from 2009 onwards. Both categories of report are the responsibility of Kirk D. Krohn, a lawyer who also served as chief of staff to President Hockfield and is vice president for Institute affairs and secretary of the Corporation.

“We are workin’ on it,” Krohn said. But asked if he could account for the delay, he said “Nope.”

“I don’t think it’s the biggest thing in the world,” Schmalensee said. “I just think it’s good practice to get the report in.”

But he said that he did not write an annual report when he was dean. (An annual report from the Sloan School is present for his last year as dean, 2007; it was not signed by him, though some earlier years were.)

Some MIT offices use their annual reports to contextualize their relationship with the public and explain their activities. For instance, the Office of the General Counsel, MIT’s lawyers, included the following paragraph in several of their annual reports:

“We often find that news reporting and public commentary about MIT litigation is incomplete and misinformed, sometimes wildly so. Nonetheless, we almost never respond to news inquiries and we usually don’t correct misstatements because we are governed by facts and law, which we advocate in court, not in newspaper headlines. Also, much of our litigation and pre-litigation activity involves inherently confidential information. Our success in this part of our work is measured in part by how little publicity it generates.”

President Hockfield did not respond to requests for comment, and the MIT News Office declined to comment on MIT’s annual reports.

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Summer Study in The Hague

The Palitz Fellowship for the Study of Dutch Culture and Art

Scope

Spring semester in preparation with a faculty supervisor; followed by summer in The Hague, Netherlands

Who may apply?

MIT students may apply no later than the fall term of the junior year. For eligibility requirements and other details, visit shass.mit.edu/palitz

Research areas

Any aspect of painting, history, or culture in the Dutch and Flemish Golden Age, e.g.: the art market; economic history; history of science, horticulture, or cartography; the technologies of print making and book production

Application process

Application contents include transcript, resume, research proposal, letters of recommendation. For full information and instructions see shass.mit.edu/palitz

Apply by December 18, 2012
shass.mit.edu/palitz

Students dance in Dance Troupe’s semester concert on Saturday evening. Numerous groups of students showcased their dancing in the five shows that took place over the last weekend.
WellesleyX and GeorgetownX now partner with edX

edX, from Page 1

also aware of other platforms that of-fer massive open online courses,
estimating the vast potential of edX, with a commitment to an open platform, Fox wrote in an email to the Tech. “The founders of Coursera and Udacity are close colleagues of ours and we wish them success, but as an institution we felt the align-ment of goals was better with edX, and the risk of stumbling (over 90 percent of startups end up exiting differently than expected) was less,” he added. “I think it will be a very successful collaboration.”

One surprise from teaching his class online was the extent to which developing the online content en-hanced the on-campus course. Berkeley students gave higher evalu-ations in the course after the instruc-tors introduced reorganized lectures and wrote automatic graders of stu-dent code, which were necessary for the MOOC. The online format also allows instructors to collect data about student performance, which Fox plans to use to “polish and tail-orate the questions for on-campus students.”

Berkeley’s residential Software as a Service course included both material on the edX platform and el-ements so far only possible in an on-campus course, like a team design project in which students work with customers from outside the univer-sity. Fox believes that this combi-nation will be “a major use case at Berkeley and elsewhere for MOOC technologies” in the future. “At the moment it’s one that the MOOC startups do not seem to support”

But Fox has not yet converted to the flipped classroom, though he is considering experimenting with it. Often touted as the future of education on college campuses, the flipped classroom model uses class time for discussions or problem-solutiong, leaving the introduction of new concepts (traditionally the do-main of lectures) to online videos or reading to be completed outside of class. “For had colleagues at Berkeley and elsewhere who tried it. Of the three most recent, one was a dis-saster, one was an unqualified suc-cess, and one turned out only OK.” Fox thinks that the effectiveness of the flipped classroom depends on the future of the instructor and the students. One possibility for the future Fox sugg-ested was offering both traditional and flipped formats simultaneously and letting students pick which class they wanted to take.

Perhaps one reason Fox contin-ues to teach MOOGs is the impact they can have on students’ futures. He estimated that online versions of Software as a Service have changed “tens or hundreds” of lives for the better. “[They] now have better ca-reer opportunities by getting this instruction that would otherwise be unavailable to them.”

Teaching Excellence

Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching

Who’s your best SHASS teacher? You can reward a great professor, instructor, or TA with the Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Nominating is easy
Email shass-teaching-award@mit.edu by December 14. All non-visiting teachers in SHASS subjects are eligible (undergraduate and graduate faculty, lecturers, and TAs).

Include
Your name + email
Name of your favorite teacher
Subject(s) taken with that teacher
Comments on: teaching effectiveness, approachability, responsiveness to student progress, and impact

Nominate by December 14
email: shass-teaching-award@mit.edu
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**Manziel makes history with Heisman honor**

*Texas A&M quarterback beats Notre Dame’s Manti Te’o to win Heisman Trophy*

By Nicolas Lopez

Johnny Manziel, a freshman at Texas A&M, is breaking all precedents during his first season playing college football. The quarterback is the first freshman in history to be awarded the Heisman Trophy, college football’s highest individual honor.

Manziel received 474 first place votes and won easily over a distant second place Manti Te’o out of Notre Dame, who received 321 first place votes. Te’o has had a remarkable season in his own right, spearheading the Fighting Irish’s defense and helping them reach the top ranking in the BCS polls; but Johnny Manziel’s amazing statistical accomplishments proved to be too much for the voters to pass up. He broke 2010 Heisman winner and current Carolina Panthers QB Cam Newton’s SEC conference record with 4,600 total yards and became only the 5th player ever to have thrown for 3,000+ yards and rushed for 1,000+ in a single season.

The quarterback is the first freshman in history to be awarded the Heisman Trophy.

Manziel’s incredible season ended any hope that Te’o might have had of winning. Manziel threw for 3,419 yards and 24 touchdowns, and rushed for an additional 1,181 yards and 19 touchdowns. Te’o has had a remarkable season and rushed for 1,000+ more yards in a single season.

What makes his win so incredible is that very few people saw this kid as the future best talent in college football when he was recruited out of Tivy High School in Kerrville, Texas. Arriving at Texas A&M, Manziel had to compete against two others to claim the starting quarterback job vacated by current Miami Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill. Interestingly enough, Manziel was named as the backup QB in favor of Jameil Showers at the end of spring training. However, Manziel began working extensively with a private quarterback coach and was named the starter by the start of the season, a move the coaching staff has no reason to regret.

As a team, Texas A&M is currently ranked 9th in the BCS standings with a record of 10-2. Against ranked opponents, the Aggies are 3-2, however one of those wins comes against Alabama, who was the number one ranked team at the time of the loss, and to this day the loss to the Aggies remains Alabama’s only loss on an otherwise unblemished season. Texas A&M will be playing against 11th ranked Oklahoma on January 4th in the Cotton Bowl, which will be Manziel’s first chance to confirm in front of the entire nation why he was chosen as the top collegiate football player. Manti Te’o will look to prove the voters wrong when 1st ranked Notre Dame takes on 2nd ranked Alabama in the BCS National Championship game January 7th.