Humans of MIT features members of MIT community

Photo blog style inspired by Humans of New York joins other spinoffs at colleges across the country

Humans of MIT features members of MIT community

Jenny Wu ’14, along with Abra H. Shen ’16, Lawrence M.K. Wong G, and a few other student photographers have been interviewing members of the MIT community, taking their pictures, and featuring their stories on the project’s Facebook page, Humans of MIT, since February of this year. Similar projects have been taking root in college campuses across the country ever since the popularization of Stanton’s original blog. Humans of Rice University, Voices of UPenn, and Humans of Cornell, among others, emulate Stanton’s method of sharing narratives and portraits, each project focusing on the populations of their respective campuses.

There is also a Humans of Harvard page, but it is roughly matched in Facebook likes by the lightly satirical Squirrels of Harvard, which features photos of Harvard Yard’s squirrels accompanied by contrived HONY-esque witticisms. According to the founders, the motivation behind establishing Humans of MIT has been to showcase the uniqueness of the individuals found on MIT’s campus, including students, faculty members, administrators, and staff. They cited their interest in the ongoing fads and trends being featured on campus.

The College Board announced significant changes Wednesday to the SAT test, which is commonly used in college admissions. The news prompted a flurry of discussion across the country as students and educators alike debated the merits of the major redesign. The new SAT will first be administered in the spring of 2016. The exam will return to a 1,600-point format, having used the 2,400-point format since 2005. Incorrect answers will no longer be penalized. The overhaul of the test places a new emphasis on evidence-based reasoning, writing, and critical thinking. The tech SAT test, which is commonly used in college admissions. The new SAT will first be administered in the spring of 2016. The exam will return to a 1,600-point format, having used the 2,400-point format since 2005. Incorrect answers will no longer be penalized. The overhaul of the test places a new emphasis on evidence-based reasoning, writing, and critical thinking.

Urban Studies and Planning lecturer Eiza H. Glenn felt like he was waiting longer this year to cross the street at 77 Massachusetts Avenue, so he emailed Cambridge’s planning office “at the risk of sounding like a crank” and found that, indeed, ten seconds had been added to the length of the green light for vehicles.

“This intersection is programmed for 30 seconds [pedestrian] and 70 seconds vehicle in the rush hours,” Jeffrey R. Parenti, principal traffic engineer for the city of Cambridge, wrote in an email to Glenn. He says that he increased the vehicle time from 60 seconds back in July “to account for the additional traffic from the ‘Longfellow Bridge detour.’ According to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s website, the detour around the bridge will be in effect throughout the three-and-a-half year Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation Project, which closes the bridge to all northbound automobile traffic from Boston to Cambridge, according to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s website. The renovation project started last summer.

In an interview with The Tech, Parenti said that Mass. Ave. has experienced a predicted increase in traffic since the detour began and that the traffic lights were adjusted as far north as Sidney Street as part of the detour. He said that the signals will likely revert back to their 90-second cycles once the Longfellow Bridge repairs are completed. In addition, Parenti pointed out that the extra traffic makes it especially important for the 77 Mass. Ave. signals to sync with those at the Memorial Drive intersection, which runs on a 100-second cycle and is operated by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation rather than the city of Cambridge.

“The advantage is that if you’re traveling [north, the direction of the detour], along the Mass. Ave. corridor, you get coordinated greens,” Parenti said.

For pedestrians, ten more seconds of waiting to cross the street may not seem like much in theory, but it seems to make a difference in practice, at least for those on the MBTA’s 77 Massachusetts Avenue station platform.

Crosswalk, Page 5

Hackers turned The Alchemist and other parts of campus purple, and decorated Lobby 7 with purple ribbons. Like similar displays in previous years, the hack precedes Relay for Life, a major fundraising event for the American Cancer Society.

The Alchemists of MIT, a hackers group, added an Alchemist theme to the campus at the beginning of the week as part of the group’s larger efforts to raise awareness of cancer research. According to a statement on the hackers’ website, the theme was chosen because it was “both famous and infamous.” The Alchemists are raising money for the American Cancer Society and other charities through the annual Relay for Life, which is scheduled for this weekend. They have traditionally decorated the campus in purple and white, with the purple representing the fight against cancer and the white representing the network of support that surrounds those battling the disease. This year, the group is also incorporating elements of the Alchemist theme into its decorations, including a purple and white octopus with a face that changes expression to reflect the group’s changing mood.

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New Hampshire Senate votes to expand health insurance

CONCORD, N.H. — The state's Republican-dominated Senate voted Thursday to expand health care coverage to an estimated 58,000 adults using Medicaid funding made available through the Affordable Care Act.

The bill moves to the House, which has passed similar legislation. Gov. Maggie Hassan has said she would sign the bill if it reaches her desk.

New Hampshire would join a small group of states, including Oregon, that have opted to expand Medicaid to low-income adults with programs that focus not on expanding their existing Medicaid programs, as 25 other states and the District of Columbia have done on using federal money to buy private health insurance.

The bill would also expand access to those younger than 65 who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, about $15,950 for a single person, to qualify for coverage. The first phase of the plan would begin in July 2014, with those adults through a program that subsidizes employer-based coverage; a second phase of about 38,000 would be covered by the state's existing Medicaid managed-care program in July. Those adults would transition to private health care plans at the beginning of 2016. Federal money to buy private health insurance.

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Because the social network and its photo-sharing app Instagram are owned by one company, Facebook must comply with laws from 15 countries that restrict sale of firearms.

The social network adds that users must comply with laws from 15 countries that restrict sale of firearms.

Mostly sunny, highs in the mid 30s °F (2°C). Sunday: 5–10 mph, becoming breezier in the afternoon.

Saturday: mostly sunny, highs in the mid 40s °F (5°C).

Wednesday: mostly sunny, in the mid 30s °F (°C).

Thursday: mostly sunny, highs in the mid 40s °F (5°C).

Extended Forecast


Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, high 46°F (°C). Winds NW at 5–10 mph, becoming breezier in the afternoon.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, high 42°F (°C). Winds NE at 5–10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, highs in the upper 40s °F (°C).
By David M. Herszenhorn, Michelle R. Smith and Alissa J. Rubin

The New York Times

Crimea approves secession vote as tensions rise

By Manny Fernandez

The New York Times

Decades after racial killing, inquiry to close doors

By Stephen Castile

The New York Times

Abortion law pushes Texas clinics to close doors

By Keith Bradsher

The New York Times

Two Marines disciplined after train accident

By Geoffrey Crothall

The New York Times

Chinese workers at IBM factory on strike amid company sale

HONG KONG — More than 1,000 workers have gone on strike at an IBM factory in southeastern China in the latest sign of labor activism as companies’ acute shortage of blue-collar workers makes employees increasingly willing to take to the streets. IBM is selling Lenovo its computer business, which includes the factory in the southeastern city of Shenzhen, where the workers are striking. Lenovo, a Chinese company, is paying $2.3 billion for the business in a transaction that is still subject to regulatory approval. A video posted on Chinese social media shows hundreds of workers in front of the factory building in Shenzhen, a sprawling electronics industry hub adjacent to Hong Kong. The workers are striking to demand a fair price for their work and for small business, wealth management and commercial banking.


Two senior Citigroup executives are retiring

By Peter R. Orszag

The New York Times

Two senior executives are retiring from Citigroup, the company said Friday, following a series of changes in the past year in the international and consumer banking operations.

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Two Marines disciplined after train accident

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—Keith Bradsher, The New York Times

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Enhancing Student impact on community decisions

By John W. Halloran Jr.

After Bexley Hall closed last May, members of the dorm united to express a desire for on-campus housing. The issue has been a meaningful voice throughout any remaining developments related to the dorm. Unfortunately, now, in Spring 2014, it has been too much time has passed without engaged student discourse on the future of the campus. This failure highlights a fault in the part of the administration, student leaders, and the entire student body to foster an open public dialogue. Simply acknowledging this failure is the first step to recognizing the Legislate Association (UA) elections as a chance to remedy it.

As outlined in an article in the Feb. 28 issue of The Tech, despite the inclusion of students on a committee to provide counsel on decisions regarding Bexley’s fate, undergraduate members on the advisory group felt they had been effectively shut out of the decision-making process.

More specifically, students in the advisory group were charged with several tasks, including "recommending criteria for the design and programming of a possible re- visitation and advising the Institute on appropriate next steps.”

But a number of other issues regarding Bexley were discussed openly with students in the advisory group. One specific issue was never discussed, nor was the advisory group consulted on the recommendations that were put into action by the UA, to demolish the building.

The meetings only discussed structure recommendations, and the final decision was made “outside the group” by Dean Constantino Colombo, then-Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD ’89, and others according to Kristjan T. Kaseniit ’14.

Furthermore, an email from Dean Colombo, who chaired the Bexley Advisory Group, was cited in the article stating, “[t]he recommendation to demolish the building was made to the Institute’s senior leadership and a group of representatives from Furness’ extensive investigations of the building”

Student impact must be measured by more than just how many students sit on committees.

Now that it appears this decision has been made without substantial student input, it is even more crucial that we as students ensure our voices are heard at future decisions. Here I point out recent efforts on the part of the UA Committee on Student Representation and Opinion on theUA. The committee, comprised of representatives of Dormitory Council (DormCon), the UA, Interfraternity Council (IFC), and Panhel- lonic Association (Panhel), is currently drafting a report on the state of student- administration collaboration. Hopefully it will produce actionable recommendations.

Despite this potential improvement, this issue remains a glaring failure in the way the undergraduate student body is expressed, harassed, and hence deprived of the student body as a whole.

But ultimately, we can’t simply blame the administration and student leaders. A large portion of MIT students remain apathetic to the internal politics of the organization, and hence, we therefore deprive the student body as a whole of meaningful impact on MIT’s policy decisions.

Although the UA has made attempts like speeches, newsletters, and study breaks, it has a spotty record of effectively mobilizing campus opinion at crucial moments.

An article by Siva Nagarajan in the March 4 issue of The Tech incorrectly listed him as a Sports Writer.
Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

Working with Circuit Simulation Software

You're actually trying to fix your 6374 design violations?

Your capacitors must be named after famous electrical engineers. Transformers must be named after the 100-150 tallest mountains...

I hate to break it to you, but a positive attitude can only get you so far...

...and transistors must be named after a classical composer who has written a symphony with a prime number of half notes!

Oh, you're trying to save your work for later?

First, write out Maxwell's equations in your own blood while standing on your head...

UPPERCUT by Steve Sullivan

Shower Time! I'm gonna hang my gym towel on the "G" hook cuz I'm a "GOOD GUY!"

5 minutes later...

Sigh! Someone took my towel!

Two towels left... how many guys are in there again?

Hmm...uh...

"E" for "COOL GUY!" right where I left it!

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

by Jorge Cham

Amount of food you eat out of a bowl vs. age

Grad School

Birth

Old Age

Sudoku
Solution, page 13

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A voice best represented by her native language

Say The Words, Wanting’s second album, is a mixture of songs in Chinese and English that leaves something to be desired

★★★★
Say The Words
Wanting
Released Oct. 17, 2013
Nettwerk Productions
Headlining March 10 at Brighton Music Hall in Boston

By Tasha Schoenstein

Second languages are hard. Even having a strong grasp of a second language is sometimes insufficient to artfully express oneself. Unfortunately, this is true for Wanting, a Vancouver-based, China-born singer/songwriter. Her songs in Mandarin Chinese are outstanding, but the same cannot be said of her songs written in English.

Wanting’s album Say The Words (released in the U.S. in October) debuted at number 1 in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Singapore and Malaysia. Additionally, the album track “When It’s Lonely,” one of three album tracks sung in her native Mandarin, is featured on the Chinese version of The Hunger Games: Catching Fire movie sound track. The popularity of her music in China is warranted: the songs she had far too few songs that played to her strengths and too many songs in English.

That said, the hour or so spent listening to this album was by no means a waste of time — many tracks in Chinese were worth 5 stars, and the English songs were decent with only one or two exceptions. Overall, this album is a solid effort, but it still leaves something to be desired.

Vancouver-based, China-born singer/songwriter Wanting is headlining the Brighton Music Hall in Boston on March 10th in support of her sophomore album, Say The Words.

Theater review

Baryshnikov returns to the stage

ArtsEmerson hosts Man in a Case, a play adapted from Anton Chekov’s short stories into a two-act present-day stage piece based on two short stories written by Anton Chekhov, and directed by Big Dance Theater’s Annie B-Parson and Paul Lazar.

The entire play is staged on a single austere set, impossible to date, but hinting at Russia in the 19th century. This one-set set serves the purposes of both stories, utilizing well-choreographed blocking to transition seamlessly from scene to scene. Naively perhaps, I was hoping to see Mikhail Baryshnikov, the legendary Russian ballet dancer, do more flashy jumps and pirouettes, but there were few such displays. Instead, the dancer turned-actor relied on his facial expressions and body gestures to convey the subject of both stories. Baryshnikov stars as a hard-hearted, rule-loving teacher with a comical number of door hinges, delightfully in its warm tidiness. It succeeds beautifully.

Unfortunately, most of her songs in English aren’t as good as her songs in Chinese. While I found that most of them were fun to listen to, provided that I didn’t pay too much attention to the lyrics, the title track sounds bizarre. Some songs seem as though she tried to force lyrical concepts into phrases with the wrong number of syllables. Too many of her English songs became uncomfortable to listen to as a native English speaker.

Ultimately, after listening to Wanting’s album, I was very disappointed. The album had far too few songs that played to her strengths and too many songs in English.

Baryshnikov, the legendary Russian ballet dancer, move, but instead I watched a whimsical play that prioritizes style over substance. Man in a Case is a strange combination of dance, theater, live processed video, and odd sound design, which never quite mesh. It is not the combination of media that gives the play an unusual tone. Rather, Baryshnikov Productions’ take on the use of media feels quite antiquated and never completely justifiable.

The set was equipped with gratuitous school-style projection screens that rolled down from walls and underneath tables, displaying the footage obtained with surveillance cameras mounted all across the stage. While the sound design had a comedic spirit, it was taken a bit too far. Stage left, though, was made into the compact bedroom of an older bachelor and was delightful in its warm tidiness. It successfully evoked the spirit of a maniacal school teacher with a comical number of door bolts and a bed like a cocoon for a lonely soul.

ArtsEmerson hosts Man in a Case, a play adapted from Anton Chekhov’s short stories

★★★★
Man in a Case
Feb. 25 – March 2
Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre
By Baryshnikov Productions
Adapted and Directed by Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar
Choreographed by Annie-B Parson, Tymberry Canale, Chris Giarno, and Aaron Mattocks
Featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov, Tymberry Canale, with Aaron Mattocks
Adapted from two stories by Anton Chekhov
Running Time: 75 minutes

Man in a Case is a strange combination of dance, theater, live video, and odd sound design, which never quite mesh.

Tymberry Canale brings a good deal of energy to the stage, as do the rest of the cast, with nice little snippets of delightful song and dance. But I kept longing for some Chekovian feeling instead of crowd-pleasing folk merriness. Maybe I just didn’t get the play. After it received a standing ovation from the mostly Russian audience, I felt like I might have just missed the point.
The 2014 Academy Awards
Recapping the ceremony's highs and lows

By Aleksandra Stankovic

Well, it's been a long awards season, full of glitz and glamour, politeness (the interviews), and picking up (the studio campaigns). Heavy rainstorms in the Los Angeles area early Sunday suggested even the sky was getting tired of red carpets and acceptance speeches, and it was time to bring this season to an end with the biggest televised celebrity spectacle of the year — the 86th Annual Academy Awards.

In keeping with the spirit of the Oscars, perhaps the best way to recap the show would be with a tabulation of the highs and lows of the evening. And in case you had a tab pool going or something, check out the complete list of winners after the jump.

The winners:

Speeches, with two heartfelt standouts delivered by Best Supporting Actor Jared Leto (Dallas Buyers Club) and Best Supporting Actress Lupita Nyong'o (12 Years a Slave). After a moving thank-you to his mother for encouraging him to live his dreams, Leto acknowledged the millions who have lost their battle with AIDS and declared, “[To] anyone who’s ever felt injustice because of who you are and who you love, tonight I stand here with you and for you.” Nyong'o, in turn, accepted her Oscar with characteristic grace and disarming genuineness, saying, “When I look down at this golden statue, may it remind me and every little child, that no matter where you’re from, your dreams are valid.”

Frozen soundtrack composers Robert Lopez and his wife Kristen Anderson-Lopez, who won Best Original Song for “Let It Go,” the award completed Robert Lopez’s EGOT — that is, his win of an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony — an accomplishment shared with fewer than 15 other people. The couple accepted their Oscars in a charming series of speeches (the most retweeted image ever) where they charmed with the most smoothly executed, and epic, photobomb ever. Selfies. Ellen’s impromptu self portrait in the company of half-a-dozen A-list stars lit for the entire theater, she managed to not only keep the show moving, but to make it fun and relatable too. That is, as relatable as this show can ever be, considering that it’s essentially a 4-hour marathon of gorgeous people “presenting each other with gold statues,” in the words of former host Billy Crystal.

Selfies. Ellen’s impromptu self portrait in the company of half-a-dozen A-list stars literally broke Twitter and claimed the title of most-retweeted image ever. It was also a good night for Lupita Nyong'o’s younger brother, who charmed with the most smoothly executed, and epic, photobomb ever.

12 Years a Slave took home the evening’s top prize of Best Picture, marking the first time the Academy has bestowed its highest honor on the work of a black filmmaker.

Fun facts:

- The Best Supporting Actor and Actress wins for Jared Leto and Matthew McConaughey, respectively, mark the first time winners for both categories appeared in the same film since Tim Robbins and Sean Penn won for 2004’s Mystic River. The Oscars also drew in 43 million viewers in the US alone. For those of you keeping track, that’s the most domestic viewers for a non-sports event since the finale of NBC’s Friends in 2004.

- Alfonso Cuaron’s groundbreaking technical achievement Gravity, which picked up seven of the ten awards it was nominated for on Sunday, including Best Director.

- The losers: Leonardo DiCaprio and Amy Adams. They both ended the night in 4 career nominations. There was also no Academy love for Captain Phillips, The Wolf of Wall Street, or American Hustle. All three movies were shut out of awards in the major categories and went home empty-handed.

- Harvey Weinstein, who, in addition to getting stuck with the lion’s share of the pizza bill, watched as several of The Weinstein Company’s biggest contenders failed to deliver on Oscar night, including Philomena and August: Osage County. However, 20 Feet From Stardom, which was distributed through The Weinstein Company’s Radius TWC division, did win Best Documentary Feature, so maybe he didn’t have such a bad night after all.

- Fillers. Montage: Promoting the night’s theme of “heroes,” the telecast featured a bizarre compilation of scenes from a seemingly random selection of films featuring “heroes.” Even the Pepsi Mini Cans commercial, which aired in the breaks and offered an upsell montage of famous movie lines, was way more fun than the Academy’s disjointed and joyless sequence.

In the end, the 2014 Oscars telecast will be remembered for breathing some life back into a tired format. Sure, there was plenty of padding, and it kind of dragged a little (Ok, a lot) in the middle, but there were a few really terrible surprises (wow, Darlene Love)! Overall, the show turned out to be something it hasn’t really been in years — actually fun to watch. Through all the pomp and pageantry, the show also managed to put forth a disarmingly inclusive message celebrating difference and uniqueness and encouraging respect and compassion for all people. Plus, there was pizza. What more could you possibly ask from an awards show?

Winners of the 2014 Academy Awards:

Best Picture: 12 Years a Slave
Best Director: Alfonso Cuaron, Gravity
Best Actor: Matthew McConaughey, Dallas Buyers Club
Best Actress: Cate Blanchett, Blue Jasmine
Best Supporting Actor: Jared Leto, Dallas Buyers Club
Best Supporting Actress: Lupita Nyong’o, 12 Years a Slave
Best Adapted Screenplay: 12 Years a Slave, John Ridley
Best Original Screenplay: Her, Spike Jonze
Best Cinematography: Gravity, Emmanuel Lubezki
Best Production Design: The Great Gatsby, Catherine Martin and Beverley Dunn
Best Costume Design: The Great Gatsby, Catherine Martin
Best Makeup: Dallas Buyers Club, Adruitha Lee and Robin Mathews
Best Sound Editing: Gravity, Glenn Freemantle
Best Sound Mixing: Gravity, Skip Lievsay, Niv Adiri, Christopher Benstead and Chris Munro
Best Score: Gravity, Steven Price
Best Song: “Let It Go” from Frozen, Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez
Best Foreign Language Film: The Great Beauty (Italy)
Best Animated Feature: Frozen
Best Documentary Feature: 20 Feet From Stardom
Best Animated Short: Mr. Hublot
Best Documentary Short: The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life
Best Live Action Short: Helium

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Oscar-winning Cate Blanchett and Oscar-nominated Sally Hawkins at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, CA.

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Host Ellen DeGeneres dressed up as Glinda the Good Witch from The Wizard of Oz at the 86th Academy Awards.
Mass. Ave. signals see timing change
Few notice the minor adjustments

Crosswalk, from Page 1

Glenn acknowledged that urban planning involves these “little details and tweaks,” but warned that “something that benefits the cars and prevents gridlock may also frustrate the pedestrians and lead to jay-walking or getting stuck in the rain.”

“I was surprised that I noticed it,” Glenn said, “I just felt that it seemed longer.”

Several others, however, did not notice the change. For example, Patrick M. Hurst G told The Tech, “I think it’s been the same all 5 years [I’ve been here].”

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THE EUGENE McDERMOTT AWARD IN THE ARTS AT MIT 2014 RECIPIENT

ARTIST OLAURF ELIASSON

TATA SEMINAR: Solar Power: Turning Ideas into Action
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014 | 5:00PM | MIT TANG CENTER, ROOM 315

PUBLIC LECTURE: Holding hands with the sun
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014 | 5:00PM | 10-250

PANEL DISCUSSION: The Art and Science of Solar Lights
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014 | 5:00PM | MIT MUSEUM

arts.mit.edu/mcdermott

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shass.mit.edu/funny

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Christie returns to the national spotlight
Hopes to regain support after losing ground among conservative right

By Michael Barbaro

OXON HILL, Md. — In a return to the national political stage, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey sought Thursday to both ingratiate himself with conservative activists and press them to broaden the appeal of the Republican Party, warning that “we’ve got to start to talk about what we are for and not what we are against.”

Christie, long a proponent of pragmatism over ideology, told the audience at the Conservative Political Action Conference here that “we don’t get to govern if we don’t win.”

“Please, let’s come out of here not only resolved to stand for our principles, but let’s come out of this conference resolved to win elections again,” he said.

But while Christie delivered subtle advice to his party, he did not use the closely watched speech to offer a challenge to its conservative wing, as he had in the past. Instead, he seemed to take a more cautious approach that acknowledged the wariness of conservatives toward a governor from the Democratic-dominated Northeast, as well as his own political vulnerability amid a bruising scandal over his administration’s role in the closing of access lanes to the George Washington Bridge.

Christie devoted much of the speech to reinforcing traditional conservative messages, frequently sounding as much like a conventional Republican looking to endear himself to his party’s base as he did a blunt conveyer of uncomfortable truths, his familiar and favored role in American politics.

The crowd responded warmly, interrupting Christie about a half-dozen times with applause and giving him a standing ovation, an achievement unto itself for Christie, who was snubbed by the conference last year.

The organization then denied him a speaking slot after he publicly, and effusively, praised President Barack Obama’s response to Hurricane Sandy just days before Election Day.

On Thursday, he referred repeatedly to his anti-abortion positions. He railed against the news media, saying it had misrepresented the Republican Party.

He defended the billionaire Koch brothers, who are major Republican donors, against attacks from Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the Senate majority leader. And he mocked Obama’s leadership style.

Christie recalled the president’s decision to maintain his distance in deficit reduction talks in Congress.

“Man, that’s leadership, isn’t it?” he asked. “If that’s your attitude, Mr. President, what the hell are we paying you for?”

Christie’s tone Thursday may have reflected his current standing within the national Republican electorate. According to a recent New York Times/CBS News poll, 31 percent of Republicans want Christie to run for president, compared with 41 percent who do not.

But his mere presence at the conference showed his resolve to maintain the kind of strong national profile required to run for president.

This year, organizers seemed determined to put a less strident face on the convention and the party. They stacked its opening day with Republican leaders, like Christie and Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, the former Republican vice-presidential nominee, who have pushed the party to reach out to minority voters and welcome dissent within its ranks.

“A majority party welcomes debate, brings people in” Ryan said here Thursday. “It doesn’t burn heretics, it wins converts.”

But that gentler message was occasionally clouded by speakers who went on the attack, eviscerating Obama, his health care overhaul, foreign policy and oversight of the Internal Revenue Service. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, a rising star in the conservative world, offered up the day’s most searing attack.

“If you have a president who is picking and choosing which laws to follow and which laws to ignore, you no longer have a president,” Cruz said.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate minority leader, took the stage wielding a rifle and quipped that Obama was “treating our Constitution worse than a place mat at Denny’s.”
The Tech Friday, March 7, 2014

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MIT's admissions office has not yet decided whether it will require the new SAT's essay scores.

Schmill said that the admissions office had not yet decided whether it will require applicants to submit essay scores.

"I do not anticipate that the redesign of the SAT will change how we admit students or that we will use the SAT differently in our process," Schmill wrote. "We plan to use the SAT in the same way as we do currently."

Performance on standardized tests is one of many factors considered in undergraduate admissions. "We have done studies that look at the correlation between SAT scores and student performance, and have found that the SAT in combination with grades and other factors is a better predictor than any individual component alone," Schmill said.

Les Perelman, the former director of Writing Across the Curriculum at MIT and a longtime vocal critic of the SAT's 25-minute writing test — better for the students, Schmill said. "I do think the SAT will be a better test — better for the students who take it," Schmill wrote. "The new SAT will be more aligned with what students should be learning in school, and so doing good work in school will be the best preparation for the test."

MIT accepts both the SAT and the ACT in its admissions process. Currently, more people take the ACT than the SAT each year. While 1.7 million students sat for the SAT in 2013, 1.8 million took the ACT last year. The ACT first surpassed the SAT in number of students in 2011, according to the Associated Press.

The College Board on Wednesday also announced a collaboration with Khan Academy, which provides free educational videos online and was founded by MIT alumnus Salman K. Khan '98. Khan Academy plans to produce 200 videos on topics covered on the revamped SAT. The partnership is part of the College Board's efforts to reach out to students from low-income households, whose SAT scores have lagged behind those of their wealthier counterparts for decades.

The College Board says that the design of the SAT will change how we admit students or that we will use the SAT differently in our process, Schmill wrote. "We plan to use the SAT in the same way as we do currently."

Revised SAT test to be out of 1,600 possible points

College Board makes essay optional, removes penalty for guessing, and shortens test

New SAT, from Page 1

from informational graphics. The new "Evidence-Based Reading and Writing" section, which replaces the current Writing and Critical Reading sections, will also shift its focus from "obscure" vocabulary to "words that are widely used in college and careers," like "synthesis" and "empirical," according to the College Board. The essay will be scored as an independent component that colleges may choose to consider.

The College Board says that the new math section will draw from fewer topics grouped around three focuses: proportional reasoning, linear equations, and "more complex equations." According to the College Board, research shows these areas "most contribute to readiness for college and career." According to the College Board, research shows these areas "most contribute to readiness for college and career." According to the College Board, research shows these areas "most contribute to readiness for college and career." According to the College Board, research shows these areas "most contribute to readiness for college and career."

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Schmill mentioned that he had also been able to "offer [his] input to the College Board as they have gone through their redesign process.

Some contend that the SAT is being revamped to look more like the ACT, another college admissions assessment often seen as the SAT's main rival. "It seems like they're mostly following what we've always done," Jon Erickson, president of ACT's education division, told The New York Times on Wednesday.

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Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama

Thursday, March 13, 2014
Kresge Auditorium, 3:30 PM

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

Solution to Crossword from page 7
BELLY SPAT PILAF AREA POLE ADAGE
SINGWHEELS STICKER VESK BATTAT FOOS
JAR EUREM PAGERS COMEDOT ALIET BEE CROW
STAIR ARIS MIDE TAN MRED GANGE AID REAL HOSTED
FRANK COME RAIN LATTER SAD DENSE JUMBOJETS
ANDS JESSIE ARMS RISTART READ MOST

Solution to Techdoku from page 6
1 4 5 2 6 3
3 6 1 4 2 5
4 1 2 5 3 6
6 3 4 1 5 2
2 5 6 3 1 4
5 2 3 6 4 1
The Tech Friday, March 7, 2014

challenges of peers seen every day walking through a hallway on campus, even those they did not personally know.

The founders also said they wanted to “break the stereotype” of the typical MIT student. As a result, most of the features forgo reporting the subject’s jobs, UROPS, and club involvement in favor of characterizing them in non-academic ways.

In the beginning, the majority of the subjects were friends of the original founders, but now the project has expanded to include impromptu interviews with people found on campus.

“No one turns it down,” said Wu. “Many people are flattered, but become modest when they are asked to be featured.” So far, the Humans of MIT team has interviewed and featured more than fifteen people on their Facebook page, and the number continues to grow.

According to the photographers, the most common response from those interviewed is, “I’m not very interesting.”

“It’s Imposter’s Syndrome,” commented Shen about those who attest to being unexciting.

Taliep said that it can take a few minutes before interviewees begin to open up and express themselves in non-academic terms. “It usually start by asking, ‘What’s new?’” he said. Although each interviewer has a regular set of questions they like to ask — such as “What do you do for fun?” or “How is your day going?” — the questions are usually spontaneous.

After people finish listing their clubs, majors, and academic interests, they eventually begin to feel comfortable talking more about their quirks and interests.

“You find out about things that people wouldn’t normally mention in an everyday conversation,” said Shen. Lawrence added, “I am amazed at what people do here.”

Humans of MIT is affiliated with SMASH (Students at MIT Allied for Student Health), which is a group of organizations concerned with the general health of students on campus and includes groups such as MIT-Emergency Medical Services (MIT-EMS), Student Support Services (S^3), and MedLinks.

The founders of Humans of MIT said they feel that being able to share and read the stories posted on the Facebook page helps build a sense of camaraderie among the MIT student body and shows students that they are not alone. Many students respond with positive comments on the posts. “I enjoy seeing the amount of feedback on the Facebook page, the notifications, the likes,” said Taliep.

Although the administration is not directly involved with Humans of MIT and does not oversee its activities, those working on the project hope to acquire funding to potentially sponsor events in the future.

Students run Humans of MIT
Founders aim to break stereotype of typical student

Humans of MIT, from Page 1 of the Tech runs an online feature that challenges of peers seen every day walking through a hallway on campus, even those they did not personally know.

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Roger Federer appears to be returning to form

After a productive offseason and a change of coach, Federer is off to a promising start

By Deepak Narayanan

2013 was a disappointing year for Roger Federer and his legion of fans. Throughout the year, Federer looked like a shadow of his former self—the serve wasn’t as accurate, the forehand not as precise or decisive, and he no longer played with his normal panache.

But a fruitful off-season, a new coach in all-time great Stefan Edberg, and a change in racket seem to have finally stemmed the rot. This past week, Federer won the ATP 250 event in Dubai to continue his extremely strong start to the year. He reached the finals at the Brisbane International Open and the semifinals at the Australian Open. Roger Federer, once again, is a name to be reckoned with in the world of tennis.

Among a string of impressive results last week in Dubai, Federer’s win over top seed Novak Djokovic was the most striking. A year ago, confronted with a one-set deficit against one of the most dominant players on tour, he would likely have crumbled, but not anymore. The confidence is back, and the aggression has returned. At key moments, Federer is decisive, and he no longer played with his normal panache.

A title victory early in the season could be exactly what the doctor ordered for another remarkable season for Federer. For a good portion of the last 18 months, Federer has not been able to compete consistently with the top players, but a victory against Djokovic this early in the season (coupled with his convincing win over Andy Murray at the Australian Open) will give him confidence heading into International Open and the semifinals at the Australian Open.

In the deciding third set, Federer appeared to have the victory sealed as Djokovic seemed as powerless as a supporter in the stands.

The MIT women’s lacrosse team out-scored host Lasell College, 8-3, during the final 23 minutes of regulation en route to an 18-12 victory on Tuesday afternoon. Kira M. Schott ’16 amassed six goals, seven draw controls, and two groundballs as the Engineers improved to 2-0 on the season.

Schott opened up the scoring by redirecting a feed from Emma Kane ’15 following 2-32 of action. Lasell responded with back-to-back goals but a free-position shot by Schott evened the score at two at the 10:08 mark. The Lasers quickly went back in front, however, MIT rallied off four unanswered goals to claim a 6-3 lead with 9:49 left in the half. Hannah A. Levy ’17 began the rally, which was followed by two markers from Schott, and then Kane capped it with a goal off the ensuing draw.

Lasell replied with three goals during the next 3:20 to tie the game at six. The Cardinal and Gray countered with its own three-goal spurt courtesy of solo efforts from Erica C. Du ’14, Rachel I. Weinberg ’16, along with another Schott free-position shot. The Lasers then narrowed the gap to two (9-7) by finding the back of the net with 17 seconds remaining in the frame. The hosts carried the momentum into the second stanza as they cut their deficit in half after one minute expired. Levy recorded an unassisted marker to increase MIT’s cushion but Lasell struck back two minutes later, making the score 10-9 with exactly 23 minutes on the clock. This was as close as it would get as a free-position marker by Isabella D. DiDio ’16 sparked the Engineers’ game-ending run.

Levy finished with six goals as she re- corded the second half. DiDio tallied two goals, one assist, four groundballs, and three caused turnovers while Kane posted two goals, one assist, and two groundballs. Du notched one goal and two assists as Na- dia L. Wallace ’16 added two draw controls. Christine W. Jiang ’16 bolstered the defense with four groundballs while goalie Candice L. Kaplan ’15 collected seven saves.

Next up for MIT will be a home game against first-time opponent Roger Williams University on Saturday, March 8 at 1:00 p.m.