With growing edX role, some students skeptical

Students mixed on blended models, but some profs. foresee more online integration

By Sanjana Shrivastava

Some MIT classes, using edX, have moved toward a blended model of education, integrating in-person and online learning. According to both students and instructors, this effort has made students’ college experience more flexible, but not without other flaws.

Online education has been at the forefront of the administration’s efforts this semester. The Institute-wide task force on the future of MIT’s education recently released their report encouraging “online and blended learning models to improve graduate curriculum accessibility.” According to the task force, this blended model provides “commitment to access and affordability.”

Prof. Anant Agarwala, CEO of edX, and Prof. Eric Klopfer, professor of science education and engineering systems and director of the Scheller Teacher Education program, both support the conclusions drawn by the task report. Integrated classes allow students to have both access to professors and fellow students and “augment whatever they are doing in a traditional setting,” according to Agarwala in an interview with The Tech.

Students, however, seem to be less certain about online education. First-year MIT students interviewed expressed differing opinions on what types of classes should contain an online component.

Amitha Vajapeyajula ’18, who took online Latin, government, and health classes, stated there is a tradeoff between access and affordability.

Doctors confirm Braintree facility patient does not have Ebola virus

Ebola scare triggers mounted response from health teams

By Meghan E. Irons and Todd Wallack

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Nuclear Energy University Programs (NEUP) awarded five million dollars to an integrated research project led by Professor Charles W. Forsberg ScD ’74 of the department of nuclear science and engineering. Forsberg,NSE Professor Lin-wen Hu, and colleagues from University of California, Berkeley and University of Wisconsin at Madison received extended funding for their commercial high-temperature salt-cooled reactor, according to the MIT News Office.

Additionally, Benoit Forger, associate professor of nuclear science and engineering, and Kord Smith, the Korea Electric Power Company, Professor of the Practice of Nuclear Science and Engineering, obtained a $400,000 grant in a separate NEUP Research and Development Award for developing Benchmarks for Evaluation and Validation for Reactor Simulations (BEARES) to allow for validation of the accuracy of physics computation tools.

Mechanical engineering professor Alexander Slocum also received a $400,000 grant from the NEUP initiative in order to develop a seawater uranium extraction system that uses the infrastructure and power of offshore windmills.

—Amy Wing
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reported to have appeared in public
Kim Jong Un, the North Korean leader whose unexplained absence from public view for more than a month raised intense speculation that he had died, appeared apparently healthy at a meeting in Pyongyang.

The official Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday that Kim had given "field guidance" at a newly constructed scientific Research Institute. It published a photo showing Kim, 31, smiling, but South Korean media speculated that it was on Monday.

Kim's return to public view, his country's founder, Kim II Sung, had not been reported since Sept. 3, after having made a series of appearances.

Mr. Kims politics of North Korea, the world's most isolated country, Kim's prolonged absence inevitably invited rumors that he had been replaced in a power struggle or was ill, or both.

The last time he was seen, in a television broadcast in late September, Kim was feeling unwell. "He said, "I would oppose the motion tonight, but such is my anger over Israel's behavior in recent months that I will not oppose the motion. I have to be with the government of Israel if they are losing people like me, they will be losing a lot of people."
Republicanic-majority Senate is starting to look likelier

By Nate Cohn	THE NEW YORK TIMES

The polls have shown Republicani-majority control within the swing of a couple of weeks, and they now appear to be firmly in the favor of the Republican side, with a possible winning coalition in excess of 52 seats, with Iowa, Colorado and the six Democratic-held Senate races in the nation’s largest cities in year-to-year presidential elections. The Democrats still have a slight path to victory, but it is clear that the most likely path to victory is a Republican majority in the Senate.

The journalist for the New York Times, Nate Cohn, has written about the parliamentary shift and the expected Senate outcome in his article. Cohn notes that the Senate race is still too close to call, but that the shape of the race is clear: a Republican majority. He also notes that the Senate race in Iowa is particularly close, with the election outcome still uncertain.

The article goes on to discuss the implications of a Republican Senate, including the potential for increased funding for climate change initiatives and the possibility of rolling back a number of Obama-era policies. Cohn also notes that, if the Republicans win control of the Senate, it could have a significant impact on the course of US foreign policy.

Cohn’s article is a comprehensive look at the Senate race, its potential implications, and the current state of the election. It provides a detailed analysis of the current situation, the likely outcome, and the potential impacts of a Republican Senate. The article is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the current state of the Senate race and the implications of a Republican majority.

Pentagon says global warming presents immediate security threat

By Coral Davenport	THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon released a report Monday assessing the potential national security risks from climate change. The report found that climate change is a significant risk to national security, with increased risks to national security from both a physical and strategic perspective.

The report warns that climate change could pose a threat to national security, not just to the physical security of the United States but also to the economic security of the country. It notes that climate change could affect the availability of food and water, coastal flooding, and the stability of the food supply chain.

The report also notes that climate change could affect the military’s ability to conduct operations, both at home and abroad. It notes that climate change could affect the availability of natural resources, such as water and energy, that are essential to military operations.

The report recommends that the United States take action to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It recommends that the United States invest in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and increase the resilience of infrastructure.

The report is a comprehensive assessment of the potential national security risks from climate change. It provides a detailed analysis of the risks and recommendations for action. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the potential national security risks from climate change.

The report is available online at the Department of Defense website.
OPINION

Continuing the conversation
The doors need to stay open

By David Randall

When I first heard about the All Doors Open event, I was a little uncertain. I knew from my work in Student Support Services (S3) that our community was struggling to come to terms with a string of bad news, mostly recently the on-campus death of Phoebe Wang. We were given fifteen unstructured minutes, time to use however we chose. What would we make of it? My colleagues and I had found that some found the thought and experience of this time awkward, long and intolerable. Others saw it as exactly what they needed.

What we observed in S3 was that “All Doors Open” represented an opportunity for a fresh start. It gave us all a chance to connect with our campus community, to talk, with no labels, no restrictions, with all that we were comfortable talking about. Students, faculty, and staff were able to share with each other the pain they felt, the struggle they were going through, the challenges they were facing. It was a unique opportunity to hear from the students, the faculty, and the staff, what they were thinking, and also to hear from each other. It gave us a chance to catch our collective breath and to become more direct about how we are feeling. Taking the time to stop, together, has started a conversation. In the time since All Doors Open, we have had a lot of conversations about important topics.

As people talked, we listened and we learned.

Most importantly, we learned that people feel comfortable talking about academics, and comfortable talking about athletics, and comfortable talking about dorms.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority.

When things feeling overwhelming, it’s less intimidating to isolate oneself than to seek help. Students also feel that they are reluctant to provide feedback about what could change on campus. They are either inarticulate, or feel that people in power don’t have confidence that they will have an impact.

To all of you in the MIT student community: I encourage you to talk to each other about your struggles, not just about the daily stuff like academics and research. I promise that if you share a little bit about yourself, you’ll find others who struggle in similar ways. Keep having conversations, think about the administration about what we all could do differently. Don’t stop; don’t let the passage of time erode your resolve to make changes. Push us to think in creative, new, and bold ways about the MIT experience. Please remember, people are listening, and hearing the student voice is crucial to making positive change.

Finally, we heard from many, especially staff, that they are trying to make sense of the past year. We are absorbing a lot of bad news, not just at MIT but also in the world. We are hearing about illness, terror, and war. The wounds from the Boston Bombings and Sean Collier’s murder are still fresh. People feel that it has been one thing after the other, and it is hard to process it all. This is a reminder to us all about the basic human value of kindness, empathy, and understanding.

If you are interested in preparing for the future.

In this moment, we need to think about what we are feeling, and what it means. We need to think of new ways to make MIT an even better place to live, work, and learn. Let’s continue the conversation. Our door is in S3, as always, is open and if you have thoughts on how we can better serve the community in this tough time please do not hesitate to stop by. Associate Dean David Randall oversees Student Support Services.
Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

Our "heroes" have "infiltrated" a Sloan event...

We should leave before our cover breaks...

How could that happen?

Well, if anyone asks, all I know about investing is...

Hey Tarot Cards, which stocks should I buy?

They won't throw us out over that!

But they might sacrifice engineers to the finance god!!

That's ok. I'm a physicist.

Saturday Stumper by Frank Longo
Solution, page 8

ACROSS
1 Lacking member of the board?
10 Straw-hat weave
15 Handy
16 Tubes to serve
17 Place for some super-fresh herbs
18 Metropolis on the Ganges
19 Sprout
20 "Old" combination
22 Imagine
23 Dig for dirt, maybe
25 Contract
27 Inflation indication: Abbr.
29 Tarantino called him "the future of horror"
30 Stubborn sort
33 Table-turning occasion
36 No layman
37 The Bard's "venomous fool"
38 Petition
39 Work on the side
40 Tablet maker
41 Put down
42 Capital near Lillestrøm
43 Spanish fish dish
46 L'Oréal Paris brand
47 Works with minimal weight
50 Not chilling
54 If not, to Nero
55 Surround closely
57 Word of apprehension
58 Eldest of a literary trio
62 Lodging place
63 Lender in the S&P 500
64 Some flutes
65 Malevolent and such

DOWN
1 Jumps on, with "out"
2 Like a hawk
3 Ambitious
4 Sprout
5 Cutter cousins
6 Manicuring target
7 Heads of Des Moines
8 Anteater relative
9 L-shaped key
10 Indication to really tone it down?
11 Premier, e.g.
12 Par on Namibia's coat of arms
13 One way to coast
14 Snap on a football field, perhaps
21 Quaker State's early headquarters
24 CIA array
26 ___ Museum (San Jose site honoring the boat people)
28 Shut off
30 Bolognese alternative
31 $50 bill depiction
32 Gravity-defying feat
34 1930s Safety Director of Cleveland
35 SEC investigation target of 2005
38 Draw in an outlet
42 Argentine sports daily
44 Oratorio solo
46 Family Guy prodigy
48 Word that Christian Malaysians can't use

4 by 4 Techdokus

Instructions: Fill in the grids so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–4. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.
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Ebola scare triggers outbreak of public anxiety

Suspected cases in Massachusetts are not from deadly virus, but still stir Braintree buzz

Ebola, from Page 1
cannot be spread through the air or water. Instead, people need to have direct physical contact with some-one who is already ill or with their bodily fluids. And people are not contagious until they begin to show symptoms.

“This is not something that is go-ing to come at [people] through the air by someone they sat next to on the T who looked perfectly healthy,” said Barry, who heads the infectious disease bureau of the Boston Public Health Commission. “Frankly, they are more at risk from influenza.”

City officials said they also have plenty of experience dealing with infectious diseases.

Barry declined to talk in detail about the Braintree case or why it garnered so much media attention, particularly since officials determined within hours that the patient probably did not actually have Ebola.

But Barry said Boston hospitals would “absolutely not” send a potential Ebola patient back to their car to isolate them from other patients, as the Braintree clinic did. She said it is important to not only isolate patients, but also to keep an eye on them.

“I have never in my 31 years of doing this job even isolated or quarantined someone in a car,” she said.

Barry added that Boston hospitals “all have appropriate spaces in their facilities where they can both isolate or quarantine people and monitor them.”

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines normally recommend putting a patient suspected of having conta-cted Ebola in a single patient room with the door closed and making sure that staff who enter the room are wearing protective equipment, including gloves and a face mask.

But Harvard Vanguard Medi-cal Associates, which runs the Braintree clinic, defended its ac-tions Monday, saying its medical team followed procedures that were crafted based on the CDC recommendations.

“The situation was handled well and the patient, who was clinically stable, was quickly ushered out of the building and into his own car to reduce any potential exposure of others,” Dr. Ben Kruskal, chief of infectious disease at Harvard Van-guard said in a statement.

The man, who has not been identified, was taken by ambulance to the clinic’s partner, Beth Israel Deaconess, where infectious disease at Harvard Vanguard/Deaconess, where infectious disease specialists examined him and concluded he was at an extremely low risk for having Ebola. After ini-tially keeping him in isolation, the hospital definitively ruled out the disease on Monday evening and said he remains in good condition.

But Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan of Braintree said many in town were worried over the weekend that the patient might have spread the dis-ease to local residents before he was taken to the hospital. Sullivan spent much of the weekend trying to squelch rumors that the man lived in Braintree or had children in the schools. The town even issued a reverse 911 call to calm anxious residents.

“The news has created signifi-cant Braintree buzz,” Sullivan said.

Residents “were concerned about the safety of their family and their neighbors.”

Suspected cases in Massachusetts are not from deadly virus, but still stir Braintree buzz

Solution to Crossword

A I L W I N D O X E B R A
N O N S L E E P I R E C N E N Y I
A I L M I N D E N C R O S S W I N C P U L E N H O L O S

Solution to Crossword

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W E’ R E S E E K I N G T O
B U I L D O U R F O R C E S
ALBUM REVIEW

Definitely not plain sailing
But worth going along for the ride

By Owen Morris

Southern Air, the last album from pop-punkers Yellowcard, featured the prominent lyric “I’ve been here a while/ staring at the screen wondering what I’ll write.” It’s a sentiment I can empathise with. The ninth studio album from the Jacksonville quartet, made famous by their unique guitar-meets-violin rock sound, is the product of many factors, and to address any one without context of the others seems unjust. Music does not exist in a vacuum (technically because there’s no air to propagate sound waves, but allow me the metaphor), and this album has a great deal going on behind the scenes.

The previously released single “Make Me So” is probably the strongest of the thirteen tracks.

It’s been something of an annus horribilis for Yellowcard. Longtime drummer Longineu W. Parsons III left the band to pursue other interests. Violinist Sean Mackin has been undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer. And lead vocalist Ryan Key married his wife in a hospital, two days after she became paralysed after breaking her back in a snowboarding accident. The sheer existence of this album says something about Yellowcard’s commitment to their music and to their fans. But whereas Yellowcard’s last few albums have hit a myriad of highs, both musically and emotionally, this is an album about lows.

Album opener “Convocation” sets a melancholy, almost orchestral tone, and shows how much the band have matured since their early days. However, while standout songs like “Transmission Home” and “Crash the Gates” thrash along for most of their runtime, they often come across as stadium rock by the numbers. These tracks and others feature drawn-out interludes with almost nothing going on, as if the band wanted to sound reflective and then became too disheartened to do anything.

The tone of the other songs is either eclectic or inconsistent, depending on your viewpoint. The previously released single “Make Me So” is probably the strongest of the thirteen tracks, and crackles with the punk energy of the band’s classic crowd-pleasers. “One Bedroom,” another single, is an emotional love letter that still manages to pack a serious punch, primarily thanks to the conviction of Key’s vocal track. Title track “Lift a Sail” is similarly poignant (“Feel my heart stop and lift my eyes/ I can’t choose when to love/ Or who I am part of”) and offers an unguarded glimpse into the inner workings of a tormented heart. In a completely different vein, a guest appearance from the lead vocalist of Memphis May Fire over the driving beat of The Deepest Well works well, making it one of the most interesting songs Yellowcard have produced in recent years.

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In contrast however, tracks such as “Madrid” and “California” have almost no distinguishing features, and can fall somewhat flat. It can feel like these slower tracks were included simply to break up the tempo and bulk up the runtime of the album. If nothing else however, they emphasise the variety of sounds Yellowcard are prepared to play, and how far they have come since the initial success of their three-chord punk.

There’s a generation of people (an age group well represented here at MIT) for whom Yellowcard have a special resonance. Not a party playlist has ever or will ever be made by a person born around that time that does not feature “Ocean’s Avenue.” In the decade since that seminal single, Yellowcard have evolved and experimented many times as any band so enduring would. And despite a few misses, they largely make their new direction a success. Judged purely on musical quality, Lift A Sail is worth a listen, and comfortably deserves a place in the Yellowcard catalogue. But as a statement of intent, it could quite possibly be the most important album the band has ever made.

Fans hoping for a simple rehash of their original sound will be sorely disappointed by Lift A Sail, and they have the right to dislike the new direction the band have taken. But frankly, Yellowcard has earned the right not to give a shit.
The Tech Tuesday, October 14, 2014

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**Women’s soccer earns win**

Overtime goal lifts MIT past Clark University

By Matthew Noonan

Nicole M. Mika ’18 registered her first goal of the season at 98:58 in overtime following a feed from Morgan K. Moroi ’16 as the Engineers rallied to defeat Clark University, 2-1, on Saturday, October 11 in New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) play. With the victory, MIT improves to 8-3-2 overall and 4-0-1 in conference play, while Clark falls to 1-1-0 and 0-4-0.

Ambika M. Krishnamachar ’15, Moroi and Olivia M. Struck-1-0 and 0-4-0.

to 8-3-2 overall and 4-0-1 in conference play.

MIT’s offense continued to press after recording their second goal, with seven saves in the second half. Paolinio finished with five saves in the second half, the last at 59:57, before handing the ball to Paolini.

Wheaton goalkeeper Ali Bingham, 37, that went out of play in the first half. Miko fired her second shot of the half, but her shot was stopped by Wheaton’s defense with shots on goal at 12:57, 25:20, 28:21, 30:30 when Laila Razzaghi scored a goal to put the Engineers up, 12-10.

In overtime, the Engineers recorded four consecutive shots before Miko located the back of MIT’s net by directing one of her shots into the Engineers’ goal at 20:04. The Blue responded with a 12-11 run to force overtime, but the Engineers seized the advantage roughly 10 minutes later when Zeo scored the game’s lone goal at 16:17. The Blue raced back into the game tient at 16-15, but MIT outscored the Blue, 7-3, as an Astrachan strike coupled with a hitting error kept MIT in front. Wellesley responded with three shots, including a penalty shot that went wide. Wheaton goalkeeper Matt Dickey turned away five shots. Wheaton’s defense held strong, allowing only one shot on goal by Wheaton. Despite this, Wheaton’s defense continued to block shots on goal by Wheaton as they held the ball’s final three saves.

Miko fired her second shot of the second half, but neither attempt landed on MIT’s offense continued to press after recording their second goal, with seven saves in the second half. Paolinio finished with five saves in the second half, the last at 59:57, before handing the ball to Paolini.

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MIT overcomes Wellesley in tie-break set to earn victory

Tech records first win against Wellesley since 2009

By Mindy Brauer

DAPER STAFF

The MIT women’s volleyball team outlasted Wellesley College for a 25-17, 26-24, 15-25, 26-28, 15-4 victory in a NEWMAC match on Tuesday night. In the Engineers’ first regular-season win over the Blue since 2009, Jennifer L. Astra-chan ’15 led all players with 27 kills on a .338 hitting performance in addition to recording three aces for the Cardinal and Gray (18-2, 5-1 NEWMAC).

Megan E. Gehbard ’17 posted 15 kills as Allison A. Davanzo ’18 tallied eight kills, a .304 hitting percentage, four blocks, and two aces for MIT. Nicole C. Gagnier ’15 totaled 53 assists and four blocks while Tori L. Warfitch ’17 amassed a match-high 23 digs to go along with two aces. Jennifer A. Glerum ’17 collected 16 digs as Clare Farley ’18 rounded out the squad with nine digs and five aces.

MIT built a 7-3 lead in the opening set but Wellesley closed to gap to 8-6. The Engineers responded with an 8-3 run; however, the hosts trimmed their deficit to 17-13. MIT countered with a 7-2 run, reaching set point on a 23-20 lead. The Cardinals then scored the final three points of the set to earn the victory.

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