Alumnus Samuel Tak Lee donates $118 million for Institute research

Funds are to be primarily used to support MIT projects and programs pertaining to real estate development and research

By Amy Wang

MIT and University of Cambridge to face off in “Cambridge v. Cambridge” hackathon

Researchers at MIT’s Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) and at the University of Cambridge’s Computer Laboratory will compete in a multi-day cybersecurity hackathon, “Cambridge v. Cambridge,” is expected to motivate students at both institutions to develop new technologies and powerful cybersecurity technologies. According to a White House press release, the competition’s purpose is “to enhance cybersecurity research at the highest academic level within both countries to bolster our cyber defenses.”

Lewin Twitter contained sexual comments to fans

Public tweets included suggestive and explicit language in response to video lecture viewers

By Austin Hess

Walter Lewin, the former MIT professor with the infamous seismic voice, retired last month after a sexual harassment investigation. He was accused of repeatedly sending inappropriate and explicit comments to fans of his popular online physics lecture videos.

The Twitter account @wlewin, mentioned in a 2013 MIT physics department tweet as belonging to the former professor, responded publicly to fans’ tweets in 2011 and 2012 but was deactivated in December. The Tech has communicated with Lewin via one of several email addresses he mentioned on his Twitter account. In his emails he defended some of the tweets but disapproved of others.

Most of the tweets on the account were responses to videos of online video lecturers who had mentioned his videos, Lewin’s account in their tweets. Fans were frequently invited to contact him at favignyring, but that address was later suspended as a result of MIT’s investigation of Lewin’s tweets. A tweet from December 2014 asked a fan to contact him through a MIT personal email address.

But some of Lewin’s replies, especially those to young women, included sexual comments. Until June 11, 2013, a female user had mentioned his name in a joking tweet, to which he responded. But days later on June 16, in response to her unrelated tweet to another user, he was saying simply “FLICK” Lewin commented “That can be included if you want it.”

Lewin defended the tweet via email: “I have an eccentric/ unusual sense of humor which can easily be misunderstood (it’s not appreciated by all). If someone writes ‘fuck’ which is often very common, I often turn that into a joke.”

On June 16 he offered one fan a unique email address—using crude sexual slang to apparently proposition her for sex. Minimally, with no apparent response from the recipient, he tweeted again at her if she was “thickening up.”

Lewin told The Tech he had never seen the tweet as he did not know the slang term in question, adding, “How on earth it ended up in one of my tweets, it beats me.”

In a press release, the competition’s purpose is “to enhance cybersecurity research at the highest academic level within both countries to bolster our cyber defenses.”

Hacking, Page 4

Stanford admission records released to students

After filing requests under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), several Stanford University students received un-redacted details from their Stanford student record.

The requests, which were directed toward the Office of Admissions, prompted the school to release to the students admission materials that included numerical scores based on essays and other factors, as well as letters of written thoughts. One student reported that they also received a list of every time their student ID was used to unlock an access door.

Students who did not waive their right to see their admission letters of recommendation were able to receive those as well.

The students were prompted to request copies of their academic records by an anonymous Stanford publication, The Fountain Hopper, which included instructions online for filing a request under FERPA. That law, which allows students to be given access to their educational records, gives schools 45 days to respond to requests.

“A smattering of these kinds of requests is common, Stanford University spokesperson Lisa Lapin told The New York Times. She acknowledged that the Foun­tain Hopper’s instructions prompted an increase in requests.

Some MIT students have taken an interest in the news; threads linking to the New York Times article have been posted on the Moista lists e-discuss and r-b-t. The thread on r-b-t alluded to the privacy concerns that might be raised by card-access records being kept indefinitely.

—William Navaree
Letters to the Editor: Who’s afraid of Walter Lewin?

Those who fear relentless pursuit by powerful men with troubling secrets can now rest easy: Peter Fisher wants to protect you. Last week, he explained why MIT removed Walter Lewin’s famous physics lectures from OpenCourseWare and edX, not to teach a lesson, but to protect potential future victims from coming into contact with the former professor. Clearly, removing his MIT office, phone, and email address would suffice; after all, students who remain untroubled by such a threat might yet find a way to stalk him. Fisher said that MIT’s actions will protect students from Lewin’s possible predations. MIT must do everything in its power to purge all traces of his existence from the Earth. At least, that is what MIT is right to remove Lewin’s videos.

The outcry at MIT’s removal of Walter Lewin’s popular online physics lectures has been widespread, from online commentators to MIT professor Scott Aaronson. MIT said it took down the videos to avoid attempting to micromanage the former professor’s behavior to new fans and online students, who might try to contact him on their own and potentially experience harassment. But critics of the decision have questioned whether these fears were realistic and have even compared MIT’s actions to efforts by totalitarian states to limit access to information.

MIT should not be blamed for no longer actively presenting someone who violated the trust of his students as its representative on a global stage.

But in light of MIT’s own explanations and The Tech’s reporting of inappropriate interactions between Lewin and his fans on a public Twitter account, it is clear that MIT’s actions were not only defensible but necessary, and the sustained hand-wringing defense of Lewin by some members of the MIT community is disappointing.

Fans of the online lectures who simply missed out on Twitter or were sometimes met with unsolicited sexual messages from Lewin might be just as unaware on a public account. The MIT community should not need to know the details of the investigation or Lewin’s unique contributions to physics to understand that the “multiple examples” of harassment constituted a serious offense and that MIT wasn’t overreacting. In short, MIT didn’t just try taking down the videos with far-fetched worries — it seems that it addressed a real channel of harassment.

But MIT rightly said it did not remove the videos to make an example out of the popular physics professor. Nor did its actions still have significance beyond the goal of making it harder for fans to contact Lewin. The online lectures were the result of MIT promoting Lewin on its own dime, lending him a level of fame rarely afforded to professors and allowing him to personally profit from sales of his book, and perhaps more.

For the Love of Physics: Continuing to elevate someone who betrayed the trust of students and the Institute as one of the beloved public faces of MIT would simply be nonsensical.

For more information, read MIT was right to remove Lewin’s videos: Taking down the lectures addressed real harassment concerns.

Editorial:

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Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

ACROSS
1 Projects needing sets
6 Name that "Sounds like a fish!" in a 1982 movie
10 Apollo 11 landed in one
14 Yucca cousin
15 Verbal nod
16 World's most popular transportation company
17 Person needing sets
19 Escapist vehicle?
20 Gillette introduction of 1979
21 Mag with a Street Chic Daily web page
22 The UAW was founded within it
23 Window-shade part
25 Surname of three siblings who each wrote an 1847 novel
29 Clever move
31 Stretches, for example
32 Palm product
35 Ideally
36 Mineral mined in the Mojave
37 Word in the etymology of "admiral"
38 Taxing
40 Sculpture at St. Peter's
41 Expresses discontent, in a way
42 Great-uncle who takes in David Copperfield
43 Has no use for
46 Plans for the future
47 Reuben Award comic of 2004
54 Overused eBay adjective
55 Strikingly different
56 Wrongdoing
57 Voter in the news, 9/18/2014
58 Descriptor defined by the National Institutes of Health
59 Remove for checking, perhaps
60 Sources of some scratches
61 Valuables in certain Manila envelopes

DOWN
1 Public persona
2 Daniel Radcliffe role in 2015's Victor Frankenstein
3 Tibetan for "superior one"
4 They're outstanding in their fields
5 Commissions
6 Scene of the crime in A Few Good Men
7 The Romans' name for Turkey
8 Place for a chin on a violin
9 Woodstock '99 poster designer
10 A noticeable improvement
11 Continuously
12 What the Lexington Minuteman statue holds
13 Source of an ale's fruity flavor
18 Shipwreck divers' mecca
24 Dated, for short
25 Martha Stewart makes them with basil leaves and homemade mayo
26 ___ gear
27 Hubby in Funny Girl
30 Regrettably
32 Ring, essentially
33 Flirt initiation, e.g.
34 What a toolbox may hold
36 Less-than-elegant exit
39 It's often seen between here and there
40 Place to buy bowls and beds
42 Badger
43 Was on
44 Basic cable channel
45 Ice Breakers alternative
48 A long while ago
49 A short while from now
50 Role-playing game costume
51 They're formed for flattery
52 Extremely
53 The six single title characters of a TV Land series

Solution, page 5

Saturday Stumper by Anna Stiga

I NEED TO GET A SEAT.
WILL, I HAVE THE REST OF THE WEEK TO DO IT. I'LL WORK ON SOMETHING ELSE FOR NOW.
AHH! THE WEEK IS OVER AND I HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANYTHING!
TECHNICALLY, IF I WRITE IN CHAPTERS NEXT WEEK, I'LL STILL BE ON SCHEDULE.

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

by Jorge Cham

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Happy Holidays from PHD

www.phdcomics.com
New Think Tank to allot research funds

Advisory board to distribute funds for various real estate programs

“The Department of Urban Studies and the Center for Real Estate hopes to see the $188 million donation used across the Institute. An advisory board composed of MIT’s five schools will oversee the distribution of the funding, according to Albert Saiz, the director of the MIT Center for Real Estate. MIT affiliates will be able to submit proposals to the new Think Tank funded by the donation in order to secure capital for research that may be applicable to real estate development.”

“Real estate and urban planning is very interdisciplinary to begin with, so this donation already is incredibly well positioned to generate opportunities across all fields,” Saiz said. “We expect a wide range of departments to take advantage of the Think Tank.” A non-exhaustive list of fields mentioned that are applicable to real estate development includes architecture, economics, urban sociology, history, geography, education, material science and engineering, civil and environmental engineering, and anthropology.

The budget for the various programs to be implemented is still to be determined.

Hackathon, from Page 1

“Engineering expertise, students will need to successfully employ high-caliber business and interpersonal skills in order to address venture capitalists, confront the demands of policymaking, and write press releases concerning their projects.” The leaders also announced a bilateral agreement to establish and fund a new FullBright Cybersecurity Award, which will enable achieving scholars from both countries to conduct six months of cybersecurity research.

“We are excited to partner with the University of Cambridge on this academic initiative with our students,” Howard Shrobe, principal research scientist at CSAIL, told the MIT News Office. “[We] hope that this will be the first of many events aimed at bringing together these two institutions.”

—William Rodriíguez

Lewin criticizes MIT’s decision to remove his OCW materials

Former prof. defends comments on social media but suggests he didn’t write some tweets on account

In fact, he speculated about the “virginity” of several users, most of whom had tweeted in amusement about a segment in his online lectures where he refers to learning electromagnetic equations by telling students, “As far as 8.02 is concerned … you have lost your virginity.”

Lewin wrote via email that his responses were in reference to that lecture.

To another user he said, “[W]atch my lectures from bed — very sexy!”

MIT Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD ’88 said he did not know whether the tweets were accurate, though no responses from the recipient were visible. One of his replies: “Hi I also wrote on your facebook wall. Great picture!”

Some of Lewin’s tweets focused on materials provided by departing professor William F. Johnson, who penned a letter to fans’ tweets unrelated to their future tweets. A day after the June 16, 2013 exchange, he responded to another user’s apparent confusion at the situation, complaining, “You and your friend made your mugs invisible.”

And in April 2013, he tweeted one woman: “I hope you too lost your virginity, and then replied five more times in three days, though no responses from the recipient were visible. One of his replies: “Hi I also wrote on yourfacebookwall. Great picture!”

Lewin called the removal of the videos a “bad decision.”

“MIT has removed every website they control which mentions the huge impact that my lectures had (and still have) on the world as a whole,” he wrote. “MIT wants to rewrite/change history. To unperson me and to deny my large impact on undergraduate teaching is a political move.”

He said of the videos, “It’s only a matter of time (maybe a few months) and all will be back. Trust me,” but did not elaborate as to how he expected that to happen.

Lewin said he would consider an in-person interview with The Tech when “the dust has settled.”
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Understanding Medicare:
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Solution to Saturday Stumper from page 3:

Solution to Sudoku I from page 7:

Solution to Sudoku II from page 7:

Solution to Techdoku I from page 7:

Solution to Techdoku II from page 7:
After brief warmup, cold temperatures return

By Casey Hilgenbrink

Cambridge experienced a much-welcomed respite from the cold this holiday weekend thanks to southerly winds ahead of an approaching low pressure system. On Sunday, temperatures reached a balmy 51°F (10.5°C) at Boston’s Logan Airport — that’s 16°F (9°C) above average for that day!

Today, temperatures are noticeably cooler as a cold high pressure system begins to build into our region — expect a high temperature of about 33°F (1°C) this afternoon. A somewhat gusty west wind will make it feel even colder — expect wind chills in the teens and low twenties — so be sure to bundle up when you head outside!

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny, with high of 33°F (1°C). West wind at 10-15 mph, with gusts up to 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly sunny, with a high of around 32°F (0°C). Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming north by afternoon.

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, with a low of 19°F (-7°C). West wind around 10 mph, gusting up to 20 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high in the low 30s°F (0°C). Slight chance of snow.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high in the low 30s°F (-1°C).
Sudoku I
Solution, page 5

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.

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

Sudoku II
Solution, page 5

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.

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

Techdoku I
Solution, page 5

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.

```
120x 18x 6x 4
20x 300x 3
2x 3
6x 8x 120x 2
30x 72x 1
3
1
```

Techdoku II
Solution, page 5

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.

```
19+ 144x
144x
6x 1−
24x 180x 1
1
24x 20x 6x
12x
12
30x 4
2
3
```

[1473] Location Sharing

Our phones must have great angular momentum sensors because the compasses really suck.

A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language
by Randall Munroe
We are The Tech

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