No. 3 in arts, humanities? Dean hopes ranking spurs interest

At a school where STEM majors outnumber others 19 to 1, writing classes are tailored for STEM mindset

By Divya Gopinath

MIT was recently ranked third globally in both arts and humanities and first for the social sciences by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The rankings are intended to evaluate “world class universities across all of their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook,” according to their website. Factors that go into the determination include staff-to-student ratio, institutional income, research income, research productivity (i.e., number of papers published per student at high-level journals), international-to-domestic student ratio, industry income, and institutional reputation based on a standardized survey.

“Although we recognize that we are writing disciplines, we are mindful that we are at MIT,” said Melissa Nobles, the dean of the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, acknowledging that MIT is better known as a science and engineering school. “We want to appeal to MIT students, and tailor our courses to thinking about the intersections between the arts and the sciences.”

All of MIT’s humanities and arts departments are small compared to those at schools like Harvard and Stanford, but that allows the average MIT student close access to faculty and relatively small class sizes, Nobles said.

“What I want is the continued visibility and support,” Nobles added. “I hope these rankings will encourage MIT students to take a closer look at what they should avail themselves of. The word is out now. Take advantage.”

The arts and humanities at MIT are divided into two main institutions: the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) and the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P). (MIT is also home to the List Visual Arts Center and various other centers related to the humanities.)

Currently, of undergraduates who have declared a major, 3.5 percent are enrolled in either SHASS or SA+P. The figures for graduate students are 20.3 percent and 24.3 percent, respectively.

MIT researchers recognized at 2016 Breakthrough Prizes ceremony

MIT researchers Edward Boyden, Larry Guth, Liang Fu, and Joseph Fergamaggio and his team were honored at the 2016 Breakthrough Prize ceremony. The event was held at NASA Ames Research Center in California this past Sunday.

Boyd was one of five scientists awarded the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, which included an award of $3 million. An associate professor of media arts and sciences, biological engineering, and brain and cognitive sciences, Boyden was honored for his work on the development of optogenetics.

Breakthrough, Page 13

Award tries to make stars out of scientists

On stage at Breakthrough ceremony: MacFarlane, Pharrell, Russell Crowe

By John Markoff

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Movie stars Red carpet. Awards. Movie stars. Red carpet. Awards. It’s a familiar script. Except that the event here Sunday night was far from New York and Hollywood, and the boldfaced names were far from New York and Hollywood, and the event here Sunday night was the annual MIT Committee on Student Life Film Festival.

Approximately 60 students in the 2.06 Introduction to Design class gathered in Lobby 7 on Monday night to demonstrate their solutions in capturing three “TechBeavers” — helium-filled balloons suspended in the air — as part of their first project, dubbed “Pokécapture.”

The Pokemon theme was visible everywhere, from the balloons stamped with a picture of Pikachu (which is, appropriately, the Beaver Pokemon) to the Pikachu costume donned by the class instructor, Professor Maria Yang.

The 12 teams each had two weeks to make a balloon-capturing apparatus using basic materials

2.00 students capture balloons for Pokémon-themed project

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The 12 teams each had two weeks to make a balloon-capturing apparatus using basic materials.
Atlantic Ocean gets November hurricane

By Vince Agard

Although autumn is in full swing here in New England, the Atlantic hurricane season is still in session. In fact, the Atlantic basin is currently experiencing its fourth hurricane of 2015, as Tropical Storm Kate was officially upgraded to hurricane status on Wednesday morning. A weak Category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of 75 mph, Kate is forecast to weaken and become a post-tropical storm later today as it moves out to sea without impacting any major land areas.

Although hurricanes are warm-season storms, they often form well after the summer season has concluded. This is possible because they derive their energy from the heat of the sea surface, which remains warm later in the year due to the ocean’s great heat capacity. Kate is far from the latest tropical cyclone to form in the Atlantic basin: Twice in recorded history a tropical storm has formed on Dec. 30 and lasted into the next year (one of these, Alice in 1954-55, attained hurricane status).

Closer to home, a strong storm that produced both blizzard and tornado warnings in the central United States on Wednesday will pass to the north of our area today. However, those extreme conditions will not be materializing at the Institute. Instead, expect rain showers this afternoon and evening before a cold front passes through later tonight.

Extended Forecast


Tuesday: Sunny and breezy. High 40°F (4°C).

You can also turn to Violence Prevention & Response (VPR) @ vpradvocate@med.mit.edu.

Solution to Crooked

You can also turn to Violence Prevention & Response (VPR) @ vpradvocate@med.mit.edu.
[1601] Isolation

The modern bookworm is too busy adding to the world to look up.

No one picks anyone—take our daily newspapers in silence.

The magazine is determined conversation, lie, even read as we talk!

Television is put an end to family discussion.

Thanks to the Sony Walkman, anti-social isolation is now common.

We've become so isolated in our phones to notice radio, its been two centuries.

[1600] Marketwatch

Wild swings on the market today as investors noticed the Dow was tracing out a silhouette of the DC skyline, and everyone got too wauced out to break the pattern until they finished the capital building.

Hello Cecilia!

I'm the manicured, you're supposed to be writing. How's it going?

Uh, good?

I feel you've been preserving our relationship.

In busy.

Zombies vs. Grad Students

Back from the dead. Desires to eat you.

Back in debt.

Wears same tattered clothes, they wore when they died.

Wears same tattered clothes they wore in undergrad.

Buried in graves.

Buried in grades.

Walking corpse.

Walking corpse (of knowledge).

Gradually rots and decays.

Graduates after plots and delays.
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

In the Money by Billie Truitt

ACROSS
1 What cops call crooks
6 _ _ _ _ up (admit the truth)
10 Pitch a tent
14 Poker player’s quitting comment
15 Sugar cube
16 Untruthful one
17 Pageant crown
18 Neck of the woods
19 Prefix meaning “against”
20 Have quick success
22 Flower stalk
23 Gender
24 “Sure, I’m game!”
26 “Shoo!”
29 Close friends
32 Mediocrete writers
36 Long, long time
37 Epic tale
39 Become successful gradually
42 Maui or Sicily
43 Rational
44 Give a new hue to
45 Not at alllevant
46 Fizzy drink
47 Authentic
48 Ancient legend
50 Golf peg
52 Wise mentor
55 Have quick success
61 Starting from
62 Wicked
63 Response to “Not so!”
64 Bit of foliage
65 Diner’s directory
66 Requirements
67 Sleeves cover them
68 Historic periods
69 Chess and checkers
70 Starting from

DOWN
1 Peach discards
2 Give off
3 Lion’s warning
4 Sticker for correctness
5 Tent post
6 The Stars and Stripes
7 Money in France
8 Gets a whiff of
9 Small garden shovel
10 Admirable person
11 Is not, informally
12 Husband or wife
13 Overly formal
21 Open more stores
25 In that place
26 Fourteam tourney rounds
27 Shoreline
28 Sock-covering joint
30 Improve, as wine
31 Cowboy’s rope
33 Inelgant
34 Nairobi’s nation
35 Alloy in girders
36 Little fella
38 Piano piece
40 Winter headgear
41 Fleeting craze
42 React to the cold
43 Obstacle for Moses
44 Unifying idea
45 Looking at
46 Festive event
47 Software buyer
48 The Stars and Stripes
49 Unifying idea
51 Looking at
52 Festive event
53 Software buyer
54 Wander
55 Fever of 30 Rock
57 Besides
58 News article
59 Took a bus or train
60 Mix, as a salad
Chris Christie
Solution, page 12

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

Rick Santorum
Solution, page 12

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.

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

George Pataki
Solution, page 12

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.

432x
12x
11x
2x
360x
8x
1
150x
1
24x
4x
1−

Lindsey Graham
Solution, page 12

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.

216x
10x
20x
300x
6
8x
3
1−
8x
72x
4
1−
5
6x
1−

Crooked Quartet by Bill Weber
Solution, page 2

ACROSS
1 Thin cookie
6 Figure of speech
11 Henson of the Muppets
14 Still in the game
16 Actress Swinton
17 Vault specialist
19 Drenched
20 Docking locale
21 British brews
22 Peek at the answers
24 Quite a few
26 Con game decoys
27 Chaperone
30 Least vivid
32 Warning signal
33 Shady retreat
35 Except when
45 Mickelson or McIlroy
46 Fearful
48 Work hard
49 Starboard side
50 "This is fun!"
52 High in quality
56 Under the weather
57 Wild West outlaw
60 Bering or Adriatic
61 National bird
62 Plant life
63 Go wrong
64 Resided
65 Serves brunch to

DOWN
1 Flying stinger
2 Ja...__
3 Small fluke
4 Henceforth
5 Button on a DVR
6 Boot-shaped nation
7 Monopoly cubes
8 Categories
9 Keats creation
10 Certain parade participant
11 Diamond specialist
12 Best possible
13 Mongrels
18 Raise the roof
23 That guy's
25 Sleeve filler
26 Pigeonhole
29 Climbing specialist
30 Printing machine
31 Aid in wrongdoing
32 Warning signal
33 "What a shame"
34 In the past
38 Winter weather
40 Pitchfork part
42 Section
43 Except when
44 Henceforth
45 Keats creation
50 "This is fun!"
54 Fearful
58 Mongrels
64 Resided
65 Serves brunch to
The reperCUSSIONS of a single op-ed

Last week, Isaac Silberberg published an op-ed that attacked a group of students applying for an H-1B visa to work in the United States. The article was written by a group of students, including Mads Gilbert, a Palestinian-American, and was titled “Should MIT Students Welcome a Pro-Palestine Group to Campus?”

In the op-ed, Gilbert expressed his concern about the role of MIT students in supporting the Israeli occupation of Palestine. He argued that MIT students should not support organizations that advocate for the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement, which he described as being a form of terrorism.

The article was well-received by many students on campus, who praised Gilbert for shining a light on a controversial issue. However, the op-ed also sparked a heated debate among MIT students, with some arguing that Gilbert’s views were biased and others defending his right to express them.

The debate continued throughout the week, with students holding protests and rallies in support of both sides. The topic of the BDS movement and its impact on the MIT community remains a contentious issue at the Institute.

letters to the editor

To the Editor of The Tech:

I read with interest the recent article by Mads Gilbert titled “Should MIT Students Welcome a Pro-Palestine Group to Campus?” The article raises important questions about the role of MIT students in supporting the BDS movement and the potential impact of such support on the MIT community.

While I applaud Gilbert for bringing attention to this issue, I believe there are alternative perspectives to consider. For instance, some argue that the BDS movement is a form of peaceful activism aimed at promoting human rights and protecting Palestinian rights.

It is important to remember that the BDS movement is not a monolithic entity, and there are different views within the movement. Some argue that the BDS movement is a form of counter-terrorism, while others view it as a legitimate form of protest.

As MIT students, we have a responsibility to engage in thoughtful and respectful discussions about these issues. While I appreciate Gilbert’s efforts to raise awareness, I encourage the MIT community to engage in constructive dialogue and to consider diverse viewpoints.

Sincerely,

[Name]

MIT Student

MIT is home to a large number of international students on F-1 visas. In the academic year 2014-2015, 42 percent of the graduate student body was composed of international students. Most of these students are employed by the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program after graduation in order to work in the U.S. in their field of study. Every international student who completes a post-graduate degree in the U.S. on an F-1 visa is eligible for 12 months of OPT. Since 2008, those who complete a degree in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field have the option to extend their OPT for a one-time 17-month extension of OPT. This extension, however, was recently challenged in a case brought by the Arab American and Muslim American Defense Fund (AAMDAD) of Illinois and the ACLU Foundation on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on behalf of the Palestine Legal Fund.

The proposed rule is significant because it affects international students who wish to extend their OPT. It is also important to note that, if the ruling is upheld, it could have broader implications for other programs that allow extensions, such as the J-1 and H-1B programs. Therefore, it is crucial that the MIT community be informed.

On October 20th, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor agreed to茬发take steps to ensure that the OPT program is functioning properly and efficiently.

By Yuqing Cui, Daniel Curtis, and Connie Gao

MIT News

The Tech is a student-run newspaper published by MIT students. It covers campus news, events, and issues, and is distributed to students and staff on campus each Thursday. If you would like to contribute to The Tech, please email news@tech.mit.edu.
**Working on a student visa?**
**Write to DHS.**

What international students need to know about a proposed rule

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**OPT, from Page 6**

workers, and that no U.S. workers are displaced because of the OPT students. The extra administrative burdens placed on employers through MTP may potentially deter employment of F-1 STEM students, which is troubling. While a formal mentoring plan is welcome, the strict attestation requirement from employers may have a serious negative effect on STEM student employment, especially by small companies that lack legal and administrative resources.

LASC is also concerned that the ability of students to make use of the STEM OPT Extension might be disrupted by upcoming court actions and delays in this rulemaking process. We commend DHS for responding quickly to recent developments, and it is important for them to continue working quickly to ensure students on STEM OPT Extensions can keep working as we approach and pass the court’s February 2016 deadline.

Overall, LASC strongly supports the OPT program and the STEM OPT Extension. We also applaud the implementation of Cap-Gap Relief for smoothing the transition between F-1 and H-1B visa status. Individual international students can submit their own letters to DHS through the Federal Register, as it may be particularly valuable that DHS receive a large volume of personalized messages from many individuals that support this important program.

The authors of this column are members of the Legislative Action Subcommittee of the Graduate Student Council, which advocates on behalf of MIT’s graduate students in Washington D.C. on issues such as immigration reform.

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**New Proposed Rule for STEM OPT Extension**

**Expected date new rule comes into effect: February 12, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OPT</th>
<th>STEM OPT Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Length</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>previously 17 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed Unemployment</td>
<td>90 days</td>
<td>60 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Changes to previous STEM OPT Extension rule in italics

**Extension can be based on previous STEM degree from accredited US institution**

i.e. MBA degree with previous STEM degree can apply for STEM extension

**Up to 2 extensions granted**

**Cap Gap Relief**

A student that has filed for H-1B gets automatic extension of F-1 status until October 1 of the fiscal year for which the H-1B visa is being requested

**Students on OPT**

As early as 90 days before and until 60 days after OPT ends

**Those on current 17 month STEM OPT extension**

As early as 120 days before STEM OPT Extension ends and until 90 days after it ends

**When to Apply**

**Additional Paperwork**

Student must write a Mentoring and Training Plan (MTP) signed by an employer and provide it to DSO prior to applying for STEM OPT Extension

Evaluations by employer every 6 months to be delivered to DSO


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**Thank You.**
Arts

Brooklyn holds a mirror up to every college student
Saoirse Ronan stars in an Irish immigrant’s tale of transformation

Saoirse Ronan as Ellis Lacey in Brooklyn.

By Carolyn Fu

Anyone on this campus knows what it feels like to leave home for a new place. The sights and sounds are different, the culture unfamiliar, the knowledge eye-opening. Everything around you is new — but surprisingly, after some time, you discover that you are now as well. Every experience starts to impact what you believe, how you act, and eventually, the very core of who you are. And never has this evolution been so perfectly captured as in the film Brooklyn.

Guzmán follows the story of Ellis Lacey (played — nay, inhabited — by Saoirse Ronan), a young woman in Ireland who finds little to look forward to in her small hometown, and so moves to Brooklyn, New York for a job and an open-ended future. It is set in the 1950s, which might not seem like a relatable period for the modern traveller. Yet when Ellis asks how long letters from Ireland take to arrive, and the answer is “a long time at first, and then no time at all” — one recognizes how time dilates the more eagerly you live up to your expectations, and I was rather surprised by how uninspiring I found much of the film. Its slow pace and abrupt mood shifts leave much to be desired.

Brooklyn’s biggest weakness is that it is abruptly split into two seemingly disjoint parts.

The first half is relatively light-hearted; we witness a man walking about outside imitating, in song, the sounds of the nearby river. We learn that water in all forms has a near sacred status for these tribes — they would canoe thousands of miles, setting up camps along the coast, and members of the tribe would learn to collect shellfish at a young age. Interviews and voice-overs tell of the tragic genocide of these indigenous peoples, and to illustrate this further, Guzmán asks tribe elders to translate words like “ocean,” “beach,” and “canoe” into their tribe’s language — only a handful of people living today speak the language. This half moved slowly, and the narration of overly basic facts about water felt out of place next to the rich ethnographic quality of the conversations with the elders.

The second is much heavier thematically with a political and historical slant. One moment, an old woman recounts a canoeing journey, then we learn a tad more about colonization, and suddenly the film dives into the secret imprisonment and torture of political dissidents in Chile in the 1970s. We watch the filmmakers recreate the death of a political prisoner (with a mannequin), going as far as to throw the “body” into the sea from a helicopter (a fate that befell more than 1,200 prisoners).

The documentary’s strength is its visual impact, but the breathtaking scenes of coastline and the insightful interviews with the tribe’s elders don’t make up for the film’s lack of focus and the abrupt shift between the two parts. The first half was okay, the second half was good, but the way the parts were forced together made for an overall confusing and disappointing experience.

My opinion: four stars

The Pearl Button

The Pearl Button promised to be a poetic and thought-provoking documentary about Chile’s 2,670 miles of coastline, and the significance of water for indigenous tribes in Patagonia (a region that includes Chile and Argentina as well as several South American islands). I didn’t know much about the history of Chile or its native peoples, but I was eager to learn. The documentary, however, did not live up to my expectations, and I was rather surprised by how uninspiring I found much of the film. Its slow pace and low information density makes each scene drag on — I often expected a scene to cut minutes before it actually did.

Guzmán incorporates voice-overs, photographs, interviews with tribal elders, grainy black-and-white clips, outer-space CGI (which felt supremely out of place), and long takes of coastal scenery (which were beautiful, and perhaps the best part of the experience). However, the documentary’s biggest weakness is that it is abruptly split into two seemingly disjoint parts. The first half is relatively light-hearted, we witness a man walking about outside imitating, in song, the sounds of the nearby river. We learn that water in all forms has a near sacred status for these tribes — they would canoe thousands of miles, setting up camps along the coast, and members of the tribe would learn to collect shellfish at a young age. Interviews and voice-overs tell of the tragic genocide of these indigenous peoples, and to illustrate this further, Guzmán asks tribe elders to translate words like “ocean,” “beach,” and “canoe” into their tribe’s language — only a handful of people living today speak the language. This half moved slowly, and the narration of overly basic facts about water felt out of place next to the rich ethnographic quality of the conversations with the elders.

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By Karleigh Moore

The Pearl Button would be better off as two separate documentaries

Its slow paced sequences and abrupt mood shifts leave much to be desired.

I felt that every step in Ellis’ journey had a piercing resonance. With a pang in my heart, I immediately understood the somber truth of her statement that her life is not in one land or the other, but “halfway across the sea.” I watched keenly, hoping that her story would give me guidance — looking to it like a mirror that could, as Ronan shared, “perfectly articulate exactly how you feel,” and in so doing, provide safety and understanding.

This is essential viewing for every college student — we who have little idea what version of ourselves waits on the other side. It asks the imperative question of “Who will you be?” with a simplicity that is overwhelming.

The documentary’s strength is in its visual impact, but the breathtaking scenes of coastline and the insightful interviews with the tribe’s elders don’t make up for the film’s lack of focus and the abrupt shift between the two parts. The first half was okay, the second half was good, but the way the parts were forced together made for an overall confusing and disappointing experience.

My opinion: four stars

Saoirse Ronan is Ellis Lacey in Brooklyn.

Directed by John Crowley
Starring Saoirse Ronan
Rated PG-13
Now Playing

MOVIE REVIEW

The Pearl Button

Directed by Patricio Guzmán
Not Rated
Now Playing
A make-your-own hummus bowl eatery opens up in Kendall

Tahaza Hummus Kitchen brings fresh, creative flavors to the table

By Tara Lee
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Fast casual eateries seem to be popping up left and right these days, and I think it’s wonderful. Bon Me and Clover are two great local ones, and I never have anything against Panera or Shake Shack, even if they are national chains. Compared to the average sit-down restaurant, they save time and money, and the quality of food isn’t too shabby either.

Over by the Cambridgeside Galleria, Tahaza Hummus Kitchen just opened up this past September as a fast casual Mediterranean eatery — think Chipotle, but with hummus. Before I even ordered, I was thoroughly impressed by the atmosphere of the place with its wooden accents and contemporary interior. It’s exactly what you’d imagine an organic, locally-sourced-everything kitchen to look like.

Anyway, onto the food. There are four items to choose from: a hummus bowl, a warm grain bowl, a salad, and a wrap. I went with the hummus bowl and had to choose from three hummus flavors: original, beet, and roasted red pepper. Not deciding to be terribly adventurous, I went with original, and they proceeded to smear the edges of my bowl with a thick layer of hummus. From there, I chose to have lamb as my protein (the other options are chicken, beef, mushrooms, and falafels) and filled my bowl with tons of vegetables. For my dressing, I went with the fresh mint yogurt, and chose to have pita bread as my side.

A lot of the uber-healthy, organic eateries that I’ve been to tend to be vegetarian, which is fine, but it’s always nice to find one that offers protein options other than tofu or peanut sauce. I was a huge fan of my hummus bowl’s lamb, which had a juicy, savory flavor. The mint yogurt dressing was the perfect complement to the lamb, and the toppings like cucumbers and pickled beets added a fresh bite. The hummus was a pleasant touch to the toppings, but it was thoroughly mixed into the rest of my bowl that I didn’t get to try it by itself.

My friend, Krystal, came along and tried the warm grain bowl with beet hummus and slow-cooked beef. “The bowl had a creative combination of flavors, but it was just too salty for me to completely enjoy it,” she explained. I took a few bites from her bowl, and I could tell what she meant. Her bowl’s beet hummus was on the salty side, and so along with the slightly salty beef, the entire bowl was overwhelmed by salt.

We also tried the blackberry verbena and raspberry lime house-made sodas, and those were quite interesting. The blackberry verbena soda was fine, and I tasted more blackberry than verbena. The raspberry lime soda, however, was unsweetened, so it was a bit jarring to go from the sweet blackberry verbena to the raspberry-lime-flavored seltzer water.

Nevertheless, while it seems like the kitchen is still working out a few kinks, I had an overall positive experience at Tahaza Hummus Kitchen. The food is pricier side, with the hummus bowl starting at $9.25 and toppings like lamb tacking on an additional $2.25, but it’s worth a try the next time you find yourself at the Cambridgeside Galleria.

★★★★✩

Tahaza Hummus Kitchen
One Canal Park
Cambridge, MA 02141
Monday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Tricks, treats, and defeat
An attempt to relive my childhood

By Chloe Yang

Michal Shlapentokh-Rothman is a member of the Class of 2019.

There are few text messages in this world that would persuade me to ditch a Chipotle burrito bowl and sprint back to campus. These enamorables include “snowstorm of youth sprouting from burst New House pipe,” “Rus- san Hall milk gained sentence,” and “free pizza at Burton-Conner.” On Hal- loween night, while taking advantage of the burrito discount, I received one such text of immense motivational caliber:

“Are you still going trick-or-treating? We’re almost leaving at 10.”

This text may seem uninteresting to some and even cringe to others. Not in my eyes; this was a summons, a reminder of the festivities friends and I had planned. When we agreed in September, away in a gust of fallen leaves and wrinkled papers, my Hallow- en countdown began. I rarely have concrete plans for the night (with the exception of this year), nor do I have set expectations. Rather, the memories of past Halloweens—grade school parties, nights rich with the promise of candy, and It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown—seemingly conjure up some- what irrational ambitions.

For the best case scenario, I’d be a hot mess for the 31st, though, a friend suggested we do the Nightmare Before Christmas soundtrack and check behind doors for mischievous suitemates. A few days before the 31st, though, a friend suggested we do the unimaginable: trick or treat. Before I knew what was happening, I found myself squelching an affiliation along with my fellow psetters. The decision was unanimous— we would revisit our 8-year-old selves and wander the streets for candy.

Fast forward to Halloween night. By the time I returned to my floor, I was greeted by the tail end of frenzied costume prepa- ration. Friends wrapped up their dusty embelishments and scavenged for candy bags. I as slapped on some black makeup bedecking a panda. An upperclassman in the suite, our surrogate parent, swooped in with last-minute costume help. We headed for the T as a makeshift posse of characters— my panda self was accompanied by two matching skeletons, a soccer player; a ninja, James from Team Rocket, a banana, and a large amount of trash (a body costume with an appropriately labeled gift tag). By the time we made it to Beacon Hill, a prime candy neighborhood suggested by my Bos- tonian suitemate, it was 10:30 p.m. From the back of excited children, we quickly realized that 30:30 p.m. (though early for us) was well past bedtime for most kids. Never- theless, we’d made the trip we decided to soldier on.

By the time the moment came to knock on our first door, our excitement was unflapp- able. We were relying on our golden years, when up until the moment came to answer the door, we’d been told that whatever happened, it was acceptable to visit random houses for candy. Faced with the reality of knocking on a stranger’s door, though, our enthusiasm collectively ground to a halt.

We shuffled up the steps together, re- membering the beds of sketchy teens who had used their splashdown costumes that visited our own homes on Halloween. We had become those vultures, pecking desperately at the leftovers of our childhoods, clinging to those unapo- ggetic days when the scariest thing about Hal- loween was receiving Butterfinger wrappers when Tricks was the ideal sugar delivery system.

We knocked tentatively at a few houses, targeting the ones with flamboyant decora- tions. Together, we weathered a few polite rejections and a number of doors that re- mained shut. Eventually, though, our knocks were greeted by a pair of small princesses.

“Sorry, we’re out of candy,” one of them apologized while her little brother fiddled beside her.

As the door closed, we exchanged a sheepish look. “That felt so weird,” someone laughed nervously, voicing our shared thought as we scuttled away down the street. We took this jarring role reversal — small children turning the teenage trick-or-treaters at our door — as a sign that we should call it a night.

We could have surrendered and retreated back to campus, but Halloween wasn’t over yet. We needed some sugar in our systems. After unsuccessfully searching for an open store to buy candy, we decided to make the 15-minute walk to Chinatown and settled into a cozy cup of tea place. Clutching our cups of iced tea and bobba, we claimed a table by the window and played round and round on cups of iced tea with the shop deck for hours. We left the neighborhood with bags full of rejection. Yet, I found myself as happy as the moment I received my friend’s text. Yes, we didn’t receive any candy; yes, I’d felt trepi- dation asking for sweets at first; yes, I had to accept the fact that I cannot relieve my child- hood. Nevertheless, with each closed door, I felt the weight of my self-consciousness lighten.

Though our trick or treating did not go as planned, I had fun walking through Bos- ton, talking with my floormates, and arguing gleefully over who scored “Unico” first! Though we could not celebrate Halloween as we did when we were younger, we at least propellised ourselves from our comfort zones and gave it a shot.

I feel like I have had the Halloween I was anticipating, but I would not trade this year’s experience for any other. Though it was scary to knock on doors as a college student, I am even scarier to think that had we been weighed down by our “failure” our night together would never have occurred. As long as I can camp up in the unashamed- ness of my child self, the memories I make will at least fuel my eagerness for the years to come. I cannot wait to open my own door to a motley crew of teens one day, to answer their “trick or treat?” with a foolish of the childhood dreams that they (and I) still pine for.

Chloe Yang is a member of the Class of 2019.

Illustration by Jesse Wang.
Saving time and turning back the clock

The real holiday of November 1

By Nina Lutz

Last week, a few select individuals on campus celebrated another holiday on Nov. 1: a moment of quiet victory for everyone who adores sleep. Just last week, many of us experienced our very first daylight saving time switch.

“Ever since I moved out of Arizona, I’ve been waiting for this weekend. There’s a special event going on this weekend. Everyone’s been talking about it, so I’m sure we can all guess what I’m talking about — the switch from daylight time to standard time. (You thought I was talking about Halloween? I guess that’s going on too. Minor details.)”

That was what my friend Matt M.’19 posted on Facebook the day of Halloween. Honestly, no piece of writing on Facebook has emotionally resonated with me like this post. I even took the five seconds to put down my sandwich and comment “THXS” All caps. That’s effort.

Daylight savings time is a relatively simple, almost blissfully straightforward concept that almost everyone here is used to. With smartphones and computers, we don’t even have to worry much about it. Our devices do the turning for us.

Unless you’re from Arizona or Hawaii, that is. We do not observe daylight saving time. Our clocks stay steady and we never have to worry about it. It was something we were all aware of, taught about in schools, and told about by friends and family in other states. But all that changed for us was the time slots of a few TV shows.

There are a few reasons for this phenomenon. (All were probably told to us at some point in our history classes.) When our states were founded, advancements like electricity made the daylight saving time system basically irrelevant. Furthermore, the sunny weather didn’t make changing the clock an attractive option during the winter. In World War II, Arizona only participated in DST for one summer because people quickly became frustrated that they had to keep the air conditioning running longer. While there are several other reasons and nuances, at the end of the day, it’s just a nice privilege and something that I never had to think about. Just another quick.

In anticipation of daylight saving time, I even purchased a clock way back in August. And on Nov. 1, I got to turn it back. I think, in a way, it was my “We’re not in Arizona anymore” moment, just as MIT was my tech-nicool (it was invented here, after all).

Leaving home is a little strange for everyone, I think. Some people are homesick, others aren’t. Some call every week, others just don’t. Leaving our homes and coming to MIT solicit reactions of relief, bittersweetness, and freedom. Sometimes all at once.

I don’t feel homesick or nostalgic. But I’ve come to find a new home here, in my little room in my little entry in the tallest dorm on campus, even with a view that consists of the waste disposal between us and New House construction. And turning that clock back solidified that home for me, in space and time and the carpet I should definitely vacuum soon.

Everyone is familiar with MIT time: things starting five minutes late and ending five minutes early because we’re always going to the next thing. But DST time is powerful in its ability to make the days fly. To keep you so busy that you look down and suddenly realize that it’s 9 p.m. and you forgot to eat lunch. I feel like I’ve been here only a day, yet it’s been longer than two months.

So I set the clock back, thinking about how time was changed for me here. I’m different than I was when I first arrived. But it’s great. I want more time. To cling to P/ NR as long as I can and savor every minute because they’re all so potent.

Maybe that’s part of the reason I was thankful for DST. Maybe I want a way to set the clock back, but to slow it down.

“Everyone else here is going on like this is a normal occurrence. I guess for them it is. To an Arizonan, however, this extra hour is so beautiful.” As I continued reading Matt’s post, I realized it was true. Really, really true.

An extra 3600 seconds is truly a beautiful thing. A reminder of time’s strange magic and a chance for introspection.

Now, as I blissfully ignore the fact that the clocks will take away an hour in spring, allow this Arizonan to indulge in the fall for just a bit longer.

Nina Lutz is a member of the Class of 2019.

MIT application essays that worked

‘Is that a paperclip, or the trigger to my next crossbow?’

This is part of a series of MIT application essays submitted by students who were lat- er admitted to the Institute. The following prompts are from the 2010-11 admissions season.

Prompt

We know you lead a busy life, full of ac-
tivities, many of which are requested of you. Tell us about something you do simply for the pleasure of it. (400 words)

Response

To an outside observer my average Sun-
day in fall may look uneventful, I sit in the same worn corner of my couch and watch football — for hours. But while others see all the action on the screen, my mind is an unseen arena. How many yards has Tom Brady thrown for today? How about this quarterback? And what about the receivers? Some see a piece of paper and I see numbers. You can find me in the office, for- mal and unconfined.

For me, my mind is a crossbow properly decorates the dining room table, and time presents a challenge. I often think of imaginative ideas after dinner as I’m cleaning my plate. Within a few min-
utes, I am hooked and there is no stopping me until the project is done, so deep suffers.

While I enjoy school, sports, and time with family and friends, I take pride in my self-proclaimed masterpieces since they are born of my resourceful efforts — not purchased and building kits. My mind swirls with excitement as my Ferris wheel spins with the press of a paper clip. Soon I’ll join others with a similar desire for cre-
ation and my paper will be replaced with metal and tape with cement. But for now when I am not hustling between commit-
ments, you can find me in the office, fou-
ging through supplies as my mind races unconstrained.

Harry Rein ‘15

If you’ve helped a friend overcome depression or struggled with depression yourself, The Tech would like to hear your story.

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WHAT KEEPS YOU UP AT NIGHT?

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More information can be found in the MIT 2015-2016 Mind and Handbook section V.2. Bicycling on Campus or online at http://police.mit.edu/bicycle-safety-information
He pointed to scientists like Albert Einstein and Richard Feynman, who once had celebrity status. “We peaked 50 years ago and it has been a downward slope since then,” he said.

Now in its third year, the awards ceremony has taken only baby steps toward Milner’s dream of a global audience of between 50 million and 100 million people. Though it was broadcast live for the first time Sunday night, on the National Geographic channel, the biggest problem for the organizers was getting the word out. "We are at the very beginning of this journey," he said, noting that if you were to look at a list of the top 100 celebrities in American society, there would not be a single scientist on the list.

"The question is why?" he added.

The entire world, including both the United States and Russia, has moved in the wrong direction in the past 50 years in terms of how scientists are perceived, Milner said. He pointed to scientists like Albert Einstein and Richard Feynman, who once had celebrity status. "We peaked 50 years ago and it has been a downward slope since then," he said.

And so the organizers brought in some star power and glamour to help reverse the slide. Thomas Keller, the American chef who created French Laundry restaurant in Yountville, California, catered the event at NASA’s Ames Research Center, in a transparent tent in the shadow of the vast skeleton of the Hangar One airship base.

The award presenters included the actors Russell Crowe and Hilary Swank, Pharrell Williams, a producer and comedian, and Seth MacFarlane, the comedian and producer, who played to the tech-centric crowd with riffs about science and Silicon Valley. Noting that science is always at the root of technology, MacFarlane pointed out that quantum mechanics underlies not just the microelectronics industry, but a large fraction of the entire gross domestic product of the United States.

The prize does have a scientific impact, said Jennifer Doudna, a professor of chemistry and molecular cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley, and a prize-winner last year. "I would say it has an impact on students," she said. "I get regular emails from students who are inspired not just by the prize but by the attention it places on science, and that's a wonderful thing."

For his part, Milner underscored the organic relationship between science and Silicon Valley. "Science is always at the root of this new technology," he said. "We are at the very beginning of fundamental discoveries made 100 years ago by people who were not thinking about smartphones," he said. "They were thinking about fundamental science."
Deans of SHASS and SA+P react to top rankings

SHASS’s Nobles says MIT’s humanities, arts, social sciences have always been strong

Nobles said that SHASS tries to gear its classes for an MIT mindset. “The sources of creativity happen outside a lab,” she said. “A brilliant scientist or engineer may gain inspiration from a piece of art or music. Our instruction tries to say to students: We know there’s a mode of scientific inquiry that MIT students come with. They want logic, they want clarity, and they want to see the inner workings of things.”

Nobles explained that MIT HASS classes not only focus on the purpose of the humanities, arts, and social sciences in our lives, but also on the mechanics; it teaches students not only why they should appreciate poetry but also how to actually write a poem. It’s the practicality of MIT SHASS, Nobles said, that appeals to a student body that is obsessed with the real-world implementations of an idea. In partial explanation of the high rankings, Nobles mentioned MIT’s study abroad program, the MIT International Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI), which was originally established in SHASS as a facet of the political science department. It’s that sort of international engagement and presence in SHASS research that causes MIT to rank highly in “international outlook” and research citations, according to Nobles.

Both SHASS and SA+P have been around for a while: SHASS was established in 1861 and has been a formal school since the 1950s, and SA+P is the oldest school of architecture of the world. “Once MIT established SHASS, they had to be in the game,” Nobles said. “It was just a question of building our faculty and putting our resources behind it, which we certainly accomplished.” Modern linguistics, for example, was largely founded by Professor Noam Chomsky. Introduction to Linguistics is one of the most popular courses at MIT, and other MIT departments like economics and political science have been in most global top ten rankings since the 1930s, according to Nobles.
Women’s soccer loses in penalties

By Amy Apostol ’19 scores two goals

By Max Berkowitz

The first-seeded MIT women’s soccer team saw its season come to a close in a penalty kicks last Saturday afternoon when it fell to No. 4 seed Babson College in the first of two New England Women’s and Men’s Soccer Conference (NEWMAC) semifinals match-ups at Steinbrenner Stadium on the campus of MIT on Saturday afternoon. The game ended 1-1 after 90:00 minutes of action, the Engineers and the Pride headed to penalty kicks. Springfield lost four of its five shots to MIT’s three, which included the game winner by senior Jessica Miller, as the Pride sealed their spot in the NEWMAC Championship match tomorrow.

Both squads had early opportunities with MIT Jennifer Bianze ’16 putting a shot on goal in the opening minute, but it was stopped short of the mark by sophomore goalkeeper Ciara Boucher for Springfield. Two minutes later the Pride had its first shot when Miller let one go that missed just to the left of the goal. Springfield then found the mark on its next shot. Senior Nicole Fosler performed a flip throw-in from the right side of the field five and a half minutes into the game as the ball came down in the MIT goal box at the feet of Miller, who was able to put the ball back of the net for the first score of the game.

MIT nearly came up with the equalizer 19 minutes when Alie Hrabchak ’19 broke in behind the Springfield defense and rifled off a shot, but Boucher came out and managed to deflect the ball away with her quick reflexes and put away four more shots on goal over the final 15 minutes of the half, but Lauren Ullmann ’17 saved them all to keep it a one-goal game at the break.

Like the first half, MIT had an early opportunity at the start of the second half, but this time it paid off. Olivia Struckman ’18 played the ball into the middle from the right side and found Amy Apostol ’19, who turned it into the net to tie the game. Just two minutes later Fosler put Springfield back on top when she broke free 15 yards out from the goal, moved right, and fired a shot to the left 2-1.

The Engineers found the game-tying goal at the 72:43 mark as Struckman fed the ball to Apostol, who buried her second tally of the contest, leaving the game even at 2-2, heading into extra time.

In the first overtime session, Struckman nearly potted the game winner just 2:24 in, but Boucher stood her ground in the box, which made for a second overtime period.

This time, Springfield came out with more urgency to score than it had in the first ten minutes of overtime. Only getting one shot off in the first OT frame, the Pride opened action in the second session with four consecutive shots, one saved by Ullmann and the others fluffing wide of the goal mouth.

Struckman, once again came alive in the second OT period as she closed the frame with a pair of shots, but neither team could find the back of the net, which sent the contest to decisive penalty kicks.

Apostol, Elizabeth Porter ’17 and Bianze all hit their penalty shots for the Engineers, but it wasn’t enough as in the final round, Miller drove the winning shot into the back of the net that lifted Springfield to the victory (4-3 on penalties). Ullmann made a season-high 12 saves for MIT, while Boucher stopped the ball seven times for Springfield. The Pride outshot the Engineers by a 29-15 margin and held a 7-5 advantage in corner kicks.

MIT (11-6-3) sees its season come to an end with the loss.

Late goals help Babson defeat men’s soccer 2-1

Three points all came within 9 minutes

By Max Berkowitz

Third-seeded Babson College defeated first-seeded MIT, ranked No. 17 in the latest National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll and No. 3 in the NCAA New England Regional poll. Babson was an underdog as it took on the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Men’s Soccer Championship in come-from-behind fashion on Sunday afternoon at Steinbrenner Stadium.

With the win, Babson (12-6-2) claimed its seventh NEWMAC Men’s Soccer Championship in program history and second in as many years and gets an automatic bid to the 2015 NCAA Division III Men’s Soccer Tournament, which begins on Thursday, November 12. Recipients of an at-large bid, MIT will be making the program’s fifth appearance in the NCAA Tournament and will square off with Bridgewater State in the first round.

All three goals in the contest came over a stretch of eight and a half minutes, which began with an MIT marker at the 75:25 mark of the game. Austin Freels ’16 fired a shot wide of the post, but Babson’s senior midfielder Stephen Donato. Sean Bingham ’16 picked up the rebound and planted it into the lower left corner of the net to give MIT a 1-0 lead.

Babson evened the game at 1-1 just 7:03 later when freshman Carlos Arujo ’16 buried a shot from the 35-yard line with six minutes left on the clock. Sophomore Ian Cicaldi scored the game winner and Babson’s second goal of the evening when he gathered the free kick and shot past it past the reach of MIT goalie Jake Gebhard.

MIT (11-6-3) sees its season come to an end with the loss.

Top-seeded women’s volleyball loses to Babson

By Mindy Ibrahim

No. 4 seed Babson College defeated host and top-seeded MIT, 25-20, 25-11, 25-22, in the semifinals of the NEWMAC Championship Tournament on Saturday afternoon at Tufts University.

Senior Alicia Wilde led all players with 12 kills and added seven digs and three aces while classmate Mary Donahue was next with nine kills for Babson. Junior Lorraine Mackiewicz (Edison, N.J.) posted eight kills, six digs, and two aces as senior Elizabeth Sullivan collected a match-high nine digs. Senior Angela Pecor bolstered the back row with seven digs while junior Jenny Karzes chipped in with two blocks. Senior Krissy Robinson rounded out the squad with 22 assists and two blocks.

Lissette Tejel ‘18 and junior Megan Gebhard ’19 both had seven kills for the Engineers (28-3) as Tejel also tallied on six digs. Abby Bertics ’19 contributed five kills while Jennie Glurum ’17 notched five digs and two aces. Clare Farley ’18 earned a team-high three aces as Fiona Tanuwidjaja ’17 dished out 23 assists.

MIT held a 4-1 edge in the opening set following a Farley ace but Babson replied with a 10-4 run as a kill by Wilde put it up, 11-8. The visitors stayed in front until a kill from Alli Donavon ’19 along with two more aces by Farley evened the score at 13. After trading side- outs, the Engineers gained some breathing room courtesy of kills from Mackiewicz and Wilde. The Engineers then rattled off five straight points, including three Tejel kills, to claim a 16-16 lead.

A serving error resulted in Babson capturing nine of the last 10 points to win the frame.

The Engineers carried the momentum into the second stanza as they raced out to a 10-3 advantage. Misues in addition to a kill from senior Meryl Gibbs ’16 brought MIT within four (10- 7). However, this was as close as it would get as Babson mounted a 11-3 run, reaching set point on a strike by freshman Gizen Yilmaz. The Engineers extended the frame by capitalizing on a Gebhard kill and an attacking error by a serving misstep gave the Beavers the victory.

The final set was closely contested as it featured eight ties and three lead changes. With the score knotted at six, a trio of hitting errors along with a Glurum ace gave MIT a 10-6 lead. The Engineers maintained their small cushion for most of the frame as a kill by Gebhard moved the score to 10-11. A serving error sparked an 8-3 spurt with a Robertson block putting Babson in front, 14-12. An exchange of points ensued until back-to-back kills from Donahue gave the Beavers a 22- 20 edge. A Gebhard strike cut the deficit in half but Mackiewicz and Wilde responded with kills of their own to capture match point at 24-22. Bertics’ kill kept the Cardinal and Gray alive, but Wilde secured the win with her 12th kill of the day.
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