MIT accepts 8.5% of early applicants from record pool of 7,767

International students were allowed to apply in early round for first time.

By Divya Gopinath

After seceding in 2013, Maseeh Hall and its Executive Council (MHEC) decided to formally rejoin MIT’s Dormitory Council (DormCon) this past December. This marks the first time in over forty years that DormCon represents every dorm at MIT. The vote (68% in favor of rejoining) was conducted during MHEC’s normal election season after almost a year of negotiation. Because rejoining DormCon required an amendment to Maceeh’s own constitution, dorm policy necessitated a resident-wide vote.

“DormCon contacted our house government to let us know that they had undergone a number of changes,” MHEC President William S. Moore ’18 said. “After a two-month process of discussion between MHEC and DormCon, the decision to rejoin was presented to the residents. Doing so required a constitutional amendment (through a vote), which is why we are rejoining DormCon at this time.”

MHEC originally left DormCon citing “budget-related concerns,” but an MHEC member said it was a rushed, “hasty” decision, according to a Tech article published after the vote in 2013.

Maseeh, Page 6

Economics professors, staff move back to renovated E52

By Emma Bingham

MIT will not join CAAS, likes flexibility of its app

Discussions to modify MyMIT underway

By Gabriella Studt

On Dec. 16, 656 students were admitted to MIT’s class of 2020. With a record-high 7,767 early action applicants this year, the early admission rate sunk to 8.4 percent, down from 9.6 percent last year.

The dramatic increase in early applications may be attributed to a change in policy this year. For the first time, international students were allowed to apply for consideration during the early action round of admissions.

Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill ’86 said that he was “really pleased” to be able to open early action program to international students.

The policy change “certainly made the decisions that much tougher,” he received a thousand applications from international students—but also allowed us to admit a few more students than we did last year,” Schmill said.

Among the early admissions, 6 percent are international students. By comparison, about 87 percent of the current undergraduate student body is international.

The diversity of this year’s early admits extends beyond just the geographic: 14 percent will be the first in their family to graduate from college, 27 percent identify as underrepresented minorities, and 49 percent are women.

As always, the majority of applicants were not offered early admission. Among those students, 2,175 were rejected, while the other 4,776 were deferred. The latter group will be considered again among the larger pool of regular action applicants. Schmill noted that the available housing for future MIT students is a “critical” criterion in determining the class size for each year.

The remainder of this year’s admissions decisions will remain a mystery until spring. In all likelihood, the majority of the MIT Class of 2020 have yet to receive their acceptance letters.

Students must pre-register for spring classes by 5 p.m. Jan. 15 or face an $85 late fee. Jan. 15 is also the last day to enter the C-H / C-116 lotteries.

Two new Hubway stations have opened on campus, at Vassar Street West near Westgate and Pacific Street station near Sidney-Pacific. MIT subsidizes Hubway memberships, bringing the cost down to $25/year.

GEL applications are now open. Visit https://gelp.mit.edu/admissions for deadlines and additional information.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

WEATHER, p. 5

MEN’S SWIM & DIVE TAKES 1ST

Relay team sets new pool record.

SPORTS, p. 8
Actor Matt Damon to speak before class of 2016 at June commencement
Cambridge native and Harvard dropout is first entertainer in 17 years to receive the honor of addressing the Institute’s graduates

By Katherine Nazemi

Actor and filmmaker Matt Da- mon will be the commencement speaker for the Class of 2016, MIT announced Dec. 8. At MIT’s 139th commenc- ement this June, he will become the first entertainer in 17 years to give the keynote address, and the first speaker in six years from a non-science background.

“I am humbled and thrilled by this invitation,” Damon told the MIT News Office. “I feel a deep affinity for MIT having grown up in the neighborhood. It’s quite an honor to be the com- mencement speaker at a school that I couldn’t have gotten into.” Damon attended Harvard University, where he wrote the first draft of what would become his breakout film, Good Will Hunting. The Cambridge-born actor starred as the film’s title character, a self-taught genius who works as a janitor at MIT, and whose brilliance is discov- ered after he solves a challeng- ing problem in algebraic graph theory.

Recently, Damon starred in The Martian, which was released last October and had grossed $573 million as of Dec. 6. In the film, Damon plays astronaut Mark Watney, who is forced to survive on Mars after a NASA mission leaves him behind. Throughout his career, Da- mon has been nominated for six Golden Globe Awards. Good Will Hunting, which Damon co- wrote, won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, and Damon received a nomination for Best Actor.

In 2006, Damon embarked on a humanitarian mission, co- founding the H2O Africa Founda- tion to advocate and raise money for clean water initiatives in Afri- ca. The foundation later merged with WaterPartners to become Water.org, and now provides microfinance loans to people in developing communities to help them gain access to safe water and sanitation.

“Along with actors George Clooney, Brad Pitt, and others, Damon co-founded international- aid organization Not On Our Watch to bring global attention to human rights violations,” the MIT News Office said. “Mr. Damon couples a pas- sion for his art with a passion for making the world a better place, much as our students couple a passion for science and technology with a passion to improve the world.”

Eric Grimson, chair of the Commencement Committee, told the MIT News Office. “I am sure his message will inspire our students to follow that passion and tackle some of the world’s great challenges, such as in wa- ter, health, or education.”

Damon is “an inspiration to MIT students, teaching us that humility knows no bounds,” An- ish Prabhu, president of the Class of 2016, said in a statement. “The world needs more well- rounded leaders who are pas- sionate about improving society through one genuine act of kind- ness at a time.”

The most recent commences- ment speakers have included U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith ’86, DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman, Dropbox found- er Drew W. Houston ’95, and Salman A. Khan ’98, founder of Khan Academy.

Do you have a question for President Reif? Join The Tech's news department! Join@tech.mit.edu

Thursday, January 7, 2016

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**Sudoku I**
Solution, page 7

19
68547
24
8417
68594
54
2793
1293

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.

**Sudoku II**
Solution, page 7

4123
1987
18
41
6571
2963
123

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.

**Techdoku I**
Solution, page 7

360x
12x
22x
6+48x
60x30x
6+6x
1−

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.

**Techdoku II**
Solution, page 7

450x
4x
23x
21x24x8x
180x
1−

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.

**Vowel Shortening**
by Bruce Venzke

Solution, page 7

ACROSS
1 Pellet propeller 56 Bill of Wrongs author
6 Smelting by-product 57 Poe perpetrator
10 Job order notation 58 "That's so relaxing!"
14 Don't do the rite thing 59 Music much heard in December
16 Home of Galileo Airport 64 Pre-college yrs.
16 Nothing at all 65 Rude look
17 1/1 or 7/4 66 Put forward
20 Investment acronym 67 Bamboo, for instance
21 Elizabethan, for instance 68 Fruits of legumes
22 Likeness 69 Pursuit group
23 Office machine 33 Month, for short
26 Insurance groups 34 Bed threads
29 Unsuccessful attempt 37 Caviling
33 Month, for short 42 Go Set a Watchman novelist
34 Cronkite's WWII employer 43 Comics cry
36 Sends forth flashes 44 How bar snacks are made
37 Soap scent 45 Render unusable
38 Stated indirectly 47 How bar snacks are made
49 Cafe owner 49 How bar snacks are made
50 Prefix like pan- 51 Ongoing donation
52 Winner's number 52 Smooched, as a sand trap
53 Suspicious ones 53 Unsuspecting ones
54 Novelist teaching at Princeton 54 Novelist teaching at Princeton
55 Invitation subheading 55 Invitation subheading
60 Edelweiss setting 60 Edelweiss setting
63 Paranormal sighting 63 Paranormal sighting
Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

The Tech Thursday, January 7, 2016
Saturday Stumper
by Brad Wilber

Solution, page 7

ACROSS
1 Common dust-ruffle feature
9 Pal of Duchamp and Chagall
14 Without walls
15 Nibble on a toothpick
17 Certain living-room set
18 One with a van line
19 Frontier town
21 Super Tuesday no.
22 Off the table
24 Frequent quote source
25 Santa Maria shipwreck site, today
27 Maker of L’Or de Vie lotion
28 Taupe cousin
30 ‘30s champion of Ulysses
31 People skip its stones
33 Subject of a 1968 Tom Wolfe book
35 Whence some kits emerge
37 Profusion
38 Soviet dissidents’ self-publishing
42 Only city to host consecutive Super Bowls
45 Sit by

46 Hartford neighbor of Twain
48 Cast
50 Signal source-changing control
52 What an ace keeps low
53 Sports accelerator
54 Small wrapper; some say
55 Anciant power of the Mediterranean
58 Avenue __ Champs-Élysées
59 One of a stored English sextet
61 Close
63 White coat
64 So-fi hub
65 Perfumery
66 Outfitted like Colonel Mustard

DOWN
1 Caught
2 Unpopped kernel, to Rodentsucker
3 Je ne sais quoi
21 Jimmy
25 Turkey
26 Genesis “man of the field”
7 When the Anvil Chorus is heard
8 Cutting edge in winter sports
9 Sagan’s “very small stage in a vast cosmic arena”
10 Yeast extract for scientific research
11 Pampers, in Liverpool
12 The 2016 Aston Martin DB10 is its official car
13 Word from the Latin for “witness”
15 Wares burned before use
20 Different
23 Educated
26 Cellulose compound in clothing
28 Gets well
29 It makes Speed Racer go
32 Its logo is made from 44 of its products
34 Goldfish alternative
36 Stuffs
38 Object of confidence
39 Otter prey
40 Sami add-on
41 Conservative sentiment

Saturday Stumper by Brad Wilber

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1 Common dust-ruffle feature
9 Pal of Duchamp and Chagall
14 Without walls
15 Nibble on a toothpick
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18 One with a van line
19 Frontier town
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22 Off the table
24 Frequent quote source
25 Santa Maria shipwreck site, today
27 Maker of L’Or de Vie lotion
28 Taupe cousin
30 ‘30s champion of Ulysses
31 People skip its stones
33 Subject of a 1968 Tom Wolfe book
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42 Only city to host consecutive Super Bowls
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48 Cast
50 Signal source-changing control
52 What an ace keeps low
53 Sports accelerator
54 Small wrapper; some say
55 Anciant power of the Mediterranean
58 Avenue __ Champs-Élysées
59 One of a stored English sextet
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32 Its logo is made from 44 of its products
34 Goldfish alternative
36 Stuffs
38 Object of confidence
39 Otter prey
40 Sami add-on
41 Conservative sentiment

42 Ehr with hands
44 Vehement
47 Start liking
48 Took some of
51 Daisylk
53 Capital close to Memphis
56 TV series airing from what was once the world’s largest radio studio
57 Mogadishu-born model
60 Onetime owner of Abbey Road Studios
62 Onetime owner of the first audio trademark

Cold Medicine

I've got the Craigslist post ready to go! I wasn’t sure what category it should go in, so I listed it as property and put that it has ‘good sun exposure.’

Time Capsule

Oh no, I changed the future and now I’m disappearing! Wait, never mind, it was just my hat slipping down over my eyes.

Henge

What isn’t that true? Every day for pretty much any two trees?

What’s that? Ok, got the bag? You’re gonna be okay.

This good idea expired.

Seriousy considering buying some illegal drugs to try to turn them back into cold medicine.
WEATHER
Warm, wet weather expected Sunday

By Vince Agard
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After a record-shattering month of December, the first burst of winter cold has hit the Institute. Ocean-effect snow showers on Monday were followed by Tuesday morning temperatures at Logan Airport plunging to 8°F (-13°C), while a steady northwesterly wind made it feel like -8°F (-22°C). Here on campus, the weather station on the roof of the Green Building recorded a low temperature of 6°F (-13°C). These temperatures were in stark contrast to the last month of 2015, in which the average high was 52°F (11°C), it was 69°F (21°C) on Christmas Eve, and the temperature only dipped below the freezing mark on four occasions. On average, the month of December was 10.6°F (5.9 K) warmer than average, and 4.7°F (2.6 K) warmer than the next-warmest December on record.

A relatively warm ocean surface will combine with an incoming warm front to bring temperatures back above normal for the next few days. After a high of 45°F (7°C) on Wednesday, highs will remain near the temperature of the nearby sea surface (in the low 40s °F) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. On Sunday, a low pressure system will bring a warm front along with copious amounts of rain to the Boston area. Depending on the exact track of the storm, Boston could challenge its record high temperature for January 10, which is 56°F (13°C). A cold front on Sunday night will bring an end to rain, and a return to more seasonable temperatures for the beginning of next week.

Extended Forecast
Today: Sunny, high 43°F (6°C). Winds light and variable.
Tonight: Clear, low 30°F (-1°C). Winds N at 5-10 mph.
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, with a slight chance of a light win-tr mix Friday night. High 40°F (4°C), with winds N at 5-10 mph.
Saturday: A slight chance of light rain or snow showers, otherwise cloudy, with highs in the low 40s °F (6°C).
Sunday: Rain, becoming heavy at times. Highs in the mid 50s °F (12°C).
Maseeh had left DormCon two years ago, citing budgetary concerns that have since been addressed. Maseeh Boat Cruise and Maseeh Hall Formal were among the dorm's large events that could benefit from the additional funding that only a coalition of dorms can provide.

Maseeh, from Page 1

“Since Maseeh was a new dorm, we didn’t have that many events like Baker’s signature piano drop or the infamous East Campus rollercoaster,” current MHEC Justice Alejandro Cabrales ’18 said. “We were still paying the DormCon fee of $5 per student, but not getting that much out of it, so we chose to leave.”

DormCon President Yo- nadav Shavit ’16 said, “Maseeh left DormCon a little under three years ago during a difficult period in DormCon’s history. Nearly all of their former concerns have since been addressed. Primarily, DormCon’s event funding policy, which was formerly a major point of contention, has since been overhauled.”

With the addition of the Maseeh Boat Cruise in the fall and the possibility of a Maseeh Hall Formal in the spring, the dorm now has events that require heavy funding, making DormCon membership a more appealing option for MHEC. Maseeh can now publicize orientation events in the DormCon REX booklet, and DormCon’s relationship with the MIT administration may give MHEC a better way to communicate with the school itself.

“The most beneficial aspect of this for Maseeh will be collective bargaining power,” Moses said. In particular, Maseeh can now participate in various DormCon discussions such as new dorm construction, dining plan renegotiation, and dorm security. According to Moses, when Maseeh was separate from DormCon it had usually been underrepresented in any general body meeting.

Of course, this all comes at a significant cost. Because Maseeh is the most populous dorm, the DormCon student tax would be expensive for the house government. Cabrales asserted that MHEC would pay for the tax without raising fees for Maseeh residents. Based on DormCon’s budget for this past fall, Maseeh’s dues to DormCon for about 500 students would comprise approximately 15% of the taxes leveraged by DormCon in the fall semester.

Maseeh, which did not have a house government, left DormCon in 2008; Maseeh left five years after. With the demolition of Bexley and the readdition of Maseeh, DormCon now represents all MIT dorms.
Admissions office says CAAS is ‘not necessary’ for MIT MIT willing to experiment with new ideas to improve application

CAAS, from Page 1

allows students to share these items with teachers, counselors, and mentors.

According to Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill, MIT is “very happy” with its own application. “We like having the flexibility to design our application the way we want,” Schmill wrote in an email to The Tech. “The new Coalition App was developed in large part as a back up to the Common App, and therefore not necessary for MIT.” However, Schmill said that MIT is “willing to experiment” with new ideas regarding its application process.

“We are having preliminary discus-

sions on redesigning the MyMIT portal and application. It will be a

long-term project,” he said.

One of the key goals of CAAS is to aid low-income and disadvan-
taged students in the college admissions process. According to Schmill, MIT addresses this goal by reaching out to these students, both from the admissions office and through programs such as Minority Intro-
troduction to Engineering and Science (MITES) and Programs for Research in Mathematics, Engineering, and Science for High School Students (PRIMES).

A blog post on Inside Higher Ed expressed concerns that by involv-
ing students in the college admis-
sions process in ninth grade, CAAS will only heighten the stress felt by students. To move the focus of the platform from achievement to growth, the author wrote, “Maybe that ‘virtual college locker’ should require a certain number of screw-ups to be documented,” and stu-
dents could “describe how that felt, and what they learned from those experiences, what is different about them now.”

Schmill said that some aspects of the MIT application were de-
signed to reduce anxiety. He said that the application was revised about ten years ago to include only five spaces for extracurricular ac-
tivities, and that the admissions office uses admissions blogs to make the process “as transparent as possible.”

“I think a lot of the anxiety comes from students not knowing exactly what colleges are looking for, and therefore thinking that col-
leges have outsized expectations for them,” Schmill said.

CAAS was announced in Sep-
tember 2015, so the 2016-17 applica-
tion cycle will be the first in which it is open to students. The locker and collaboration tools will become available in April 2016, and the applic-
aton portal itself will open in summer 2016.

CAAS includes Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, all of which also ac-
cept the Common Application. In order to become a member of CAAS, a school must have a 70 per-
cent 6-year graduation rate, and private schools must meet students’ full demonstrated financial need.

Solution to Sudoku I

Solution to Sudoku II

Solution to Vowel

Solution to Techdoku I

Solution to Techdoku II

Solution to Stumper

Thursday, January 7, 2016  The Tech
MIT sailing team takes 14th place at Rose Bowl Regatta

Some of the country’s highest-ranked programs competed at the weekend event hosted by USC

By Max Berkowitz

The MIT sailing team, ranked No. 14 in the latest Coed College World Sailing poll, placed 14th overall at the 2016 Rose Bowl Regatta hosted by the University of Southern California over the weekend. The regatta featured nationally ranked programs from across the country including No. 2 George-town University, No. 3 U.S. Coast Guard Academy, No. 4 College of Charleston, No. 9 Boston University, No. 10 U.S. Naval Academy, No. 14 MIT, No. 19 Tufts University, and No. 20 University of California Santa Barbara. David Larson ’16, Christopher Ford ’16, and Morgan McKnelly ’17 claimed 12th place in the A division with 103 points. Larson sailed in all eight rotations, while McKnelly competed in rotations 1–4 and 7–8, and Ford helped over middle races 5–6. The trio took fourth place in the second rotation and eighth in the sixth rotation, their best placements of the weekend. Ford then teamed up with Joe Paggi ’16 and Sameena Shaftesbur-lah ’19 to place 12th in the B division with a total of 94 points. Over the eight-race, two-day regatta, Ford, Paggi, and Shaftesbury had their best performances in the fifth rotation (sixth overall). MIT is off until the end of Feb-ruary when the Cardinal and Grey travel to South Carolina for the College of Charleston Team Race which is slated for February 27 and 28.

By Soupamoni Ghosh

Following back-to-back sea-sons of last-place finishes in the American League (AL) East, the Red Sox splashed the cash early in the offseason, signing free agent David Price to a record-breaking 7-year, $217 million deal. This deal makes the left-handed ace the highest paid pitcher in the history of major league baseball and the first pitcher with a “one million dollar per start” price tag. David Price has been one of the most dominant pitchers in the AL. Each season since 2010, he has won double-digit regular season games, and has pitched at least 200 innings in all but one year (186.2 in 2013). Price won the AL Cy Young award in 2010 and has finished second in voting twice, most recently in 2016, where he led the American League with a 2.45 ERA en route to an 18-5 record.

Price’s numbers at Fenway Park are impressive too. In 11 regular season games at Fen- way, he has held opponents to a mere 1.86 batting average. Price is a hard-throwing strike-thrower with a career record of 86 strike-outs per innings pitched and a 3.6 strikeout/walk ratio. In many ways, Price represents the perfect fit to be the leader of the rotation in Boston, a rotation that boasts the highly talented Eduardo Dis-trigues, veterans Clay Buchholz and Rick Porcello, and Joe Kelly. The team’s failure to sign a new contract with the Red Sox organization, the John Henry-Tom Werner own- ership have strictly stayed away from offering multi-year mega-contracts to pitchers over 30. No exception was made even for the much-loved Jon Lester, who signed with the Cubs last off-season. The team’s failure to sign a top-of-the-rotation ace and its performances in the latter part of the sea-sooning season could have made the Boston front office rethink its approach in Price’s case. It was perhaps to make such bold, decisive moves that the Red Sox hired new President of Baseball Operations Dave Dombrowski. Dombrowski did not shy away from giving Miguel Cabrera the richest contract in baseball or making Justin Verlander the then highest-paid pitcher while he was in Detroit, and he sure did not waste time landing one in Da-vid Price and an all-star closer in Craig Kimbrel. Some doubted whether Price would join the team, since he had been part of the Tampa Bay Rays organization, a bitter division rival of the Red Sox, for many years. Things got heated between Price and Big Papi when the left-handed slugger threw him deep in a 2013 divisional round playoff game but escalated fur- ther when Price drilled Ortiz the first time they faced each other in 2014. But all seems forgotten now as both players look to reconcile and help Boston reach the pinna- cle of baseball once again in what could be the final chapter of David Ortiz’s hall-of-fame career. The most significant amateur scholarship programs are those for NCAA 'B' cuts in each season since 2010, Some of the country's highest-ranked programs and the best performances in the fifth rotation (sixth overall).