IN SHORT

The MIT Water Innovation Prize Finalist will be held today, April 8 at 6 p.m. in Kirsch Auditorium.

Nominations for best SHASS professor are due Sunday, April 10.

IN HER OWN WORDS

Military commander now prefrosh

At first, Sara’s story sounds like the stories of many of the other admitted students visiting MIT this weekend. She was born in California, was very active in extracurriculars growing up, and felt like she had won the lottery when she was accepted to MIT.

However, when it comes to everything between California and the Israeli military, it couldn’t be more different.

Her actual name is not Sara. She has been responsible for the lives of dozens of people before. She herself has run for her life.

That’s because Sara was a commander of a technological unit in the Israeli military for nearly four years. That’s why my English is kind of good.

I grew up in a suburb north of Tel Aviv. I had a lot of extracurriculars. Sunday and Wednesday, I had ballet. Monday and Tuesday, I had tennis. Tuesday and Friday, I had scouts. I had one day off, which was Saturday.

I needed to do everything. I’ve always had a lot of interests. I think my dad is also like that.

Growing up in Israel had a huge impact on my shaping and my personality. I think in Israel, because you go to the army straight out of high school, you mature faster and you also gain independence younger. Here, at least where I’m from in California, I know that you can’t really hang out with friends, even in the mall, until late junior high, because it’s dangerous. It’s a 300 million-person country.

In Israel, it sounds dangerous on the news, but it’s actually one of the safest countries in the world, and it’s only seven million people.

InIsrael, alcohol and stuff are the best kind! ARTS, p. 17

New CS minor will be available fall ’16

Dept. expects 100 to declare minor

Kaeligh Moore

Starting this fall, MIT will offer a minor in Computer Science.

“We expect the minor will better serve the needs of MIT students broadly. It will allow students to major in other disciplines and get computational depth. We don’t expect a large change in the number of EECS majors. We could see a drop in the number of double majors,” Professor Anantha Chandrakasan, EECS Department Head, said in an email to The Tech.

“This is the past few years, it has become obvious that basic skills in CS are very useful for not just all of engineering but fields as varied as linguistics and the physical sciences. The computational biology joint degree was one effort to create a new program that intersected CS and the life sciences. We received a few students that were interested in degree programs that intersected CS in some way. With the development of the 6.001/6.006 entry point into CS, we felt that the time was ripe to act on the CS minor.”

The EECS department has predicted that around 800 students will declare a minor in Computer Science this fall.

Chandrakasan says that as students grow up and consider their studies, they realize that they need a CS minor in their degree.

The new minor will be available fall ‘16. Starting this fall, MIT will offer a minor in Computer Science. The minor will be available fall ’16.

Some students have faced consequences for violating MIT’s controversial dorm security policy that puts Allied Barton security workers at front desks and requires all students to tap an ID before entering.

Two such students are Samuel M. Duchovni ’17, a Random Hall resident, and Nchinda Nchinda ’17, a resident of MacGregor.

Duchovni said he has been caught violating the policy by holding the door open for residents to come in behind him seven times, and has been warned that if he is caught doing so again, he will face a hearing before the Committee on Discipline, and could ultimately be kicked out of MacGregor.

Nchinda says he has had a hearing before the COD and has been placed on probation for a second time for violating the policy a total of at least twenty times. If he is caught violating the policy again, he said he will definitely be kicked out of MacGregor, and might be required to leave MIT housing completely.

“The policy has faced a fair amount of criticism. Opponents have said it is unnecessary, inconvenient, and is overly rigid. It’s a violation if you tap in and hold the door open for somebody, if you are polite,” Duchovni said. “There’s a failure to understand the human cost of the policies.”

They’re asking us to essentially throw out the open door to dormitory. Security, Page 4

Yearbook

WEATHER, p. 2

WEATHER

Partly cloudy

SUN: 42°

TUE: 31°

SAT: 28°

FRI: 33°

THU: 33°

MORNING: 23°

WARM: 33°

Partly cloudy

Monday, April 18.

Taxes A DormCon meeting will be held Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in East Campus.

Taxes will be due this year on Monday, April 18.

CPW will run until the morning of Sunday, April 10. Go out and welcome the prefrosh!

A DormCon meeting will be held Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in East Campus.

Students faces COD hearing after holding open door to dormitory

Student worries about ‘human cost’ of dorm security policy

By William Navarro

Some students have faced consequences for violating MIT’s controversial dorm security policy that puts Allied Barton security workers at front desks and requires all students to tap an ID before entering.

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Security, Page 4

WELCOME, PREFROSH!

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Volume 136, Number 11

Friday, April 8, 2016

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Security, Page 4

BEYOND COLLEGE

ACCESS

A story of immigration, discrimination, and hope. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 12

LOUIS C.K. HAS A TV SHOW

It’s called Horace and Pete. Yeah. ARTS, p. 16

WELL-EXPLAINED JOKES

Are the best kind? ARTS, p. 17

PORTAITORS OF RESILIENCE

How do we talk about the things that make us uncomfortable? CAMPUS LIFE, p. 13

SUMMITING THE HIGHEST PEAKS

Alums may claim a Guinness World Record. SPORTS, p. 18

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Volume 136, Number 11

Friday, April 8, 2016
WEATHER

Cooler weather for the weekend

By Costa Christopoulos

As promised in last week’s issue of The Tech, Boston saw abnormally cold weather and snow earlier this week. On Monday Boston picked up around 5 inches of snow, or roughly three times the average snowfall for the entire month of April. Temperatures ranked 15-20 °F below average for several consecutive days. The weather pattern will remain active this weekend as a trough carves into the eastern US.

The low pressure system which brought rain to the area yesterday is now sliding off to the northeast. A cold front will cross the area this morning, bringing with it cooler temperatures for the weekend. Abnormally warm temperatures over the North Atlantic and Greenland will displace colder air into central Canada and the eastern US. Expect lows around 30s °F this weekend and highs in the 40s °F. A weak storm system will bring a chance of light snow to the area of Saturday night. Early next week, temperatures warm ahead of an approaching storm system that will bring a chance of rain by mid-week.

Extended Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low of 33°F (0°C). Winds west at 5-10 mph.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy. High of 45°F (7°C). Winds east at 5-10 mph.
Sunday: A chance of snow in the early morning, then partly cloudy. High of 42°F (4°C). Winds northwest at 10-15 mph.

Cooler weather for the weekend

By Costa Christopoulos

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As promised in last week's issue of The Tech, Boston saw abnormally cold weather and snow earlier this week. On Monday Boston picked up around 5 inches of snow, or roughly three times the average snowfall for the entire month of April. Temperatures ranked 15-20 °F below average for several consecutive days. The weather pattern will remain active this weekend as a trough carves into the eastern US.

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SOMERVILLE, MA

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**Friday, April 8, 2016**

**The Tech**

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**Minor, from Page 1**

The course 6 class sizes might increase, particularly in the courses required for the minor, though he notes that the courses required for the minor are already “very large and serve non EECS majors.” He says that automated grading will help “EECS deal with a potential enrollment increase.” If more teaching resources are deemed necessary, the EECS department will request more funding for TAs from the Dean of Engineering during the annual budget process.

The minor will incorporate classes, such as 6.009 and 6.01, that are likely to be part of the new course 6 curriculum in the works, according to Professor Chris Terman on the minor’siazza page. This new curriculum is currently being reviewed by the Committee on Curricula, commonly known as the CoC.

To complete the Computer Science minor, students must take 6.0001, 6.002, 6.009, and 6.006, 2 classes total from a list of basic classes, 6.004, 6.014, and 6.006, and advanced classes, 6.03, 6.170, 6.033, 6.045, 6.046, and 6.033. (The latter will replace 6.055 starting in spring 2017, and will count as a CS head-er subject for 6-3 majors). One of the two courses must be from the advanced list.

Aside from the few listed on the minor’s description page, no substitutions will be accepted for the listed requirements. Some students on the minor’spiizza forum have expressed frustra- tion that 6.006 and 6.002 are required even if a student has already completed 6.01 or upper- level computer science classes. Others hoped that courses with content similar to minor require- ments would be accepted, such as 18.2064, which a student onpizza claims is a common sub- stitute for 6.042 (a class required for the minor).

“We do not have plans to al- low substitutions at this time, but this might change based on student feedback next year. One concern is the amount of work that is associated with advising in a minor program that allows sig- nificant substitution. If the minor is as popular as we would like it to be, EECS does not have the advis- ing capacity to customize it to ev- ery student,” Chandrakasan said.

Students majoring in 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-7, 7-8C, and 18C will not be permitted to declare a Computer Science minor due to significant overlap in course work, and in the case of course 7, the existence of the 6-7 degree. EECS proposed the minor in January 2016 and the CoC approved it in late March. Professor Chandrakasan said he “received strong encouragement for the minor” from President Reif, Chancellor Barnhart Ph’88, and Dean Watzi.
For some, dorm security still a concern
Claim: students who opposed policies the most moved off campus

Security, from Page 1
police officer each other,” he added, re-
ferring to the fact that residents are expected to prevent other residents walking in behind them without scanning their IDs. “This is destructive to the community and [to] the bonds between people.”

We have used to have a “perfectly good security policy. [Students] let in their friends, they trusted. This was perfectly fine for Random.”

Nchinda said that the security policy was especially frustrating when residents caught violating the policy. “It’s because people who oppose the policy. “It’s because people who have the strongest feelings moved out.”

Duchovni had stronger opinions about the fact that DSL requires RA’s to send emails to students complaining about the policy, “We’re seeking to see something that has the appearance of security.”

Nchinda said that the security policy is especially frustrating on moving days. He says that before it was implemented, he could easily open the door for a pair of residents moving a heavy couch into the building.

That would be considered a violation now. If you’re carrying a heavy couch into the building now, he said, “you walk up with the couch, you drop it, you tap your ID. [Then] you go in... it’s an annoyance.”

While Nchinda is not a fan of the policy, he says he’s “definitely not purposefully violating it” It takes effort to be conscious of it,” he said. “Now I have to take the effort to be conscious of it.”

Duchovni echoed a common sentiment among dorm security opponents. The policy was implemented so MIT could “be seen to do something that has the appearance of security.”

Duchovni and Nchinda both said that residents of their respective dorms have moved out due to the security policy.

“They felt strongly about the policy, so they just moved out to frats or to independent living groups,” Nchinda said. It contributes to the reason the Division of Student Life doesn’t have more students complaining about the policy. “It’s because people who have the strongest feelings moved elsewhere.”

He says he conducted a survey of MacGregor residents and found the consensus was that residents would prefer a less strict policy, and find the current policy inconvenient and difficult to follow. (He suspects that it was his sharing these findings with the COD that prevented him being removed from MacGregor.)

Nchinda noted that his dorm’s RLAD probably spends a lot of time sending out emails to students caught violating the policy, “since so many people have trouble following it.”

Duchovni had stronger opinions about the fact that DSL requires RA’s to send emails to students caught holding the door open for other residents. “The RLAD is supposed to be sort of a part of the support network, is my understanding,” he said. “Not the police officer who’s telling you you’ve broken the rules.”

Duchovni questioned the reasoning behind why it’s so important that students tap in even when it’s clear to everyone involved that they are a resident. “The standard explanation is that it’s about safety, and if there is a fire or some emergency, you want to have some record of who is removing the building,” he told The Tech. “The problem is people do not tap out.”

He said that the likelihood the information would ever be useful is so low that it is not worth the cost to the community. If there were a lot of thefts, he said, then maybe the system would be useful to curb that problem and track when the potential perpetrators enter the building. That would be a different situation, he said.
How to Start a Hard Tech Startup
Featuring Sam Altman, President of Y Combinator

Wednesday, April 13th
6-7 PM
10-250

Doors open at 5:40pm with MIT ID

Join Sam Altman, President of Y Combinator, for a talk and Q&A on how to start a hard tech startup. Hear stories and get advice on developing the idea, forming a team, raising money from investors and more.
Lemon Solution, page 2

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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.

Grapefruit Solution, page 2

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Lime Solution, page 2

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Kumquart Solution, page 2

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[1660] Captain Speaking

**This is your captain speaking. Gonna be honest—I just woke up and have no idea where I am! Looks like a Boeing of some kind. Oh, hey, it says the flight number here. Okay, I’m gonna check flightaware to figure out where we’re going. Anyone know how to get on the way?**

[1661] Podium

**The American people are tired of politics as usual. They’re tired of—**

Okay, brief tangent! Is this thing a podium or a lectern? People say “podium” is wrong, but I also see it used that way in pretty formal contexts. Is usage just changing?

If elected, I will get to the bottom of this one and for all.
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.

**ACROSS**
1 Ancient artifact
6 PC bailout key
9 Les Miserables author
13 Amusingly unexpected
15 Malicious
17 Go __ (start over)
19 Least outgoing
20 Highway
21 Ticket remnant
23 Busybody
27 Mexican Mrs.
30 Villainous expression
33 Takes care of
34 Backbone
36 Letters like PDQ
38 Explosive initials
39 Go __ (participate passively)
43 Allow
44 Herm in
45 One courting
46 Visionary
48 Freezing temperatures
51 Put the kibosh on
52 Chilean range
54 Line on an invoice

**DOWN**
1 Tease
2 Important periods
3 Scottish water
4 Very dark
5 Alludes to
6 Atty.’s designation
7 Motivate
8 Farewell in Napoli
9 Embraced, as advice
10 Sci-fi sighting
11 What a holster holds
12 World Cup cheer
13 Is priced at
16 Cafeteria carrier
18 Astonish
22 With whiskers
24 Whimsical idea
25 Looked after
26 Daisy look-alike
27 Organ near the stomach
28 Revolting en masse
29 __ Arbor, MI
31 Ballpark fig.
32 An old college cry
34 Tortilla chip dip
35 French toast ingredient
37 Chapel seating
40 In good shape
41 Metal source
42 Caviar source
43 Shows aired again
49 Kind of undercover cop
50 Escalator, essentially
53 Dispatched
55 Made a mistake
57 Revise reportage
58 Chilean capital
60 Auditory rebound
61 Abundance, so to speak
62 Lacerate

**Give It a Go**
by Charles Slack

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63 Word often following “further”
64 Fishing pole
65 Be obliged to
66 Homer’s TV neighbor
67 Hog hangout
**Excerpt: MIT's data retention policies**

This column marks the return of Ask SIPB, last published in 2011. In this issue, we cover parts of MIT's policies on data retention. (This republication in The Tech is heavily excerpted and excludes some important caveats, as well as a section on privacy when using MITnet. The full column is available online: [http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/2016/03-01-data-retention/](http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/2016/03-01-data-retention/)).

**What does MIT know about you?**

In particular, when MIT learns something about you, what does it remember, and for how long? In short, what are MIT's data-retention policies, and how do they affect you? Data-retention policies matter because privacy is a basic human right.

The data-retention policies in this article are mostly (but not entirely) about data which is transactional in nature, meaning that they’re about data MIT gathers in order to know other things about you (usu-ally) not data you explicitly provided to MIT. (Sometimes, certain types of this transactional data are called metadata, but data is data, and so-called metadata is often the most dangerous kind.) So, for example, we are not talking here about your educational records covered under FERPA and other laws, your medical records (covered under HIPAA and other laws), or your email (covered under ECPA and other laws).

Instead, we’re looking at issues such as use of card keys, surveillance cameras (public and in-dorm), backups, clusters, and dialups. (This reprint omits a discussion on network traffic in general).

To begin with, let’s assume you’re not doing anything illegal, that your data isn’t leaving campus, and is covered by MIT’s general policies and not some more specific policies of individual labs or departments. What is the Institute collecting about you, and how long is it keeping it?

**Meat space**

When it comes to access to physical spaces and video surveillance, turn to the Security and Emergency Management Office (SEMO). Email confirming that the policies they post on their website are current (and not stale or abandoned) was promptly answered by their Manager of Facilities Operations, Thomas W. Komola. In addition, a message to Housing was answered by (since departed) Dean Henry Humphreys of DSL, confirming that all card key and dorm-visitor data is kept by SEMO not DSL, and that DSL adheres to MIT’s general privacy policies.

(Note that this page says nothing specifically about what information Housing/DSL may collect or retain, it’s generic to the whole foundation.)

Card keys. SEMO’s posted policies clearly state that card key data is kept for 14 days and then erased, and can be used only for debugging system problems or as part of a criminal investigation by the MIT Campus Police. (Left unsta-ted, like all privacy policies, is that any outside party with a warrant or subpoena might also be legally authorized to get this data) SEMO states categorically on their page that card key tracking data will not be used for active tracking of individuals or groups.

Surveillance cameras. SEMO’s policy page again states 14-day retention, with no audio. This in- cludes cameras in the dorms, as well as cameras installed elsewhere, such as outside or at ATMs.

Dorm visitors. When visitors arrive at a dorm, they are required to check in at a desk staffed by Ahmed- Barton employees. Their MIT IDs are scanned, or, if the visitors don’t have MIT IDs, other IDs (such as a driver’s licenses) are recorded in- stead. This information also goes to SEMO, not DSL, and is likewise deleted in 14 days.

**Cyberspace**

SEMO handles most of the net- working on campus, with the exception of large labs (like CSAIL and the Media Lab) which often have their own internal infrastruc-ture. Some of their policies are posted online, but there are also large gaps, and trying to confirm validity or fill in gaps was much less successful with IS&T than with other MIT departments.

Backups. IS&T maintains a ser- vice called Crashplan, which al- lows everyone on campus to keep their files backed up. The Crashplan service (and its parent com- pany, Code42) see only encrypted data and do not themselves have keys to decrypt it. MIT’s manage- ment server holds individual keys for each user instead and encryp- tion of the backups happens before the data is handed to Crashplan’s servers. Were MIT to receive a subpoena for a user’s backed up data, it would be possible for MIT to comply and to hand over every- thing you’ve backed up—which might also include credentials to non-MIT services stored in your backed-up files. If you want to keep your data safe from such scenarios, you’ll need to encrypt it before Crashplan is asked to back it up—

in other words, keep it encrypted on disk, or decrypt to a location that you haven’t asked Crashplan to back up.

Clusters and dialups. IS&T di- alups run teppy. This program logs all TCP connections on the machine, ten times per second, to logfiles on the local filesystem. These logs are kept for seven days. (The dialups have been targets of attacks in the past, and compromis- ing one can allow attacking hundreds of users simultaneously; forensics after an attack may be one reason that connection in- formation is logged.) It is unclear whether these log files are them- selves copied elsewhere or backed up; they are also vulnerable to ma- nipulation if not is compromised on the dialup—though a root com-promise there could much more severely impact users directly. In addition, cluster machines log which binaries are being run, though IS&T explains that such logging is intended not to identify individual users. (Whether such identification might be made when fused with other sources, such as netflow, isn’t answered and may not have been considered.)

When it comes to MIT’s data- retention policies, those affecting access to physical spaces and sur- vellience of those physical spaces are quite restrictive and well-doc-umented. SEMO’s web pages clearly and its employees are quick to answer questions about them.

On the other hand, when it comes to MIT’s computational in- frastructure, the picture is much more fragmented. In those areas where policies have been posted, information is retained much lon- ger (SEMO retains various logs from twice as long to six times as long as SEMO does). More concerning, many important aspects aren’t documented at all, and official channels appear effectively useless at either verifying what’s already posted, or at answering questions about what’s not.

In both cases, it would also be helpful for policy pages to be dated, for links to older versions to be posted (to make it possible to see what changed, and when), and for those pages to be reviewed every so often (perhaps annually) and for that review date to also be posted on the relevant pages, so it’s obvious at a glance that those responsible for those systems have ensured that their posted policies match reality.

So, where does this leave you? Barring unusual circumstances—such as an ongoing investigation—you can be reasonably assured that SEMO’s details of your physical movements are likely gone after two weeks. Some details of your on-campus electronic activities, when using IS&T’s infrastruc-ture, are likely gone after three months—but there are too many undocumented places where data may accumulate, without published policies about how long it may persist, to have much assur-ance that this is always the case. And, of course, the majority of the traces you leave online are in net-works and servers that aren’t man-aged by IS&T at all, each with their own policies. Be careful out there.

Want to learn about computing at MIT? Turn to “Ask SIPB,” a series of columns published by the Stu- dent Information Processing Board. You can find our complete archive at [http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb](http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb). Send questions to sipb@mit.edu and we’ll try to help.

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**WITHDRAWAL AND READMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

MIT undergraduates, come share your perspective and ideas about the recently released recommendations with Professor Charles Stewart and Dean Denny Freeman.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13TH**

5PM-6:30PM, 3-270

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016**

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**THE TECH**

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**ASK SIPB**
Certified Nurse assistant (CNA/RNA) urgently, 5hrs daily, Mon-Fri, 25$ per hour.

Resumes and References should be emailed to director-rolandwebber@gmail.com.

CSAIL holds joke conference

The CSAIL Student Committee (CSC) held a joke conference on April Fool’s Day featuring what they called “simply the best papers.” The conference was open to the entire CSAIL community and had “named sessions, awkward nametags, a banquet, conference coffee and cheese platters,” according to an email sent to CSAIL.

The conference, SIGTBD, calls for papers in all areas of computer science research that focus on “creative solutions to problem spaces that may be obsolete or unrealistic even by academic standards and are often of debatable research taste,” on its website.

Papers needed to meet some unusual requirements, such as that authors needed to be ordered by descending number of vowels rather than level of contribution. Authors with accepted papers needed to write a tweet-length abstract and had the option of submitting a Vine video and 8.5” by 11” illustration to advertise their talk.

The organizers also included technical jokes in their instructions, saying that authors writing their paper with LaTeX were encouraged to use a provided class file, but authors using Microsoft Word should “give up on following any of the formatting requirements and submit in whatever format you please.”

SIGTBD was organized by MIT PhD students and made ample use of hashtags in its advertising and informational material. Talks included “A Data Driven Analysis Framework and Erotica Writing Assistant” and a keynote entitled “Classification Trees for Determining Mood Affiliation of Males with Androgenic Alopecia.”

The conference ran from 12:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. last Friday.

— Sanjana Srivastava
A voice for those who cannot speak

An alumnus’s story of citizenship, discrimination, and college access

By Victor Morales

My mom crossed the border illegally 22 years ago. She was wanting to give birth in a hospital in Mexico when her sister picked her up and smuggled her across the border. My mom made it 30 minutes north of there in the midst of birth pains, to a small town by the flat Southern California lands. I was born there, 1 A.U.S. high school valedictorian and member of the MIT Class of 2014, was born there in California. But our home was in Mexico.

My parents split up so I could get an American education. When I was seven years old, my parents, older brother and sister, and I were living in an average house in Mexico. But word about my cousins speaking English and having a shot at a brighter future in America convinced my parents to uproot us from Mexico and transport us to California. That’s where my mom brought my older siblings, also American citizens, and me.

She promised, “En los Estados Unidos hay más oportunidades, mijo.” If I would do well in school, she said, I would someday have a better future for myself. She had talked it through with my dad, who agreed to stay in Mexico and continue working until he was old enough to retire. In the meantime, he would send us Mexican money (dirt compared to the U.S. dollar) to help keep us alive.

The U.S. government didn’t know this. In order to receive food stamps, my mom claimed to be financially independent of my father, whether in school or to a stranger. She claimed to be single, betraying the joy of my earlier childhood that we had spent as a family. Yet, it was a well-intentioned belief, one of the region’s highest.

Our living conditions were no better. Our family were field workers, earns in the field from sunup to sundown. A dark-skinned Mexican like me doesn’t forget the feeling of being ashamed of his cultural background. Being different. Surviving on microwavable corn dogs, chips, muchangas, and ramen. Not knowing what it’s like to sit at a dinner table with his family. Having to speak on behalf of his single parent who can’t speak English. Living off of the $8 per hour his mom, an undocumented field worker, earns in the field from sunup to sundown.

I was taught not to open the door, to shut the curtains before leaving the house, to leave the radio on so no one would break in. Any knock at the door would provoke silence in my home. My mom would then find me and whisper, asking, “Who is it?” In response, my face would offer an unsaid “I don’t know!”

We were incarcerated in our own home. And in those moments, the thought of losing my mom crossed my mind. I’d imagine her getting taken away, getting deported, leaving my siblings and me orphans, ending up God knows where. I still hear the knocks at the door and remember my mother’s voice, “Don’t open the door, and if they ask about your father, say nothing!”

She laughed unapologetically in my face. I remember feeling so ashamed, so burred, that I made up my mind to speak to my counselor about anything except how to be a valedictorian. I remember asking myself to forget that moment ever happened. I still ask myself; why did she laugh?

She continued laughing in my head, mocking the color of my skin and my dirty upbringing. A dark-skinned Mexican like me doesn’t forget the feeling of being ashamed of his cultural background. Being different. Surviving on microwavable corn dogs, chips, muchangas, and ramen. Not knowing what it’s like to sit at a dinner table with his family. Having to speak on behalf of his single parent who can’t speak English. Living off of the $8 per hour his mom, an undocumented field worker, earns in the field from sunup to sundown.

It’s common for field workers in California to be undocumented; employers have no documented candidates looking to work in the fields. When I asked my mom about too-frequent deaths of my high school classmates in a field the size of MIT.

But there’s a more difficult question in interviews and college applications ask me: who mentored me? It’s hard to answer because the only person who comes to mind is my older cousin. He encouraged me to take as many Advanced Placement classes as possible. “You can become a valedictorian,” he tempted me, “if you take AP classes and get good grades.”

He pushed me to speak to my high school counselor about how to become a valedictorian. Off I went to the counseling office. I sat on a cold chair in silence waiting for some guy to stop talking to the desk assistant, and approached the desk lady.

“Can you help me?” I asked. She told me she wanted to talk to my counselor. “What would you like to speak to him about?” she asked robotically.

I simulated, “About how to be a valedictorian.”

“The answer is unapologetically in my face.”

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PORTRAITS OF RESILIENCE

Grace Taylor

Editor's Note: Portraits of Resilience is a photography and interview series by Prof. Daniel Jackson. Each installment consists of a photo centred around the word 'resilience', in their own words, of how they found resilience and meaning in life.

When I was a little kid, I was a little darker than other people. As a child, there's not really a lot of resilience to draw from really. I had more things than other people. I was worried about not being able to do things well at school. I was more than other people. I was constantly fighting for the things that I thought that I had to contend with on a daily basis. I have memories of watching television shows, like the 1960s TV—the idea of that childhood fear that it's not belong to her. If hard workers like my mom can be programmed with the understanding that the knowledge that prevents them from getting into medical school is that some S^3 deans, financial officers, and other students are there? Split families, hand workers without benefits, no aid for undocumented students ... and not a single voice to defend these people.

This story is dedicated to those from undocumented families who cannot speak, to those who live in silence and fear, to those documented families who cannot speak, to those who are doing their best. When I was eleven, I remember thinking, "Maybe this is just my adult depression." Ashamedly, the pattern I've seen among some people who are doing their best. I think it has allowed me to be much more empathetic and understanding of other people, and I can have a harder time saying that I had fixed this, and I haven't. And I think that depression is something that you can't get away from. You can do your best, and sometimes difficult things happen, and you try to work on them, but it's kind of like a darkness that you can't really solve, and then you just have your happy life and keeps going.

I have many dear, close friends who are engineers, and who are depressed, or have difficult things going on in their lives, and I consider that to be what was going on with me.

When I was eleven or twelve, I switched schools. I was trying to make new friends, and I was trying to be a different person, and I thought that my depression to a head, and it became difficult to go to school, to get up out of bed and go to school. My parents realized something was up, and so they took me to a therapist, but I didn't go along with him very well.

Two years later, I found a new therapist, and she pretty quickly said, "You should see a psychiatrist as well." I didn't really see it as that possible. Life is continually changing. It's really hard to keep up with all the things that you're doing, and sometimes difficult things happen, and you try to work on them, but it's kind of like a darkness that you can't really solve, and then you just have your happy life and keeps going.

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Kristen Overly
Ohio
• "I’m leaning towards biological engineering, or genetics, or something like that." “I took a college genetics course last year and I really enjoyed it.”
• Biggest concern of MIT: “Probably finding friends … I don’t know”
• "I had a concussion two years ago, so I had to actually take a whole year off of school. I was originally in the Class of 2013 at school, but now I’m in 2016. I went to college first semester, and did some fun things with that. And started rowing. And I think that was definitely part of why I came here.”

Meera Gregerson
Washington
• "I’m worried about the workload, because I know that being a student athlete is really hard, especially if you’re waking up early to work out!"
• "I took a gap year in between sophomore and junior year of high school. I was an exchange student in Germany, which I think probably contributed to me being a pretty well-rounded student and getting here."
• First impressions of MIT: “Everyone’s a lot more chill than I had originally thought. I was expecting to be really intimidated, and everyone’s just super easy to talk to and really down-to-earth, which is very impressive for people who have achieved so much.”

Meryl Wang
Maryland
• "There are so many geniuses here.”
• On how she got into MIT: "I wish I knew"
• "I like to play tennis. I like to sing. I like calculus"
• "I’m thinking comp sci, and maybe bio."
• "I gave a box of chocolate to my host today.”
• "CPW is awesome.”

Alenta Demissew
California
• Biggest concern: "The weather. And the difficulty, of course."
• "I’m most committed to giving back to the community through community service … making sure, at the same time, I had fun in high school. I made sure to go out and cherish my time as ‘not an adult’.”
• "Some of my closest friends I’ve met through community service.”
• Advice: “Give more gifts.”

David Yang
New Jersey
"I don’t need to introduce myself.”
"I’m mainly considering MIT and Harvard.” “The weather is a lot better at Harvard, I heard.”
On getting into MIT: “I feel like a lot of it’s luck.”

Peter Dun
Indiana
“I’m like, ‘Hey, I’m Peter,’ and they respond, and I’m like, ‘Guess my state?’” It’s pretty interesting because no one ever guesses my state … Ok, yeah it’s pretty sad.” "Usually they’re like, is it in the South?"
"I’m debating between MIT and Stanford. One of the biggest issues I have with MIT is kind of the weather.” "If I went to Stanford admit weekend, I wouldn’t be soaking wet after the first day."
On getting in: “Our biology olympiad camp actually had a 100% admit rate into MIT this year, so chances are it was probably that.”

Henry Hanlon
Connecticut
• “I find that no matter who I talk to, everyone’s so welcoming that it’s just very easy to make friends and find a conversation topic.”
• On MIT: “It’s also in a pretty large city, which is something that I’m not really used to. So that would definitely be a little bit of adaptation.”
• “When I tell people I got into MIT, they automatically think, ‘wow you must be a genius,’ and it just makes me want to work harder and live up to that name that people assume I’m part of.”
• “I think there’s probably a reputation that [MIT] is only for people that like science, technology, engineering. And a lot of people don’t really believe there’s a strong, rigorous humanities program.” “I enjoy a wider range of subjects. I’ve taken French for 6 or 7 years. I also really enjoy history and English, so I would definitely continue those here.”

Allison Paul
Rhode Island
• "Through summer programs, it seems like everyone that you meet is a mutual friend of someone else that you know.”
• "I really like math.”
• On misconceptions: “Not everyone at MIT is crazy, because my parents think that everyone has crazy, colorful hair, and that means that they’re crazy.” “I might dye my hair.”
Finding God at MIT (+ FREE Dinner)

FRIDAY - Dinner at 7:30pm, Program starts at 8pm
Lobdell, 2nd floor, Student Center  (catered by Boston Market)

Awesome worship with the Cru band, student stories about life with God at MIT, prizes, and meeting new friends!

Our Other CPW Events:

Piles of Pancakes & Brunch Greatness
Saturday, 10 AM - 12 PM, Coffeehouse, 3rd floor, Student Center

Larger than Life Games &
Saturday, 8 PM - 10 PM, Lobby 13 (Building 13)
Life sized games (Hungry Hungry Hippos, Human Bowling, Giant Jenga, + more) and delicious chicken.  (walk down the Infinite Corridor, turn left at Lobby 10)

more events and info at mitcru.com
Horace and Pete: the best show nobody knows exists

Please watch this so I have something to talk about it with you.

That experience of receiving a work of art by piece by piece, with no expectations or knowledge of its subject or structure, is undeniably powerful.

On his website, C.K. explained his motives for creating the show. He said he is a writer, there’s always a weird feeling that as you unfold the story and reveal the characters and the tone, you allow your audience to have this unique experience. And I really, really, really want people to find out it exists for being too serious or depressing, especially because it tackles big, messy, sobering subjects. It’s funny, but it’s not funny in the way comedians are funny. It’s not about the punchline, it’s about the characters. The show is about people, and the connections between people in ways I haven’t seen on television.

But even in the more traditional episodes, the show is undeniably powerful. It’s just a fraction of the fantastic cast, but these four lie at the heart of Horace and Pete’s story.

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A tale of hazing and hacking at MIT
Steve Altes '84, publishes graphic novel detailing experiences at MIT

Geeks & Greeks
By Steve Altes '84 (writer), Andy Fish (artist), Veronica Fish (colorist)
Released March 16, 2016

Karleigh Moore
ARTS EDITOR

While the book is packed with instances of hazing, Altes adds a disclaimer in the preface saying that MIT has been strongly enforcing anti-hazing rules for many years now, but that this wasn’t the case when he attended MIT.

One downfall of the novel is blunt racial and gender under-representation (the author acknowledges the gender disparity in the preface). The only female characters that appear are Jim’s love interest and a few cheerleaders (who, ironically, mention that the MIT gender ratio is fairly equal these days) — such tired tropes. In the preface, the author remarks that when he went to MIT, the student population was 80 percent male, and that “the women [he knew] at MIT were far too levelheaded to be involved in many of the absurd events that are recounted in Geeks & Greeks!” This graphic novel certainly doesn’t incorporate elements of diversity, and once again, resorts to stereotypes when people of color are included. For example, when Jim needs to coerce black men to donate sperm at a local sperm bank (it’s a long story), he approaches (and practically kidnaps) a basketball team whose members are wearing jerseys that say “Ebony City” (a reference to Chocolate City). The author takes liberties to add modern elements to his story, updating campus buildings and incorporating new technology like smartphones, but unfortunately didn’t seem to translate social advances. I had mixed feelings about the appendix, which explains MIT jargon and muster eggs hidden throughout the story. While it was helpful to have this, it did feel a little heavy handed at times. It is certainly worth explaining MIT jargon, or adding a disclaimer that the MIT football team is actually pretty good nowadays, particularly for audience members who have not attended MIT. However, I would have preferred if things like Star Trek or math jokes, for example, weren’t so explicitly enumerated.

While the book lists four hacking rules — be safe, don’t damage anything, don’t hurt anyone, and be funny — I was worried that it might undermine the discreet nature of hacking. Hackers will have to read the story for themselves to see if they feel outed.

While I think that the general reader will enjoy Geeks & Greeks, I’m curious to see how this book will be received by current and former MIT students, and even more curious to see what hackers and fraternity members will think.

For those unfamiliar with MIT, reading Geeks & Greeks will likely be an eye-opening experience, as the graphic novel quickly dispels many MIT stereotypes. In the first few chapters, we see that Greek life exists at MIT, and that students aren’t a bunch of overly serious nerds — they like to joke around, prank each other, and put large objects on top of buildings. I’m a campus tour guide, and you wouldn’t believe (and would maybe be a little insulted by) the number of tourists and prospective students who ask if MIT even has frats, Greek life, and sports. The artwork is consistently pleasing throughout the novel, and certainly does a great job at bringing many unbelievable events to life. In this way, the novel is certainly a compelling read, filled with jokes that will please anyone with nerdier sensibilities and stories that are sure to inspire some young readers to apply to the Institute.

The story follows Jim Walden, a fictional freshman with a penchant for trouble, and his misadventures. In the first year at MIT, Jim joins a fraternity notorious for its hacking activity, and when a hack goes wrong and the group leaves Jim to shoulder the blame, Jim must engage in some creative problem solving to quickly pay property damage fines.

There are some elements of the story that picky readers might criticize. For example, in the story, Jim gets into MIT without even applying, hacks occur every other day, and freshmen can live in fraternities (which is no longer allowed, but was actually common when Altes attended MIT). These are types of things that a reasonable reader can overlook, understanding the suspension-of-disbelief inherent in reading fiction.

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Alumni scale every highpoint in N. America

MITOC members Eric and Matthew Gilbertson climbed 23 peaks in five years

The sense of adventure had been instilled in their early child- hood. "Our dad would take us on backpacking trips. As a family we tried to visit as many states as pos- sible," Eric recalled. At MIT, the Gilbertsons joined the MIT Outing Club (MITOC) where they teamed up with fellow hiking enthusiasts to embark on a number of expeditions throughout the country. "We got inspiration from other club members' travel experiences, and from friends, who encour- aged us to travel to other coun- try," Matthew noted. "In fact, we are still part of MITOC. We were involved in climbing the highest points of each state. We finished in 2010. That is when I started thinking seriously about going for every country in North America." But for graduate students Eric and Matthew, the challenge was dual – both its peaks and challenges when it came to meeting their ambitious target. "We lived on graduate student stipends so we had to live fru- gally. We rarely ate outside and saved as much as we could for our trips," Eric said.

On the flip side, there were ample opportunities for trav- eling as the brothers frequented numerous research conferences. "We would try to visit the highest peak of a country when we went to a conference. If we had a stop-over while returning, we would try to scale the highest peak of that country too. I got to visit Japan and India this way and Eric managed to visit Brazil and the Netherlands," Matthew explained.

Planning ahead was a sig- nificant part of their endeav- ors, and one they relished. "We used Google Earth a lot and read travel reports of fellow climbers," Mat- thew said.

But despite the meticulous planning, as the brothers fre- quently discovered, "the best laid plans of mice and men oft go astray.

On a trip to St. Kitts and Nevis to scale Mount Liamuiga (3,780 ft), Matthew recalled, "We got to the end of the trail that was sup- posed to lead to the summit and it turned out it was only the edge of the crater rim of the mountain with an obvious summit at an opposite side. We thought we could just bushwhack through the jungle along the rim to the summit, but that turned into an epic battle with unclimbable mud cliffs, dense ferns, downclimb- ing technical bush traversing, and a few near falls. By sunset, after eight hours of thrashing through the jungle and only covering two miles, we had just about gave up and were ready to bushwhack down the mountain. At the end of the trail, we thought we were at the obvious summit, but we were wrong. We turned around and upon retracing our steps, we found the true summit."

"It was not always the treach- erous trails or nature’s traps that proved to be a bane. Sometimes, as the brothers discovered, it was other human beings that chal- lenged them. Eric reminisced on the time they were in Honduras to climb Cerro Las Minas (1,347 ft) and en- countered a road blocked due to a group of people on strike. "After an hour some government offi- cials from Tegucigalpa arrived in a big SUV, followed by a truck full of armed military men. That's when I started thinking seriously about going for every country in North America."

The brothers countered a road blocked due to a group of people on strike. "I went back to my truck and on the way to Cerro Las Minas that afternoon," Eric said. "I was the only person on the road, but we managed to work our way through and climbed Cerro Cerro Las Minas that afternoon," Eric said.

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"On our website countryhi- ghpoints.com, we have a color- coded world map that works as follows: if we have not visited a country it is white, if we have vis- ited a country but not climbed its highest peak it is red, and if we have climbed and ascended the highest point of that country, it is blue. I always have this map on my mind when I am climbing and the thought of turning a red to blue keeps me going. Currently, 85 countries are blue and 10 are red."

"The two have been applied for a Guinness World Record. "On a preliminary discovery," Eric said, "we have come to conclude that we are the first people in the world to climb the highest point in every North American coun- try." They aim to be recognized in the next edition of the renowned record book.

The journey to the highest peaks of 185 countries began with a single peak for the Gilbertsons. The conquest of all twenty-three North American high points defi- nitely represents a commendable achievement. But for them the journey continues. After all, when the prize is standing atop a peak with no human being in sight, just snow and tranquility, the tempta- tion is just irresistible.
Douglas Kogut ’18 reflects on his 200-fly national title
Kogut opens up about his determination, strategy and plans for Campus Preview Weekend

Douglas A. Kogut ’18 won the 200-fly individual title at the recently-concluded NCAA Division III meet, thereby becoming the first student athlete from MIT to win a title in that category and fourth to win an individual event at the national meet. His time of 1:47:28 was both a personal and school record and he clinched a school record and he clinched a school record.

The Tech: Is there such a thing as saving your best for the finals while you hold yourself back a little during the qualifiers?
Kogut: No, not in the national meet. Our coach says you win points in the [morning qualifiers] because if you do not qualify you will definitely not score a single point.

The Tech: Do pools and/or lanes matter in a race?
Kogut: I would say for me, no. But a lot of people suggested that the pool where the nationals were held was fast, in that swimmers raced faster than their usual times. The temperature of the water can matter, but for me as long as it is not too hot or too cold it makes little difference.

The Tech: This is the first 200-fly national title in school history and the fourth national title in swim and dive. Given the sheer rarity, does your accomplishment set as those events transpired?
Kogut: Going into the meet, I definitely did not think I was going to win. I was going for getting into the final heat and then finishing in the top eight so I can score points. When I came in third in the qualifier, I knew I had a chance. I got into the zone, got ready for the finals, and competed.

The Tech: What does it mean to be in the zone for a swimmer?
Kogut: I would say for me it is listening to music, focusing on the race, going through every component of the race in my head. The Tech: You mentioned you thought you had a good chance after you finished third in the qualifying heat. How much influence do fellow competitors have during the race? Does it end as soon as you dive in or do you get some idea of how others are performing in adjacent lanes?
Kogut: From the results of the qualification round I knew most of the other finalists had a strong back half of the race. On the other hand I had a good front half. So I knew I would be out ahead early on. So if I could sustain that then I knew they would not be able to catch up. Thankfully, that strategy worked.

After the race has started, you can get a look at others at the turns but for the most part it is about doing your best.

The Tech: Do you in fact do a lot of weight-lifting?
Kogut: Yes, I do a lot of weight-lifting. For sprint events or 100 and 200 butterfly, Why do you like those events?
Kogut: I prefer butterfly to the other strokes because I feel like it is the hardest stroke and, especially at the 200 distance, the most strategic stroke to swim.

The Tech: What can you do in the off season to become a better swimmer?
Kogut: Last season, after nationals, I was really motivated as I did not make it to the finals of any event. So I swam seven to eight times a week, waking up at 5 a.m. every day. This off season I plan to do a lot of weight-lifting.

The Tech: How does weight-lifting help?
Kogut: For sprint events or even up to 200 meters it helps in the explosiveness and underwater.

The Tech: What do you do in the off season to become a better swimmer?
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The Tech: It feels great

The Tech: Congratulations on winning the 200-fly national title at the NCAA division III meet! How does it feel?
Douglas A. Kogut: It feels great to be able to represent MIT in that capacity. I also think my achievement is a reflection on my teammates and coaching staff.

The Tech: You first competed in the 100-fly, but for the most part it is about doing your best.

The Tech: What do you do in the off season to become a better swimmer?
Kogut: Last season, after nationals, I was really motivated as I did not make it to the finals of any event. So I swam seven to eight times a week, waking up at 5 a.m. every day. This off season I plan to do a lot of weight-lifting.

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"A JOB NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE, BUT TO THRIVE"

Almin Millic, MIT Custodian

With the help of a solid union job at MIT, Almin and his family were able to move from the housing projects of Somerville to their own three bedroom house in Saugus.

Support Almin and the hundreds of security officers, custodians, maintenance and trades workers who are bargaining a contract to maintain quality healthcare for their families, good middle-class wages and the ability to continue working to make MIT an even greater university.