Stats on ’86 released by Admissions Office

By Al Voe

The MIT Admissions Office’s survey of the entering class of 1986 stresses that personal attributes are at least as important as academic achievements.

“Reflecting on this year’s entering class, I see again that combination of bright, open minds, youthful enthusiasm, and material purpose which has characterized our undergraduates,” wrote Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson.

The Class of 1986—1,104 members strong—represents 904 countries, according to the director. Eighty-five percent of the students in the freshman class graduated in the top ten of their high school classes.

“But we want more than intellectual capacity,” Richardson stated. “We look for other qualities which are more elusive, hard-to-describe.”

The Admissions Office is choosing more well-rounded applicants due to the wider choice of prospective students, said Brenda L. Hambleton ’79, Assistant to the Director of Admissions. The Class of 1986 “has very positive features: everything I’ve heard been good,” Hambleton noted.

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