Walters leaves Writing Requirement for UASO

By Sally Vaurian

Bonnie J. Walters will leave her post as Coordinator of the Writing Requirement to become an assistant dean in the Undergraduate Academic Support Office. Her replacement as coordinator, who she would not name, will assume the position on Dec. 14.

Walters replaced Marie Danziger, who accepted a position at another school, according to Travis R. Merritt, head of the ODSA.

Walters' primary responsibility will be to manage the freshman advising system, Merritt said.

MIT sends colorful brochures to prospective undergraduates

(Continued from page 1)

It was Behnke's initiative to review MIT's admissions publications and compare them to other schools. Members of CUAFA and the admissions staff got together and looked at the old materials. What came out of those reviews, according to Douglas, was the knowledge that full color brochures had been in use elsewhere, and it made the committee aware that MIT was way behind the times, he said. MIT decided to hire a Baltimore, Md. firm to produce new material for MIT candidates.

The theme of the pieces is imagination. Behnke said many people think that MIT is mechanical and just a training school and not very exciting. The admissions committee wanted to show that MIT is a creative place, with a broad range of interests and not very exciting. The admissions office supplied the marketing techniques with a video. The video tape is an effective medium for dramatizing the number of ways in which undergraduates can experience MIT.

The admissions office supplemented its marketing techniques with a video. The video tape is an effective medium for dramatizing the number of ways in which undergraduates can experience MIT. The scenes are supplemented by slow-synchronized background music. The video stresses invention and discovery done at MIT and "learning by doing," as well as making numerous allusions to MIT's Nobel Prize winners.

Walters was chosen because she was already acquainted with many faculty and students, he added.

Walters explained that her new post will involve working with freshmen and associate advisors. She will also advise students on study skills.

Along with the other members of the UASO, Walters will herself act as an advisor for students such as designated sophomores—who do not have departmental advisors—or for those students who feel they are not getting complete advice from their advisors.

Walters, who has been acting as Coordinator of the Writing Requirement for the past five years, said she had not been actively searching for a new job. But Walters felt that the position of assistant dean in the GDSA was a good opportunity to work with students in a new area.

Having seen the first class go through both phases of the writing requirement, Walters feels that it is an appropriate time for a new coordinator to step in.

Walters said she does not regret leaving the position because she will still be working with MIT students, but she joked that her one regret is that she missed her opportunity to win this year's "Big Screw" award sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega.

Although CUAFA does not get involved in the day to day workings of the office, it still looks at the longer term policy. CUAFA gave its formal endorsement of MIT's curriculum. The new publications were fifteen years in the making, said Douglas, a professor of history. Current students agreed that the old materials were not very influential in their decision to attend MIT. Richard A. Elliott '91 remarked, "In retrospect, the brochure did not positively influence me. It made MIT seem unappealing." David E. Afolabi '90 said the brochures made MIT look narrow-minded and boring. "When I received the brochure, I thought MIT ran out of the new paradigms and decided to send me one of their old ones."

Although the impact of the new materials remains to be determined, feedback so far has been positive. A case in point is Daniel M. Johnson '91, who after first examining the materials exclaimed "This is awesome!!"