Edgerton Center Celebrates Opening

By Eva Moy

"A year and a half ago, all we had was a sign on the door and nothing inside."

Today, Director J. Kim Vandiver is proud to host the official opening of the Edgerton Center.

The Edgerton Center is a "place where students can find resources, advice, and general support in pursuing inventions and ideas of their own" in all science and engineering disciplines, Vandiver said. In a year and a half, the center has sponsored Strobe Lab, eight freshman advising seminars, and many Independent Activities Period activities, he said.

However, none of this would have been possible without the help of Doc Edgerton's wife Esther Edgerton and the Trustees of the Corporation Paul E. Gray '54, President Charles M. Vest, and Provost Mark S. Wrighton will also attend the event.

"I really want to make the MIT experience for undergraduates interesting and engaging and fun from the freshman year on," Vandiver said. "Students can get involved in real problems, as opposed to problems sets and lectures."

The center emphasizes hands-on learning; "You have an idea; can you make it work?" McGimsey asked. The center also provides resources, laboratory space, equipment, and advisors for students.

The Edgerton Center might also try to come up with alternative means of supporting (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects), as the federal government will no longer waive UROP overhead starting July 1, Vandiver said.

Current projects that undergraduates are working on at the center include high-speed and underwater photography, the "Corridor Lab," and many Independent Activities Period activities, he said.

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Speech to Soothe LCA, GAMIT

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However, Merrill felt this was a resolution between particularly LCA and the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community. "I don't think it was [meant as] personal ... but it became personal because there are gay people at TEP," said Merrill, a member of both TEP and GAMIT. Merrill said he had depledged from another fraternity which he considered homophobic.

"I think the presentation is a step in the right directions, but it really depends on how many people show up," Merrill said.

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