



2017s' GIR pass rates continue to improve

Support, outreach from advisors cited as reason for improvement

By Derek Chang

The Class of 2017's pass rate for the math and science General Institute Requirements (GIRs) was 97.2 percent last semester, an improvement over last year's rate of 96.7 percent. Around 12.9 percent (144 students) of the Class of 2017 received at least one flag in a GIR, given to students who have a D or F in a class five weeks into the semester, and 86.8 percent (125 students) of those who received one or more flags passed their GIRs.

Julie B. Norman, the Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, said that, in recent years, there has been a "remarkable improvement" in flag rates and rate of flagged students passing their

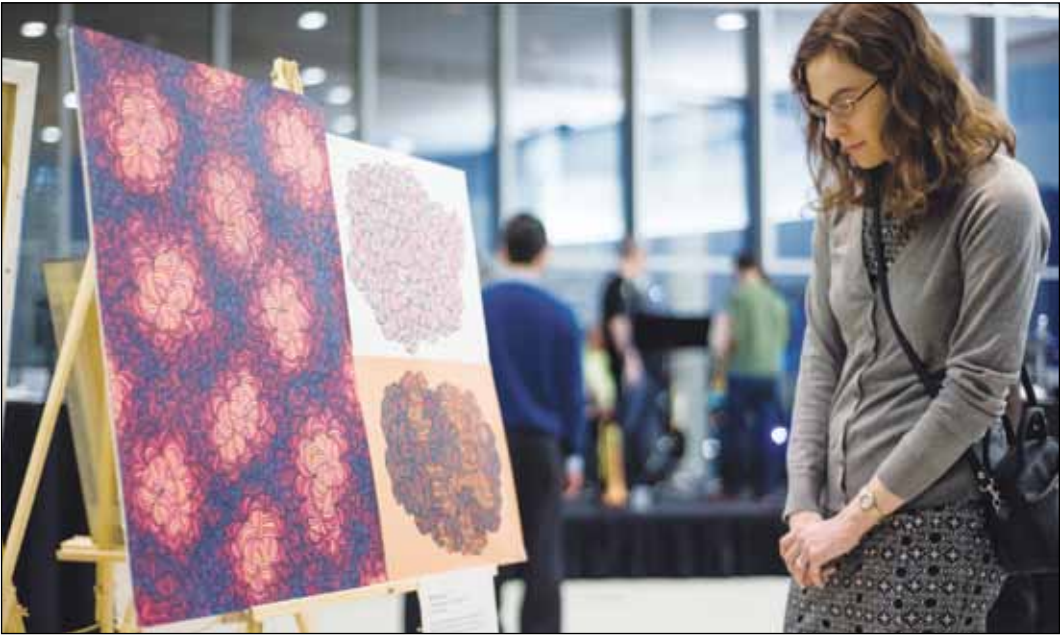
classes, or recovery rate. Norman said that flag rates have seen a steady downward trend in the previous four academic years (2009 – 2010 to 2012 – 2013), with an average student flag rate of 19.7 percent and average recovery rate of 79.3 percent.

This year, 7012 had the highest GIR flag rate at 14.6 percent. In spite of this, 97.9 percent of registered students ended up passing the class. In contrast, Norman noted that "about 25 percent of the class was flagged" in Fall 2000, with a recovery rate of 52 percent.

Norman said that work with advisors and outreach to students, particularly those who received multiple

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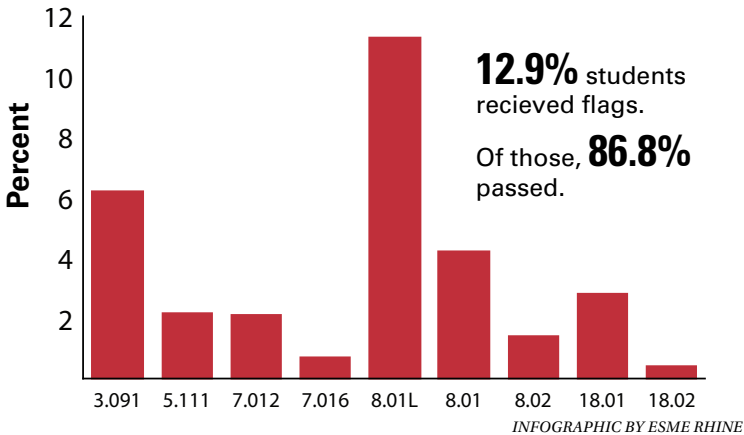
Graduate Student Council hosts arts soiree



ERIC HAO—THE TECH

An attendee examines "Untitled Drawings" by Emily W. Tow G at the Graduate Arts Soiree on the evening of Friday, March 14. Guests were greeted on the sixth floor of the Media Lab with over 30 works of art as well as performances by a live band.

Class of 2017 GIR Failure Rate



NEWS BRIEFS

Report by Title IX investigator concludes *Voo Doo* not in violation of Title IX

Voo Doo, a humor magazine published by MIT students, was not found to be in violation of Title IX, according to a report sent to officers and council members of the Undergraduate Association (UA) on Monday.

According to the report, an undergraduate had complained about a drawing of a woman tied to a bed being penetrated by objects with labels like "Dining" and "Summer housing." He said that the drawing, which appeared in the Spring 2011 issue of *Voo Doo*,

triggered a "flashback to when I had personally been a victim of sexual assault" that nearly threw him into a "depressive state," the report said.

The report was prepared by MIT's Title IX investigator, Sarah Rankin, according to the chair of the UA's Finance Board, Anirudh Sailesh '16.

Alina Kononov '14, the current editor of *Voo Doo*, was quoted in the report as saying that no topics should be "off limits or exempt from humor." Humor is the main criterion used to determine which submissions are published, Kononov told Rankin.

Kononov was not the editor when the drawing

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OBITUARY

Family and friends remember Hadi Kasab

From Cambridge to Lebanon, those who knew Kasab offer their tributes

By Steve Bradt
MIT NEWS OFFICE

When Hadi Kasab was a boy in Lebanon, he went through a phase of carrying a small briefcase to school.

"He already knew that he wanted to be an engineer," Kasab's younger sister, Jana, recalls — and the young Hadi thought that carrying a briefcase was something all engineers did.

Her brother never lost his sense of wonderment at the world, Jana Kasab says: "He was really always a 5-year-old on the inside."

Hadi Kasab, 23, was found dead in his room in MIT's Sidney Pacific dormitory on the evening of March 6. He had been a second-year graduate student in MIT's program in Computation for Design and Optimization, on track to graduate with his master's degree in June.

"He was very quiet most of the time," Jana Kasab says. "We used to say that he lived in

his own world." At a kindergarten graduation ceremony, her distracted but driven brother marched straight across the stage, without even stopping to receive his certificate.

He was also humble, Jana Kasab says: "My mother was once chatting with Hadi via Skype. She was telling him about people's reactions when they found out that her son is in MIT. Hadi hated that. He didn't like to gloat about it — but Mom, as a proud parent, did. So he promised Mom that he'd buy her an umbrella with the MIT logo on it, so that she'd stop telling people that her son is in MIT, and instead people would take the initiative to ask her."

'Achieving goals, one after another'

Born on Sept. 12, 1990, Hadi Kasab was a native of Saida, Lebanon, a city of 80,000 on the Mediterranean Sea, about 25 miles south of Beirut. As a high school student, he was drawn to mathematics and physics, and developed an interest in the aerospace

industry.

Mohamad Mirhi, an MIT graduate student in mechanical engineering who also hails from Saida, was a year ahead of Kasab in school. The two became friends as undergraduates at American University of Beirut (AUB), where Kasab studied mechanical engineering.

"Saida is a relatively traditional city," Mirhi says. "So Hadi grew up within a small community where expectations might be limited to getting a bachelor's degree and a job later."

But, Mirhi says, his friend was not satisfied with that limited trajectory.

"He took upon himself many challenges that made him very outstanding," Mirhi says. "He was purposeful as he set a number of goals in his mind. He exerted great ... effort to secure the top rank in the South Governorate of Lebanon in the Baccalaureate official

Hadi Kasab, Page 13

IN SHORT

The Government Center T Station will be closed for two years for reconstruction. Customers transferring between the Green Line and Blue Line are encouraged to use the Orange Line for transfers.

The Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) is hosting a Summer UROP informational meeting. Stop by on Wednesday, April 2 to hear faculty, researchers, and graduate students present their research. Refreshments will be served.

Undergraduate Association elections will continue through today, March 21, and close at 5 p.m. Vote online at <http://vote.mit.edu>

Submit your nominations for the 2014 MIT Awards convocation at <http://awards.mit.edu>. The deadline for nominations has been extended to Friday, April 4.

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

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Student group performs Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. **ARTS, p. 11**

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The Tech reviews teen sci-fi movie *Divergent*. **ARTS, p. 8**



NEW TAKE ON AN OLD FAIRY TALE
The Boston Ballet performs *Cinderella*. **ARTS, p. 11**

THINK YOU'RE IMMUNE TO 2048?
You're not. Q.E.D.
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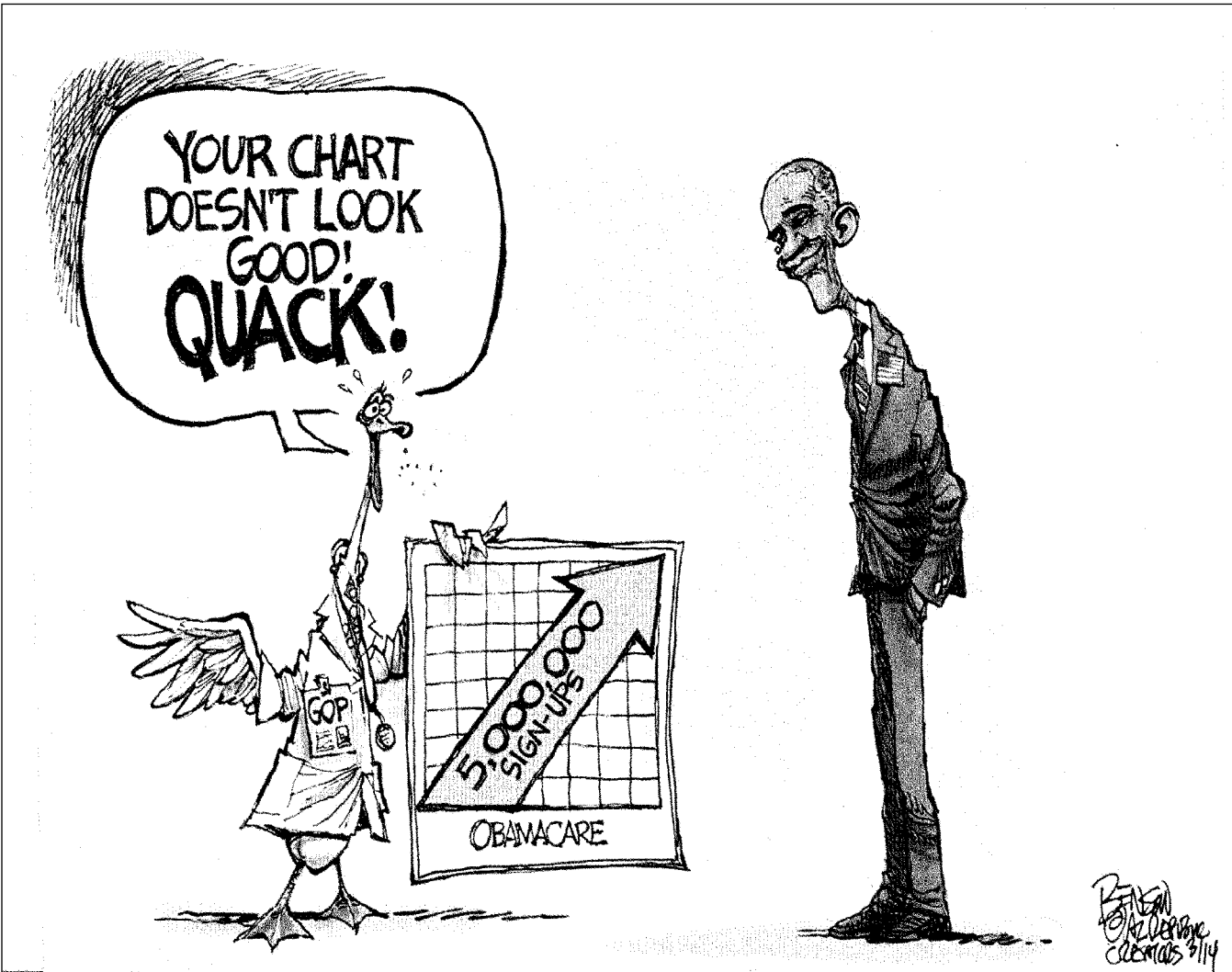
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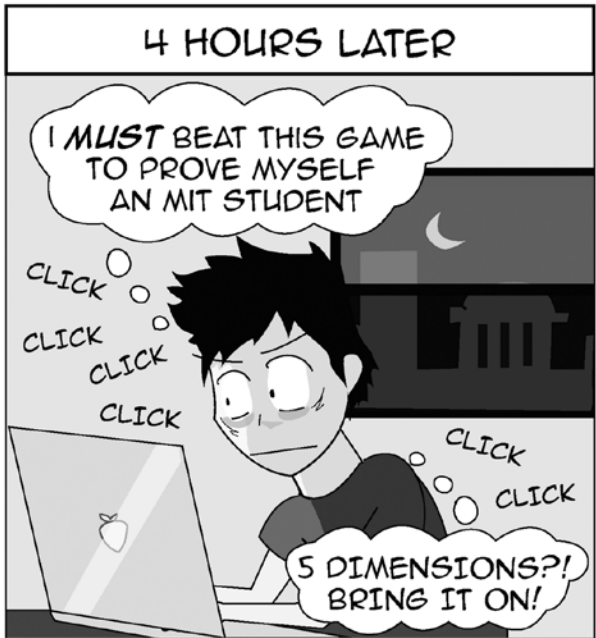
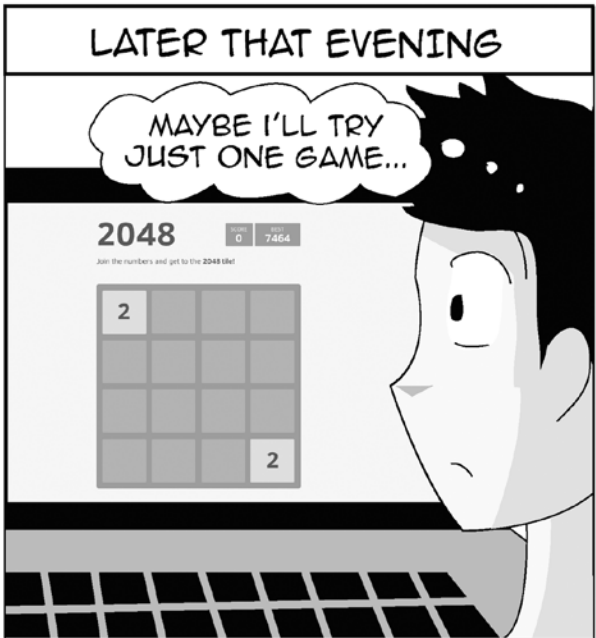
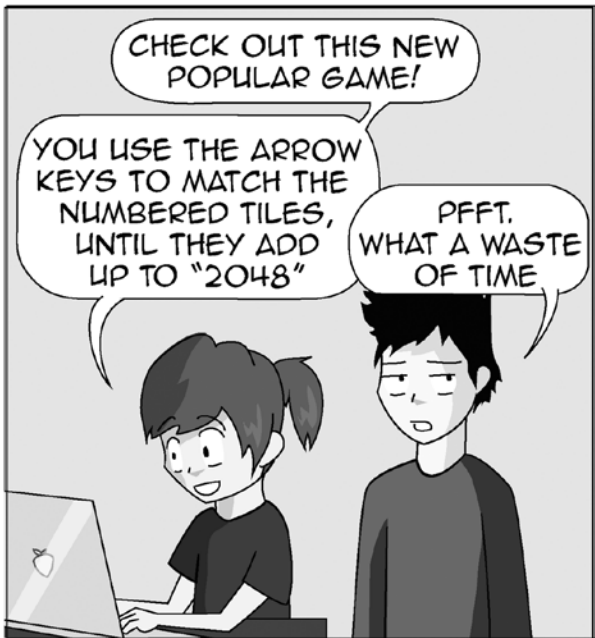
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BY ERIKA TRENT



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Low Places

by David W. Cromer

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BALLET REVIEW

100 percent fairy tale

An entertaining rendition of the age-old tale of *Cinderella*



GENE SCHIAVONE

Boston Ballet presents the timeless fairy tale classic *Cinderella* from March 13 – 23.

By Angelique Nehmzow

STAFF WRITER

From start to finish, Boston Ballet's *Cinderella* is an enchanting telling of the beloved fairytale. Set to a score by Sergei Prokofiev and choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton, the ballet was premiered in 1948 by the Sadler's Wells Ballet (now The Royal Ballet), and is now being performed for the first time by Boston Ballet.

The first act opens with the introduction of Cinderella's ugly stepsisters, portrayed by tall male dancers in frilly dresses. Rather surprisingly for a ballet, they provide comic relief throughout the performance, and their humor is unrestrained and enthusiastically crude, employing plenty of slapstick and pantomime. The opening scenes depict them preparing for the court ball, their constant squabbling causing havoc and nearly inducing the collapse of their father.

In breaks from her stepsisters' melodramatic performances, Cinderella emerges from the shadows into the limelight, claiming the stage to reveal her calm and dreamy demeanor as she mournfully contemplates a portrait of her dead mother, or dances wistfully with a broomstick.

Cinderella offers bread to a hunch-backed old woman who comes begging, and is later rewarded when the old woman returns, transformed into a stunning Fairy

Godmother in an instant of visual trickery. The Fairy Godmother calls forth the four Fairies of the Seasons, who are revealed successively as one curtain behind another is raised, each wearing glittering, diaphanous gowns and accompanied by child attendants.

They perform solos evocative of their season — the Spring Fairy prances playfully, Summer is languid and serene, Fall tempestuous and blustery, and Winter icy and precise. When the Fairy Godmother works her magic and warns Cinderella of its caveat, twelve stars — one for each hour — dance on the stage. Their dancing and the music vacillate between foreboding and hopeful, mirroring the optimism and nervousness of Cinderella before she is transported off-stage in a pumpkin carriage pulled by two mice.

The second act is set in the Prince's palace, where courtiers in velvet suits waltz with their partners in plumed headdresses. After their bumbling arrival, the stepsisters compete for the attentions of two historical celebrities, the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte (who amusingly loses his wig at some point).

When Cinderella makes her grand entrance, it is a highlight of the evening. She enters on pointe, her wondrous gaze raised to the audience. Slowly and regally, and still on pointe, she descends the main staircase

without once looking down, escorted by the Prince. Unbeknownst to the audience, he squeezes her hand to let her know when she has reached the first step.

Her subsequent solo involves a seemingly endless number of twirls, and is answered with an athletic solo by the Prince, and the presentation of his gift of three oranges.

As the night draws to its close, the two perform an exquisite duet, but all too soon a gauzy screen appears, displaying a clock face striking midnight. Behind it, the twelve stars return to the stage, and Cinderella attempts to make her escape between their urgent dancing and the ominous sound of a gong. Finding her way blocked in turn by the Prince or his jester, the tension builds until a look-alike dancer in rags replaces her, and she flees off-stage.

The abandoned prince holds up her dropped slipper for all to see. Even after the auditorium lights turned on to signal the intermission, the dramatic staging lingered in the mind of everyone in the audience.

The third act is a short and syrupy finale. Maintaining the humorous tone, the step-sisters are caught in a state of undress by the Prince as he searches for his lost love. When Cinderella comes forward to help one step-sister try to stuff her foot into the tiny shoe, the matching shoe falls out of her apron.

In a touching moment, the Prince gen-

Cinderella

Boston Ballet

The Boston Opera House

March 13 – 23

ty lifts Cinderella's face up to his, not quite daring to believe he has really found her. After a celebratory interlude by the twinkling stars and the Fairy Godmother, the pair returns in resplendent cream and gold costumes. Eschewing a showy dance, they turn their backs on the audience and hold each other lovingly as the curtain descends.

As a comic and traditional production, *Cinderella* is more amusing and somewhat more accessible than other recent productions by the Boston Ballet. The humor is genuinely funny, although sometimes excessive, and the production focuses on telling the classic tale rather than complicated choreography.

The music and the staging are entrancing, and the dancers are adept at conveying the emotions of their characters. *Cinderella* takes an old story, and infuses it with life, magic, and grandeur.

THEATER REVIEW

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble presents
Twelfth Night

Shakespeare's comedy has plenty of laughs



STALY CHIN

Sir Toby (Majdolene Z. Khweis '15), Sir Andrew (Colin C. Aitken '16), and Fabian (Samantha E. Harper '16) sneak behind Malvolio (David Perelman) in MIT Shakespeare Ensemble's production of *Twelfth Night*.

By Karleigh Moore

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble's performance of *Twelfth Night* was hilarious. The play tells the story of Viola, who pretends to be a man to get close to Orsino, whom she loves. However, Orsino loves Olivia, who falls in love with Cesario, who is really Viola — a confusing love triangle at best. For those of you more familiar with popular culture than Shakespeare, you may recall the movie *She's the Man*, starring Amanda Bynes, which was based off of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. This production was as humorous as any Shakespearean comedy and was set in an interesting time — the 1960s or 1970s.

Keenan A. Sunderwirth '14 , Mark L. Velednitsky '14, and Noelle A. Colant '17 played the leads Viola, Orsino, and Olivia respectively and were fabulous and very convincing. The fool, Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Colin C. Aitken '17) and Olivia's drunken uncle, Sir Toby (Majdolene Z. Khweis '15) certainly did their jobs well. I was cracking up every time they took the stage, and they absolutely stole the scene with their antics and shenanigans.

The performance included several musical scenes that elicited intended chuckles

Twelfth Night

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble

La Sala de Puerto Rico

**Upcoming:
March 21 — 22: 8 p.m.**

from the audience — the fools were effective singers! Of course, my hat goes off to the crew who supplied excellent set pieces, costumes (I have a soft spot for those gaudy 70s-style suits!), lighting, and music — it made for an evening that was definitely worth remembering, and it couldn't have been done without those working hard behind the curtain.

Although the show opened last week, you still have time to catch it Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico in the Student Center. It was incredibly refreshing and inspiring to get away from psets and papers and indulge in a bit of culture for an evening, so support our arts groups and see *Twelfth Night*!

OBITUARY

Patrick J. McGovern, member of Corporation, dies

McGovern’s \$350 million gift aimed to broaden neuroscientists’ knowledge of the brain

MIT NEWS OFFICE AND THE
MCGOVERN INSTITUTE

Patrick J. McGovern ’59, a longstanding MIT supporter who made the gift that launched MIT’s McGovern Institute for Brain Research, died March 19 at the age of 76. As an MIT undergraduate, McGovern studied biophysics and later went on to found International Data Group (IDG), a publisher of computer-related news, information, and research.

In 2000, the McGovern Institute was established with a gift of \$350 million from McGovern and his wife, Lore. In founding the McGovern Institute, Patrick and Lore McGovern dreamed of contributing to neuroscientists’ understanding of the human brain and the development of new treatments for neurological disorders.

“Our hearts go out to Lore and the McGovern family for the loss of their beloved Pat,” MIT President L. Rafael Reif says. “The MIT community has lost an extraordinary friend, supporter, advisor, and inspiration — and the world has lost someone with a rare power to see the future and seize its opportunities. Just as Pat launched IDG almost before the computer industry existed, he and Lore grasped very early that brain research would be the next great scientific frontier. Their gift to launch the McGovern Institute provided practical support for fundamental brain science on a scale no one had imagined before; just as important, it played a key role in enabling MIT to build a broader community of brain researchers committed to unraveling and defeating the terrible disorders of the brain — Pat and Lore’s great dream. As we absorb the loss of Pat’s friendship, we take consolation in his lasting gift to humankind.”

“Pat and Lore McGovern inspired all of us with their passion to understand the brain and to help people suffering from brain disorders,” said Robert Desimone, direc-

tor of the McGovern Institute and the Doris and Don Berkey Professor of Neuroscience. “Their gift enabled many new students and faculty to start research careers, and they personally cheered everyone on with each important discovery. Pat will be greatly missed.”

In 2000, the McGovern Institute was established with a gift of \$350 million from McGovern in an attempt to contribute to neuroscience.

Below is the text of a remembrance of McGovern originally published by the McGovern Institute.

Patrick J. McGovern, 1937–2014: a remembrance

Patrick McGovern was born in 1937 in Queens, New York, and grew up in New York and Philadelphia. He became interested in the brain as a teenager, when he came across a book titled “Giant Brains, or Machines that Think” in the Philadelphia public library. As he recalled in an interview some 50 years later, “It was the first book that talked about computers and their role as an amplifier of the human mind,” and it sparked a lifelong interest in science and technology.

In 1955 Pat was admitted to MIT, where he majored in biophysics. He studied neurophysiology and recalls using a glass electrode to study electrical activity in tadpoles. He also became involved in student newspapers, and after graduating from MIT in the Class of 1959, he was hired as an assistant editor for a new magazine, “Computers and Automation,” founded by Ed Berkeley, the author of the book that had so intrigued him 10 years earlier.

After four years as a magazine editor, Pat left to found his own company, now known as International Data Group (IDG), which under his leadership grew to become the world’s foremost publisher of computer-related news, information, and research. IDG today is a multibillion-dollar business, with 2013 revenues of over \$3.5 billion.

The story of Pat’s career at IDG has been often told, and his business accomplishments have been recognized with many honors, including lifetime achievement awards from American Business Media and from the Magazine Publishers of America. Yet despite his success and his imposing physical presence, Pat retained a modest demeanor and never cultivated the trappings of great wealth. Instead, he focused his energies on leadership of the company (of which he remained chairman until the time of his death) and increasingly, in his later years, on his philanthropic priorities.

His career and fortune were made in computer technology, but Pat never lost sight of his early dream to understand the brain, which he often described as the world’s most complex computer. When he studied neurophysiology at MIT in the 1950s, the tools were not adequate to the enormous challenge of understanding how the human brain works, but by the 1990s, technological progress had been so dramatic that the field had been transformed almost beyond recognition. A scientific understanding of the brain, while still a daunting challenge, was no longer within the realm of science fiction, but was a real prospect for the future.

Pat’s dream was shared by his wife, Lore Harp McGovern, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur whose interests included health care, education and high tech. In the late 1990s, they decided that the time was right to establish a new institute for brain research, and after consultations with many leading scientists and universities, they decided that the new institute would be at MIT.

Pat and Lore had both been longstanding MIT supporters; Pat was a member of the MIT Corporation, and Lore was chair of the Board of Associates at the affiliated Whitehead Institute. But they always emphasized that their choice of MIT was not simply a matter of loyalty to Pat’s alma mater. They felt that MIT was the right choice because of its alignment with their vision of a multidisciplinary, outward-looking institute that would engage the widest possible range of scientific talents in support of its mission to understand the brain.

One goal was to understand the basis of brain disorders and to lay the foundation for new treatments for conditions such as psychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases — a goal that Pat and Lore considered vitally important, given the enormous suffering and economic costs that are inflicted by these disorders. But their vision was not confined to disease research; they also understood the brain to be the source of our humanity, our creative achievements, and our conflicts, and they saw the possibility that understanding these things in scientific terms could transform the world for the better.

The McGovern Institute for Brain Research was formally established in 2000 with a commitment of \$350 million.

The McGovern Institute for Brain Research was formally established in 2000, with a commitment of \$350 million from Pat and Lore, one of the largest philanthropic gifts in the history of higher education. Nobel laureate and Institute Professor Phillip A. Sharp was named founding director; Robert

McGovern, Page 13



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Program Summary: MIT undergraduate students conduct scientific and engineering research at Army Science and Technology Centers under the direction of Army Scientists, from June to August. The Army host and the student determine the exact starting and finishing dates. Most areas of science and engineering are of interest. The Army Lab host determines the project content and subject matter. Projects can be basic or applied research, or both and do not need to be related to the ISN mission or to nanotechnology

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<https://isn.mit.edu/internship/index.php>

If you have questions about this program or experience difficulty using the website, please contact Marlisha McDaniels, via email: mmcd@mit.edu or at the ISN Headquarters, NE47-4thFl. 617.324.4700.

The ISN The mission of the MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies is to help the Army dramatically enhance Soldier protection and survivability through basic research on nanotechnology and in collaboration with Army and industry partners to transition promising results of that basic research into practical capabilities.

***The Army Lab provides the intern's salary, which typically ranges from \$2280/month to \$2864/month depending on class year. Under certain circumstances the ISN can provide the intern with a supplement of up to \$1500 to defray costs of local accommodations and travel.**

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McGovern, from Page 12

Desimone succeeded Sharp as director in 2004. In the fall of 2005, the McGovern Institute moved into spacious facilities in MIT’s Brain and Cognitive Sciences Complex, one of the most distinctive landmarks on the MIT campus and among the largest neuroscience research buildings in the world.

The McGovern Institute has continued to thrive since it moved to its new home, expanding in size and scope as it has hired new faculty and built new laboratories. Most importantly, it has produced a steady stream of discoveries about the working of the brain, in areas ranging from the genetic control of brain development to the neural basis of human thought and emotion. This progress was deeply gratifying to Pat and Lore, who visited regularly to attend the institute’s board meetings and scientific events, mingling with faculty and researchers and engaging deeply in discussions of their new findings.

Throughout his life, Pat retained an extraordinary ability to absorb new information, and researchers were frequently impressed at his ability to cite detailed facts and figures about the brain. He was a tireless advocate for the institute and its mission, hosting many visits and tours, and inspiring others to follow his philanthropic example. He was, and Lore remains, an enormous source of inspiration and encouragement to the researchers at the institute.

Throughout Pat’s business career, his vision was global, and he took great pride in the fact that IDG was one of the first Western companies to establish a business presence in China after the end of the Cultural Revolution. It is thus fitting that Pat and Lore’s philanthropic vision also extended to China; since 2011, three new IDG/McGovern Institutes have been established in Beijing, at Tsinghua University, Peking (“Beida”) University, and Beijing Normal University. Like the McGovern Institute at MIT, the new institutes in China are focused on fundamental research in neuroscience as well as translational work on disease applications.

Pat always saw brain disorders as global problems that required global solutions, and one of his greatest hopes was that the new institutes would help accelerate the international cooperation that he saw as essential to the ultimate goal of understanding the human brain in health and disease.

Pat’s wife, Lore, has been a full partner throughout the McGovern Institute’s 14-year history, serving on the governing board of the institute along with Pat and his daughter, Elizabeth McGovern. All of us at the institute offer our deepest condolences to Lore, to their four children, and to all of Pat’s family members and friends. He will be greatly missed.

MIT was desired destination for Kasab, with a ‘love for challenges’

Kasab worked toward new possibilities in aircraft design

Hadi Kasab, from Page 1

exams, before getting admitted to the best college in Lebanon and the Middle East. He was achieving goals, one after another.”

As an undergraduate at AUB, Mirhi says, Kasab carried a heavy course load, but still found time to contribute to others’ research projects. “In fact, he worked on my senior project as an undergraduate researcher,” Mirhi says, “and he significantly contributed to the work. He definitely made use of any opportunity to keep his learning curve steadily growing.”

A love of challenges

Kasab’s program at AUB required him to complete an internship during the summer after his junior year. Inspired by some of his professors who were MIT alumni, Kasab aimed for the Institute.

“His interest in MIT stemmed out from his love for challenge,” Mirhi says. “MIT seemed to be the most logical extension of his academic profile... that environment that is rigorous enough for hardworking students to excel, yet open enough for them to meet brilliant people with common interests.”

Kasab secured the summer internship he sought, and came to MIT in the summer of 2011 as a visiting undergraduate research associate in the Uncertainty Quantification Lab within MIT’s Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. While there, he developed simulations to investigate the wettability of transparent media.

After returning to Beirut for his senior year at AUB — graduating in June 2012 with a near-perfect GPA — Kasab gained admission to MIT’s master’s program in Computation for Design and Optimization (CDO).

A ‘brilliant mind at work’

Kasab’s advisor at MIT was Zoltan Spakovszky, a professor of aeronautics and astronautics and the director of MIT’s Gas Turbine Laboratory, where researchers work on power and propulsion systems and new aircraft designs to limit environmental impacts, as well as technologies to reduce aircraft noise.

“I am very privileged and proud to have had the chance to do research with Hadi, to see his brilliant mind at work, and to experience the impact of his research,” Spakovszky says. “He was one of the smartest master’s students I have advised.”

Within Spakovszky’s lab, Kasab’s work aimed to mitigate aircraft noise around airports, a major factor limiting the growth of commercial air transportation.

Kasab came to MIT in the summer of 2011 as a visiting undergraduate research associate in the Uncertainty Quantification Lab within MIT’s Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

“Hadi’s work focused on the development of a fast method for computing the acoustic shielding of engine noise by the airframe,” Spakovszky says. “The problem requires knowledge and skill in acoustics and applied mathematics, a perfect match for Hadi’s exceptional mathematical talent. Borrowing ideas from geometrical optics, Hadi developed and implemented new ways to capture the effects of acoustic diffraction and reflection.”

Compared to current tools that take days to run on a supercomputer, Spakovszky says, the noise-assessment capability that Kasab helped develop runs

in seconds on a laptop to optimize the configuration of unconventional aircraft — opening up new opportunities in aircraft design.

“Hadi was very determined, always going all the way until a satisfactory solution was found,” Spakovszky says, adding: “Hadi was a very noble and humble person and had a hard time taking credit for his great achievements. He was extremely smart and had a very broad mind. You could talk to him about anything, including even literature. He was very sociable and witty. He always brought a warm atmosphere to the room.”

While at MIT, Mirhi says, Kasab cultivated a love for the outdoors, especially hiking and rock-climbing. He developed a passion for cooking — in particular, steak — and regularly went to the gym. He loved “The Daily Show with Jon Stew-

art;” in January, the two friends traveled to New York to see a live taping of the show.

“Hadi was a young man of great promise,” Mirhi says. “All who know him predicted a very bright future ahead. Everyone was waiting for Hadi’s next big thing. But he left early.”

In addition to his sister, Jana, Hadi Kasab is survived by his parents, Saeb and Dalal Kasab, and a brother, Karim Kasab, all of Saida, Lebanon.

Plans are under way for a memorial gathering at MIT. The News Office will update this story with that information once it becomes available.

Do you have a story to tell?

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Your slice of MIT culture

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7.012 among highest GIR flag rates
Fifth week flag students invited to structured group study

GIR pass rates, from Page 1

flags, is the reason for the improvement. "Because the transition from high school to MIT can be challenging, some students struggle academically," said Julie, "What is important is the action the student takes between being flagged and the end of the term."

The Dean of Undergraduate Education, the Office of Minority Education, the MIT learning communities such as Concourse, and academic advisors work together to help flagged students. Norman added, "This sustained collaborative effort has helped increase awareness of resources for students."

When a student is flagged, both student and advisor receive an email from the Dean of Undergraduate Education

that recommends resources such as tutoring, S^3, sites for health or medical issues, and the Office of Minority Education.

Donna Friedman, the Associate Dean for Advising and Academic Programming, also sends a message to students who receive more than one flag. "For multi-flagged students, we ask freshmen to fill out a self-assessment and recovery form which they submit to me and their advisor," said Friedman in an email to *The Tech*.

"The primary purpose is to connect the student to the adviser to understand what is impeding progress," said Norman. "Perhaps the student is struggling with study issues and time management, or is homesick."

Students with fifth week flags were also invited to join the Seminar XL/Lim-

ited Edition (LE), a structured study group program that organizes study groups in the evening beginning six weeks into the term and provides, according to their website, "a supportive venue for collective conceptual problem solving".

These subject-specific groups are led by trained upperclassmen or graduate students who work through problems from subjects that are difficult for students. Typically, four to five students are in each study group with one upperclassman or graduate student. Each seminar is a three-unit class. Thus, students may take up to two seminars during the first semester.

Freshmen can also access resources regarding fifth week flags online at: <http://web.mit.edu/firstyear/2017/right-now/flags.html>.



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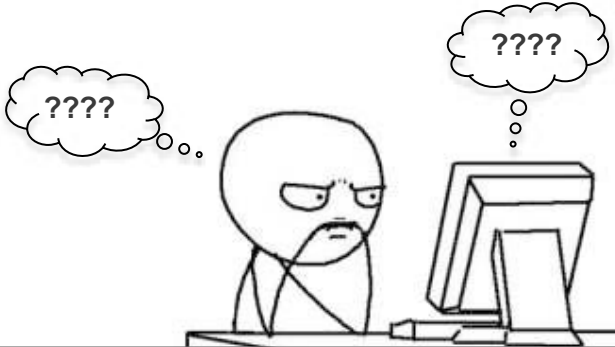
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Solution to One Fish
from page 5

1	3	4	5	2	6
2	4	5	6	3	1
4	6	1	2	5	3
3	5	6	1	4	2
5	1	2	3	6	4
6	2	3	4	1	5

Solution to Two Fish
from page 5

3	6	2	4	1	5
6	3	5	1	4	2
2	5	1	3	6	4
1	4	6	2	5	3
4	1	3	5	2	6
5	2	4	6	3	1

Solution to Red/Blue Fish
from page 5

5	3	7	6	2	4	9	1	8
3	1	5	4	9	2	7	8	6
4	2	6	5	1	3	8	9	7
2	9	4	3	8	1	6	7	5
9	7	2	1	6	8	4	5	3
8	6	1	9	5	7	3	4	2
7	5	9	8	4	6	2	3	1
6	4	8	7	3	5	1	2	9
1	8	3	2	7	9	5	6	4

Solution to Techdoku
from page 7

5	2	6	1	3	4
3	6	4	5	1	2
1	4	2	3	5	6
6	3	1	2	4	5
2	5	3	4	6	1
4	1	5	6	2	3

Solution to Sudoku
from page 7

9	7	6	2	8	1	3	5	4
3	4	1	7	9	5	8	2	6
8	5	2	4	6	3	1	7	9
2	6	9	1	7	4	5	3	8
7	1	5	6	3	8	9	4	2
4	8	3	9	5	2	7	6	1
1	3	7	8	4	6	2	9	5
6	9	8	5	2	7	4	1	3
5	2	4	3	1	9	6	8	7

Solution to Crossword
from page 6

GRIP	JAMS	RSVPS
LENO	ELIE	ICIER
ACTS	KOLA	GHANA
SLEEPY	HOLLOW	
SIR	ALA	ORATOR
ENROLL	BEGS	ERE
SEOUL	MAXI	CNBC
BRYCE	CANYON	
CPAS	ATOM	ARIAL
URN	OVEN	PLASMA
BYGONE	SAT	EON
HIDDEN	VALLEY	
GUMBO	IDOL	ABBA
ORION	NERO	ROAR
PLAYS	ONTV	AWED

News briefs, from Page 1

that led to the original complaint was published.

“Given that it is an optional publication that people can choose to read or not, the broader impact on the MIT community is somewhat limited,” Rankin’s report reads. “The intent, as described by members of the *Voo Doo* board, is to create provocative and progressive material that creates a dialogue about important issues at MIT.”

The report concludes: “Given *Voo Doo*’s limited impact and that it’s an optional publication people have to seek out, it does not appear to be creating a persistent or pervasive hostile environment. The TIX Investigator and TIX Coordinator will meet with the UA and ASA to alert them of the concerns raised in the complaint as a consideration in future recognition requests and funding allocations.”

Another student, who also wished to remain anonymous, said that *Voo Doo* was full of “puerile, offensive attempts at humor” and that the “denigration of women” was a “pervasive, indeed almost obsessive, theme” in the magazine since 2010, according to Rankin’s report.

Recent issues of *Voo Doo* include the following warning: “*Voo Doo* does not take responsibility for any consequences of people reading the magazine. By choosing to view this magazine, you put yourself at risk of taking offense, doubling over in uncontrollable laughter, and/or nuclear radiation.”

Five professors named MacVicar Faculty Fellows

This year five professors were awarded the MacVicar Faculty

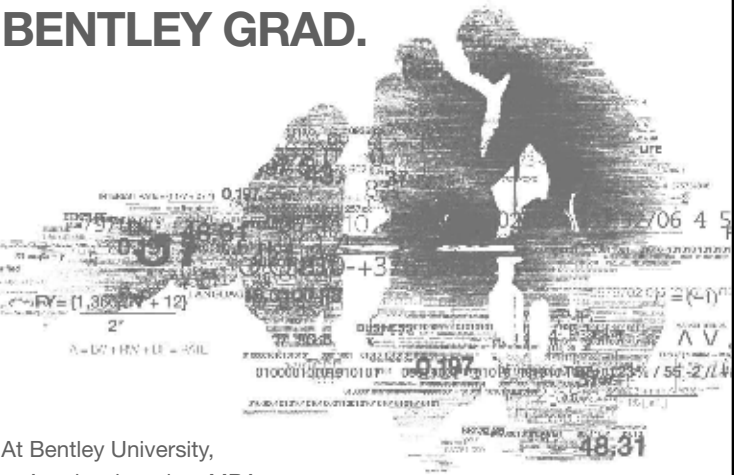
Fellow award. These professors, recognized for excellence in teaching and education of undergraduates at the Institute, are: Jacopo Buongiorno, an associate professor of nuclear science and engineering; Tomás Lozano-Pérez, the School of Engineering Professor of Teaching Excellence in electrical engineering and computer science; John Ochsendorf, Class of 1942 Professor of Architecture, with a joint appointment in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Heather Anne Paxson, an associate professor of anthropology; and Kristala L. J. Prather, the Theodore T. Miller Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering. As per the MacVicar program, these professors will hold the position for 10 years and are awarded \$10,000 per year of discretionary funding to support their undergraduate teaching. The MacVicar Fellows are announced on MacVicar Day, which took place on March 14 this year.

An advisory committee formed of both students and faculty, chaired by Dean for Undergraduate Education Dennis M. Freeman, reviews nominations for the MacVicar Faculty Fellow award. Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD ’88 is responsible for the ultimate selection for the award. Currently, the program sponsors 41 professors.

The Faculty Fellows program was created in honor of Margaret L. A. MacVicar ScD ’67, who was a dean for undergraduate education. Among other programs, Margaret MacVicar is credited as the founder of MIT’s well-known Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP).

—Leon Lin and Tushar Kamath

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Coop Student Board of Directors Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 academic year.

MIT Undergraduate Students:

Emma Kane, 2015
David McClelland, 2015
Eric Ruleman, 2016
Victoria Stivanello, 2016

MIT Graduate Students:

Laura Diamond, MBA, 2015

Harvard Undergraduate Students:

Monika Lutz, 2015
Irfan Mahmud, 2016
Vincent Ong, 2017
Neil Purdy, 2017
Madeleine Smith, 2016
Peter Wu, 2016

Harvard Graduate Students:

Payal Agrawal Divakaran, MBA, 2015
Oliver Hauser, PhD, 2016

Any student Coop member with membership dues paid for the current year may petition to be a candidate on the election ballot. A Petition application is available online at www.thecoop.com.

The Petition period is March 17 to March 30, 2014. For complete Petition rules consult the information posted in the election section on the Coop website.



www.thecoop.com

NCAA Fencing Championships held at Ohio State

For the second year in a row, Joseph F. Rafidi '14 will represent MIT at the NCAA Fencing Championship and he will be joined by Cordelia G. Avery '17 at the competition scheduled to begin this Thursday at Ohio State. Qualifiers for epee and sabre, Rafidi and Avery are the lone Division III participants in their respective weapons.

this month, marking the fourth year in a row the Engineers have received a sabre entry and the second straight season a rookie will be representing the women's team on the national scene. She racked up a ledger of 59-12 in dual competitions as her 17-1 record in Northeast Fencing Conference action resulted in first-team All-Star accolades.

NCAA Northeast Regional this year, he captured first place at the New England Championship and generated a total of 34-9 in dual competitions.

Avery makes her national debut at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday with action continuing at 9:00 a.m. the following day. Rafidi, meanwhile, takes to the strip at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday with rounds four and five starting at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. For more information about the NCAA Championship, including live results and video of the semifinal and championship bouts, log on to <http://www.ncaa.com/fencing>.

Saturday, March 22

Baseball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy	12 p.m., Briggs Field
Women's Lacrosse vs. Babson College	1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Baseball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy	2:30 p.m., Briggs Field

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Makes strong showing at Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference tournament

On March 9, the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club competed at the Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference (ECTC) tournament hosted by Princeton University. MIT faced many tough and experienced teams from schools such as Princeton and Cornell. With around 400 competitors, the team came in second in the overall competition with a total of 347 points.

MIT's team dominated the poomsae competition, and many team members medaled in their respective divisions. In the black belt division, Michelle W. Chen '14 captured first place, and Andrew J. Mandelbaum G and Isaac Fenta '14 both won bronze. In the Red Belt forms, Kevin Hu '15 and Tam T. Nyugen G won gold, with Shapagat Berdibek '15 and Shirley Tsang '14 both earning bronze. Yang Dai '16 was first in the blue belt competition, and Akwasi Owusu-Akyaw '17 won third place in the yellow belt division.

In addition to excelling in forms, the team placed well in the sparring portion of the tournament. The men's B1 team (Hu, Tahin F. Syed G, Benjamin I. Shaibu '14) and the men's C1 team (Emmanuel Fasil '17, Owusu-Akyaw '17, Eric R. Klinkhammer '15) made it to the quarterfinals in their respective divisions. The women's A2 team (Nyugen, Maria Alexis G, Andy Guatemala '16) also reached the quarterfinals in a challenging bracket. The women's A1 team consisting of Jessica J. Yang '15, Chen '14, and Lori Ling G fought hard in every match and triumphed over University of Michigan and Princeton to capture silver. The women's B1 team (Tiffany Chen G, Casey L. Denham '15, Tsang '14) made it to the finals, where they pushed through a tough match against Cornell for the gold.

Each team member showcased their determination and the results of their training in every match. The team remains focused and ready to train even harder in preparation for the upcoming National Collegiate Tournament in California and one more ECTC tournament at RPI in April.



Daniel J. Stallworth '14 competes in the Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference tournament hosted at Princeton University on March 9. With around 400 competitors, the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club came in second in the overall competition.



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