

## Professional Education Programs

Academic year 2006–2007 was the fifth year of operation for the School of Engineering's Professional Education Programs office (PEP). PEP was established in 2002 under the leadership of the School of Engineering as the umbrella organization for professional education activities at MIT. It includes both new and longstanding MIT professional certificate programs. All PEP programs are delivered by MIT faculty and promote technical excellence and innovation through ongoing educational engagement with industry. Programs address the needs of science and engineering professionals to keep up to date with the latest advances and to remain competitive.

### Current Goals, Objectives, Priorities

PEP seeks to establish a leadership position for MIT and the School of Engineering in the area of lifelong learning in engineering and technical fields. It aims to create a broad impact through the delivery of highest-quality educational experiences for professionals, utilizing both traditional and emerging delivery methods. PEP operates on an "enterprise" basis and is self-supporting. Its programs deliver both tangible and intangible benefits designed to support MIT's educational mission, further ties with industry, and enhance MIT's leadership. Principles that guide PEP include the following:

- Operate on an enterprise model
- Build a small, cost-effective, results-oriented organization
- Respect faculty and other units' ownership and control
- Deliver broad impact and benefits to MIT

During its fifth year, PEP focused on developing two new major partnership programs, for British Petroleum (BP) and Accenture; on offering a new midcareer program for professionals reentering the workforce or retooling for new careers; and on making ongoing improvements to customer service and marketing.

### Accomplishments and Program Developments

During FY2007, PEP reached the following key milestones:

- Partnered with Accenture to design and launch a new training and certification program for its Global Solutions Workforce. This program is designed to help meet the global need for a highly skilled information technology (IT) workforce.
- In partnership with MIT Sloan's Office of Executive Education, designed and launched a six-week executive program for BP focusing on operations and modeled after the highly successful Projects Academy, now in its fifth year.
- Graduated the first class of nine in the new MIT Midcareer Acceleration Program (<http://midcareer.mit.edu/>). This new certificate program with MIT course and internship components is designed to provide the advanced education and experience needed for career reentry or significant career change.

- Maintained and expanded enrollments across major programs, including the Professional Institute and the Advanced Study Program.

Individual PEP program milestones and developments included the following:

- Advanced Study Program (ASP) (<http://web.mit.edu/advancedstudy/>). Continued to offer professionals the opportunity to attend MIT for a semester or a year and pursue a customized academic program of MIT courses. ASP enrolled 56 company-sponsored fellows to MIT this year (11 full time, 4 half time, and 41 part time). This year marks the 50th year since inception of ASP, and the 43rd year of its operation.
- Professional Institute (<http://professional.mit.edu/>). Offered 31 weeklong summer session professional programs taught by 43 MIT faculty to 700 individuals from the United States and around the world. This marks an increase in enrollment of 20 percent over the previous year and the highest level since summer 2001. Nine programs were canceled. Enrollments are predicted to continue to increase in summer 2007. This year marks the 57th year of operation for the Professional Institute (formerly the Summer Session).
- MIT World (<http://mitworld.mit.edu/>). This five-year-old free and open video-streaming website of significant public events added 90 new videos from more than 30 different MIT sources. In total, it hosts 444 videos of major events hosted by more than 60 departments, labs, centers, programs, and groups, with new additions monthly. FY2007 marks the third year MIT World has been directly linked off the MIT home page. Use of videos increased 40 percent, with an average of 118,925 videos streamed each month. Web traffic increased 29 percent, with an average of 299,506 page hits per month. In total, 1,427,108 videos were streamed to lifelong learners across the globe.
- Custom Programs. Two offsite custom programs were offered, one in internal combustion engines for Harley Davidson in Milwaukee, WI, and a second on leadership for engineering faculty at Carnegie Mellon University. PEP continued to offer the Projects Academy, a multiyear executive education program for BP offered jointly with the Sloan School of Management since 2002. To date, 190 BP major project leaders have graduated from this program, and 68 BP executives have attended a related short course.

## Funding

No new external funding was received this year.

## Future Plans

Plans for FY2008 include the following:

- *Expand outreach activities, both within campus and beyond.* This year we plan to launch a PEP newsletter as well as a seminar series with professional organizations to highlight the research and education of MIT faculty participating in PEP programs.

- *Engage in ongoing development of marketing activities.* Continue to build organizational abilities that increase MIT's exposure and presence in the area of professional education and enhance enrollments in PEP programs.
- *Engage in ongoing program developments that meet with faculty approval and address external needs in the area of professional education.* Continue to expand certificate programs by offering faculty curriculum development grants for short courses in energy and other strategic areas.

### **Personnel Information**

New appointments this year include Anna Mahr joining as professional programs manager, with Mary Hertema-Miller moving into the new position of academic programs coordinator and Laura Ziukaite-Hansen joining as associate director of custom programs with responsibility for the new BP program. Heather Vigeveno was promoted to the new position of professional programs coordinator. Mary P. Smith and J. Juniper O'Hare Friedman both joined as professional programs assistants. Lisa Walker left MIT.

PEP is fortunate to have an outstanding professional staff and the contributions of all, both current and former, are greatly appreciated.

**Jennifer Stine**  
**Executive Director**

*More information about PEP may be found at <http://web.mit.edu/mitpep/>.*