

## Professional Education Programs

Academic year 2007–2008 was the sixth 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 but nimble, cost-effective, results-oriented organization
- Respect faculty ownership of courses
- Deliver broad impact and benefits to industry professionals and MIT

During its sixth year, PEP focused on growing Professional Institute short course enrollment, maintaining and enhancing two major partnership programs with British Petroleum (BP) and Accenture, enhancing its one-year-old midcareer program for professionals reentering the workforce or retooling for new careers, and making ongoing improvements to customer service and marketing.

### Accomplishments and Program Developments

During FY2008, PEP reached the following key milestones:

- Professional Institute enrollment in summer courses jumped from 697 in 2007 to close to 900 for 2008.
- In partnership with MIT Sloan's Office of Executive Education, PEP delivered a six-week executive program for BP focusing on operations and modeled after the highly successful Projects Academy, now in its sixth year.
- The MIT PEP Accenture Solutions Delivery Academy awarded its first group of certificates to over 500 enrollees world-wide. Additionally, a faculty lecture series was launched with MIT Faculty members giving talks in Bangalore, London, Paris, and Manila.

- The second class of six graduated from the MIT Midcareer Acceleration Program. This certificate program with MIT course and internship components is designed to provide advanced education and experience needed for career reentry or significant career change.
- A PEP newsletter was launched to expand outreach activities, both internally and externally.

Individual PEP program milestones and developments included the following:

- Thirty-six Professional Institute courses varying from one to six days in length, taught by 37 MIT faculty, were offered for summer 2007. A number of these faculty taught two different courses. Total enrollment for on-campus courses for summer 2007 was 697. For summer 2008, the Professional Institute will be offering 43 courses. Current enrollment is already close to 900 with increasing faculty involvement. This year marked the 58th year of operation for the Professional Institute, formerly the Summer Session. For more information, see <http://professionalinstitute.mit.edu/>.
- Six participants in the Midcareer Acceleration Program with backgrounds in biology, mathematics, physics, mechanical engineering, and information technology took a variety of courses and interned at local hospitals, medical schools, and on the MIT campus. Significant efforts were placed on raising the awareness of this program through marketing campaigns targeted at local alumni and professional societies. To learn more about the program, see <http://midcareer.mit.edu/>.
- The Advanced Study Program (ASP) 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 company-sponsored fellows to MIT this year (17 full time, and 43 part time). This year marks the 51st year since inception of ASP, and the 44th year of its operation. See the ASP website at <http://advancedstudy.mit.edu/>.
- One offsite custom program was offered for BAE Systems in Johnson City, NY, on design of motors, generators, and drivers.

PEP continued to offer the Projects Academy, a multiyear executive education program for BP administered jointly with the Sloan School of Management since 2002. This year, Projects Academy was renamed “Projects and Engineering Academy” to reflect a focus on engineering in major projects. To date, 185 BP major project leaders have graduated from this program, and 85 BP executives have attended a related short course. PEP also continued to offer the Operations Academy, which was built on the success of the Projects Academy and launched in 2007. Designed to be a multiyear executive education program for BP’s operations leaders, it is also offered jointly with the Sloan School of Management. The first cadre of 33 BP senior operations leaders graduated from this program in June 2008. In addition, 42 BP senior executives have attended a related Executive Session.

## Funding

No new external funding was received this year.

## Future Plans

Plans for FY2009 include the following:

- Enhance outreach activities both within campus and beyond, with a new initiative to address international markets, beginning with Singapore, where MIT has a long-standing presence via the Singapore–MIT Alliances.
- Continue 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.
- Create/participate in a social network that encourages alumni of all PEP programs to engage with each other, resulting in ongoing exposure to PEP.
- 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.

## Personnel Information

New appointments include Bhaskar Pant as the new executive director of PEP and Dawna Levenson as the new associate director for academic programs. Jennifer Stine, Mary Hertema-Miller, and Mary Smith left MIT.

### **Bhaskar Pant** Executive Director

*More information about Professional Education Programs may be found at <http://mitpep.mit.edu/>.*