

Institute Events

The mission of Institute Events is to meet the information needs of the MIT community, campus visitors, and the public; to promote a sense of community within MIT; and to support conferences and events that enhance MIT's role in the broader academic community. In AY2011, Institute Events comprised the Events and Information Center, the Community Services Office, and MIT Conference Services, as well as the planning and execution of MIT's sesquicentennial celebration.

Events and Information Center

Beyond serving as an information and welcome point for visitors, the Information Center plays an important role as a central information source for the MIT community. Over the past year, the staff assisted with the registration of 1,188 departmental events and 246 Lobby 7 kiosk registrations. In addition to answering and redirecting thousands of telephone and in-person inquiries, Information Center staff distributed 67,348 pamphlets, brochures, maps, guides, and catalogs. Staff also continued to oversee scheduling of the Bush Room, managing 437 reservations for that space.

The undergraduate student guides number 85. Among them, they conducted tours for 42,438 visitors, of whom 13,886 were prospective students. Private group tours were given to 5,478 individuals, including 3,332 prospective students.

The director and center staff were involved with, or directly responsible for, the logistical management of many events throughout the year, including the president's welcome convocation for incoming freshmen and their families; a reception honoring Esther Duflo, the 2010 recipient of the John Bates Clark Medal; the fall State of the Institute forum; the annual Killian Award Lecture; a Karl Taylor Compton Lecture given by the secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano; a campus visit from Senator Scott Brown (R-MA); meetings with and lecture by Craig Mundie, Microsoft chief technology officer; and a visit and address by Madame Liu Yandong, state councilor of the People's Republic of China. Staff also assisted in the dedicatory celebrations for the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research in March and the new home for the Sloan School of Management faculty, Building E62, in May.

The community gatherings for the whole campus continued in 2010–2011. The winter break in Lobby 7 in December was followed by a spring picnic in March at the Johnson Athletic Center ice rink in honor of Phillip L. Clay, outgoing chancellor. A welcome reception in Lobby 7 was held for W. Eric L. Grimson, incoming chancellor.

Commencement festivities began on Thursday, June 2, when 450 doctoral degree recipients received their academic hoods in a ceremony over which Chancellor Grimson presided. The 145th Commencement exercises were held on Friday, June 3. Guest speaker and MIT Corporation member, Ursula M. Burns, addressed an audience of 2,400 degree recipients and 10,000 family members, alumni, and guests.

Staff within Institute Events include Gayle Gallagher, Ted Johnson, Joseph Coen, Rebecca Tyler, Lee Corbett, Kimberly Nelson, Rachel Russell, and Judith Zinker.

MIT Sesquicentennial Celebration

The sesquicentennial celebration, known as MIT150, began on January 7 with an event to open the MIT150 Exhibition at the MIT Museum. The anniversary offered the community more than 66 symposia, as well as performances, exhibits, and art installations throughout the 150-day celebration. The combined attendance for all events reached nearly 75,000 people. In addition, the Alumni Association held 164 events across the globe, and MIT departments and student organizations arranged more than 120 events and programs in honor of the anniversary. The interactive MIT150 website was visited by 295,621 people from 189 countries.

The centerpiece of the MIT150 program was the Next Century Convocation on Charter Day (April 10) at which nearly 8,000 people gathered at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. John S. Reed '61, SM '65, chairman of the MIT Corporation, opened the program. Speakers were Susan Hockfield, 16th president of MIT; the Honorable David S. Ferriero, 10th archivist of the United States; Lotte Bailyn, T. Wilson (1953) professor of management emerita; Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, professor of city planning and senior advisor to the president; Robert S. Langer, Jr. ScD '74, David H. Koch Institute Professor, departments of Biological Engineering and Chemical Engineering; David A. Mindell PhD '96, chair of the MIT150 Steering Committee, Dibner professor of the history of engineering and manufacturing, professor of aeronautics and astronautics, and head of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society; Phillip A. Sharp, Institute Professor, Department of Biology; and Sheila E. Widnall '60, SM '61, ScD '64, Institute Professor, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Engineering Systems Division. The program featured a renewal of the Institute's 1861 charter and original music composed by six MIT faculty members and performed by more than 300 students.

The six MIT150 symposia were conceived, developed, and executed by MIT faculty. Each symposium focused on large, synthetic questions; crossed multiple schools and departments; and sought to be a significant, watershed moment in the intellectual history of the subject under examination. The symposia were titled: "Economics and Finance: From Theory to Practice to Policy"; "Conquering Cancer through the Convergence of Science and Engineering"; "Leaders in Science and Engineering: The Women of MIT"; "Computation and the Transformation of Practically Everything"; "Earth, Air, Ocean and Space: The Future of Exploration"; and "Brains, Minds and Machines". The series included 175 presenters from MIT and around the globe and was attended by 5,254 registered individuals.

The four events in the Human Diversity and Social Order Forum Series examined how the inherent and occasionally difficult diversity of humans works to shape their lives, their creativity, and the political and social context of their existence. The series featured 16 presenters and was organized by Wesley L. Harris, the Charles Stark Draper professor of aeronautics and astronautics and associate provost for faculty equity, and Leon Trilling, professor emeritus of aeronautics and astronautics.

MIT hosted “Under the Dome: Come Explore MIT!” on April 30. A showcase of discovery and innovation, the open house was attended by more than 20,000 people—including 12 buses full of schoolchildren—who participated in more than 300 activities organized by 140 groups and departments. Almost every segment of the Institute, from cancer research to aeronautics and the performing arts, opened its doors with demonstrations, lectures, and activities to engage the community. The student-organized flash mob performance in Lobby 7 was enjoyed by hundreds of spectators and later reached more 40,000 YouTube viewers. The open house planning committee was cochaired by Paul A. Lagacé, professor of aeronautics and astronautics and engineering systems, and Elizabeth Cogliano Young, associate dean from the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming.

The Festival of Art, Science and Technology (FAST) highlighted MIT’s legacy of creative experimentation in fields such as music technology, interactive media, and architectural installation. It also showcased current projects at the nexus of art, science, and technology. Directed by Tod Machover, professor of music and media, FAST presented an exciting, surprising variety of work that ranged from past to future, performance to debate, and installations to the unclassifiable. FAST appeared throughout the MIT campus and extended over the entire spring term, punctuated by five special festival weekend events: FAST Past, FAST Thinking, FAST Opera, FAST Future, and FAST Light. The total attendance for all FAST events is estimated at 32,688. These events included 10 unique artistic performances, four exhibitions, and 22 commissioned installations by faculty and students.

The MIT Global Challenge supports innovation and entrepreneurship as public service through an annual competition designed to connect students who have the passion and talent to improve the world with the experience and resources of the MIT community worldwide. In AY2011, its first year, 45 teams comprising more than 120 students competed for awards that would convert their innovative ideas into real benefits for local and global disadvantaged communities. Eighty-four alumni, faculty, staff, and industry leaders from around the world participated in the judging process and more than 14,000 people from 119 countries participated in the online community choice vote. The fourteen winning team projects represented true ingenuity in many areas, including education, water and sanitation, medical devices, energy, and other sectors. They were presented with a total \$145,000, which will be used to move their projects forward over the next year.

The Institute Archives and Special Collections contributed to MIT150 with the research and coordination of the MIT150 Timeline. This project, which will continue beyond 2011, celebrates more than 400 accomplishments and achievements of the past 150 years and makes more of the Institute’s history accessible to the world through online, interactive technology.

The MIT Press published two books during AY2011 for MIT150. Edited by professor David Kaiser, *Becoming MIT: Moments of Decision* examines a series of turning points and crucial decisions that helped define MIT. Contributors included Lotte Bailyn, Deborah Douglas, John Durant, Susan Hockfield, Nancy Hopkins, David Kaiser, Christophe

Lécuyer, Stuart W. Leslie, Bruce Sinclair, and Merritt Roe Smith. Additionally, in *A Widening Sphere: Evolving Cultures at MIT*, Philip Alexander traces MIT's evolution from polytechnic to major research institution through the lives of its first nine presidents, exploring how the ideas, outlook, approach, and personality of each shaped the school's intellectual and social cultures.

A key program of MIT150, the Infinite History project, captured and delivers 104 personal recollections of events and people in the Institute's history. Subjects included those who have had a major and direct impact on MIT across a broad spectrum of groups, including faculty, staff, and alumni. A new lecture browser technology aids research and enables viewers to enjoy the interviews in-depth, while permitting simultaneous viewing of the videos and reading of their corresponding transcripts. The browser also provides users the ability to search the videos and the entire collection for specific topics.

President and professor emeritus Paul E. Gray hosted a luncheon to honor members of the community who have shared 50 years of MIT's history through a combination of employment, academic enrollment, and active volunteer service. The "semi-centennial achievers" event was led by professor Jeffrey A. Meldman and a planning committee that included Professors Gray, Mildred Dresselhaus, Arthur P. Mattuck, and Steven R. Tannenbaum. More than 250 community members were invited and 130 attended, including Jack H. Frailey and professor emeritus Jay W. Forrester, both of whom were recognized for over 70 years of service. Professor Sheila E. Widnall was the keynote speaker and Paul Gray led a session during which attendees shared reminisces about their experiences at MIT and the many mentors, colleagues, and friends who have been part of their lives for the past half-century.

MIT150 concluded on June 5. On the night of Saturday, June 4, an estimated 8,000 alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends filled Killian Court for Toast to Tech, a celebration that included champagne, fireworks, a cake modeled on MIT's campus, and a view across the river to the Prudential Tower, which was lit in tribute to MIT and read "MIT150".



Photo by Dominick Reuter.

Professor David A. Mindell, head of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society, chaired the MIT150 Steering Committee. Gayle Gallagher, senior director for MIT150, led program staff that included Ted Johnson as the director of planning and operations, Rebecca Tyler, who coordinated communications for MIT150 and Institute Events, and Kimberly Nelson, administrative assistant for the staff and the committee. Additional staff dedicated to the program included SharonLeah Brown, MIT150 program coordinator, Amy Helfman, MIT150 webmaster, and Ken Irwin, MIT150 program coordinator. Kristyn Maiorca '11 and Michael Berry '10 staffed the MIT150 welcome lounge in room 26-110, which offered visitor and community information about the program. The lounge also offered the opportunity to view an MIT150 video and objects on loan from the MIT Museum.

Community Services Office

The Community Services Office is home to the MIT Activities Committee (MITAC), the Quarter Century Club (QCC), the Association of MIT Retirees, Community Giving at MIT, and the MIT retirement dinner. These programs aim to optimize the work/life experience for faculty, staff, students, and retirees by providing opportunities to participate in social, educational, and cultural activities that strengthen the connection between MIT and community members.

MITAC and staff organized more than 250 cultural and recreational events and served 4,800 unique customers who enjoyed substantial savings, estimated at \$168,613, on tickets purchased. MITAC's total annual revenue exceeded \$558,000, which is an increase of \$34,000, with close to 31,000 tickets sold on campus and at the Lincoln Laboratory. MITAC's total customer base stands at 17,800.

MITAC staff replaced the printed monthly flyer with an electronic digest (distributed to 17,800 employees and other interested MIT subscribers) and an electronic weekly newsletter (emailed to 7,900 enrolled subscribers). These initiatives have been well-received, cost-effective, green, and have increased traffic to the updated MITAC website, which receives an average 6,050 visits per month.

A presidentially appointed MITAC Advisory Council of 10 members was established effective September 1, 2010; it is chaired by professor Clifton G. Fonstad, Jr. The council provides guidance to the MITAC committee and program on Institute priorities, policies, business practices, long-range planning, and the administration of the employee benefit program. The MITAC committee is led by Cheryl Vossmer (Campus) and Karen Shaw (Lincoln Laboratory).

The QCC is composed of 3,794 active members, 173 of whom were inducted this year. Retiree Yvonne Gittens is the president of the QCC and led a 16-member board of directors. Treasurer Frederick Crowley retired this year; Bonny Kellermann was elected treasurer effective July 1, 2011.

Community Giving at MIT is a workplace giving effort that serves as a conduit between the MIT employee and retiree community and the MIT Community Service Fund, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, and other health

and human service agencies. In FY2011, the program further consolidated its printed communications and improved its website, reporting tools, and online giving options. The campaign raised \$244,250 through donations made by 465 employees and retirees, with 83 percent of donors contributing online, an increase of nine percent from FY2010. Professor Roger Kamm served as campaign chair and led a steering committee of 12 faculty and staff members.

The Association of MIT Retirees, led by chairs Nancy Alusow and Jane Griffin and the 19-member volunteer advisory committee, organized membership, travel, educational, and social programming, and initiated an ongoing memoir-writing workshop for the benefit of its 800 registered members. FY2011 staff members were Ted Johnson, Traci Swartz, Diane Betz Tavitian, Linda Olson, Michael Philbrick, and Chris Ronsicki. Michael replaced Lee Denton-Smith in his position this year.

MIT Conference Services

MIT Conference Services (MITCS) provides logistical coordination and registration services to conferences, meetings, educational programming, and other events sponsored by MIT departments, faculty, and staff. This year, the office supported 35 programs that brought nearly 15,000 guests to campus and the surrounding area. During the academic year, MITCS also coordinated 111 recruitment presentations for organizations interviewing MIT undergraduates under the auspices of the MIT Career Development Center. In addition, the office served as the central booking point for more than 400 conferees staying in MIT residence halls in the months of June and August.

MITCS played a key role in the planning and execution of the MIT150 Symposia and managed recurring events that included the MIT Vice President for Finance Provider Fair, the International Genetically Engineered Machines Competition, the Annual Meeting of the MIT Council for the Arts, the Deshpande Center IdeaStream Conference, the MIT System Design and Management Systems Thinking Conference, the Industrial Liaison Program Research and Development Conference, the Sixth MIT Conference on Computational Fluid & Solid Mechanics, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. MIT-hosted international conferences included the Brazil–MIT Forum, Dynamic Walking 2010, and the International Workshop on Multiscale Unstructured Mesh Numerical Ocean Modeling. MITCS again provided coordination services to summer youth activities, including the International Baccalaureate Summer Program offered by Oxford Study Courses, the Sally Ride Girls Science Camp, the idTech Camp and Programming Academy, and the Lead America Engineering and Robotics Conference. MITCS staff members during AY2011 were Cathi Levine, manager; Eva Cabone, Nicole Silva, and Lynne Lenker. MIT retiree Virginia Lauricella continued to provide valuable support to the team.

Gayle M. Gallagher
Senior Director