

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. Institute Events comprises the MIT Information Center, MIT Community Services, and MIT Conference Services.

MIT Information Center

In addition to serving as an information and welcome point for visitors, the MIT Information Center plays an important role as a central information source for the MIT community. In the past year, the staff assisted faculty and administrative staff with the registration of 1,182 departmental events and 233 Lobby 7 kiosk registrations. Center staff provided training sessions for users of the online events calendar; distributed 73,600 pamphlets, brochures, maps, guides, and catalogues; answered and redirected thousands of telephone and in-person enquires; and served as a clearinghouse for mail addressed simply to MIT. Oversight of the Bush Room continued and 419 reservations for the space were managed. Joseph Coen is the manager of the center; support staff are Lee Corbett and Judith Zinker. Colette Stevenson left the center in June, relocating as her husband begins a faculty appointment at Northwestern University. Her responsibilities included coordination of visits for nearly 100 international delegations to the campus.

The undergraduate student guides number 91. They conducted tours for 40,904 visitors, of whom nearly 19,000 were 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; the fall state of the institute forum; support for MIT's reaccreditation process in October; the campus visit by President Barack Obama in October; a visit by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco; support for the December meeting of the MIT Corporation in the newly opened Media Lab Complex; and activities in collaboration with the China Forum, the India Forum, and the Institute panel discussions Health Care Reform and Should Google Stay in China. In the spring, MIT hosted David Miliband, United Kingdom foreign secretary, who on a rare visit to campus since receiving an SM in political science in 1990, gave a Compton lecture. MIT also welcomed Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates and United States secretary of homeland security Janet Napolitano to campus in late spring. The MIT community gathered to celebrate the life and service to the Institute of MIT president emeritus Howard Johnson in April.

The recent tradition of community gatherings for the whole campus continued in 2009–2010, with an event in Killian Court in September to highlight MIT's environmental initiatives; a music-themed winter break held on the student street in the Stata Center; and a farewell celebration in May for Steven Lerman, vice chancellor and dean for

graduate education, who left MIT in June to become provost at George Washington University. Dean Lerman's tenure on campus spanned 40 years, during which he was a student, faculty member, administrator, and housemaster.

Commencement festivities began on Thursday, June 3, when 400 doctoral degree recipients received their academic hoods in a ceremony presided over by chancellor Phillip Clay. The 143rd commencement exercises were held on Friday, June 4. Guest speaker and MIT Corporation member Raymond Stata '57, SM '58 addressed an audience of 2,380 degree recipients and 10,000 family members, alumni, and guests.

MIT Community Services

MIT Community Services 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 and cultural activities. These engagements strengthen the connection between MIT and community members. Staff members during AY2010 year were Ted Johnson, Traci Swartz, Diane Betz Tavitian, Linda Olson, Lee Denton-Smith, and Chris Ronsicki.

MITAC delivered a productive year and implemented several new initiatives. With guidance from the committee, MITAC staff organized more than 250 cultural and recreational events and served 4,600 unique customers who enjoyed substantial savings of \$145,696 on tickets purchased. MITAC's total annual revenue exceeded \$524,000, with more than 29,000 tickets sold on campus (81 percent) and Lincoln Laboratory (19 percent). MITAC's total customer base stands at 17,000. This year, MITAC increased the number of new and repeat customers, the number of transactions, and total customer savings.

MITAC staff developed and launched an electronic monthly digest and an electronic weekly newsletter, the MITAC Insider. The electronic monthly digest, which replaced a printed monthly flyer, is distributed to 17,000 employees and 7,500 other interested MIT subscribers. The transition to an electronic flyer saved money and natural resources, increased traffic to the MITAC website (6,500–7,000 visits per month), and contributed to greater visibility for the program.

Conveners Cheryl Vossmer (campus) and Karen Shaw (Lincoln Laboratory) led a 15-member committee. Three members resigned from the committee and were replaced for FY2011. MITAC was decommissioned as a presidential committee effective June 30, 2010. MITAC will remain involved with programming and serve as a vibrant connection between MIT and the community. A presidentially appointed MITAC advisory board will be established in FY2011. The board will provide guidance to the committee and program on Institute priorities, policies, business practices, long-range planning, and the administration of the employee benefit program.

QCC is composed of 3,636 active members. This year **188 new members** were inducted, the largest class in recent memory. New inductees were addressed by president Susan Hockfield and welcomed by QCC members who recently achieved the 50-year service milestone. The club organized three seasonal events in addition to the induction luncheon.

Retiree Yvonne Gittens is the president of QCC and led a 15-member board of directors. A primary focus of the board was to increase the number of applications for grants through the William R. Dickson Retiree Education Fund, a benefit for retired QCC members. As a result of concerted efforts to promote the fund, 16 grants were awarded, with eight grants awarded to new applicants. Through rigorous planning, the board also elected to expand the Dickson fund's charter to offer further access to the fund. Now the fund awards grants for classes aimed at health, wellness, and fitness goals in addition to educational pursuits. The response to the expanded guidelines was positive and the number of new applications has increased.

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. The campaign raised \$255,922 through donations made by 472 employees and retirees. The United Way received \$126,359; MIT Community Service Fund \$72,176; and other local charities \$57,387. Fundraisers, including a campus dining discount day, campus and Lincoln Laboratory book sales, a bake sale, and mobile phone and food collections, raised \$6,142. Overall, the campaign experienced a 12.5 percent decline in donations. The program further consolidated its printed communications and improved its website and online giving options. Seventy-one percent of donors contributed online, an increase of nine percent from FY2009. Professor Roger Kamm served as campaign chair and led a steering committee of 12 faculty and staff members.

The Association of MIT Retirees served more than 800 registered members. Led by three cochairs, the 20-member volunteer advisory committee organized membership, travel, and educational and social programming. Nancy Alusow joined Richard Dolbec and Jane Griffin as cochairs following Robert Blake's resignation as cochair. The MIT Retirees Undergraduate Education Scholarship Fund remains an important priority and has raised more than \$36,200 from retiree donations since its inception in FY2007. A third scholarship was awarded to Elizabeth Holly Bellocchio '10, great-granddaughter of Karl Taylor Compton (MIT president 1930–48).

MIT Conference Services

MIT Conference Services manages logistical coordination and registration services for conferences and meetings sponsored by MIT faculty and staff. This year, the office coordinated logistics for 40 events that brought more than 12,000 guests to campus, and more than 350 were housed in MIT residence halls during the summer. Recurring events included the MIT Provider Fair; the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition; the Council for the Arts annual meeting in the fall, as well as their spring meeting at which the McDermott Award was presented to conductor Gustavo Dudamel; the MIT Seminar for Senior Congressional and Executive Branch

Staff; and the Martin Luther King Breakfast. Additional events held on campus were sponsored by the Oxford Study Program, Sally Ride Science Camps, People to People, and Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Conferences held included Lead America Engineering and Robotics, Engaging Data First International Forum, Industrial Liaison Program 2009 MIT Research and Development, Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professional Association, MIT Learning International Networks Consortium 2010, and MIT Smart Customization Seminar. The office coordinated presentations to MIT undergraduates by 140 organizations recruiting under the auspices of the MIT Careers Office.

MIT Conference Services staff members during AY2010 were Cathi Levine, manager; Eva Cabone, assistant coordinator; and Nicole Silva, events registration assistant. Nancy Cain left the office in January to join the Singapore-MIT Alliance headquarters. Lynne Lenker joined the conference services office in the spring to provide financial services support. Jeannie Lauricella continued to provide support throughout all of the offices within Institute Events.

MIT's Sesquicentennial Celebration

The MIT150 Steering Committee spent AY2010 completing the sketch of the sesquicentennial program as outlined in last year's report. The celebration spans the spring term, beginning on January 7 with the opening of the [MIT150 Exhibition](#) at the MIT Museum, and closes with Tech Day and reunions after Commencement. The intervening 150 days will feature a rich variety of academic programs and events that will reflect on the past and envision the future of MIT.

The crux of the MIT150 program is academic. January will bring the first in a series of cross-disciplinary symposia conceived, developed, and executed by MIT faculty, with a goal to create a series that will explore issues and topics of interest to MIT's community of scholars, students, and staff and to communicate those issues to the world. The steering committee issued a call for proposals in fall 2009 and in July 2010 announced the topics of the six MIT150 symposia: economic policy; integrative cancer research; women in science and engineering; the age of computation; exploration of earth, air, sea, and space; and brains, minds, and machines.

On April 10, MIT's Charter Day, there will be a convocation to which all members of the community are invited. This academic event is conceived in the spirit of the 1949 mid-century convocation and the theme will honor "habits of mind" inherent to MIT's community of teachers and scholars—integrity, service, creativity, diligence, and social responsibility. Guest speakers who exemplify these values will be invited in the coming months.

It has been many years since MIT hosted an open house, but on April 30, 2011, visitors to campus will be welcomed with tours, mini-lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities that will convey what MIT is about: the advancement of knowledge and the excitement of discovery. Outreach to engage departments, laboratories, and centers in programming for the event will begin in the fall.

From February to May, the campus will be enlivened by a festival to celebrate MIT's culture of innovation at the intersection of arts, science, and technology. The festival will grow over the spring term, punctuated by performances, exhibitions, discussions, demonstrations, and installations throughout the campus and beyond.

The Global Challenge is a competition organized by the Public Service Center in partnership with MIT150. It engages teams composed of MIT students, faculty, alumni, staff, and other collaborators worldwide in innovative entrepreneurship for the public good. The winners will be honored with funding to implement their plans.

The dedications of the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT in March and the new building at the MIT Sloan School of Management in May will be part of MIT150, as are two books to be published by the MIT Press. MIT150 produced an informational [website](#) in spring 2010 for use by the community and will launch a fully featured web presence on January 7, 2011. In the months leading up to the start of the 150-day period, there will be increased schedule and registration information available online. The anniversary will conclude by celebrating alumni and the commencement of the sesquicentennial class in June.

The MIT150 steering committee is chaired by professor David Mindell, director of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. Gayle Gallagher is senior director for MIT150 and Ted Johnson is the director of planning and operations. Rebecca Tyler has a dual role coordinating communications for MIT150 and Institute Events as a whole; Kimberly Nelson is the administrative assistant for the staff and committee. MIT150 welcomed new staff members Amy Helfman (webmaster) in April and Kenneth Irwin (program coordinator) in July.

Gayle M. Gallagher
Senior Director
Institute Events