

CACConnections

Official eNewsletter of the Campus Activities Complex at MIT

Summer 2009

Guitar Hero Tournament rocks the Coffeehouse Lounge

On March 18th, Guitar Hero players and fans descended upon the Student Center Coffeehouse Lounge to plug in and battle for MIT Guitar Hero supremacy. Fourteen talented student performers took to the stage to strut their stuff.

After three rounds of impressive performances (and a few nail-biting tie breakers), the guitars went silent, and the winners emerged.

The event was sponsored by the Campus Activities Complex as part of their continuing Student Center programming efforts. Nicole Messuri of our event planning staff organized the event with help from the Coffeehouse Lounge

Programming Committee. A special thanks goes out to our MC and CAC's Assistant Day Manager, CJ Azubuine and TIM, the Beaver, for making a special guest appearance.



From left to right: 3rd Place winner Graduate Student Brad Holschuh (Aero/Astro). 2nd Place winner Senior Kevin Yapsir (EECS) and 1st place winner Senior Andrew Marok (Management)

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Do you have an idea for a Coffeehouse Lounge student event?

Student groups can reserve the space for events with up to 50 people and all events must be open to the entire MIT Community. Use of the space includes the use of the upgraded AV equipment.





Message from the Director

As the end of another busy semester nears and people start to take a moment to enjoy the longer days, we would like to update you on the happenings at the CAC. First we highlight our Guitar Hero Tournament, which was an excellent example of the dynamic programming which happens in the renovated Coffeehouse Lounge. We also introduce you to our newest CAC team members, and in our building feature, we showcase the wonderful outdoor spaces which CAC stewards.

It is also important to note that as we enter a period of transition at MIT, the CAC stands ready to assist student groups, departments, and the MIT community to find new and innovative solutions to help make events affordable and to keep our spaces in excellent condition. We are expanding our partnerships with Facilities, Audio-Visual Services, and other service providers to bring increased value in our services. For example, we have installed self-help AV systems in more of our event rooms and will implement several energy efficient lighting projects in the Stata Center and Student Center. If you have suggestions and ideas on improvements, please contact us.

The CAC welcomes two new faces



In October 2008, **Tim Woods** joined our crew as an Assistant Night Manager. Tim holds a degree in Finance and brings twenty-seven years of facilities management experience from his time at the Boston Globe. Born and raised in Medford, MA, Tim is an avid sports fan and enjoys the drama of Boston area teams, especially the Patriots. In his spare time, Tim plays basketball and golf and enjoys spending time with his wife of 18 years and their three children. As part of our evening events team, Tim also works closely with the Walker Memorial Community, so please stop by and visit him during his office hours in Building 50.



In November, **Aaron Donaghey** returned to MIT as our Event Planning Assistant. With five years of MIT experience already under his belt, Aaron is a welcome addition to the CAC event planning team. Aaron helps our many campus event planners with their scheduling and logistical needs and also serves as our scheduling point person on Institute events like Campus Preview Weekend. A Massachusetts native, Aaron has a degree from Northeastern University in TV/Radio Communications. Aaron is a film actor and his credits include background roles in “The Departed” and “Human Stain”, as well as a series of commercials. Stop by our main office in W20-500 during the day to meet our newest staff member.

Outdoor Spaces Reawaken at the CAC

With the weather getting warmer and the days growing longer, consider hosting your event in one of our outdoor spaces.



Stratton Student Center Steps and Plaza

The Stratton Student Center Steps and Plaza have always served as major hub of activity. This area continues to be a focal point and has hosted a series of performances and vigils in recent years. Both these areas are reservable and can be used for performances or to promote campus events and groups.

A spectator peruses one of the original concept models that GM displayed for the Pontiac Firebird.

Kresge Outdoor Areas

Just a few feet from the famed auditorium, the Kresge Oval, Kresge Lawn, and Kresge BBQ Pits are perfect for informal recreational activities or just relaxing on the grass. Originally only three BBQ Pits existed by duPont. With the building of the Z-Center, the Pits were moved to the other side of Kresge and became 4 pits. All three outdoor areas are popular spots for barbeques, carnivals, and outdoor fairs.

Walker Lawn and McDermott Court

On the east side of campus, the Walker Lawn and McDermott Court provide additional green space. McDermott Court, known informally as the “Dot,” hosts Alexander Calder’s work “The Sail” and serves as an ideal site for barbeques and tented events. Walker Lawn between Walker Memorial and the Library provides a green shaded lawn with a view of the Charles River and is popular with weddings and picnics.

The League Gardeners’ Group volunteers as sales assistants when Endicott House staff host a plant sale in McDermott Court by the Calder stabile “The Big Sail.” Photo by the MIT Women’s League.



Did you know?

We installed tables with umbrellas and seating behind Kresge and picnic tables on the second floor patio of W20.

Quiet Retreats

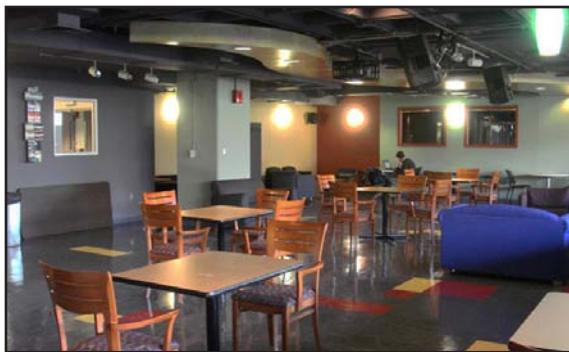
There are some great spots on campus to enjoy lunch, a book or just a peaceful moment outside. The **Julie Fassett Garden** (shown below) by the Kresge Parking Lot, is a nice retreat. Built in memory of the wife of Frederick Fassett, former MIT Associate Dean of Residence, and ideal for small wedding ceremonies, the garden provides a quiet spot away from the fast pace of MIT. The **duPont Garden** behind the Student Center, offers another quiet sanctuary with benches surrounded by beautiful flowering shrubs and trees. Our last garden is the small **MLK Jr. Garden** at the intersection of the Student Center Plaza and the pathway to the Chapel.



Photo by Melody Craven

Multimedia upgrades add convenience

Tired of lugging that projector to the Student Center? During the summer and IAP, CAC had MITAV upgrade the audio-visual capabilities of Room 491 and the Coffeehouse Lounge in the Stratton Student Center.



W20 Coffeehouse Lounge

Upgrades include

- Built-in sound systems
- Projectors
- CD and DVD capable
- Connects to laptops for presentations or ipod to play music for a rehearsal



TIM on the Town

TIM has been a busy beaver and we've caught him in the act! If you have any pictures of TIM or would like to have him at your event, let us know.



Top left: TIM and CAC "roadie" Nicole Messuri ready the gear for the GuitarHero Tournament in the Coffeehouse Lounge. Top right: TIM sneaks in a little practice before the tournament. Above: A student expresses his love of our mascot in a tender embrace.