

Dean for Student Life

The Division of Student Life (DSL) had another outstanding year. In Larry Benedict's final year as dean for student life, collaborations were strengthened, and the departments reorganized the previous year were solidified and began to experience the first fruits of those changes.

In October DSL hosted its Visiting Committee, whose members (and their response report) provided positive feedback on much of the work the division has accomplished during Dean Benedict's time at MIT; the committee members also offered recommendations for continuing on course in the future.

The Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) hosted its Visiting Committee as well. The committee was pleased with and supportive of the department's good work, commenting that "DAPER is uniquely well meshed, both with MIT's institutional and cultural uniqueness and with the unique and complex needs and interests of our students."

Among the significant milestones occurring over the past year:

- MIT's first chaplain to the Institute, Robert Randolph, was installed at a ceremony in November 2007.
- MIT and DSL welcomed a new athletic director and department head, Julie Soriero, in July 2007.
- DSL welcomed Student Disability Services, a new area in Student Support Services that will provide students with more comprehensive and accessible support for disability-related needs.
- The Office of Student Citizenship (formerly the Office of Student Mediation and Community Standards) changed its name to convey learning and development as a value and to actively engage students as citizens of MIT.
- Student Support Services served as a best practice model and was studied by Harvard, Dartmouth, and international institutions from Chile, Iceland, Scotland, and China.

While the work of DSL is constantly changing to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic student body, the mission and strategic objectives of that work remain the same as in past years and served to organize much of what was accomplished in the 2007–2008 academic year.

Strategic Objective 1

DSL's Strategic Objective 1 is to *guarantee that life outside the classroom—in residences, student activities, and other community interactions—is as rewarding and educational as the rest of the MIT experience*. The Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) has formalized the role of alumni risk manager advisor for fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups (FSILGs) to further connect alumni with chapters and facilitate updates on issues of mental health, police, city, and incoming class.

The Office of Student Citizenship has implemented a new case management system to simplify and streamline discipline cases, improve record keeping, and provide shared access to the discipline system for all involved (Committee on Discipline, housemasters, chancellor, etc.) in supporting students and ensuring their privacy at appropriate levels. A new record retention policy has also been initiated to increase transparency and develop trust in administrative processes.

The first chaplain to the Institute, Robert Randolph, was installed on September 30, 2007. The chaplain appointment underscores the role of religious life at MIT and fulfills a dream originally laid out more than a half-century ago. The chaplain will work alongside the members of the Board of Chaplains, who represent many religious traditions, to foster interfaith discourse and educate the MIT community about the history and role of religions around the world. Also noteworthy is that one of the presentations from the Chaplain's Seminar was included in *Vital Speeches*.

The Catholic Chaplaincy added a new woman campus minister in a part-time position.

In a collaboration between DAPER and Religious Life, single-gender swimming times were offered to accommodate students and community members who prefer to swim in a non-coed environment for a variety of reasons, including religious reasons.

Also, the Campus Activities Complex (CAC) collaborated with the Association of Student Activities and the Student Activities Office to create new shared group spaces in the Student Center and Walker to better accommodate the growing number of newly recognized organizations.

Campus Dining explored new dining options for students with a focus on flexibility, options, cost, and MIT community and culture.

The Blue Ribbon Committee on Residential Dining, composed of students, faculty, and staff, was created to address concerns about the cost of meal plans and devise a process for aligning future meal programs with MIT community goals, culture, and dining service objectives.

With the help of the new W1 housemasters (Jack Carroll and Suzanne Flynn), a founders group for the new W1 was created. The group, which includes 11 undergraduate students, will determine direction, culture, and leadership for the interim (NW35) and long-term (W1) residences.

Residence Life collaborated with graduate students and the Graduate Student Council to define what graduate student residential life should be and developed the student life program space for NW35, the new Ashdown graduate residence.

An on-campus residence for the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority was created through the repurposing of Green Hall from graduate to undergraduate use.

DAPER faculty, in collaboration with the Chemistry and Physics departments, offered for credit 8.01 Sports Physics and SP.235 Chemistry of Sports, through which students

were able to earn both academic and physical education credits while engaging in innovative learning opportunities with classroom and laboratory education.

CAC launched a new, robust Coffeehouse Lounge program that attracted 24 student group programs and presented a series of collaborative programs such as a DJ workshop, a poetry slam, and a Super Bowl party.

CopyTech made website improvements for ordering business cards and course packets, which simplified the process for incoming MBA students and reduced overall wait times.

Audio Visual Services improved student and community performance and meeting spaces through investing its reserve funds in new audiovisual technology installations and updates for MIT space in Kresge Auditorium and W20-491 in the Student Center. In addition, Audio Visual opened an audio-recording studio and production service to assist MIT students with audio needs for podcasts, narrations, and so forth.

Strategic Objective 2

DSL's Strategic Objective 2 is to *develop a broad range of opportunities that foster student leadership*. The Office of Student Leadership Development designed and initiated the Community Catalyst Leadership Program (<http://web.mit.edu/communitycatalyst/>), a development program incorporating a leadership coaching model, interactions with local alumni, and a self-assessment learning model for juniors at MIT.

The Community Development and Substance Abuse Center (CDSA) assisted students with implementing a community-level values program called ENTICE (Establishing Norms Through Interactive Community Education). The program provides a context for students to normalize behaviors, reset group norms socially and academically, devise goals for the community, and change the culture or climate of the community. During the past year, the program was piloted in two sororities and four fraternities. Results will be evaluated, published, and presented by students in the future.

The Public Service Center (PSC) enhanced its capacity to serve students through collaborative enterprises including the International House (iHouse), in partnership with Sandra and Wesley Harris and Bish Sanyal; the Student Financial Services partnership that enabled improvements in MIT's community service work-study placements and development of other job resources locally and across the United States; the Teach for America (TFA) partnership that established the Four Weeks for America Challenge, an Independent Activities Period (IAP) program that enables MIT students to support TFA teachers by developing math and science curricula; and the PSC Leadership Council, as part of its alumni engagement process and fundraising initiatives.

iHouse opened in fall 2007 and was based on a new living and learning model focusing on leadership development, international development issues, and custom-designed leadership programming, with \$50,000 dedicated in fundraising money for international development opportunities.

The FSILG communities were strengthened through the implementation of an AILG partnered accreditation process (36 were reviewed and received customized feedback), intentional leadership development programming, retreats (27 of 37 communities participated), and facilitation of self-governance FSILG councils (AILG, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic).

The new Dormitory Council Judicial Committee was created and empowered to hear certain student misconduct cases and to help each residence hall develop its own conflict resolution system best meeting its needs.

The Office of Student Leadership Development and its cross-divisional committee advanced a shared vision of an integrated approach to undergraduate student leadership development, with the principal aim of creating and sustaining a cohesive system of flexible programs and support resources that nurture student creativity while supporting the development of student leadership.

PSC secured a five-year, \$650,000 grant from the Lemelson Foundation to build an infrastructure for the International Development Initiative, to strengthen its relationship with the foundation, and to better serve MIT students by working with its other grantees worldwide, linking local innovators with MIT student innovators to promote entrepreneurship and leadership in international development.

DAPER expanded leadership development initiatives for students with the Sloan Innovation Period program, including a ropes course, event simulations, and scenario-based concepts, and a program in collaboration with student leadership development staff members to develop leadership competency among varsity team captains.

Strategic Objective 3

DSL's Strategic Object 3 is to *provide the highest standards of health and safety for students and other members of the MIT community*. Student Disability Services was formally integrated into DSL in an effort to provide a more holistic approach to student support, enhance students' learning potential with respect to Americans with Disabilities Act issues, build and train for risk management, and communicate student learning issues more effectively.

Student Support Services began the systematization of policies and procedures for greater transparency and student support, including formalization of the registration hold policies that ensure students' well-being and ability to learn in a healthy way.

The Office of Student Support enhanced its mechanisms of support for students in times of crisis or difficulty through the creation of the case management function and by helping to ensure that families are with students in times of crisis.

MIT revised the Institute's policy on alcohol and other drugs with the collaboration of, among others, DSL, the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, the Sloan School of Management, and students. The new policy was accepted in spring 2008 with no complaints.

Resources for Easing Friction and Stress (REFS) programs, department-based peer support programs run by graduate students, have been centralized with monthly in-service activities and Student Mediation serving as reference and support for individual departments. These low-threshold programs were expanded to include Mechanical Engineering, Health Sciences and Technology, and Biology this year.

Recognizing the strong link between nutrition and community health, Campus Dining collaborated with MIT Medical and the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness on several programs. Also, DAPER expanded its collaboration with the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness to offer courses for more students as well as a train-the-trainer workshop to ensure the sustainability of the program.

Residential Life conducted a comprehensive, Institute-wide security overview and enhanced all residential hall security programs.

MIT opened a separate security office, allowing the MIT Card Office to focus on its core business and providing a more specific focus on security and building access.

Audio Visual procured and implemented a new digital sign system that will allow for real-time communication, emergency notifications, and event announcements throughout the campus.

Strategic Objective 4

DSL's Strategic Objective 4 is to *marshal the resources of DSL to support its mission.*

Space

The MIT Real Estate Office began transferring lease oversight to Residential Life. Residential Life retained the FSILG Cooperative Inc. (FCI) in April to administer the leases. Housing freed up space to house graduate students by transitioning away from Senior Segue. DAPER enhanced the athletic and recreation experience through amenity and facility upgrades including a new sauna, golf range, and indoor track jumping pit; another addition was a new family/special needs shower and changing area. Audio Visual/Endicott installed flat-panel TVs and surround sound in two rooms at Endicott House to provide enhanced services to customers and to meet the needs of an internal customer, the Sloan School of Management.

Energy

During the past year, Housing Operations used compact fluorescents and recycled computers and mattresses. Dining halls are becoming more energy and earth friendly by expanding efforts to buy locally, saving energy associated with transportation.

Financial Resources

With financial assistance and advice from the Campus Police, CAC completed the installation of six card readers on student groups' offices/lounges and the dance studio, as well as alarms on the building's four exit doors, to enhance security in Walker

Memorial. The Student Activities Finance Office worked with Controller’s Accounting Office (CAO) and DSL administration to evaluate its financial processes, resulting in a closer working relationship with CAO and a new database for student organization financial transactions. Both of these outcomes will greatly enhance the services we are able to offer student groups.

More student organizations than ever took advantage of the Card Office service of accepting TechCASH for donations, this year enabling student organizations to raise \$45,000, an increase of 80 percent over last year. In addition, the TechCASH/Card Office partnership with the Alumni Association created new opportunities for the Class Gift, including the ability, by students, to leave their TechCASH balance and designate the student survey payment to the Class Gift, which allowed them to earn credit for contributions and increased contributions by 80 percent to \$11,561.

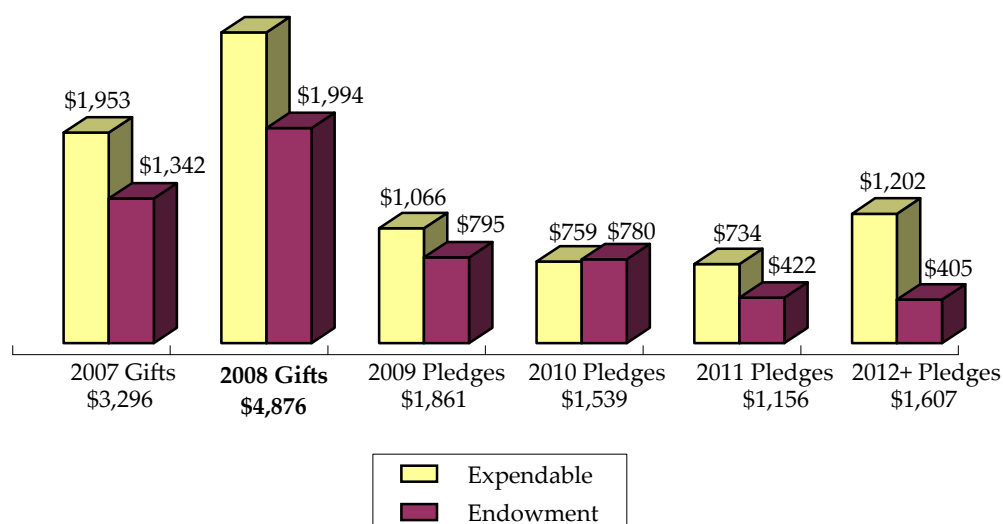
Outreach and Development

DSL fundraising efforts have resulted in significant increases in giving to the DSL general, endowed, and capital funds.

Total donations grew by 48 percent from 2007 to 2008, with notable gifts made to the Community Catalyst Leadership Program, PSC fellowships, and the International Development Initiative, as well as gifts to support the FSILG Education and Development Endowment Fund. Significant support was received for the crew program in DAPER, most notably for endowing coaches and equipment. Generous support to improve DSL’s facilities was provided through gifts to replace athletic turf fields and to renovate the MIT Hobby Shop.

Student life benefited from the collaborative fundraising efforts of Resource Development and the Alumni Association, with the receipt of a \$20 million transformational gift for the renovation of W1 and the generous support of the FSILG community through gifts to the Independent Residence Development Fund.

Division of Student Life gifts (FY2007–FY2008) and estimated pledges (FY2009–FY2012) (data in thousands)



DSL fundraising prospects for the upcoming year and beyond are promising, with nearly 40 percent of FY2008's level pledged for FY2009 and total pledges outstanding approaching \$6.2 million.

The DSL Fundraising Office worked with Resource Development and the Alumni Association in the early stages of Campaign for Students planning to craft messages and define the campaign's focus.

DAPER celebrated the 60th anniversary of MIT baseball and the 30th anniversary of MIT field hockey.

The Hobby Shop expanded its outreach to the MIT community, alumni, and prospective students in an effort to gain visibility and increase awareness of the shop's programs and services. For example:

- The shop offered its first Campus Preview Weekend events, which were well attended and offered prospective students a hands-on experience.
- The shop hosted its first reunion as part of the Commencement activities, allowing alumni a chance to revisit and reengage with the shop.
- The first Hobby Shop solicitation letter was sent to alumni after many months of reengaging alumni through the use of newsletters. The solicitation helped the shop raise funds for space and equipment improvements.

CopyTech provided resources and information to students and student groups related to campus resources, logistics, cost-saving opportunities, timelines, and so forth. The goal was to aid students in their efforts associated with fundraising and global initiatives such as the Global Poverty Initiative and PSC student projects.

CAC launched a quarterly newsletter to keep members of the MIT community informed about the area, its buildings, student collaborations, and special offerings. In addition, CAC conducted its first customer satisfaction survey, providing a valuable benchmarking and evaluation tool; 655 people participated in the survey this past year, and CAC achieved a 96 percent overall satisfaction rating.

The Hobby Shop was featured in *American Woodworker* magazine as a result of its quality shop experience for students, which enhanced the shop's image on a national scale.

CopyTech obtained electronic copyright permission to use materials in international programs such as the Sloan School of Management's China Program. Through this service, CopyTech saved time, effort, and cost for Sloan.

Larry G. Benedict
Dean for Student Life

More information about the Division of Student Life can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/dsl/>.