

## **IRDF Activities –**

**Section of the AILG FY2009 Annual Report presented at the [AILG Annual Meeting](#) on June 10, 2009**

The Independent Residence Fund (IRDF) continues to assume even greater importance to our community, as more attention is focused on upgrades, renovations and much-needed deferred maintenance in the FSILG community's housing stock. All four IRDF components saw increased activity in the past fiscal year. The low-interest Loan Program, the original IRDF program, issued several new loans as the physical renewal continues. The Annual Educational Operating Grant Program disbursed in excess of \$300K. All but four members of the community were recipients this year, and – with the slightly more expansive interpretation of qualifying safety expenditures, every FSILG with housing is expected to participate next year. All the significant prior year grant applications backlogs at the FSILG Cooperative were finally cleared up by this past spring.

The major community-wide IRDF Grant Program this year was the Community Network Upgrade Project, a major network upgrade for all FSILG buildings. The AILG IT-Telecomm Committee, chaired by Ash Dyer '06, ran a competitive bid process which resulted in a contract award to Utility Consultants, Inc. (UCI) in August. A custom contract was created for each FSILG, accounting for both the IRDF funding of the base network infrastructure work and any additional work the individual FSILG has requested. Funds are paid to UCI only after the work is inspected and approved by the MIT IS&T project oversight team. As of this writing, the work was on schedule for completion in July, and 26 houses are completed and their new wired and wireless computer networks fully operational. A smaller-scale community program is the conversion to a radio based fire alarm is a related project. After a lengthy pilot program with five chapters was begun this past July with American Alarm Company confirmed the benefits of the changing communication links and eliminating the need for the dual telephone lines that are currently required. All the remaining FSILGs are now signing for a similar IRDF-funded upgrade.

The IRDF Project Grants have proved very popular in recent years, especially for library renovations, which are completely reimbursed. Consequently the IRDF Grant Advisory Committee felt it necessary to impose moratorium on new grants, until new policy could be developed. Discussions with MIT legal experts have resulted in a new policy, which is expected to be announced early next fiscal year. MIT's lawyers have also approved full reimbursement of several specific safety & municipal code compliance activities, which will result in larger Operating Grants this coming fiscal year. Our entire community needs to encourage alumni giving to the IRDF even more in the years to come to sustain these programs and the physical renewal of our community. Finally, it is worth noting that six chapters, all in various stages of capital campaigns, have chosen to become members of the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing. We thank Chi Phi for pioneering this relationship.