Spring is Sweet at the MIT Produce Stand

Spring has sprung and the MIT Produce Market is providing fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to an appreciative MIT Community. The fresh produce is available every Tuesday from noon to 6 p.m. in the East Campus courtyard near Walker Memorial.

The stand is run by Russo’s, the Watertown-based retailer that won “Best Produce” in Boston magazine’s 2007 Best of Boston rankings. MIT students and staff in Residential Life and Campus Dining made the stand a reality, hoping it may have a positive impact on health and wellness at MIT.

If the stand continues to do well, students and staff hope to add an additional day of service. “We will continue to assess the program,” said Rich Berlin. “If it is well-received, and the demand exists, we will look to open the operation on Fridays as well.”

Tables are located in the East Campus courtyard, so stop by and pick up some fruit to enjoy with your lunch.
**2009 Infinite Mile Awards Ceremony**  
June 11th

Save the date for The 2009 Infinite Mile Awards and Staff Appreciation Breakfast, on June 11, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico (W20). Invitations will be mailed soon.

DSL Infinite Mile Awards will be awarded in the following categories:

- Commitment to Student Programs and Services
- Commitment to Development of Students and/or Staff
- Commitment to Shared Success
- Commitment to Standards of Excellence

For a list of previous years’ winners, go to [http://studentlife.mit.edu/node/161](http://studentlife.mit.edu/node/161).

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**Four DSL Staff win Excellence Awards**

Congratulations to the DSL staff members who received awards at the 2009 MIT Excellence Awards on March 4, 2009.

DSL Award Recipients:

**Bringing Out the Best**
Jed W. Wartman, Assistant Dean for Student Activities

**Unsung Hero**
Thomas C. Willard, Groundskeeper, Endicott House

**Fostering Community**
Jarek Koniusz, Associate Professor/Coach, DAPER Intercollegiate Sports

**Fostering Diversity and Inclusion**
Arnold J. Henderson, Associate Dean & Co-Director, Student Support Services

For more information and a full description of award recipients, please visit [http://studentlife.mit.edu/node/258](http://studentlife.mit.edu/node/258).

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If we missed your name, please email skeeler@mit.edu so we can correct it next time.
Endicott Composting Facility

Reusing, Recycling, and Contributing to a Sustainable MIT

Wondering how they could take the economic downturn and turn it into a win-win, Endicott House collaborated with other MIT departments to close a loop and create some income.

By Betty DaSilva, Endicott House

In the last issue of the Beat, the MIT Endicott House was featured for our many green initiatives.

Our new green efforts affect not only the MIT Endicott House, but the MIT campus as well. Endicott House has joined forces with the MIT Facilities Department and School of Architecture to create a solution for campus yard waste.

Currently, MIT Facilities purchases topsoil from an external supplier and pays to have all yard waste removed from campus. Collaborative relationships have created a solution to close this gap.

MIT Endicott House will now compost all yard waste materials at the Dedham location, internalizing the removal of yard waste.

Under the direction of Professor Jan Wampler, Ira Winder ’10, from the School of Architecture, has designed an efficient composting facility for Endicott House. From this compost, Andy Turcotte, Head Grounds Keeper at Endicott, will create a custom organic topsoil blend using 25% of the composted materials and return it to MIT Facilities for use in the campus gardens and grounds; a win-win-win for the MIT community.

Andy will then have this custom organic topsoil available at Endicott House campus plant sales, for interested MIT gardeners.

As a partner in MIT’s greening MIT program, Endicott House takes our responsibility to the environment seriously. That is our “green promise” to the MIT and Dedham community.

For more information about Endicott House’s green initiatives, visit http://www.mitendicotthouse.org/

From left, Endicott House General Manager, Michael Fitzgerald, Professor of Architecture Jan Wampler, and Ira Winder ’11 stand by a rendering of the new Compost Facility at Endicott House.

May Plant Sale

Support the Endicott House greenhouses at the May Plant Sale. Vegetables, herbs, flowers, and other garden-related items will be sold by the Endicott House staff, with help from the Gardeners’ Group. Stop by the sale and pick up healthy, reasonably priced plants.

The Beat 3
Starting in 2008 as only an idea, then a design, then 230 feet of mahogany, The Intellectuals Circle is now complete and ready to tour the MIT campus.

Funded by a grant from the MIT Council for the Arts, The Intellectuals Circle is a seating arrangement that promotes a non-linear outlet for intellectual discussion. Participants sit opposing one another around the circular structure, overlapping slightly at the shoulder. “The idea behind this type of seating arrangement is to encourage clear, verbal communication without visual cues or theatrics between the participants,” said Designer and builder Hayami Arakawa.

Increasingly empty from our cultural landscape is the opportunity for in person dialogue. In response to a question about the state of French intellectualism, Jean Baudrillard, a french cultural theorist, said “There are no more French intellectuals. What you call French intellectualism has been destroyed by the media. They talk on television, they talk to the press, they no longer talk among themselves.”

“This easily applies to the United States as well,” said Hayami. “With the phenomena of web sites like YouTube, and the culture industry of the American media, there is an overwhelming abundance of monologue culture void of a dialogical outlet.”

Built at the MIT Hobby Shop, the Circle offers an opportunity for participants to converse freely, with four ways in which to enter, sit and exit at will. The Intellectuals Circle included the participation of student members in mechanical engineering and architectural programs, as well as other Hobby Shop members.

Touring the campus during the summer of 2009, The Intellectuals Circle will be placed around public spaces on campus throughout the course of a year. To learn more, visit Hayami’s blog at http://intellectualscircle.blogspot.com/.

“We live in a world where there is more and more information, and less and less meaning.” ~Jean Baudrillard
In April 2009, The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT hosted its inaugural event, featuring a lecture by the Dalai Lama on April 30.

“The Center will engage our community about the great questions of life and meaning,” said Chancellor Phil Clay in his introduction of the Dalai Lama.

In his address, the Dalai Lama emphasized the importance of building a “happy human family,” with transparency, compassion, love, forgiveness, kindness, self-discipline, and tolerance within religion. The Dalai Lama also stressed the importance of a holistic education, not just education as “brain development.”

The inaugural conference brought together scholars, policy makers, and global leaders for a wide-ranging public dialogue. The speakers explored “ethical responsibility in the context of a globalized economy and an environment that is vulnerable on a planetary scale.”

Speakers for Spring and Fall 2009 include APJ Kalam, Samdhong Rinpoche, Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Wangari Mathaai, Howard Zinn, Jane Goodall, Martha Nussbaum, Betty Williams, Fr. Thomas Keating, Richard Davidson, and Daniel Goleman. For more information, go to The Center’s website at http://thecenter.mit.edu/.

Diversity Dialogue Sessions

This spring, MIT is offering faculty, staff and students the chance to participate in Diversity Dialogues, a series of conversations on unconscious bias and its unintended consequences.

At November’s Diversity Leadership Congress, requests made during small group discussions led to the offering of Diversity Dialogues. The sessions provide an opportunity to increase self-awareness and more effectively communicate with others. Student Life staff, Kaya Miller (FSILGs and Res. Life Programs) and Jed Wartman (SAO), will teach a few of the sessions, which include a 15-minute workshop, followed by hands-on practice and facilitated discussion. To participate, e-mail diversity-www@mit.edu.

Schedule of Sessions

May 4  Noon to 1:30pm 4-349
May 5  Noon to 1:30pm 4-349
2:00 to 3:30 p.m. E19-306
May 6  Noon to 1:30 p.m. 14E-304
  Noon to 1:30 p.m. PDR
2:00 to 3:30 p.m. 14E-109
May 7  10:30 a.m. to Noon W92-Back Bay
  2:00 to 3:30 p.m. E52-460
Graduate Student Develops “Techscore” for Sailing

As a former member of the varsity team, graduate student Dayan Paez always wanted to contribute back to the meaningful student experience he had as an undergraduate. So this year, Dayan took responsibility for helping score all the sailing regattas which MIT hosts, offering entire weekends to help score events at a site which hosts more sailing regattas than any other school in the country.

Recently, Dayan rocked the boat of sailing when he decided to rewrite all the sailing scoring programs. These scoring programs are used across the North American continent. The new “Techscore,” a web based program, is now being universally adopted by all 273 universities that have competitive sailing programs.

“Dayan’s new Techscore program allows parents, friends, alumni and others to get live updates of regattas in real time,” said Sailing Master Fran Charles. “Furthermore, it ties into the eligibility database of our National Authority to compile statistics for post season honors like All Americans and All Stars.”

Dayan also helps with the free sailing lessons open to the MIT community. “Dayan instills confidence, shows compassion, volunteers without hesitation and demonstrates the highest levels of empowerment to all who are fortunate enough to meet him,” said Fran.

For more information about Techscore, contact Fran Charles at fcharles@mit.edu.

Learn to Sail for Free

Ahoy mateys. Ever wish you had more bite to back up your “arrrrrrrr’s” on “Talk like a pirate day (September 19)?” Well, now you can by learning to sail at MIT’s free sailing lessons, open to the MIT community. Required: learning how to rig a boat, some basic sailing techniques, as well as how to tack and jibe out on the beautiful Charles River. Not Required: eye patches, parrots, or looking like Johnny Depp in Pirates of the Caribbean. The classes teach you first how the MIT Sailing Pavilion works and then how to sail in just a few hours! If you have previous experience, show up to the “first” Wednesday session, to learn how the Pavilion works. If you are new, show up to all three Wednesday sessions or to a Sunday session. For more details and requirements of the program, visit http://sailing.mit.edu/. Let’s go sailing!

MIT Sailing Pavilion
Open 7 days a week April 1 to November 15
Mon: 3:00pm-sunset Tue-Sun: Noon-sunset
The days of students facing the daunting task of selling paper tickets for events could soon be over. Josh Velasquez (SAO) and graduate student Wenhao Liu, have developed a secure web system to allow student groups to buy and sell tickets online.

SAO Tickets fills the need of a system that could support print-at-home tickets with barcodes, conserving resources and increasing efficiency and security. Originally designed with Spring Weekend ticketing needs in mind, word got around about the system, and other student groups asked to have events added.

The first major event on the system was this year’s spring concert, featuring Ben Folds and Sara Bareilles on April 25th. “The system allowed us to process nearly 2,000 people in about an hour, a third of the time of previous years,” said Velasquez. “The spring concert also proved that a group of volunteers with only a few minutes of training could easily operate the entire system once it has been set up.”

Now SAO Tickets has grown to include a raffle ticket sale, “a purpose for the system we hadn’t even thought of,” said Velasquez.

Currently, the system is in private beta, with credit card processing fees as the only costs to the groups. As the demand increases, Velasquez plans on creating a business model to make the system financially sustainable.

“SAO is in a unique position to address the technology needs of our student groups, said Velasquez. “I’m proud that we’re investing so much into the development of our core web services such as SAO Tickets and Domeview.”

If student groups are interested in offering events (even free ones) on SAO Tickets, contact sao-tickets@mit.edu. To check out the site and upcoming events, go to http://sao.mit.edu/tickets/.

New CAC Furniture

Now that the weather is warmer, enjoy your lunch outside at some of the new furniture CAC has added to outdoor spaces. The new furniture includes tables and chairs on the 2nd floor balcony of the Student Center, and tables with umbrellas behind Kresge. Also, there are new bike racks in front of the student center.

Left: Nicole Messuri and Kerri Mills enjoy the tables on the Student Center balcony.
happenings

Spring arrives at MIT

Top Left: Supa Dupa, a student band, performs at Earth Day on Wednesday, April 22nd. Bennett Chaney (green), Lucas Hernandez-Mena (red), Conor Lenahan (blue), Barry Kudrowitz (orange), Paula Te (purple).

Middle Right: Caribbean Steel Pan Jamboree! MIT Caribbean Club perform in front of the Student Center during CPW.

Bottom Left: Students play frisbee on Kresge Oval and enjoy the warm weather during CPW.

Have a story idea or interested in writing an article for The Beat? Please contact skeeler@mit.edu.

Coming Up

May

1  Infinite Mile Nominations Due
14  Last Day of Classes
15  Student Leader Awards
18  Final Exam Week
25  Memorial Day

MIT Holiday

June

4  Doctoral Hooding
5  Commencement
8  Summer Session Begins
11  DSL Infinite Mile Award Ceremony

July

1  Fiscal Year ’10 Begins
3  Independence Day

MIT Holiday

4  Independence Day

To request that your events be included in the DSL calendar, please email skeeler@mit.edu.