

# CACconnections

Official Newsletter of the Campus Activities Complex at MIT

## CAC Hosts Another Successful Event in the Coffeehouse Lounge

Creative voices rang out in the Coffeehouse Lounge on May 15th as students and staff participated in the Campus Activity Complex's first Poetry Slam. The event was hosted by the Student Art Association and co-sponsored by the CAC and Student Activities Office. Shaunalynn Duffy '09 and graduate student Peter Buchak took turns at the open mic to share their original poetry and perform some folk duets and sing-a-longs. Sam Magee, the Students Arts Associate Coordinator, jumped on stage and shared an original piece. SAO Assistant Dean Jed Wartman and Assistant Director Paul Spangle impressed the audience with their immediate recall of poems they had memorized in their youth while the CAC's very own CJ Azubuine shared some new lyrics that he had written just that week. Andrew Jones '10 finished up the night with some of his original pieces and invited all poets interested in joining his newly formed poetry club to email him at poetic@mit.edu.

The Poetry Slam brings to a close this semester's programming in the Coffeehouse Lounge. The Lounge hosted 28 events this semester, sponsored by an array of student groups. We are always seeking new collaborations with groups across campus so if you have an idea for a program in the Lounge this coming fall, please contact CJ Azubuine at cja@mit.edu.



From left to right: Sam Magee (SAA), Jed Wartman (SAO), Shaunalynn Duffy '09 with grad student Peter Buckak, Paul Spangle (SAO) and Andrew Jones '10

### Need a Locker for the summer?

Lockers are available for the summer in the Student Center Reading Room and Gameroom. Lockers are available to MIT students, are distributed by lottery, and cost \$20. For more information and an application, go to the CAC website. Applications are due by June 16th and space is limited.

### Name the Newsletter Contest Results

In our last issue, we called upon our readers for ideas on what our newsletter should be called. We received a number of submissions as well as some names that we might want to steer clear of. As you you can see, we have selected "CACConnections" as the official title of our quarterly newsletter.

We'd like to send our thanks and congratulations to Todd Glickman (Alumni and Associate Director, Office of Corporate Relations) and Mike Sherman (MIT Department of Facilities) for their suggestions.

## inside

Director's Corner

Staff Spotlight:  
Student Employees  
Make a Big Difference  
2

Bringing Together the  
Walker Community

CAC Wedding Services  
and Historical Project  
3

Space Profile:  
Kresge Auditorium

Announcements  
4



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The Campus Activities Complex would like to extend a warm welcome to our graduates, their families, and our alumni from all over the world. During this celebratory time, we encourage you to explore the campus and participate in its diverse offerings. During your visit, please try one of the many food providers in the Student Center, relax in one of the many lounges in Walker Memorial, enjoy some sunshine on the Student Center Steps or try a game of pinball and Dance Dance Revolution in our Student Center Gameroom.

In this summer issue of our newsletter, we highlight our wedding program offerings as well as extend an invitation to those couples who have been married in the MIT Chapel to share their memories and photos with us. We also explore our community building efforts in Walker Memorial and profile Kresge Auditorium, with its interesting history and program activities. We also take a moment to showcase our student employees and our most recent Coffeehouse Lounge event – a Poetry Slam co-sponsored by the CAC, Student Activities Office, and Student Art Association.

We hope that you enjoy this special summer edition of our newsletter and as always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions.



Left: Strafton Student Center  
Right: The mural painted by Edwin Howard Blashfield, MIT Class of 1869, serves as a dramatic backdrop for an event in Morss Hall in Walker Memorial

## Thank you 2007-2008 Student Employees!

The CAC has always appreciated the contributions from the students in our office and we have been very fortunate to work with our current team that includes Jennifer Lai '10, Eric Fernandez '10, and Mona Daniels '09. A native of Orlando, Florida, Jennifer is majoring in Biology and Management and is very active in the Association of Taiwanese Students, her dorm and music. Eric hails from El Paso, Texas and is majoring in Electrical Engineering. When he has free time from his studies and diligently designing some of the CAC marketing material, Eric can be found with his fraternity or performing in some of the theatrical productions on campus. Mona, a recent recipient of the 2008 Ronald E. McNair Scholarship award, is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and is very active in the Latter-day Saint Students Association.

## Interested in an excellent student employment opportunity this summer?

Join Team CAC and help make events happen on campus!

We currently are looking for one or two students to assist us at the front desk during our summer event season and with some of our special projects.

Email [campus-activities@mit.edu](mailto:campus-activities@mit.edu) for more information on how to join Team CAC!!



## Building Community in Walker Memorial

Built in 1916, Walker Memorial has long been a hub for student activities on the MIT campus. Walker initially housed the only campus dining hall and exercise room. Its historic walls are now home to many student group offices, event spaces, and the campus radio station, WMBR. Over the last several years, the Campus Activities Complex has worked hard to foster a stronger building community with Kerri Mills, Assistant Manager, taking a lead in the effort. One of Kerri's first tasks was to make the building greener, both figuratively and literally, by instituting a building-wide recycling program and distributing plants throughout the building. Walker is open 24 hours per day, seven days a week so a key concern for the building and its occupants is safety. With advice from the Campus Police, Kerri brought in the necessary technology and strategies to make the building a safer environment.

In addition to these projects, the CAC has worked with its partnering MIT groups to facilitate repairs and upgrades to a variety of Walker spaces, including the Black Student Union Lounge, Rainbow Lounge, Walker Dance Studio, Muddy Charles, Pritchett Dining and many student offices. The Walker community also enjoys several new lounge areas as well as the older spaces that have been given a facelift with new carpet, furniture, and plants. Event spaces such as Pritchett and Conference Room B have also been updated and are available to the MIT community.

Keeping the community spaces in our buildings safe and updated is a priority for the CAC and we would like to thank Kerri for her enthusiasm and commitment to Walker and its inhabitants, as she moves into a new position with our neighbors, the Student Activities Office. If you have comments or suggestions for further improvements to Walker, please let us know!

## CAC Has The Experience To Help You With Your Special Day

The Campus Activities Complex is happy to help with engagement parties, bridal showers, wedding ceremonies, rehearsal dinners, and receptions. We welcome all MIT Community members and their sons and daughters to use our services which include space coordination, event planning, and event support. We embrace the diversity and unique character of the MIT community and this is reflected in our mission to provide quality, individualized services.

Our philosophy is to abandon any notions of what a "wedding" should look like and incorporate your wishes so that your special day is perfect.

We have an assortment of non-denominational spaces that include the MIT Chapel, Morss Hall in Walker Memorial, Kresge Oval, Sala de Puerto Rico, Walker Lawn, and the Fassett Garden. For more information, call us at 617.253.3913 or e-mail us at [campus-activities@mit.edu](mailto:campus-activities@mit.edu).



## Had Your Special Day In The MIT Chapel: CAC Needs Your Help!

CAC is starting a historical project chronicling the various ceremonies that have taken place in the MIT Chapel and we need your help! If you had a ceremony in the MIT Chapel and would like to share your memories and photographs of that special day with us, please let us know.

Feel free to contact Jennifer Smith, Assistant Director, 617.253.1334, [jbsmith@mit.edu](mailto:jbsmith@mit.edu), for more information.

# Upcoming Events

**June 6th**  
**Commencement**  
Killian Court

**June 9th**  
**Summer Session Begins**

**July 4th**  
**Holiday**

**August 22nd**  
**Orientation Begins**

## Space Profile - Kresge Auditorium

Dedicated in 1955, Kresge Auditorium serves as the major multi-purpose facility on the campus, hosting over 180 events per year. This facility contains a 1200 seat auditorium with a Holtkamp organ, a smaller 200 seat theater, and several rehearsal rooms. Famed architect Eero Saarinen designed the building and it is considered a major example of modern architecture. Designed in conjunction with the MIT Chapel and surrounding area, Saarinen saw the building as part of the larger landscape, not just a stand alone auditorium. The building originally had an orastone roof (brilliant white) but because of cracking/leaking problems, it has transitioned to a lead roof (1960s), and finally the current copper roof (1970s). Ironically, Saarinen's original designs included a copper roof but no one at the time knew how to attach it to this type of structure.

As inscribed on its dedication plaque, Kresge serves as "The Meeting House of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." From the beginning, Kresge has hosted many significant events. For its opening ceremony, the organ played a commissioned piece by Aaron Copland, "Canticle of Freedom" with the MIT Symphony Orchestra accompanied by a choral group. During the 1955-56 school year, famed poet T.S. Elliot had three readings in Kresge. This tradition has continued with many fine performances, conferences, cultural events, and lectures, hosted by departments and student groups at MIT. Kresge also serves as the home for the MIT Symphony Orchestra, MIT Wind Ensemble, Dramashop, and many Theater Arts productions and classes.



Every month, we contact some of the event planners that have had events in our spaces and ask them to participate in a survey. The information that we receive from the survey answers helps us to understand how we can better serve the MIT community. To thank the survey participants, we hold a monthly drawing for a \$20 TechCash card. We'd like to congratulate April's winner:

**Justen Cantan, Public Service Center**

**Do you have questions, comments or suggestions?**

Stop by the Campus Activities Complex in W20-500 or send us an email at [campus-activities@mit.edu](mailto:campus-activities@mit.edu)

**CAMPUS  
ACTIVITIES  
COMPLEX**  
"Connecting the MIT Community"