Greetings...
And welcome to the Minnesota Club of Minnesota newsletter! It’s been a busy several months for the club with a multitude of events occurring around Minnesota and back in Cambridge. There have been events to suit everyone’s tastes (we hope), from MIT10s to MIT families, from current students to 50 year alumni. The club maintains a vibrant 100+ membership and we are anticipating further growth as new alumni move to the job-rich Twin Cities and as not-so-new alumni discover the advantages of being part of our active alumni community. Contained within this document you will find news about past and future events and about your fellow alumni. If you have anything you would like to add to future newsletters, please pass it along to jon_sza@alum.mit.edu. Without further ado, on to the news...

MIT10 Social Gatherings gathering steam
If you’ve seen emails from Becca Luger-Guillaume come across your email, and you’ve failed to pay attention, you’ve missed out on some great chances to meet young alumni in the area. Since last June there have been 6 events around the Twin Cities at great venues. In June, a large group met at Caffe Biaggio over in the quaint Saint Anthony neighborhood of St. Paul. July’s event was held at Cliquot Club Café in the Seward area of Minneapolis. Old Chicago in Roseville was the site of the October event. November saw a trip to Café Latte in the Summit and Grand area of Saint Paul. Finally, a snowy night at The Sample Room in Northeast Minneapolis and a cold night Il Vesco Vino on Selby Avenue in Saint Paul. Good crowds of MIT alumni are congregating regularly to discuss everything from recent events and vacation plans. There’s even some reminiscing about problem sets. Who can’t get enough of that?

Future MIT10 events are in the works for throughout the coming year. We look forward to seeing all the past attendees out there again, and encourage all those on the fence, to take the plunge and reconnect with your fellow Engineers. If you have a special place in mind that you think would be perfect for an event, please email Becca at beccalg@gmail.com.

Who Doesn’t Love a Good Holiday Party???
Well, even if you’re the Scrooge of the bunch, you would have had a great time at the MIT Holiday party last December. Past holiday parties have been a jolly time, and a perfect opportunity to wear that ugly festive tie you got from your brother three years ago, and this year was no different. This year’s event was held on Saturday, December 15th in the 35th floor party room at the Marquette Place apartments in downtown Minneapolis. A great (climate controlled) winter view of Nicollet mall while sipping the beverage of your choice with a group of fellow alumni was just the ticket for the 35 strong that attended. The highlight on the evening was a MIT themed trivia contest featuring a tricky picture round and questions requiring math skills (which I’ve long lost). This event is definitely one you don’t want to miss in any year, so if you didn’t make it this year, plan on it for 2008.
Remember When You Were a Rising Freshman?
Neither do I, but we got to witness a little of the wonder, excitement, and nerves this summer at our annual Summer Send-off Picnic. Eight newly-minted Engineers were there with their family and friends and we did our best to send them off in style (pictured below). As ordered, it was a perfect mid-August day at Parker’s Lake in Plymouth. The evening was spent answering questions from the new students and learning more about their background and path to MIT. Topics of conversation haven’t changed much for the freshman over the years I expect, the biggest concerns for the new students was where they would be living for their first year and what they were planning on majoring in. Surprisingly, no one was too concerned about how to get Red Sox tickets or how to avoid walking across the Mass Ave bridge in winter. I guess the important questions take time to surface. Overall it was delightful evening with the alumni of tomorrow and one of the signature events of our calendar.

Back to School: the Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC)
An adventurous group of alumni club members have done the impossible: they’ve gone back to MIT and learned EVEN MORE. The ALC is an annual event that brings together leaders in the alumni community to connect with their fellow alumni, learn about active efforts in the alumni community, and visit the mothership again. This year’s attendees were Ross Meisner, Karin Roof, Barbara Slater, Rebecca Luger-Guillaume, and John Carney (pictured below). The ALC, a weekend of workshops and networking hosted by the MIT Alumni Association, drew volunteers from 28 states and five countries. Major topics this year included club leadership development, event management, volunteer development, alumni class communication tools and mentorship opportunities. We hope to bring the lessons learned at this conference to the Minnesota alumni community and further the cause of alumni involvement and leadership.
Small Talk
As part of a series of lectures, a group of MIT Club of Minnesota members congregated to watch a MIT broadcast on Nanotechnology. The title of the broadcast was "It's a Small World," and included a panel of three MIT faculty members discussing the various aspects of nanotechnology and the ways in which MIT is paving the way in this field. The broadcast not only highlighted MIT expertise, but was also an opportunity to socialize, network, and become better connected to local alumni while catching up on what is going on at MIT. Look for invitations from us for future installments of MIT innovation broadcasts in the coming year.

Classic Disasters... and Other Museum Entertainment
The Pompeii exhibit and Greece Omni Theatre Movie at the Science Museum was a huge hit while in town and a group from MIT Club of Minnesota was there to take in the ancient sites. The crew met up at Cossetta’s Pizza beforehand and headed over to the catch the 1pm showing of Greece: Secrets of the Past. That was followed by the star of the show, the eight body casts from the Pompeii site and the more than 250 ancient artifacts on display from the ancient city. It is a rarity for these pieces to travel around the world and it’s just the type of thing that the MIT Club of Minnesota likes to attend. If you know of an event coming to the area that the MIT Club of Minnesota would be interested in, please contact Barbara Slater at bslater@alum.mit.edu.

Minnesota Tips a Glass towards Cambridge
Remember the fun of IAP? Sleeping in, taking classes on manners, juggling, and underwater hockey, with not an equation or beaker in sight. Well, now that we’ve graduated and our bosses don’t let us take the month of January off, we’ll have to subsist on one night of fun with other alumni. And that’s just what happened at the Toast to IAP on January 22nd at Toast Wine Bar and Café in the Warehouse District. The annual event is held around the world by MIT alumni clubs and is always a great time to remember the good times, perhaps the best times, at MIT. This year’s event featured an MIT Trivia contest, a great selection of food and drinks (alcoholic and non), and my favorite, recent Tech newspapers. A great venue, great crowd, and great food made it one of the best Toast to IAP events we’ve had in a long time. Plan on another one next... IAP, of course.

UPCOMING EVENTS
-- Join us at The Bakken Museum on March 22nd at 10am for a fun morning of exploration and fun with science and electricity. There will be a special presentation by Dr. David Rhees, the Director of the museum, and a selection of rare books from the library for viewing. If you are interested in joining this family-friendly event, please email Jon Moon at jkmoon@alum.mit.edu.

-- Look for communications in the future about a tour of the 35W Bridge construction site. We are targeting a date in April or May for what should be an amazing inside view of the massive construction project.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
- The MIT Club of Minnesota would like to acknowledge the generous support of Fredrikson & Byron law office for their history of helping bring high quality programs to our alumni.
- The MIT Club of Minnesota would like to recognize John Carney for his invitation to join the MIT Alumni Association Board of Directors. This was no doubt due to his history of enthusiastic commitment to the MIT Club of Minnesota and his success in engaging the Alumni Association’s support on our behalf.
- If you are interested in becoming a member of the Minnesota Club of MIT, please visit our website at http://mn.mitalum.org/ or contact Tom Kelly at tckelly@alum.mit.edu.
Trivia question from the Toast to IAP event:

"You are sitting in your kayak on a pond with your brand new MacBook Pro laptop. You accidentally drop the laptop into the pond (and it sinks to the bottom). What happened to the water level of the pond?"

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler."

-Albert Einstein

-- This summer we will be visiting NOAA station in the metro area. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration stations around the country run the National Weather Service and the tour should be an interesting insight into how our weather is forecasted and storms warnings are determined and issued. Check your mailbox in the coming months for the dates & details.

And finally a letter from the President...

The MIT Club of Minnesota has reached a new threshold. This year the number of MIT alumni in Minnesota and western Wisconsin exceeds 1,000 for the first time. Minnesota has long been a model for the “small to mid-size club” segment (serving a base of <1,000 alumni). We now have a clear challenge to grow to better serve our expanding base.

We are in a strong position to keep growing. The club has enjoyed a revival of sorts over the last eight years, thanks to the initiative of a core group of individuals (as is always the case when volunteer programs succeed). People like Barbara Slater, John Carney, Adonis Neblett, Alice Campbell, and many others have given immense time and energy to build a vibrant club. Beyond this, however, the club’s success relies on the regular influx of new alumni bringing new ideas and energy, and we have been fortunate in the quality and quantity of new volunteers that get involved each year. I am very optimistic as I look at the pool of potential new board members and officers available to serve in the coming years. Of course, I encourage all of you to become part of this rewarding, engaging network.

The Club’s success is also measured by the quality and variety of events we deliver. On this front, too, the MIT Club of Minnesota has been a success. We have offered events focused on families, culture, MIT faculty speakers, social gatherings, academic topics, entrepreneurship, and of course local "industry insider" tours. Please make sure your alumni contact information is up-to-date in the Infinite Connection (e.g. Email Forwarding for Life) and you will receive our Club’s communications on events.

Each year the club grows. Individuals bring new (or renewed) focus to areas that support the club (like this first-in-years newsletter!). As my second year as president comes to a close this spring, two facts are unmistakable: what a pleasure it has been to work together with so many great volunteers, and what a bright future the MIT Club of Minnesota has in front of it. We hope you take advantage of it, and we welcome your participation at any level.

Ross Meisner
President, MIT Club of Minnesota
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