

MIT CLUB OF CHICAGO

Summer 2007 Newsletter



MIT Alumni Travel Program Chicago Trip

This past April, 15 alumni and their guests from all over the US traveled to Chicago on an MIT Alumni Travel Program trip. The tour focused on the city's architecture and green initiatives. Led by a local expert in architecture, they toured many magnificent buildings around The Loop, saw City Hall's Green Roof, and enjoyed a drive-by introduction to Millennium Park (as the rain poured down outside the motorcoach window).



Also included were visits to the LEED-rated Center for Green Technology and the architecturally historic IIT campus. Brilliant weather followed during their tour of Oak Park to view an array of Frank Lloyd Wright homes; their visit concluded with a morning architecture cruise on the Chicago River. The MIT participants thoroughly enjoyed the program, and seeing and learning more about Chicago. It was a special treat for them to meet some of the alumni who live in and around the city, during a reception at the Hancock Tower. Interested in learning about future MIT Alumni Travel Program trips?

Visit (<http://alum.mit.edu/travel/index.html>)



MIT/Caltech Career Management Series: Professional Coaching

MIT and CalTech alums are notorious for being among the best and the brightest at what they do. So they should have some of the best jobs, right? Maybe. Professional coach Christy Suerth, SPHR, CPC, (www.theworkshoponline.com) started the event by asking how many in the audience agree with the following:

- My strengths are not in play at work everyday
- Work is a significant stressor in my life
- I am not fully motivated to perform my work at the present time
- I am angry toward my employer because I feel overworked
- I do not earn a salary commensurate with my performance
- I feel I have not been promoted fast enough



Only one alum could say, fortunately, none of the above applied to him. When asked, he admitted he had once taken advantage of some professional coaching. Christy explained that so many people, not only in the room but across the country, agree with one or even all of the above statements. She noted that the impact is enormous to individuals, organizations, and even the economy. Christy then described how coaching can help, what coaching is and what it is not, and how to find and work with the right coach.

Upcoming Events

What: Tour of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Join fellow M.I.T. alums for a special lunchtime tour of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The Chicago Fed is one of 12 regional Reserve Banks across the United States that, together with the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., serve as the central bank for the United States.

When: July 13, 2007 from 12 PM -1:00 PM

Where: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle St., Chicago, IL

Event Contact: Connie Sadowski Dinning (connies@alum.mit.edu)



What: Young Alumni Kayaking and Fun at The Spot Our very own MIT Young Alumni Louise and Rubi have organized a great Boston-themed event for local Harvard, MIT, Tufts, Wellesley, BU young alumni. It's an afternoon of kayaking followed by a couple hours of enjoying delicious refreshments. Come to one part or both! Register ASAP! Cost: \$15/hour (pay upon arrival)

www.kayakchicago.com

When: July 14, 2007 , 4:00 PM -9:00 PM

Where: Montrose Harbor (off of Lake Shore Dr.), Montrose Avenue, Chicago, IL

Event Contact: Rubi Rajbanshi (rajbansh.rubi@gmail.com)



What: MIT End of Summer Picnic A festive day to send off the new MIT admits in style in the party room on the 44th floor of a Chicago high-rise with spectacular views of the lake.

There'll be tons of food and beverages for your enjoyment. It's a great chance for new admits, their parents, current students, and alumni to get together. Parking is also available at the Children's Memorial Hospital at at 2515 N. Clark (~2 or 3 blocks away) at a cost of about \$10 per car for the entire day. The building is on the #22 or #151 CTA bus lines.

When: July 22, 2007 from 1:00 PM -4:00 PM

Where: 44th Floor Party Room, 2650 N Lakeview Ave, Chicago, IL

Event Contact: Connie Sadowski Dinning (connies@alum.mit.edu)



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Tour

Twenty M.I.T. Alumni enjoyed a tour of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District North Side Plant in Skokie on Friday, June 1. The weather was fantastic and we learned how waste and sewer water converges by the forces of gravity from across Chicagoland into a large well underneath the SE corner of the plant. Built in 1928, the North Side plant can process up to 450 Million gallons per day and outlets its effluent water into the Northside Channel.

Many alums were familiar with the TARP project which was designed to handle surge capacity from large storms. Before TARP, the 7 treatment plants in the district could not handle the volume of water generated by a large rain storm and would have to bypass treatment and send the volume directly into the river or, worse, the lake untreated. With TARP, the district can open up flow to very large diameter pipes for temporary storage until the plants regain capacity. The next phase of TARP is to commission the 2 newly constructed reservoirs to gain additional surge storage capacity because there are still a few times a year when the district has to bypass treatment.

We started the tour in one of the original buildings where they control the inbound flow. They can lower the level in the well prior to an expected rain storm but cannot let the level go too low because then flow in the overall network becomes too slow and can cause a septic situation. The initial room pumps water up from the well and screens out large debris. Then the water flows to a second building where smaller debris is screened out and the solids are allowed to settle to the bottom of the tanks. The solids are sent to concentration tanks before being sent 18 miles down to Stickney in Southeast Chicago, the largest waste water treatment plant in the world. The liquid goes to the secondary settling tank. The

liquid is then sent to bubbling tanks for hungry bacteria to gorge themselves on delicious waste. The final step in the process is one last chance to remove scum and then the water is dumped into the river.

Lyric Opera Backstage Tour

The Lyric Opera tour provided a behind-the-scenes look at all the backstage activities of this world class opera company. Backstage stops included the Wardrobe Department, Wigs and make-up, the Scenery Handling facility, the Armory room, the Rehearsal center, the Props room, the Orchestra Pit and even the main stage. Talks and demonstrations were provided by members of the Lyric professional staff and trained volunteers. The tour lasted 2½ hours.

So what is this Friends of TIM thing everyone's talking about???

Friends of TIM n. 1: Unabashedly amorphous association of recent MIT graduates (ten or less years out) who choose to support their alma mater with an annual donation—modest or otherwise—to MIT. Membership benefits include the sheer joy of philanthropy; the bliss of supporting an institution devoted to the common good; and the utter rapture of owning and carrying a genuine Friends of TIM membership card.



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