

MIT Student Update
by Matthew Unger

Following a winter break, students at MIT “scattered” for the month of January, during which MIT’s Independent Activities Period (IAP) took place. Some students came back to campus for short courses in a variety of topics of interest to them, while others stayed away and found month long internships. Still other students, including most of the graduate students, came back to campus to continue their research. Our second semester finally commenced with the first day of classes being held on February 7th.

Prior to the winter break, we held our annual Ocean Engineering Holiday Party. The event was extremely well attended, and was a great way for students, faculty, and staff to put aside work for a little while and catch up with one another. In the months prior to our holiday party, 13SEAS (the official name of our Student Ocean Engineering Organization) held several interesting guest lectures. Included in this list was a talk given by Nat Benjamin, co-founder of Gannon and Benjamin Marine Railway in Martha’s Vineyard. Mr. Benjamin’s presentation described the recent design and build project of the wooden schooner *Rebecca*. We thoroughly enjoyed his slideshow documenting Rebecca’s construction from a single timber to a fully rigged sailboat. Our thanks go to Mr. Benjamin for devoting his time to visit us.

Most recently, the New England Section of SNAME held its annual Student Paper Night on February 9th at the MIT Faculty Club. As usual, the meeting was extremely well attended, and included the presentations of seven papers. Three of these papers were written and presented by MIT students. They were:

“Design of an Acoustic-Homing Autonomous Surface Vessel,” P. Augenbergs, H. Brundage, L. Cooney, B. Downey, T. Pennington, J. Stanway, T. Stefanov-Wagner, D. Tobias.

“USS SAN FRANCISCO Emergency Response,” LT. W. Hagan (USN).

“An Upgrade of the MIT Towing Tank,” M. Unger.

At the time this article was written, our Spring Semester had just begun. The 13SEAS officers have plans for another great semester, and we look forward to sharing them with you in the next issue.