

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Olin's unofficial,
student-run news
source.

VOLUME 5, ISSUE I

SEPTEMBER 2013

FREE, AS IN BEER

Carpe & Helpme: A Survey

Mitch Cieminski
Contributor

There are at least 258 public mailing lists serviced by Olin's Mailman system. Included in this vast number of lists for a student body of under 400 is everything from classes to clubs, politics to Pokémon. Yet, a huge portion of the students' inboxes are taken by just two mailing lists: *carpediem* and *helpme*. Given these lists' powerful place in our daily lives, a survey was sent out in June to subscribers of these lists in an attempt to define public opinion and guidelines about them, and our email system in general.

The quantitative portion of the survey, where respondents rated their agreement with statements on a scale of 1 to 10, seemed to show that users were dissatisfied with the existing use of *carpediem* and *helpme*. Although they sometimes felt like they could not contribute to the lists, almost all users felt invested in the lists' success. The sheer number of emails was perceived to be too much across the board. Despite these feelings and apparent mood of annoyance, most respondents thought

that emails should be sent to the lists that currently receive them.

The free-response sections of the survey revealed two extreme opinions. Some considered the two-list system undesirable; they suggested that we use other (existing) mailing lists for purposes currently taken by *carpediem* or *helpme* (e.g. *askme* for surveys, *gluttony* for free food). Those of the opposite opinion believe that the mass of mailing lists is daunting, and the task of choosing the "right" list for each email is tiresome. Most respondents fell somewhere in the middle of these extremes, expressing annoyance with some aspect of the existing system, but not seeing any reason to change.

Regardless, most everyone agreed on a few principles of good use. Chief among these is to always use high-quality email subjects. Vague subjects like "Going to X" or "Tutoring?" should be replaced with the clear "I'm going to X" or "I need a ModCon tutor." Consider including a topic in square brackets, to let people know if your email is relevant to them before they read it. For example: "[Survey] Do you

have a job?"

For any email where the response window is closed (i.e. *helpmes*), send a "Resolved:" email to the mailing list (easily done using a "Reply all" to the original email sent and appending "Solved" to the automatic "Re"). Also consider thanking the person that helped you, or including information that could be relevant to other people on the mailing list. While not required, additional information can be nice or useful to other users.

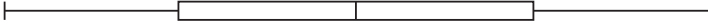
Only send All-students emails when the matter affects everybody (all-students includes cross-registered students and exchange students). Otherwise, send to each class individually, and to the exchange students. Keep in mind however, these are more official lists and should only be used for distributing information that everyone should know, like announcements, town hall meetings, and SAC events.

Finally, check the master "lists of lists" at lists.olin.edu and subscribe to ones that you want to be a part of. You may find new interests, clubs, or just people with a common goal. And then, before sending an email to 'the

Responses to Selected Questions from “Mailing Lists” Survey

a box and whisker plot showing agreement with given statements

“Every Carpediem email interests me.”



“Carpediem emails are too numerous for me to read all of them in a regular and timely manner.”



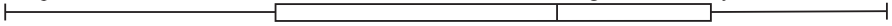
“Carpediem emails should be sent to other lists.”



“I try to help resolve every single Helpme.”



“Helpme emails are too numerous for me to read all of them in a regular and timely manner.”



“I only send emails to Helpme, I never help others.”



“Helpme emails should be sent to other mailing lists”



0 2 4 6 8 10

Disagree
Entirely

Agree
Entirely

big two,’ consider sending it to another mailing list first. You may find that your email gets to exactly the intended recipients. If it does not, you can always forward it to another list.

The email system and its mailing lists are the beating heart of Olin’s vibrant community. We—the students, faculty, and staff—determine what it means to us and how

we use it. Some respondents

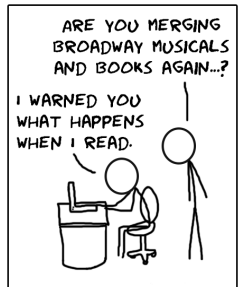
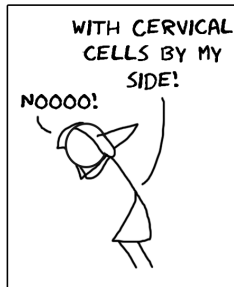
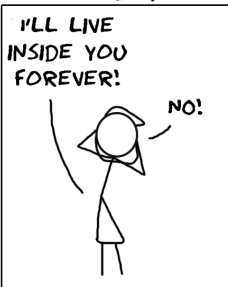
“The email system and its mailing lists are the beating heart of Olin’s vibrant community.”

to the survey seemed to think

that they had no control over email culture, and that is simply not true. At a school where the students have great autonomy in their classes, their activities, and even their honor code, to think that a tool like email is out of our hands is fallacy. If you want something to change at Olin, Do Something! Maintaining or radically changing how we use a resource is up to us.

NOT XKCD by Kai

FEATURING “THE CONFONTATION” OF HENRIETTA AND HYDE.



(STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE: HELA CELLS DEFYING GRAVITY!)

Shibboleth

Slater Victoroff
Contributor

I have watched human fac-
similes
wither and fade with the
passing of the hours Seen
glittering neon how-do-
you-do's fade like news
past its years and yellow
like that great amorphous
mist

Watched myself, the perpet-
ual vinyl
turning, turning, turning to a
stop
With all the click and
clacks and scratches and
screams of an honest and
proper player

Felt the gurgling-churning of
the yet-to-be and watched
the horizon before itself
floating over and past the
glitzy Hasidics.

Known the weniger-mensch
in its rise
and grasped the undertow

as it did the same Con-
templating freeform in
a spiral of time Float-
ing under and over and
through, though never re-
ally breaking, and always
truly bound

The last laugh sinew of vain
and stupid pride in boor-
ish imitation of greats
now past the age of the
pessimist in a glorious
crescendo the deafening
crash, still on the eves
ready to astound the ab-
sent and the senseless,
the audience that has long
since abandoned.

Callous to the gasping breath
lost in their miracle-fatigue
praying for the Messiah
standing abrupt
and a weep weep weeping,
for some illusioned ceas-
ing.

A Shaharazard tilted over the
precipice
the mystery of old and new

debased to a name with
The Cave leading The
Fire and the dumb lead-
ing the scholars through
the stagnant schools of
Cochytus

Forsaken by Minerva and
deaf to the songs of Eros
Those filled by envy
extolled as virtuous,
the throne of tolerance
usurped by raving delu-
sions of safety and in-
censed livers.

A schizophrenic synergy
connecting love and fear
a people paralyzed by
crushing ignorance pre-
ferring that bliss over
some admonishing to a
self rightfully passed

Cleft between jaded cynics
and fanatics of a false
Xanadu Where grey is
naive fancy and opinions
are truth All this I have
seen, and in short I was
impressed

MEET THE OLINER **Alison Berkowitz**



Little known facts about
Alison:

1. She is currently coach-
ing her high school
field hockey team.
2. She loves salmon.
3. She was the Circula-
tion Manager of her
high school newspa-
per.

*Meet the Oliner is a new
monthly column written
by Jessica Diller. If you
are interested in being in-
terviewed for the column,
contact Jessica or any of
the Frankly Speaking edi-
tors.*

Jessica Diller
Columnist

Tips from Customer Service

Kai Austin

Editor

This past summer, I had an internship with Shareaholic – a small (less than 10 person) startup that provides a free app you can add to your blog. The app allows viewers to share a webpage to many different social media services across the globe and provides the viewer with recommendations for other pages on the website they might also join. About 1 month after I started, Shareaholic released an “upgrade” of this app in their WordPress plugin.

You all know the burning wrath of change. Innocent people are suddenly swept into a raging panic. Where did their app go? How were they supposed to edit things? Why was nothing working? Why did we ruin a perfectly good plugin?!?! So when the customer service inbox shot from 20 to 200 emails in just one night, Shareaholic stuck me on customer support duty. For two months.

Imagine answering emails for 7-8 straight hours per day from people all over the world. I have never met them before, nor will I likely ever come in contact with them again. Some speak English, some barely speak English, some send you emails in their native language, requiring “Google translate” before I can continue.

If I am lucky, the problem is just a caching issue. This is roughly 40% of the cases, de-

pending on the day, and now my fingers will auto complete if I do not pay attention. How is that lucky? Because it is quick. I can reply in 5 minutes. Person shoots a message back saying that it works, and showers me with gratitude. Boom.

“Awesome! If you have any more questions in the future, do not hesitate to ask. :) Best of luck! – Kai”

Case solved.

Other lucky cases are the wonderfully informative: “It doesn’t work.” End of message. Some people are kind enough to add a second sentence informing us that “It used to.” These also take less than 5 minutes to answer, with me asking what they are even talking about.

Making a single step forward on all other cases can take anywhere from 20 minutes to a full 2 hours. For each of these emails, I have to check: their website, their pages, their API key, their version, their front end, their back end, the console, their website in different browsers, etc. How much I check depends on how extensive the reported “error” is. The ultimate goal is to replicate what the user reports. I have had to access people’s website accounts, intentionally break our testing site with various other plugins, hack CSS settings, write lengthy emails on how to debug, explain reasoning for design decisions and how the internet actually works – and then, after having the user try

everything conceivably possible, discover there actually *is* a bug which is passed to the working engineers to fix.

Communication between myself and the user can last for days. Sometimes I will just ignore “open cases” (after the user replied to my email) for 24 hours – because I have to. As quickly as I wrote emails, even more came in. But...that is not even the hard part.

People are people. There are roughly 3 types of emails you can get in customer service. The first are grateful, understanding, and cooperative (i.e. “I know I am doing something wrong here... >>”). The second are stoic, straightforward, and serious (i.e. “Hi. It is not showing.”). The third are raging, insulting, and entitled (i.e. “Great, you broke everything!”). No matter what, I must *always* be cheerful and clear, exemplify the utmost patience, and speak to the level of the user (aka, words they can understand without being demeaning). My goal is to keep them happy and a user of the service. Smilies are used quite often. It is a persona I adapt, a face I put on to be the kindest and most friendly person I can. Personal feelings do not matter. While this may be a redundant task for me – it is a “one time” interaction for them.

I do not think much about the emotional strain working customer service can cause the average person – I can be in the middle of a war zone

and not be bothered. However I know it exists. And I can honestly rant about the whole social psychology behind people and this interactive process, but that is for another time. One thing to note, though, is that rage is passing. Many people are genuinely grateful. They can be shouting at you one minute, but then showering you with eternal gratitude the moment everything is resolved. Compliments included.

“Awesome! If you have any more questions in the future, do not hesitate to ask. :) Best of luck! – Kai”

“Many people are genuinely grateful.”

While I did not do what I was expecting to do this past summer (i.e. programming), working in customer service did teach me a lot about the

internet. And social media sites. And business. And what is popular. And people. And hacking. And blogs. And WordPress. And that people really like my name.

Oh – and FYI, next time you report a bug to someone – please provide screenshots, relevant urls, your browser and OS, anything you already did to resolve the issue, and a clear description of what exactly is going on. Thank you.

Updates from the Illustrious SERV Board

Welcome back, everyone! The SERV board is incredibly excited for another great year as we support, encourage and recognize volunteerism, in case you forgot where the acronym comes from. Beginning this semester, we will be publishing an article in Frankly Speaking each month to keep you better informed about our accomplishments and upcoming events.

First, I'd like to introduce the board this year. We have changed the structure of the board and are in the process of rewriting our charter, which you should be hearing more about in the next month. The SERV board now consists of the chair Ariana Chae, the vice chair Daniel Leong, the manager of finance and records Emily Guthrie, and general members Hayley Hansson, Amanda Sutherland and Michael Searing.

We will be electing two (2) more general members this fall, one of whom has to be a first-year student, so if you're interested in joining our wonderful team, you should let us know! (Our contact details are at the end of this article, so you should probably keep reading.)

As we kick off the semester, here are a few events that you should be aware of:

9/8 - Jimmy Fund Walk. We have a great team of 11 walkers, and we've set a new record by raising \$6,627.40 so far, which is awesome! We are accepting contributions until November if anyone wants to donate.

9/12 - Elections. We will have our applicants give speeches at the end of OIE, and then send out ballots for the school to vote on the two open general member positions. We welcome all students

to apply for the positions, and we strongly urge the student body to be informed voters!

9/29 - Race for the Cure 5k. Every year, we have a team of Olin students who walk or run the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure for breast cancer. We will reimburse students \$10 each for the cost of registration, and we'll have sign-up parties soon. It's a lot of fun so everyone should consider joining the team!

As always, SERV is here for you, and we are always open to your ideas! Email us at serv@olin.edu, join the CarpeSERV mailing list for updates about spontaneous community service opportunities, and follow us on Twitter [@olinserv](https://twitter.com/olinserv) to get the latest update on upcoming events.

Ari Chae
Columnist

FRANKLY INTERVIEW: JIALIYA HUANG

A Candid Conversation with Jialiya Huang about hardware development, working with co-founders, and what it feels like to get a company off the ground.

Jialiya Huang, class of 2013.5, founded Technical Machine with Tim Ryan, class of '13.5, and Jon McKay, class of '13, this summer. The company launched Tessel, their first product on September 5th, and is both thrilled and innervated by all the interest the Tessel has received already on Hacker News, Hackaday, and Japanese Slashdot.

Full disclosure, I'm working for Technical Machine too— mostly on press and marketing at the moment. But it was still a great opportunity to speak with Jialiya at length about the future of hardware development and her personal goals in starting a company.

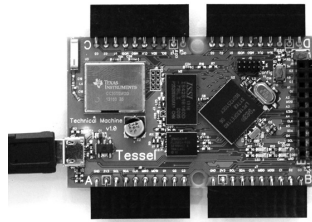
BRESEMAN: Is Tessel just a starting place for your users to get into hardware?

HUANG: Right now, when software developers look at something like hardware, the first thing that I think of is, if I create something cool, how do I share it with the world? That's one of the biggest things that I want to do with any software library that I write, is put it up in the open, have people using it, and put my name out there.

Tessel is trying to make it easier for that entire process to happen.

Currently, the set of knowledge that you would get from making one hard-

ware device doesn't really translate into making more of them. Tessel is trying to streamline that entire process so that if you can make one, you can make ten; there's a service that lets you make 100, or make 1,000.



BRESEMAN: How does Tessel streamline that process?

HUANG: Some of the things that we looked into in particular were other services: an API for hardware, essentially. You have all these capabilities that you want on your device— let's say I want Bluetooth and accelerometer, for remote sensing or something. And that's all I need. And I can do that on an Arduino: I can get an Arduino accelerometer shield; I can get an Arduino Bluetooth shield. But in order to migrate onto my own PCB requires me to now know hardware design. Whereas with the Tessel, what I hope to accomplish is making a service so that someone can say, here's what I need, and then we send them back something that is exactly that.

BRESEMAN: What is most exciting to you about Technical Machine?

HUANG: Everything is incredibly exciting because I have no idea what's going to come the next day.

We were unsure about technical development, the first few months. That was a lot of getting our heads down, making sure that what we were proposing was feasible. Of course, that has its own highs and lows. And then all of a sudden we launched on Hacker News, and suddenly we were getting so much attention that we had to respond to it, and it's just been building up.

There are so many decisions that we need to take care of, and that we need to think about. It's very different from any other job I've had. I've been an intern at other places, but those are very much low-level. You get thrown a very specific task, or a chunk of a task; the parameters are very well-defined. But with Technical Machine, because we're creating this company and creating the market as we go along. Every decision that we make is impactful.

BRESEMAN: What are you worried about at the moment?

HUANG: Absolutely everything. I'm worried about moving out of my house, I'm worried about finding enough things to eat. What happens

when we're no longer at Highland and I don't have access to oatmeal 24/7?

I'm worried about living, and then I'm worried about the business, and then I'm worried about technology and how this is going to go.

I'm freaking out every night about this. If we are successful, what are people saying about us on Twitter? What does the creator of JavaScript think about us?

BRESEMAN: Are you still glad you're doing this?

HUANG: Yes. This is definitely one of the best experiences I've had. It's amazing how easy it is to actually do. A lot of our— looking at where we are right now versus where we started the summer, we are so much further than I thought we would get. Opportunities just pop up, and we grab them. It sets us on a path to success, almost.

I went to a talk by the creator of— they're now called Ink, they were called Filepicker.io— Brett van Zuiden, and he was saying how you can just set yourself on railroad tracks. You make all these goals, and then all you have to do is hit them. And hitting goals is something you've been trained to do since you started to do: you have a test; all you need to do is pass that test. You have a project; all you need to do is get to the next stage of the project. And along the way, people have opened themselves up to us and have said, "Hey, why don't you do this? We'll give you expertise in this field," and all we have to do is take it. And we take it, and we're like, "Oh, that

was a good decision." And then that just leads to more good decisions.

I guess starting at Highland was the very first good decision we made, and since then I think we have been setting ourselves up for better decisions. It's not so much of a "what the hell are we doing", and more like, "here are the five possible choices; let us pick out the best of these five based on these metrics."

BRESEMAN: You're going back for another semester at Olin—are you going to leverage the Olin community while you're there?

HUANG: Definitely at least for testing, and I think that we should also be able to leverage the Olin community for some development tasks. There are plenty of good engineers at Olin. Plenty of them are hacking away at stuff anyway, and they're very much a demographic that we want to hit with our market: tinkers, hackers, whatever. And I also think that they would be good people to bring on for at least some projects— we need to ship out a ton of peripherals. We want to have a great community in place when Tessel first launches, and I think Olin is a great place to get that started.

BRESEMAN: How does it feel to be running a company and going back to Olin at the same time?

HUANG: Really strange. School feels very familiar; I know exactly what I'm going to be doing in school, and it's not dangerous, and I get kind of a warm feeling because I've been there the last four years.

On the business side, I'm always angsty about Technical Machine. It's the combination of not a lot of anxiety, because we have a lot of safety in this— just because it's Olin, it's like coming home, really. I know that I can be safe, that I can hide, at Olin, from people that I don't want to see on the internet, for example.

I'm taking like 12 credits. One of them is E! Capstone, which will literally be working on this business; one of them is Chinese, because I'll be going to China for manufacturing, and the other one is Sanjoy's Bayesian class, which I heard was good.

I'm not worried about the workload because I got all my hard work out of the way. Hopefully I can just cruise and have a free place— well, a very expensive place to stay while I work on the business.

My mom told me that I had to get my degree. I told her, "Oh, look, we're trying to raise a round, things are going well—" and she's like, "I hope you stay in school!" No, mom, God! You don't understand!

BRESEMAN: Have you seriously considered dropping out?

HUANG: I don't really care about the degree. I think that I've gotten a lot of Olin these past four years, to the point where if I was the weakest link here— if everyone else would have been working in Boston, in an office together, I would have dropped out. But since Tim also had a semester to finish and he's not dropping out, and I think it's important for the team to stay

Continued on next page...

together in this sense, because Tim's at Olin, I'm going to be joining him at Olin.

BRESEMAN: Is there anything else you would like to say to the Olin community?

HUANG: I wish there were more companies started out of Olin. I think that the skill set of building a company is very transferrable when you're in a community such as Olin.

It's hard to start a company when you're the only one doing it and you don't know anyone else.

Not even just to start a company, but even when you're starting to get some momentum and you have incoming investors wanting to talk to you. There's all this weird shit in business that they don't teach you that-

it makes no logical sense, but it's the status quo, and having someone who's at least with you, or one step ahead of you, just getting really quick feedback from them is super useful. And having someone else in the same situation, who can ground yourself in—where you can feel like this is a normal state to be in. Because for a lot of students, it's not. It's not normal to not be doing an internship at a big company, but it should be the normal for Olin, because that is what our education consists of: design, engineering, business.

It seems like a lot of Olin rhetoric, especially when you're an incoming student, is, you should start your own business! This will teach you to be a great entrepreneur,

because you'll have all these skill sets. And then it turns out that no one's starting a company, or very few are. It's just weird that we're educated for that, and yet we're taking jobs which are safer. I think that if a community starts growing around the idea of starting a company, it becomes much easier for other people to enter into it. And a lot of resources get cheaper because they can be shared.

Read more about Technical Machine online at technical.io, and particularly on their blog (often written by yours truly). Additionally, check out their successful crowdfunding campaign at dragoninnovation.com/

Kelsey Breseman
Alumna

Found a Startup in College

Molly Farison
Contributor

When I took The Entrepreneurial Initiative in Spring 2012, it solidified my intention to start a company. However, I was convinced that waiting until school was over was a good idea. As it turns out, starting a company while still in school was a much better idea. Here's why:

1. I have no day job to quit. Several entrepreneur friends of mine still have day jobs, which means they don't have their most productive hours of the day to work on their startup and they are consistently stressed. As a student, people often don't expect you to be making

money, and it's an easier time in your life to rely on family or friends for housing, health insurance, and money.

2. Now is a great time to start a company. Massachusetts has amazing resources for entrepreneurs, including money to help pay interns in technology-based companies. Students and unemployed people are often willing to work for free or very cheap with a startup in order to gain experience that makes them more hireable. We were able to work with an awesome business intern this summer who was happy to work unpaid to get an experience he wouldn't find at a large company, which was a win-win situation.

3. Accelerators love engi-

neers, and an idea is enough. Amos Meeks '14 and I got into MassChallenge this summer with not much more than a UOCD idea. This program has provided us with beautiful space in South Boston, amazing mentorship, and a practical business curriculum, all for free.

Ask Tim Ryan or Jialiya Huang '13.5 about their experience with the Summer@Highland program, which is specifically for students. The Babson Summer Venture Program is also open to Olin students, along with many other amazing accelerators in the Boston area.

What are you waiting for? Once you have a co-founder and a good idea, it's time to start a company.

Try a Club, Find a Passion

Kat Brookshier

Contributor

Larger universities throughout the country have more clubs than Olin has students – UCLA clocks in at more than eight hundred clubs, while Harvard boasts about four hundred. Finding a way to test out all of those clubs would be a daunting task to any student.

Olin is different because you can try out nearly all of the clubs if you want to! (However, you would be crazy to be in them all.)

At the beginning of each academic year, the upperclassmen show off their favorite clubs during Club Fair, so that all students (new and returning) have the chance to see what each has to offer. It

might remind you of Candidates' Weekend, only this time the weather will be better and you can actually join the clubs. There are dozens of student clubs to see there, from long-standing clubs like Olin Fire Arts Club to new clubs like Dr. Who, which is barely two years old.

Olin has many types of clubs, ranging from the unconventional (Hoop-ing Club) to the religious (Olin Christian Fellowship) to the hands-on (Human Powered Vehicles). We also have sports teams (soccer, ultimate frisbee) and dance clubs, cultural clubs and musical clubs.

So, what's in it for you? Club Fair gives you a great chance to get involved in campus life. I encourage first

years especially to sign up for every club that catches your eye – you might find a new passion, and you will certainly make new friends. Don't worry about signing up for too many; most people did that in their first year and soon discovered which ones they were truly passionate about. More important is finding activities you like to do, with people whose company you enjoy.

The best part about clubs at Olin is that if you want to create a new club, you can. All you need to start a club, and apply for funding from Olin, are a couple of committed people who share your passion. But first, I encourage you to see if you can't find a club or two that you would like to participate in at

Clubs on Campus: A Guide

With more than 80 clubs last year, it would be impossible to list them all here. This is a list of a few of the most active in 2012-13. Check out these clubs and many others at Club Fair, this Friday, September 13th from 3:30-5pm in the O.

BAJA

Board Game Club

Butterfingers

Cheese Club

Chess Club

Chinese Club

Dungeons n Dragons

FILM Club

Franklin W. Olin Players

Friendly Fire

Grow

Hoop-ing Club

Human Powered Vehicles

Indian Club

International Club

Meat Club

Midnight Math

Midnight Riders

Olimprov

Olin Anime

Olin Book Club

Olin Christian Fellowship

Olin Dance Project

Olin Fire Arts Club

Olin Robotic Sailing

Olin Rock Orchestra

Olin Singers

Olin Weekend Warriors

Oliners with Longboards

Open

Outing Club

Pokemon Club

Pottery Club

PowerChords

REVO

SERV

Student Activities (SAC)

T.A.R.D.I.S.

Taboo Club

Tea Enthusiasts

ThinkDoReflect

Tricycle Racing Athletic

Veggie Club

Newsies' Next New Newsboy

Brian Liebson

Contributor

Whoever said that you work best when stressed has obviously never been to a Broadway audition. The following is... what I recall of... my first and only Broadway audition:

I suppose it all began Friday, February 15th. There was an open dance call in Boston for the Broadway musical *Newsies*. This part of my audition story is not new, however, so I am going to just skip over it for now—ask me about it some other time if you'd like. The only thing you need to know is the outcome: from the 150 or so people auditioning, they asked me and about 10 others to come to NYC that summer for another callback.

I woke up to my alarm set to the first song in the *Newsies* album and dressed in my maroon shirt and gray shorts, an outfit I had taken weeks to perfect. My mom wished me a happy birthday and we walked past Times Square toward Pearl Studios. I found my way to the 10th floor and was surrounded by 150 dancers. Every single one was beautifully built, graceful, and astonishing to watch, even when they were just warming up. And there I was. I just shrugged it off and started to get ready. At this point, I was competing against not only the top choices in the US, but the UK and Canada as well.

This audition was essen-

tially the same as the first in Boston. The same people were casting; we just reviewed the "Seize the Day" dance and the "King of New York" tap dance. We performed for the three-person casting panel, five at a time, until everyone had cycled through, after which we took our lunch break. However, at this point, the next factor was added: singing. I am not afraid of singing; I'm in musicals all the time. It's just that every single *Newsie* in the show sings an A-flat (which is a pretty high note, at least for me). Well, they called me in alone and asked me to sing. The musical director was present at this audition, and I got so nervous that my jaw locked toward the end of the song. My final words, which were supposed to be "...see us out there, carrying the banner, always out there, carrying the banner..." came out more like "...see us ow thuh, cay yee ee uh ah nuh aw way ow eh, air ree'n a aa nah..." They laughed it off and asked me to sing it again. I *actually* sang the words that time, and they just chatted with me after—asking me how old I was, where I was from, and what I'd be doing if I didn't get the part.

"Well I...um, I'm 19 years old as of today and go to Olin."

"Well happy birthday! But what was that? Oberlin?" (How many other people has this happened to?)

"Um no, Olin. It's actually called the Franklin W.

Olin College of Engineering in Needha--"

"Engineering?."

"...Yes sir."

They all looked at each other and laughed, asking me how I learned to dance like that, especially from engineering school. I didn't really know what to say, and talked about my experience with theater, dance, and gymnastics when I was little. After sending me outside, the casting director's assistant asking me to return the next day: "Be prepared to do everything you did today and more."

...And more. Great.

When I got back to the holding room the next day, I found that only 36 of us were left. We were just reviewing the material when the director, choreographer, assistant choreographer, librettist, casting director, vocal director, musical director, show drummer, two casting assistants, several Broadway.com representatives, and some other people I didn't know suddenly showed up. Our casting panel went from three to half the people in the room, taking note of everything about me: physical, emotional, and talent. We did the "Seize the Day" dance, the hardest section in the show, twice in a row then the "King of New York" tap dance one-at-a-time. We then tried to show off any special dance or gymnastics skills we had, before they sent us out in order to hear songs and scenes from us one-at-a-

time. (I did the best I could, and they sent me home.)

The worst part about auditioning is the waiting; they'll call you if you got the part, but they won't call to tell you that you didn't.

HOWEVER, I am lucky because I have a ridiculously complicated and far-fetched connection to the assistant choreographer, who said, "He likes you – he said he kept you because you are good and you know your stuff – you are definitely in the 'Future' file."

So what did this all mean? What have I learned? Am I going to be in Newsies or not??

Well, theoretically I am in the future file, which means they are keeping me in a file for when someone in the cast decides to leave. I.E. When one of the Asian newsboys

decides to not renew their contract, I will be invited to another callback in NYC to compete against the other four Asians from the final 36 to see who fits the part better. This could be anytime, three weeks or even three years. Only time will tell.

I can't say that I didn't learn anything from this crazy journey. The best moral I can derive from my story is that it is never too late to try something new. For example, I started doing flying trapeze first semester and ended up working on a trapeze rig this past summer. I would say that it is pretty unheard of for an engineer to reach the final callback for a Broadway show. Chatting with other potential newsboys, I found out that every single one was currently attending or had attended some of the best mu-

sical theater programs in the country—and then there was me.

I've been told that here at Olin, not everyone plans on being an engineer. I'd be lying if I said that I had never thought I could be on Broadway. That being said, I was definitely planning on pursuing a career in mechanical engineering. Now I'm not so sure. All I can truly and honestly say is that wherever I end up, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I have both at Olin and around the Olin community. I'll never forget the excitement and support I've had from every single Oliner in my time here, and I'll always try to return the favor.

"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground." (Theodore Roosevelt, Disney's Newsies)

A Puzzle by Midnight Math

Midnight Math is run by Kevin O'Toole '15.

Have you ever wanted a slice of pizza with no crust? Do you usually feed your crust your dogs?

Find a way of cutting a circular pizza into finitely many congruent pieces such that at least one piece has no crust.

More formally, find a set of simply connected regions (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) such that:

- The intersection $(X_1 \cup X_2 \cup \dots \cup X_n)$ is the unit disk, D , on \mathbb{R}^2 .
- For each $i, j < n$ there is

a rigid, possibly orientation-reversing transformation of the plane which converts X_i to X_j

- For some $i, \lambda(X_i \cap \partial D) = 0$, where λ is the Lebesgue measure*, and



∂D is the boundary of the unit disk, D .

- * This Lebesgue measure will be zero if no open or closed interval along the boundary is contained in a slice. That is, a piece that touches the disk's edge only at its corner(s) is considered to have "no crust".

Send your solutions (with proof) to midnight.math@outlook.com. If you are correct, you will be given the highest of accolades: your name mentioned here, next issue.

Welcome to Frankly Speaking

Lyra Silverwolf
Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to the fifth volume of Frankly Speaking, Olin's student-run, monthly newspaper.

The ongoing mission of Frankly Speaking is to foster communication between students, faculty, staff, the greater Olin community, and beyond, through publishing many types of content created by anyone with a desire to be printed.

Frankly Speaking has been publishing monthly issues of the paper since Fall 2010, but we need your help to continue publishing. First and foremost, a paper cannot be published without content, and we rely primarily on Olin students to submit content each month. We're looking for writing of any skill level on topics you are passionate about. The Frankly Speaking editors will help you refine your writing to a point where you are proud to see your classmates and friends reading your work on publication day.

Additionally, we need you to join Frankly Speaking. Many of the Frankly Speaking staff graduated last year, leaving several open positions on the paper. We need enthusiastic, passionate students to fill the following rolls for this upcoming academic year:

Editor - reads, edits articles, helps with layout. Must be able to spell and edit.

Layout editor - uses InDesign to lay out paper. Must be willing to learn InDesign.

Website manager - keeps FS's website up to date.

Business manager - FS

sells ad space and sometimes gets emails about it! Respond to ad requests and ask local businesses to sponsor FS with food!

Staff Illustrator - sometimes we have these awkward spaces and they have to be filled with drawings. Can you draw things at the drop of a hat? Be a staff illustrator!

Contributor - the bread-and-butter of the paper. Everyone is a contributor! Come to the meeting this weekend with your article ideas or send them to:

submit@franklyspeakingnews.com



Want to write for Frankly Speaking?

Send us your articles at

SUBMIT@FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM

Write to the columnists

FSCOLUMN@GMAIL.COM

Or check out the website at

[HTTP://FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM](http://FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM)

Olin College of Engineering does not endorse and is not affiliated with Frankly Speaking.

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Special thanks to Jialiya Huang!