

# Community at Olin

As Demonstrated Through the  
Events Surrounding Aaron  
Swartz's Visit



# Project Overview

- Anthropological approach
- The Olin community is resilient
- Outline
  - Introduction
  - The Olin community before Aaron's visit
  - Discussion immediately after Aaron's post
  - Long term effects of the discussion
  - Conclusion



# The Olin Community

- Core community: Olin students
  - Also involves staff, faculty, alumni, etc.
- Small
- Diverse



## Aaron's visit

- Aaron: web 2.0 entrepreneur
- Visited computer architecture
- Talked with an acquaintance
- Went to pick up root beer keg
- Talked with students
- “Attended” root beer “kegger”



# Discussion in blog comments

- Olin pros and cons
- Defense of Olin party culture



# Discussion in randomness

- Olin pros and cons
  - Discussion of party cultures
  - Discussion of improved feedback
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- Divide widens between the two party cultures



# Lasting tension

- Tension remains between the party cultures



# Strength of the Community

- Despite the tension, the community underwent little change
- The many overlapping communities within Olin kept ties between the communities





# Resilience of the community

- The diversity of the Olin community makes it resilient

