

# THE GRADUATE

PLAY

ORIENTATION  
2011



GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL



MIT GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL  
**ORIENTATION 2011**

*The Graduate is the official publication of the  
MIT Graduate Student Council*



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# PLAY

You have made the decision to play, live, and then work while pursuing your degree here at MIT. This section is designed to give you all of the necessary information for you to enjoy your time here as a graduate student, and begin networking with colleagues. The play section presents information pertaining to the social portion of student life at MIT. Here you will find welcome messages from faculty, you will be introduced to your Orientation Chairs, you will be presented with an Orientation schedule of events that relates to socializing, and you will be given a glimpse into past social events. Let the fun begin!

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Living at MIT means finding a balance between focusing on your studies and engaging in activities outside of the classroom, lab or studio space. This section is designed to give you all of the necessary information to help you achieve this balance. This “Live” portion will present to you student perspectives on life at MIT, and welcome letters from prominent faculty members. Here you will be introduced to the campus map where you will learn about key locations for grad students, and finally you will be presented with the orientation scheduled events that relates to “Know the City”.

# RE-ORIENTATION



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# WORK

You have made the decision to work, live, and then play while pursuing your degree here at MIT. This section is designed to give you all of the necessary information for you to work hard and excel in your fields of study. The work section presents information pertaining to the academic portion of student life at MIT. Here you will find welcome letters from key figures at MIT, you will be introduced to the Graduate Student Council Leadership Team, you will be presented with a glimpse at graduate student work, and finally you will be presented with an Orientation schedule of events that relates to academics. Lets Get To Work!

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# From The Editor-in-Chief



*Let The Fun Begin!*

Hello MIT Graduate students!

I am the current Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News (GSN), and let me be one of the first to welcome you into our home. The Graduate Student Council, MIT faculty and staff have worked diligently to produce a Handbook that will help make your transition here an exciting and informative experience.

This Handbook is designed with our readers in mind, so we have organized the information in a method that gives you complete control over how you view it. Keeping with the theme of “Orientation”, we have produced two covers for this Handbook, where the orientation in which you read this issue will dictate how the information is presented. You can either “Play”, “Live”, and then “Work”, or you can “Work”, “Live”, and then “Play”. No matter how you decide to view the information, each page will provide you with the insight to help you orient yourself within MIT as well as the Boston/Cambridge area.

As you progress through this handbook, pay close attention to the area that presents information on the 2011 Orientation schedule. This portion of the handbook will introduce you to your Orientation Chair Leaders, and it will provide you with a calendar of scheduled events and activities that were created to get you settled here at MIT. The activities and events will answer many questions that you may currently have about student life, and it will also provide you with the opportunity to begin creating strong friendships and connections with new and current students here at MIT.

While you are continuing your studies here, I encourage you all to visit the GSC website: <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation/> for updates to the calendar of scheduled events for Orientation, and for updates on issues pertaining to graduate student life. You will find that the GSC website and The Graduate publication provides an amazing venue for sharing information, ideas, opinions and activities. We are constantly looking for submissions of artwork, poetry, or short fiction articles that may be of interest to our readership. We welcome all writers, photographers, artists, and layout designers onto our team who have the desire to communicate important issues clearly. If you are interested in joining our staff send an e-mail to [gsc-editor@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-editor@mit.edu).

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading this handbook as much as we have enjoyed producing. I would like to wish you all the best of luck as you “Play”, “Live”, and “Work” here at in MIT.

*Rudy Dieudonne*

Rudy Dieudoone

Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News



# Welcome Messages!

## ■ GREETINGS FROM FACULTY

Greetings, incoming Graduate students and Welcome to MIT!

I am a professor of Chemical Engineering and Biological Engineering, and I was also once a graduate student at MIT. There were a variety of experiences in my four years as a graduate student that shaped the rest of my life. These experiences included classes that taught me the fundamentals in my field and the doctoral qualifying exam, which taught me how to deal with stress. In addition, working on my thesis taught me how to conduct research and how to take an idea from start to finish. During this time, I also learned how to give talks and write papers. Towards the end of graduate school, I went through many job interviews which were incredibly helpful in teaching me what career options were available.

Being in a place like Boston also afforded great extracurricular opportunities, one being helping to start a school for underprivileged children in the Boston and Cambridge area. Developing new math and chemistry curricula made me love teaching. Outside of my graduate work, I was able to watch fantastic sports teams like the Red Sox, Patriots, Celtics and Bruins. There was enormous camaraderie with my fellow graduate students. We would play ping-pong, go out for dinners, work or talk all night. I was also able to visit beautiful spots nearby, such as Cape Cod. I loved MIT and it changed my life. I wish you the very best while you are here.

Sincerely,

*Robert Langer*

Robert Langer

Institute Professor

Professor of Biological Engineering and Biology

## ■ INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Hello incoming graduate students, and welcome to MIT!

I remember being ecstatic when I found that I was selected to be a part of this experience. I found the first semester to be the toughest. I had arrived with certain ideas about how I saw my student life at MIT. Things did not necessarily happen the way I envisioned them, I liked too many courses in my program and was taking on more than I could handle. I was losing sleep over it and not spending enough time to relaxing and having fun. After the first semester, I learned to slow down.

MIT has a lot to offer and sometimes, the massive number of choices can make it really difficult for you to make a decision. I learned that it made sense to explore but focus on doing things and taking courses that will help me develop my skill sets that I'd require the most when I finish my program and pursue my professional life.

As international student, one of the things I missed the most was my group of friends and family who were my support system. Having a balanced personal life with time to relax, talk to your friends, share your joys and problems is very important when you are pursuing your academics here. You have to create your own support system here.

It can prove to be a benefit to connect to your colleagues within your departments. People have come to this school because they are passionate about their work and they understand the difficulties you may encounter. It is important to ask and make the effort to be understood to make the most of the experience and resources at MIT.

*Alpita Masurkar*

Alpita Masurkar



## GREETINGS FROM YOUR ORIENTATION CHAIRS

Hello everyone!

Welcome to the unique and larger-than-life world that is MIT! Standing at the gates to your next phase of life and career, you are probably feeling a mix of excitement, pride and slight apprehension. As your Orientation Chairs, we are most excited to guide your transition from pre-MIT to MIT, and to make this as smooth as possible.

In true MIT spirit, our graduate orientation is one of the most extensive and comprehensive in the country. We have over 60 events spanning four weeks, to introduce you to one fantastic institute. The program is designed to help you Know the Institute, Know the People and Know the City. We urge you to make the most of Orientation, and to attend as many of these events as your schedule allows. Please visit our website, <http://gsc.mit.edu/Orientation>, where you will find a full schedule of events and a list of frequently asked questions.

Orientation is made possible by the help of many enthusiastic volunteers from all parts of the institute, under the coordination of the Graduate Student Council. Our research and work is, of course, of utmost priority, but a well-rounded student body that fosters collaboration and community is part of what makes MIT great. Remember to get involved with the GSC after Orientation, and to give something back to the community!

We look forward to meeting each and every one of you,

*Alexandra German & Richard Zhang*

Alexandra German & Richard Zhang



Alexandra German

Alexandra German is a third year Ph.D. candidate in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST), did her undergrad at Carnegie Mellon and hails from New York. She loves making jokes about sheep.



Richard Zhang

Richard Zhang is a second year Ph.D. student in Electrical Engineering from Christchurch, New Zealand. Richard enjoys talking about energy and music, and absolutely loves spinach and ricotta pizzas. He dislikes jokes about sheep.

# Know the People

Below are key orientation events designed to help you get acquainted with MIT as an institute. Please visit us at <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation> for a complete listing of Know the Institute events, including dates, times and locations.

## WELCOME RECEPTION UNDER THE DOME



Wed, Aug 31

Experience the charm and ambience inside the iconic MIT Dome, while enjoying food and drink with your incoming colleagues. The 2011 orientation marks the 11th year of the Reception under the Dome event, which has become a classic place for incoming students to meet new friends, classmates, and collaborators in a beautiful and relaxed setting.

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

### BOSTON HARBOR CRUISE PARTY



A true MIT orientation favorite event. Come enjoy a breezy fall evening cruising around Boston Harbor, and dancing and mingling under the moon and stars with your new friends and the best dance music.

### GRADUATE DORM PARTIES



Get your glow sticks ready! Ashdown, Edgerton and Sidney & Pacific graduate dorms will each host a dance party in collaboration with the GSC to welcome incoming students. A series of fun nights you should not miss.

### Graduate Dorm BBQs

The GSC is the representative body for all graduate students at MIT. Get involved in student governance and come to the first GSC General Council Meeting of the year.

### Graduate Women at MIT Welcome Reception

Relax in the sun and enjoy the taste of late-summer! In collaboration with the GSC, Sidney & Pacific (in collaboration with the Warehouse), the Thirsty Ear Pub at Ashdown and Eastgate will each host a BBQ for orientation.

### Graduate Dorm Brunches

Ashdown and Sidney & Pacific will each host a special brunch during orientation.

### Families and Partners Welcome Events

Eastgate, Westgate and Spouses & Partners at MIT will host a number of events to facilitate family meeting and provide information on resources and advice for families.

### LBGT Welcome Events

New graduate lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and questioning students and friends are invited to join the Rainbow Coffeehouse for a Q&A session and dinner.



# Let the Fun Begin!

Now that you have completed the admissions process and are now a part of our MIT family, we can now let the fun begin. MIT graduate students are known internationally due to their innovative research and remarkable work ethic. Yet many people are not aware that graduate students can play just as hard as they can work.

Every semester the Graduate Student Council as well as other student groups, sponsor and promote a series of spectacular events that caters to wants of graduate students. These events are designed to get you out of the research lab, classroom or studio, and into a stress free and fun filled environment that fosters a community among graduate students. This section is just a glimpse of what sensational events lay ahead of you, now that you are an MIT graduate student.



Welcome Banquet

One of the most enjoyable events promoted last year for incoming graduate students, was the Welcome Banquet. Large numbers of graduate students took an afternoon and evening away from their studies to celebrate their acceptance into MIT with their peers. Many grads took to the dance floor and spent the day laughing, conversing and enjoying each others company. That was a grand event that many did not soon forget.



Harvard / MIT Party

It is only during one within the semester that Harvard joins MIT in celebration, and that is for the annual Harvard / MIT party. During this event Harvard and MIT Graduate students take to the dance floor to prove which school produces students with the best moves. The competition is fierce but the event always ends with integration of the two schools through laughter and conversation and shared experiences.



Orientation Welcome

During Orientation there is a large number of people who will be introduced to all incoming graduate students. One of these figures is the MIT mascot, Tim the beaver. Tim the beaver has been the mascot of MIT since at least 1914. Normally you would find Tim only at sporting and campus wide events, but Tim always makes an exception and comes out to welcome incoming graduate students.





Annual Graduate Ski-Trip

During IAP, which normally takes place between the fall and spring semester, MIT graduate students head to the icy slopes for their annual MIT Graduate Skiing Trip. This is an event that cannot be missed by any graduate student on campus. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced skier, all are welcomed to attend this event.



Museum Soiree

The Museum Soiree is a night where MIT graduate students leave their research behind, and take part in the viewing of art work created by their peers. Guests of this event enjoyed appetizers and drinks as they moved from room to room viewing art work and listening to music. The types art work included were interactive art, paintings, sculptures and many more. It was an amazing night for graduate students.



Annual Graduate Gala

Every year the Graduate Gala proves to be one of the most talked about events on our MIT Campus. This event is the one night of the academic year, where students dress in their best and dance the night away. The gala takes place in one of the most prominent hotels in down town Boston, where students enjoy elegant drinks, fine cuisine and enchanting music. The Grad gala is truly a memorable experience that every grad student should attend.



Acoustic Barbecue

The Acoustic Barbecue combined all of the elements necessary to ensure an amazing event. The scent of hot dogs, hamburgers and buns grilling upon an open flame filled the air of the amphitheater, while graduate students gathered to dance and hear the songs played by a live band. There was great conversation, plenty of drinks, and enough community pride to produce a fun filled break from research.



# Hot Spots Exposed!

One of the great advantages of MIT Is that when your experiments invalidate all of your previous work or your computer crashes a month after your last data back-up, you are just across the river from all that Boston has to offer in terms of culture, dining, and nightlife. But what do you do when the 364.4 smoots  $\pm$  1 ear of the Harvard bridge are just too daunting? Luckily, our corner of the Boston metro area is divided into a handful of transit-accessible squares. With all of Cambridge and Somerville at our fingertips, we have a lot of ground to cover, so here, in rapid-fire style are some of my top picks for each of these North-of-the-Charles hot spots.

## *Kendall Square*

Sometimes, there's no place like home, except maybe right next door. Hidden behind the concrete, steel, and glass of MIT and the biotech companies that loom over campus are a handful of great choices for a night out near-at-hand. And what luck! They're all piled on top of each other at **1 Kendall Square** near the intersection of Broadway and Portland St. Most MIT students already know that **Cambridge Brewing Company** is the place to go for towers of rotating microbrews and that **Flat Top Johnny's** is the local pool hall of choice when you can't get in on the table at the Thirsty Ear. However, I'd also like to introduce you to a newcomer to the scene, **The Friendly Toast**. Serving breakfast and lunch selections all day, and open until 1am on the weekend, the Toast is a quirky diner with a full bar featuring surprising cocktails that one can only assume pair nicely with their top-notch French toast.

## *Central Square*

Why take the green line all the way to Allston when we have our own Rock City right here in Cambridge? Central Square boasts the **Middle East Restaurant and Nightclub (472 Massachusetts Ave.)**, a venue which consistently hosts top-notch acts every night of the week for an affordable price at each of its FOUR main spaces (upstairs, downstairs, Zuzu, and the corner). Prefer thumping DJ beats to live music? Every night except for Sunday, **Middlesex Lounge (315 Massachusetts Ave.)** attracts an eclectic mix of dance-your-heart-out people from all over the city. For those of you who prefer a slightly more relaxed atmosphere for your dancing and drinking pleasure, consider the **Enormous Room (569 Massachusetts Ave.)** where a great cocktail list and live DJs cater to a hip, laid-back crowd.

## *Harvard Square*

We're still in familiar territory in Harvard Square, where it would be a challenge NOT to find a great bar or restaurant as you wonder around the cobblestone streets, so I won't spend too much time telling you about the cool, dark, hotel bar **Noir (1 Bennett St.)**, the trendy, rooftop-sporting restaurant **Daedalus (45 1/2 Mt. Auburn St.)**, and the famous double cheeseburger dive **Charley's Kitchen (10 Eliot St.)**. Instead, I would like to remind you that Harvard Square is the arts and culture heart of this corner of the world. **Harvard Art Museum (32 Quincy St.)** and **Harvard Museum of Natural History (26 Oxford St.)**, are both top-notch. If you only go to see the famed glass flowers of the natural history museum, your visit will be well-worth the effort. In the performing arts, make sure



you check out one of the **American Repertory Theater's (64 Brattle St.)** edgy, intense, critically-acclaimed productions next time you get a hankering for a dose of drama.

You might have some friends who live in Porter Square. Those friends might tell you that there's not much to do there. They might be right; however, Porter is the closest stop to **Cambridge Common and Lizard Lounge (1667 Massachusetts Ave.)**. Cambridge Common serves up tasty, rib-sticking food and has 30 taps, half of which rotate seasonally. If that isn't enough reason to go, it is connected to Lizard Lounge, a club that was named "Best Small Music Venue" by Boston Magazine in 2009. Porter Square proper also boasts a great place for live music, **Toad (1912 Massachusetts Ave.)**, a small bar with bands every night.

### *Davis Square*

The last square on the red line, Davis is super-trendy stop in Somerville, and full of great spots. Grab a coffee with the alternative crowd at **Diesel Café (257 Elm St.)** before catching a movie at **Somerville Theater (55 Davis Sq.)**, where you can get a beer to go along with your movie and check out the intriguingly-named **Museum of Bad Art** when the show is over. Davis also has a number of great venues for after the show, including **Burren (247 Elm St.)** for live music, or the super-hip Indian restaurant/nightclub **Diva Lounge (246 Elm St.)**. For decent eats and cheap drinks in a super laid-back diner atmosphere, head toward the neon sign advertising **Mike's Restaurant (9 Davis Sq.)**.

### *Inman Square*

Ok, so now it's time to venture off the red line. The next two squares require a bus from Central. You can catch the 83 to Inman Square in Cambridge if you don't want to make the 20 minute walk from campus. Inman is a quiet little residential square which also happens to boast some great neighborhood hotspots. **Bukowski's (1281 Cambridge St.)** is the place to go for beer. Can't decide? Try your hand at spinning the wheel of beer--but be warned: You spin it, you have to buy it. **Ryles (212 Hampshire St.)** caters to all sorts of people and offers great jazz as well as salsa throughout the week. For food, you can't beat **S&S Restaurant and Deli (1334 Cambridge St.)** which has been operating since 1919, so you know it's gotta be good. Afterwards, stop by **Christina's Homemade Ice Cream (1255 Cambridge St.)**. It's like a better, cheaper Toscanini's. Trust me.

### *Union Square*

This one is definitely the hardest to get to. The 91 bus will take you there from Central otherwise, a car or bike is best. However, brunch at the family-owned and operated **Neighborhood Restaurant (25 Bow St., Somerville)** is worth it. Union Square. Bars like the **Independent (75 Union Sq.)** and **Precinct (70 Union Sq.)** offer entertainment in this up-and-coming square.

There you have it, my top picks from this side of the river. I hope that I included something that might entice you to get off of campus and explore your surroundings.

*Steven M. Elliott*  
Steven M. Elliott



# A New Beginning



I never thought that traveling a mere 2.28 miles would affect my life in so many profound ways. My journey began as an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University. At the time, I didn't know that I wanted to be a scientist. Even after a combined BS/MS program, I was still uncertain about my career path, and needed more time to make a decision. When I received an opportunity to work on cancer genomics at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, I enthusiastically moved up to Boston. Nine months and a publication later, I realized that I wanted a PhD in Biology.

On moving day, I took my U-haul and inched 2.28 miles into the heart of Cambridge. I was excited, albeit nervous, as I walked under the Dome with a stack of orientation booklets. In the past, I was able to excel with some elbow grease and guidance. Now, I was entering a realm of the most esteemed students, faculty and researchers, and I felt intimidated and unsure of myself.

After being out of school for some time, the transition into class was quite difficult. At Dana Farber, I was an expert in a small field and a specific technology, but at MIT, I became an apprentice and had to reopen my mind to a much broader range of topics. The pace of classes was exceedingly quick, and I had never been more challenged. When I finally acknowledged that I needed help and got the courage to ask, MIT answered and I received.

The professors and teaching assistants of my courses went above and beyond to ensure my success. My first year advisor helped me to navigate the semester and plan for my future at MIT. On a personal level, I utilized resources at MIT Medical to help work through my insecurities and anxieties. Finally, through the Biology department BioRefs program, I was able to chat with a very kind postdoctoral fellow who gave me (and still gives me) beneficial advice and encouragement.

Even though my first semester was not easy, one year later, I can still say that coming to MIT is the best decision I have ever made. I've pushed myself to greater heights, and the phrase "I can't" is no longer in my vocabulary. The MIT community has been extremely supportive both academically and personally, and I have yet to come upon more talented and gracious individuals. Although I am still at the start, I am only excited to see what the future holds and what twists and turns I will encounter on my journey to obtaining a PhD.

*Chandrani Mondal*  
Chandrani Mondal

## ■ SERIES OF TRANSITIONS

You are nearly through the long process of applying to schools, waiting for admissions letters, getting a visa, securing housing, booking airline tickets, figuring out what to squeeze into your limited luggage allowance, and finally arriving in the Boston area. Congratulations on accomplishing all these tasks, and welcome to MIT, one of the most vibrant, diverse, exhilarating and academic communities on the planet!

Upon arrival, you should check in with the International Student Office (ISO). From there you will start the process of applying for the IDs that you will need for your new life here at MIT and in Massachusetts. The ISO is always the right place to visit if you have any issues around your student status, work permission, and even for inviting family members. If you plan to temporarily leave the U.S., remember to make sure that your papers are in order.

If you have been assigned on-campus housing, congratulations. In most cases, useful materials including guides, maps, and event calendars will be distributed to your room. If you don't see them, feel free to ask your housemaster- a senior faculty member or administrator living in your building. For new students, housemasters are caring guides. They will give you effective advice to help you through academic, residential, and medical problems. They also support student residential officers and hall councils as they organize events, including brunches, ice-cream socials and BBQs, to build strong and connected communities.

If you live off campus, don't worry, you will also have plenty of opportunities to experience the care MIT offers. For example, there is the Margaret Cheney Room, a lounge with a kitchen, living room and study area for female students. A wealth of events and resources, from free Symphony tickets to subsidized transit passes, are available via various student groups and university departments.

Are you ready for MIT? Just open your heart and free your mind. An exciting life is waiting for you!

*Shan Jiang*  
Shan Jiang

## FAMILY MATTERS

It takes courage to get off a plane in a foreign city and start a new life. The rewards can, however, be outstanding. As an international student at MIT you are also not alone; more than a third of graduate students are foreign, coming from almost 100 different countries.

My wife, one-year-old son and I started our MIT adventure back in August 2007 after a long flight from Budapest. We did not know what was ahead of us – would I succeed in school? Would my wife find a job? Would our son develop a thick Boston accent?

Finding a place to live was our first priority. This was a bit more difficult than expected, but we ultimately found a great place that we called home for the next two years. If you plan to live off campus, good places to start are Housing's website ([housing.mit.edu](http://housing.mit.edu)), our own Rent Monkey ([rentmonkey.mit.edu](http://rentmonkey.mit.edu)) and Craigslist ([boston.craigslist.org](http://boston.craigslist.org)).

The immigration process is not over once you arrive. Take the International Student Office's directions seriously and stay on top of your paperwork. Clarify your work conditions, file your taxes, and stay within the law. The ISO is there to help you with this, and is a great source for information.

Arriving with a family brings its own challenges. Childcare in the area is not cheap and the waitlist at MIT is long. My advice is to get on the MIT list and check out the other options available via the Center for Work, Family & Personal Life (<http://hrweb.mit.edu/worklife/>). Another great resource is Spouses & Partners @ MIT, especially if your partner is not immediately studying or working (<http://web.mit.edu/spouses/>).

Finally, relax. You will be in a new place so take advantage of it. Take in a range of events during orientation and beyond. We are all here to study and research, but that need not consume our lives – make the most of this time and place socially and intellectually.

*Todd Schenk*  
Todd Schenk



# Green Steps For MIT



A woman walks out of a lab and tosses a soda can into the trash without a thought. A man elsewhere on campus leaves the office after a long day and jumps into his truck for the commute home. Her lab is on the cutting edge of cancer research, finding innovative ways to solve one of modern society's biggest problems. His research group is testing new ways to evaluate social programs, ultimately leading to more effective and efficient interventions.

Both are engaged in profoundly important work that is truly changing the world. What, then, is wrong with this picture?

Drinking from the fire hose, as the old MIT adage goes, can be an intense experience. It is easy to get so immersed in the important work around us that we forget that we are also individuals with comprehensive commitments to not only present but also future generations. Answering society's 'big questions' and solving important problems in the lab is very important work, but it is not enough. We each can - and must - do our part in small ways in our lives to ensure that our environment can sustain us in the future.



What does this mean in practice? Well, the good news is that it does not have to be complicated. MIT has a plethora of options that can help students live more sustainable lives.

Most coffee shops give discounts for reusable mugs - so bring yours along. The campus is easily accessible via public transit, bicycle lanes and on foot from many locations - so a car is not necessary. Printing may be free, but that does not mean that we need to go through forests each semester - reading electronically and printing double-sided are two ways in which we can save paper. Landlords may have few incentives to be efficient, but you will as a tenant paying utilities - encourage them to help you save money, and the environment, by investing in retrofits. MIT has, not only recycling, but also composting receptacles in many locations - take a moment to understand which bin is which rather than tossing ignorantly. Cambridge has invested millions in a world-class water system - there is no need to buy bottled water when such a great resource is freely available.



These are just some of the small steps that each of us can take as students to make a difference. Individually, they may not be profoundly transformative. Collectively they are, however, key to a sustainable future.

*Todd Schenk*  
Todd Schenk



# The Smart Money

**Welcome to MIT!** If you've always wanted to belong to an exclusive credit union, (or even if you didn't know you wanted to), **we've got the perfect gift for you!**



*As an MIT Graduate Student, you and your family members are eligible for all the benefits of MITFCU membership.*

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## Not just any credit union.

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- Alternative Student Loans

## Join or get to know us better.

### Tech Square Branch

700 Technology Square  
Building NE48  
Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:00pm

### Student Center Branch

84 Massachusetts Avenue  
Building W20, Room 116  
M-W & F, 9:00am-4:30pm  
Thurs, 9:00am-5:30pm

### Online

[www.mitfcu.org](http://www.mitfcu.org)

### Call Center

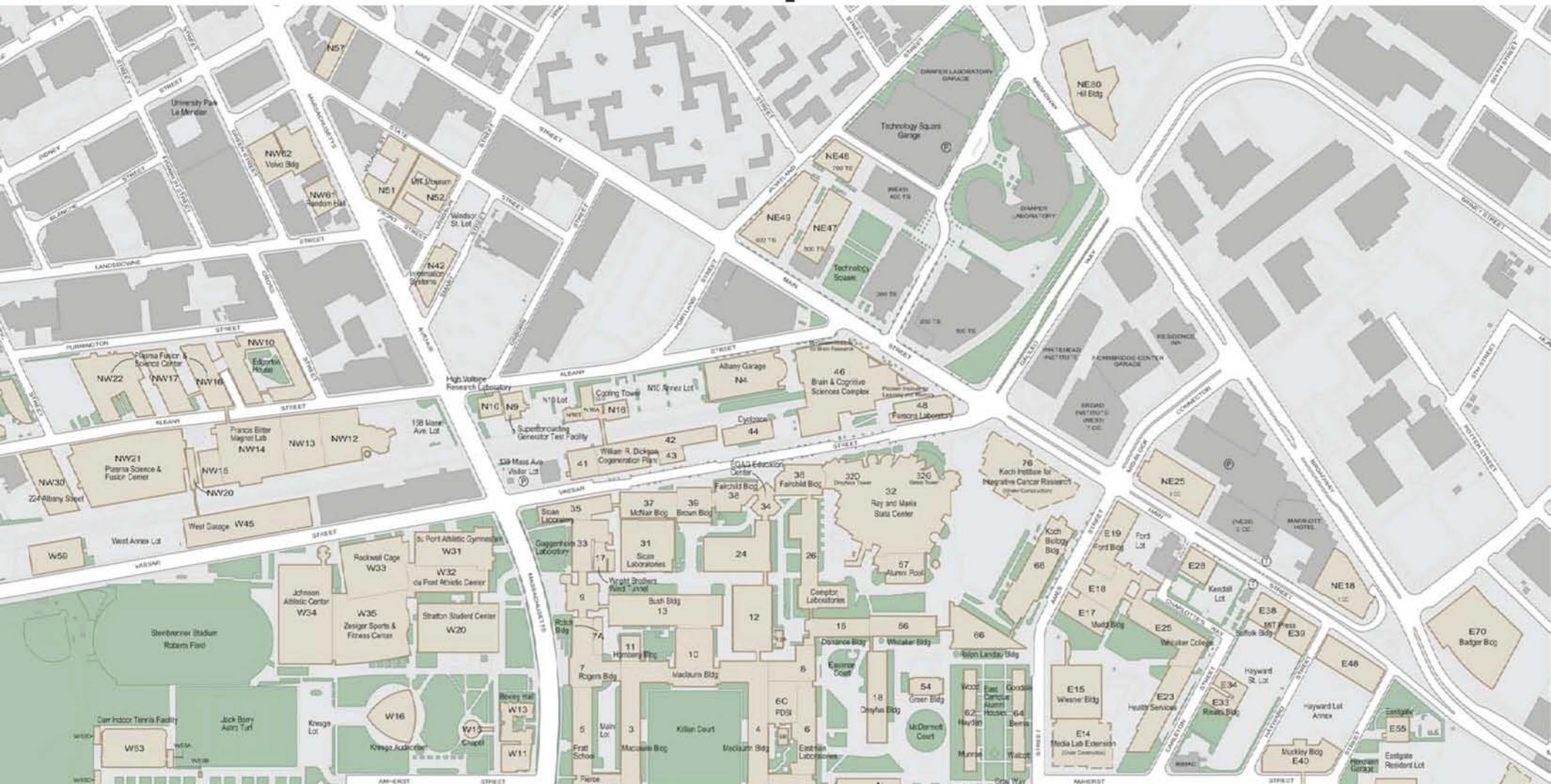
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WORK

# THE GRADUATE

ORIENTATION  
2011



GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL



MIT GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL  
**ORIENTATION 2011**

The Graduate is the official publication of the  
 MIT Graduate Student Council



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# GSC Officers and Committees



## Activities Committee Chairs



Mitali Thakor

Victor Wang

The main goal of the Activities Committee (AC) is to bring people together and create fun events. A guiding principle of AC is to make all graduate students feel welcome and organize events that appeal to the diverse MIT population. Contact us at [gsc-ac@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-ac@mit.edu)

## ARC Committee Chairs

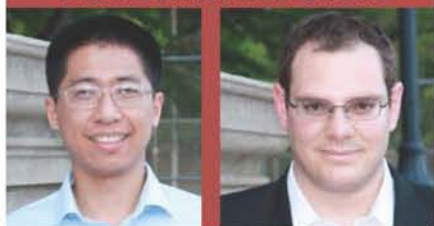


Kevin Kung

Bryan Owens

The Academic, Research, and Careers (ARC) Committee seeks to improve the academic and research experience of all MIT graduate students, and to help them develop professionally for their future careers. Contact us at [gsc-arc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-arc@mit.edu)

## HCA Committee Chairs



Maokai Lin

Bryan Spatocco

The Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Committee serves as the main student life advocacy arm of the GSC. We focus on issues pertaining to graduate student stipends, health/dental insurance, etc. Contact us at [gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

## Orientation Committee Chairs



Alexandra German

Richard Zhang

The Orientation Committee (OC) of the GSC is committed to acclimatizing incoming graduate students to MIT, by organizing and overseeing the GSC orientation program. Contact us at [gsc-oc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-oc@mit.edu).



## WORK

You have made the decision to work, live, and then play while pursuing your degree here at MIT. This section is designed to give you all of the necessary information for you to work hard and excel in your fields of study. The work section presents information pertaining to the academic portion of student life at MIT. Here you will find welcome letters from key figures at MIT, you will be introduced to the Graduate Student Council Leadership Team, you will be presented with a glimpse at graduate student work, and finally you will be presented with an Orientation schedule of events that relates to academics. Lets Get To Work!

<b>Page 2</b>	<b>GSC Officers &amp; Committees</b>	<b>Page 5-9</b>	<b>Welcome Messages</b>
<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page 10</b>	<b>Orientation Schedule: "Know The Institute"</b>
<b>Page 4</b>	<b>From The Editor</b>	<b>Page 11-14</b>	<b>Lets Get to Work</b>



## LIVE

<b>Page 1</b>	<b>Beyond Her Research</b>
<b>Page 2</b>	<b>Orientation Schedule: "Know The City"</b>
<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Can You Direct Me</b>
<b>Page 4</b>	<b>GradStudent Ring</b>



Living at MIT means finding a balance between focusing on your studies and engaging in activities outside of the classroom, lab or studio space. This section is designed to give you all of the necessary information to help you achieve this balance. This "Live" portion will present to you student perspectives on life at MIT, and welcome letters from prominent faculty members. Here you will be introduced to the campus map where you will learn about key locations for grad students, and finally you will be presented with the orientation scheduled events that relates to "Know the City".

## RE-ORIENTATION



<b>Page 4</b>	<b>The Smart Money</b>
<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Green Steps for MIT</b>
<b>Page 2-1</b>	<b>A New Beginning</b>

## PLAY

You have made the decision play, live, and then work while pursuing your degree here at MIT. This section is designed to give you all of the necessary information for you to enjoy your time here as a graduate student, and begin networking with colleagues. The play section presents information pertaining to the social portion of student life at MIT. Here you will find welcome messages from faculty, you will be introduced to your Orientation Chairs, you will be presented with an Orientation schedule of events that relates to socializing, and you will be given a glimpse into past social events. Let the fun begin!

<b>Page 10-9</b>	<b>Hot Spots Exposed</b>	<b>Page 5-4</b>	<b>Welcome Messages</b>
<b>Page 8-7</b>	<b>Let The Fun Begin</b>	<b>Page 3</b>	<b>From The Editor</b>
<b>Page 6</b>	<b>Orientation Schedule: "Know The People"</b>	<b>Page 2</b>	<b>Table of Contents</b>



# From The Editor-in-Chief



## *Lets Get to Work!*

Hello MIT Graduate students!

I am the current Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News, and let me be one of the first to welcome you into our home. The Graduate Student Council, MIT faculty and staff have worked diligently to produce a Handbook that will help make your transition here an exciting and informative experience.

This Handbook is designed with our readers in mind, so we have organized the information in a method that gives you complete control over how you view it. Keeping with the theme of “Orientation”, we have produced two covers for this Handbook, where the orientation in which you read this issue will dictate how the information is presented. You can either “Play”, “Live”, and then “Work”, or you can “Work”, “Live”, and then “Play”. No matter how you decide to view the information, each section will provide you with the insight to help you orient yourself within MIT as well as the Boston/Cambridge area.

As you progress through this handbook, pay close attention to the area that presents information on the 2011 Orientation schedule. This portion of the handbook will introduce you to your Orientation Chair Leaders, and it will provide you with a list of scheduled events and activities that were created to get you settled here at MIT. The activities and events will answer many questions that you may currently have about student life, and it will also provide you with the opportunity to begin creating strong friendships and connections with new and current students here at MIT.

While you are continuing your studies here, I encourage you all to visit the GSC website: <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation/> for updates to the list of scheduled events for Orientation, and for updates on issues pertaining to graduate student life. You will find that the GSC website and The Graduate publication provides an amazing venue for sharing information, ideas, opinions and activities. We are constantly looking for submissions of artwork, poetry, or short fiction articles that maybe of interest to our readership. We welcome all writers, photographers, artists, and layout designers onto our team who have the desire to communicate important issues clearly. If you are interested in joining our staff send an e-mail to [gsn-editor@mit.edu](mailto:gsn-editor@mit.edu).

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading this handbook as much as we have enjoyed producing. I would like to wish you all the best of luck as you “Work”, “Live”, and “Play” here at in MIT

*Rudy Dieudonne*

Rudy Dieudoone

Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News



# Welcome Messages!

## GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

On behalf of the graduate student body, I congratulate and welcome you to MIT!

As an incoming graduate student you are uniquely prepared and equally ready to embark on a rewarding journey in the intense laboratory of academic rigor, technical excellence, and world-class research. This journey will have a profound and lasting impact on you beyond your tenure at MIT.

Within the campus culture, nurtured is our desire to understand and cultivated is our desire to seek, not only for answers to our questions, but for new questions to ask. This pioneering paradigm has led MIT to the forefront of innovation and catapulted us to a world leader. The torch of leadership, and embodiment of this culture, is not retained within the buildings or technology of MIT, but within the people -- your fellow students.

You may have chosen MIT for its preeminent academic reputation, but the Institute's real treasure is embedded within our community. Whether through a brief encounter at one of the many orientation events or in a chance conversation at a campus pub, you will soon discover this treasure in the strong graduate student community.

Endeavoring to enhance your overall experience, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) -- comprised of a representative group of elected students -- promotes the general welfare, addresses concerns of the graduate student body, institutes programs and initiatives to provide opportunities for growth and interaction, and communicates with the MIT administration on behalf of graduate students. In support of graduate students, the GSC has become extremely successful and well respected for its advocacy and programming at MIT and among its peers across the United States.

Our graduate community has been and remains an incubator for future leaders through the GSC and campus student groups. I urge you to seize the day and complement your passion in the lab and classroom through involvement in the student community. You are beginning a journey with bountiful opportunity that will have as much of an impact on you, as you will on the community around you.

I wish you all the best of luck and look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

*Alex J. Evans*

Alex J. Evans

President, 2011-12



## ■ DEAN FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION

I am delighted to extend my warmest welcome to all of you as you begin a new chapter in your life here at MIT. We are glad that you have chosen to join our vibrant community, and look forward to partnering with you on this exciting journey.

As you will soon see, MIT is a remarkable institution like no other in the world. It is characterized by intensity, rigor, a diversity of cultures and ideas, and seemingly endless opportunities. Creativity and innovation are valued and embraced. The credo of MIT is “mens et manus” — i.e. mind and hand, which reflects deep foundational learning, as well as its practical application. Your graduate education at MIT will enable you to generate new, original knowledge that pushes the frontiers of your fields, to understand its meaning in a broad global context, and to apply these concepts to practical solutions which address the most challenging problems of the world.

It is one of the most exhilarating times in history to be a graduate student and to be at MIT. After 150 years, MIT continues to drive extraordinary advances on pressing issues, which today include areas such as sustainability, clean water and energy, transportation, infrastructure, healthcare, new materials development, logistics, as well as countless others -- and graduate students are at the core of these efforts. When one considers the unique environment of MIT combined with the ongoing revolutionary progress in communication, instrumentation, and computation, it is clear that individual MIT graduate students will be able to have a broad and potentially global impact.

Graduate school will, without a doubt, be a transformative experience for you. You will be pushed to your limits. You will experience amazing breakthroughs in understanding. You will establish lifelong mentors and colleagues. Your life will take unexpected directions. You will tap into and hone talents you may not even be aware you have. You will develop important transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, tenacity, and critical thinking.

I encourage you to make use of the enormous set of opportunities available to you at MIT: international engagement, personal and professional development, mentoring, public service and outreach, interdisciplinary collaboration, entrepreneurship, leadership, seminars and workshops, networking, social and cultural activities. Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to faculty and staff. We are here to act as mentors, guides, teachers, and counselors to assist you in achieving your academic, personal, and professional goals.

I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming year, and wish you every success in your career at MIT and beyond.

Sincerely,

*Christine Ortiz*  
Christine Ortiz  
Dean for Graduate Education





 OFFICE OF MINORITY EDUCATION

Dear Graduate Students,

The Office of Minority Education (OME) welcomes you to MIT!

The OME is dedicated to promoting academic excellence, building strong communities, and developing professional mindsets among students of underrepresented minority groups, with the ultimate goal of developing leaders in the academy, industry, and society.

Although the OME focuses primarily on undergraduates, we also work very closely with graduate students. Graduate students facilitate our Seminar XL freshman academic excellence workshops; serve as tutors through our Tutorial Services Room (TSR); and mentor undergraduate students through OME professional development programs such as Laureates and Leaders, Mentor Advocate Partnership (MAP), and Pathway to Graduate School.

This vitally important partnership between our office and the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education helps to cultivate undergraduate student interest in graduate school, and more importantly, it builds a mutually-beneficial network of support for undergraduate and graduate students alike. I invite you to stop by the OME (Bldg. 4-107) to meet our staff. In addition, throughout the fall, we invite you to participate in our Social Hours and Thank Goodness Its Friday (TGIF) networking events. These events are corporate sponsored, and they are open to undergraduate and graduate students. It's a great way to meet other MIT students, enjoy great food, and informally network with MIT Alumni and industry representatives.

Finally, I encourage you to email Lorena Tovar ([ltovar@mit.edu](mailto:ltovar@mit.edu)) if you wish to be added to the OME student listserv. You will receive the bi-weekly OME "Heads Up" E-newsletter which provides updates on OME programs and events, job opportunities, and other important information.

Again, welcome to MIT! Have a wonderful academic year.

*DiOnetta Jones*

DiOnetta Jones

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Director, Office of Minority Education

 SPOUSES & PARTNERS AT MIT

Dear Graduate Student Families,

Welcome to MIT! Balancing work and your personal relationships can be challenging at MIT, but there are many resources here to help you.

[spouses&partners@mit](mailto:spouses&partners@mit) is a support network for the wives, husbands, and partners of MIT students and staff. We can help spouses and partners build a social network and participate in MIT activities and in the larger community. We help newcomers from all over the world meet each other and create a fulfilling life here. For more information, visit:

[web.mit.edu/spouses](http://web.mit.edu/spouses).

MIT FamilyNet is an online community designed for MIT families: those with or without children, married or partnered, and single parents. Members can network and share information via our searchable member database and forums on a variety of topics, including pregnancy, parenting and family life and settling into life at MIT. You can also find a list of MIT affiliated babysitters on FamilyNet. Join us and meet other families at <http://familynet.mit.edu>.

The MIT Center for Work Family and Personal Life is a wonderful resource for families. They provide consultations, seminars, a lending library, and materials in the areas of parenting, child care, school information, elders, and job flexibility.

During Orientation week, you can learn more about these resources at our social events and at our tent on the Kresge Oval during the Welcome Address on Thursday. Check the Orientation schedule for our events and other kid-friendly activities. We're looking forward to meeting you.

*Jennifer Recklet Tassi*

Jennifer Recklet Tassi  
Program Manager for International Families  
Community Wellness at MIT Medical

## LGBT SERVICES

Dear Friends and Allies,

On behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Student Services at MIT ([lbgt@MIT](mailto:lbgt@MIT)) and the graduate student group, Rainbow Coffeehouse, welcome to the MIT community! Whether you are straight, gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, questioning, or an ally, [lbgt@mit](mailto:lbgt@mit) Student Services are open to you.

The five MIT LBGT student groups, the LBGT alumni group, and the [allies@mit](mailto:allies@mit) group provide wonderful networking opportunities as well as political and social events each year for the entire community. A great way to start the year off is with a wonderful community leadership weekend retreat in Provincetown. This year's trip is on Sept. 16th-18th. Please RSVP to Abigail ([afran@mit.edu](mailto:afran@mit.edu)). All LBGT students and allies are welcome.

You can also join in our monthly LBGT Issues Group meetings to learn more about LBGT-related issues at MIT and some ways to get involved. For more information you can find us online at: [web.mit.edu/lbgt](http://web.mit.edu/lbgt)

Please feel free to stop by the Rainbow Lounge in the Walker Building, 50-005, to say hello.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

*Abigail Francis*

Abigail Francis,  
Director of LBGT Services



# Welcome Messages!

## ■ GREETINGS FROM FACULTY

It is my great pleasure to say to every new graduate student “Welcome to MIT!” In Eritrea the phrase used for ‘welcome’ translates into “it is so wonderful that you have arrived safely.” Now that you have arrived here safely, from all corners of the globe, be ready for what will surely be one of the most exciting and wonderful times of your life.

There are several ways in which wonder will fill your lives here at MIT. Wondering is the basis of curiosity, and you will surely explore new ways of thinking and doing at MIT. Indeed, “mens et manus,” Latin for “mind and hand,” is the inexorable MIT motto. I guarantee that you will be filled with wonder, and often downright awe, at the intellectual energy you will engage with on a daily basis, and you will wonder at the constant evolution and change in the thinking and doing on the MIT campus. Setting your homepage to the MIT website will soon convince you of this! Finally, there is no doubt that at times, you will wonder “what on earth am I doing here?”. But you are here, and there is no doubt that you too are an integral part of the MIT magic.

Carpe diem is a terribly overused phrase, but you should be very sure to seize every opportunity you can whilst surrounded by MIT scholars. Having said that, it is also important to remember to engage in the world outside MIT - Cambridge, Boston, Massachusetts, the other 49 states, and beyond! Indeed, it is important to disengage now and then from the intensity and excitement of the intellectual endeavor, and to spend time with friends relaxing and being active.

Enjoy your graduate years at MIT. And welcome to our wonderful world!

Sincerely,

*Leona D. Samson*

Leona D. Samson

Professor of Biological Engineering and Biology

Director of Center for Environmental Health Sciences

## ■ GRADUATE WOMEN AT MIT (GWAMIT)

Greetings!

Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT) would like to welcome all new students to MIT.

Graduate Women at MIT is a student-led organization with graduate women representatives across MIT departments. As a subcommittee of the Graduate Student Council, we provide a unified voice for MIT’s graduate women. Our programs include a year-round mentoring program, a fall leadership conference, a spring empowerment conference, and monthly collaborative events with campus groups and offices. We welcome all members of the MIT community, including men, to participate in our events and discussions.

Although the first few weeks can be overwhelming, it will pay to spend time orienting yourself. Some helpful services are the grocery shuttle service, SafeRide, and MIT Medical’s wellness programs. GWAMIT can help you find more resources.

Congratulations on your arrival!

*Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT)*

Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT)

# Know The Institute

Below are key orientation events designed to help you get acquainted with MIT as an institute. Please visit us at <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation> for a complete listing of Know the Institute events, including dates, times and locations.

## INFORMATION BOOTH



**Tue, Aug 30; Wed, Aug 31**

The information booth is your one-stop-shop for all information about orientation events, and other campus services and resources. Orientation event tickets may also be purchased here. The MIT-Harvard cooperative student store, (COOP) will be present for membership sign-up.

## GRAD SCHOOL 101/102



**Mon, Aug 29; Tue, Aug 30**

Grad School 101/102 is a series of presentations and panels that address the various topics and resources for student life, the careers office, recreational sports, the MIT police and more. Interact with a panel of diverse graduate students. Figure out how computing, health insurance, housing, and libraries work at MIT. Learn about various opportunities to get involved in energy and greening, leadership, innovation, and the alumni association.

## WELCOME ADDRESS



**Thu, Sep 1**

The Welcome Address event is the official welcome given by MIT President Susan Hockfield and two other keynote speakers. After the address has concluded there will be a short question and answer session. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

### Introduction to Graduate Student Council & 1st General Council

The GSC is the representative body for all graduate students at MIT. Get involved in student governance and come to the first GSC General Council Meeting of the year.

### Graduate Women at MIT Welcome Reception

Meet current and incoming graduate women over lunch.

### Lemelson-MIT Program Reception

Learn more about the Lemelson-MIT Program and its various awards. More info at [web.mit.edu/invent](http://web.mit.edu/invent)

### MIT Science Policy Initiative Event & Reception

Come learn about policy making for science with this event featuring Dean Ian Waitz of the School of Engineering, and Claude Canizares, Professor of Physics and MIT Vice President for Research. The Activities Midway is a showcase of all student groups on MIT campus. Come meet like-minded individuals or try something new!



# Lets Get to Work!

As you begin your studies here at MIT, you will be presented with numerous opportunities to create collaborative works with students from a variety of diverse disciplines. It is this environment of sharing knowledge that makes MIT such an amazing place to study, and this is why we have created this section that showcases examples of collective student works.

This past academic school year proved to be one filled with a series of achievements, as MIT celebrated its 150th anniversary. As part of the MIT150 celebration, graduate students, MIT faculty/staff and outside contributors joined together to create installations that accurately displayed MIT's dedication to the advancement of knowledge and education in an environment of science and technology. Presented here are a few projects completed by graduate students for the FAST festival. All of these projects were built and installed at specific locations on MIT campus.



**Project Name:** Dis[Course]4

©AndyRyan

**Designed by:** Craig Boney, James Coleman and Andrew Manto (Graduate students in the Department of Architecture)

## Project description:

Dis[Course]4 is a focused investigation into the practice of Making; one that suggests a “blurry” mode of architectural design. A mode that utilizes parametric practices to scrutinize manufacturing potentialities and explore material properties. Composed of over 5,000 parts, the project required a fluidity between design and manufacturing in order to appease both conceptual agendas and budgetary restrictions. An important distinction between current trends in architectural production and the production of Dis[Course]4 is one of complexity.

Instead of first designing the ‘whole’ to be later subdivided into discrete parts, we developed an intelligent component capable of approximating any number of ‘wholes’. The project was truly a process oriented exploration of the tectonic and the technological. In Dis[Course]4 we advocate a productively “blurry” mode of architectural design, where physical prototypes directly affect and infect the design process as a whole. In this mode of Making mock ups are not merely a ‘final test’, but an impetus of the design as a whole.



**Project Name:** Night of Numbers

©AndyRyan

**Designed by:** Praveen Subramani (Graduate students at MIT Media Lab) and Anna Kotova (Department of Architecture, Class of 2010) for the MIT Festival of Art, Science, & Technology (FAST).

### Project description:

Night of Numbers is a dynamic lighting installation that brings renewed vibrancy to the often-overlooked entrance to MIT's main campus from the Kendall MBTA station. Night of Numbers uses powerful LCD projectors to enliven the architecture at the Ames Street pedestrian crossway and draw attention to some of MIT's most impressive buildings. The projections tell the story of MIT's past with numbers that hold special or historical significance to the Institute. Meanwhile, cryptic phrases projected around the plaza hint to the meaning of the numbers, creating an exciting visual puzzle for visitors and residents alike. 77...02139...1861...150. Can you decode them all?



**Project Name:** Ice Wall

©AndyRyan

**Designed by:** Yushiro Okamoto and Kian Yam (Graduate students in the Department of Architecture)

### Project Description:

MIT150 celebrates past innovation and achievement, while acting as a catalyst for the next generation. In this spirit, ICEWALL plants a new future, even as its own seemingly fades away during the Festival of Art, Science and Technology. The installation is a scripted surface 50' long, 6' high consisting of blocks of ice stacked on each other. It creates one continuous surface facing the Charles River, tying MIT, the River and the public together. Each block will have flower seeds frozen inside, visible during the Festival. The wall will be lit at night, creating a new face for MIT from across the river in Boston. As FAST concludes and ICEWALL melts away, the seeds are left behind in the ground. As the seeds germinate and bloom, the installation will continue to celebrate the sesquicentennial in the spring, parallel to MIT's own growing future.



# Lets Get to Work!

**Project Name:** aFloat



George X Lin

**Designed by:** Otto Ng (Graduate students in Architecture, MIT) with Arseni Zaitsev, Ben Regnier and Dena Molnar (Graduate students, Harvard Graduate School of Design)

**Project Description:**

aFloat was an interactive installation at the MIT Chapel that produced a pool of floating lights on the marble platform. Together with the dazzles dangled on Bertoià's metal sculpture and the flicker of grace reflected on the water in the perimeter cavity, aFloat enhanced the Chapel as a place of worship for the diverse MIT community. The essence of "water without water" has inspired this work. The phenomenon of rippling water was indeed produced with a network of LEDs, piezoelectric sensors and mechanical linkages. A single touch could release an array of diminishing sparkles – a local impact on the greater whole ... a moment of chaos between points of light before serenity returns with a calm ripple.

**Project Name:** Bibliodoptera



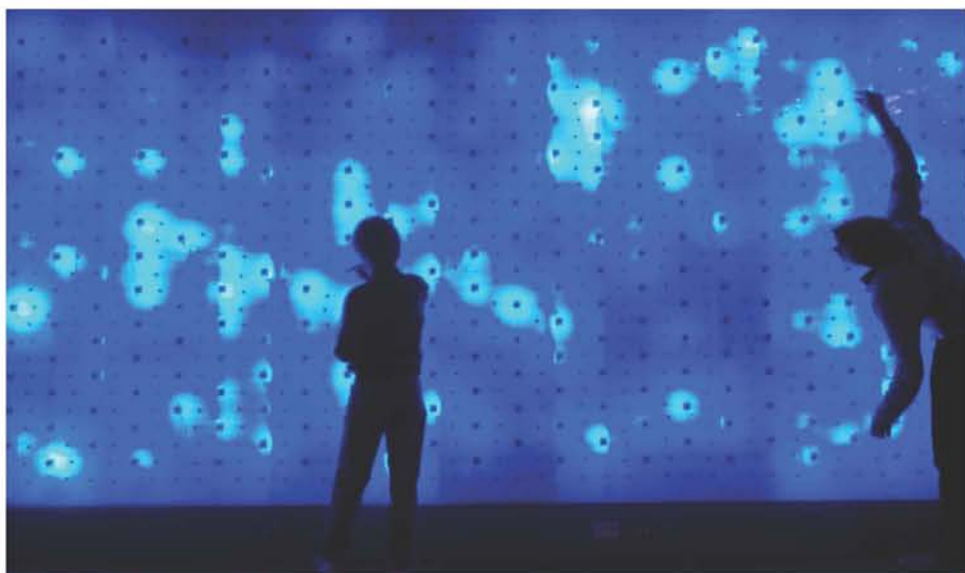
©AndyRyan

**Designed by:** Elena Jessop and Peter Torpey (Doctoral Students in Media Arts and Sciences)

**Project Description:**

A cloud of vellum butterflies, newly emerged from the chrysalis of MIT's diverse library pages, floats above in the corridor between the Lewis and Hayden Libraries in Building 14.

This installation is a strikingly beautiful symbol of the guiding knowledge of the arts and humanities that have been developed and pursued at MIT over the last 150 years. The butterflies, printed with text from books, sheet music and pages of MIT theses, are illuminated by small lights from within. When passersby enter from either end of this hallway, one of several pathways of butterflies light up in sequence ahead of them, creating a trajectory through the cloud.



**Project Name:** Night of Numbers

**Designed by:** Daniel Rosenberg and Kaustuv DeBiswas (Graduate students in the Department of Architecture)

**Project Description:**

An installation that allows visitors to play with a magnetic field to create patterns in light. The installation consists of magnetic handles mounted on a translucent wall and connected with light sources behind the wall. By touching or rotating the handles, visitors can change the intensity of color and perturb the magnetic fields in ways that allow them to 'paint' with light. The visitors become part of the equation, constantly negotiating with an environment that wants to return to a luminous equilibrium. This is essentially a cybernetic loop, with the system (magnetic field) and human actions feeding back and affecting each other in a visually expressive and playful manner.

**Project Name:** String Tunnel



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**Designed by:** Kelly Shaw, Yuna Kim, and Travis Williams (Graduate students in Department of Architecture)

**Project Description:**

String Tunnel is a path identifier that activates and extends the Infinite Corridor. A thick ruled surface built of nylon threads is carefully tensioned above foot traffic, creating emphasized visual movement for those traveling underneath it. The subtle tunnel space is simultaneously present and elusive and generates an unfolding three-dimensionality as the strings appear to move due to parallax.



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# Beyond Her Research



Boston Pride Parade

Gina Zak is a native of Chicago, Illinois and is currently exploring the New England landscape. Gina is entering her second year as an S.M. candidate in mechanical engineering. As her thesis research, Gina is studying the systematic optimization of hybrid seawater desalination plants which produce electrical power and clean water.

This year's Boston Pride was the first Pride event I had ever attended besides accidentally getting caught in the middle of one a couple of years ago in Rome. A few of my friends were suggesting to me that it would not be worth marching in the parade this year because I would miss watching all the decked-out floats and catching free beaded necklaces (clearly, the most exciting part of the parade). I decided to march with the MIT LGBTQ student, staff, and alumni group, because I had been wanting to get more involved in promoting our visibility on the MIT campus and in Boston. I do have an established group of LGBTQ friends within MIT; however, I have not been as actively involved in the "organized" part of the LGBTQ community.

While we were in standing in the line-up before the parade, I could immediately tell there was a general buzz of excitement among the people around me; many were catching up on old friendships, but there was clearly also a welcoming atmosphere to anyone who was there to support the Pride theme of Equality: No more, no less. Unfortunately as soon as the parade was about to start, Boston weather came through and a torrential downpour began. Although the weather was admittedly a bit miserable, the mood didn't seem to dampen, and we even had a quite fabulous drag queen behind us start making jokes to keep us entertained. The parade started moving, and there were still hundreds of people lining the street despite the weather. There was a feeling of mutual support between the crowd and the parade marchers. Past the bright colors, ridiculous Pride outfits, and copious amounts of rainbow flags, there was an underlying sense of oneness that is the essence of Pride.

In some ways, Pride is about not being afraid to stand up for equality, particularly when it comes to LGBTQ issues. However, the part which I more readily identify with is the open LGBTQ community that extends much further than Pride weekend. As we walked through the streets of Boston, the most common phrase you could hear was "Happy Pride". This didn't just apply to those who specifically identify as part of the LGBTQ community. I saw only one person who was openly protesting the parade and gay- rights, but as we walked past him, the person walking next to me sincerely shouted, "Happy Pride...even to that guy!" That event in the parade summarizes my experience.

Pride exemplifies that all should have a right to live as they are. Be open to other's opinions and lifestyles, but demand equality: no more, no less.

*Gina Zak*  
Gina Zak

# Know The City

Below are key orientation events designed to help you get acquainted with MIT as an institute. Please visit us at <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation> for a complete listing of Know the Institute events, including dates, times and locations.

## HIKING TRIP IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS



The GSC Orientation Hike is an annual event aimed at introducing incoming MIT graduate students to New England hiking. If you're new to the area, it's a great way to get to know people and explore the spectacular New Hampshire wilderness with a small group of your new classmates. Hike leaders provided for a range of difficulty levels.

## GRADUATE STUDENT VOLUNTEER DAY



Graduate Student Volunteer Day (GSVD) is an excellent opportunity to meet fellow graduate students while providing service to the community. The day consists of a registration and breakfast, a few hours of volunteering with a team of MIT graduate students, and an appreciation barbecue to end the day.

## CAMBRIDGE PUB CRAWL



There's more to being a grad student at MIT than labs and classes. Use this opportunity to meet some senior MIT graduate students, and explore the pubs and night spots around Cambridge with them! Trust that this is one social event that everyone will attend!

### ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

#### **Boston Duck Tour**

Is it a bus? Is it a boat? Explore Boston on land and on sea, with this unique city tour.

#### **Apple-Picking Trip**

An outing to a local orchard where you'll find a variety of apples, pears, peaches and berries in a beautiful New England setting.

#### **Prudential Skywalk & Ice Cream**

See your new home from the tallest building in Greater Boston -- the Prudential Center, and enjoy some delicious Bostonian ice cream afterwards!

#### **GSC-Techlink Welcome Banquet**

Enjoy an evening of mingling and dancing at one of orientation's largest social events complete with dinner and drinks.

#### **International Student Mentorship Mixer**

Meet international students, both current and incoming, and local alums who know best what the transition to MIT entails.



# Can You Direct Me?

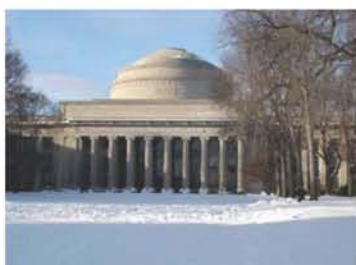
By the first day of class you will soon realize that navigating the MIT campus is a challenging task. Whereas many other educational institutions organize their buildings and programs by names, MIT organizes their buildings and programs by numbers. This sub-section was created to help you navigate the MIT campus with the same ease as we hope you will navigate through your studies. It is our hope that by the end of this section you will be able to begin your first day of classes feeling well oriented within your new home.



The numbers on the campus map corresponds to MIT building numbers. Under this numbering system, a single room number serves to completely identify any location on the campus. In a typical room number such as 7-121, the figure(s) preceding the hyphen refers to the building number; the first number following the hyphen, the floor; and the last two numbers, the room. Thus room 7-121 is in building 7, on the first floor ; room 21.



It is useful to know that buildings on the main campus east of the Great Dome (Building 10) have even numbers and those west of it have odd numbers. Buildings west of Massachusetts Avenue are designated W, those north of the Conrail tracks N, those east of Ames street E, and those north of the railroad and west of Massachusetts Avenue NW.



## Course: Department:



1	Civil and Environmental Engineering
2	Mechanical Engineering
3	Materials Science & Engineering
4	Architecture
5	Chemistry
6	Electrical Engineering & Comp Science
7	Biology
8	Physics
9	Brain and Cognitive Science
10	Chemical Engineering
11	Urban Studies and Planning
12	Earth, Atmospheric, Planetary & Science
13	Ocean Engineering
14	Economics
15	Sloan School of Management
16	Aeronautics and Astronautics
17	Political Science
18	Mathematics
21	Humanities
22	Nuclear Engineering
24	Linguistics and Philosophy
BEH	Bioengineering & Environmental Health
CRE	Center for Real Estate
CTS	Center for Transportation Studies
HST	Health, Science & Technology
LFM	Leaders for Manufacturing
MAS	Media Arts & Sciences
OR	Operations Research Center
SDM	System Design & Management Program
STS	Science, Technology & Society
TPP	Technology & Policy
WHOI	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute



# Graduate Student Ring

Come learn all about the GradRat at the GradRat Social by visiting <http://gsc.mit.edu/ring>



MIT's graduate class ring is the most recognized ring around the world. Following the infamous Brass Rat, it embodies the collective, life-changing experiences and the unique graduate culture that we encounter at MIT.

## The symbolism behind the Grad Rat:

The Bezel represents the journey the graduate student takes at MIT.

Night time littered with coffee & books for the all-nighters we endure.

Sunrise symbolizing graduation and bright careers.

“Greater than 72” representing the 72 MIT Nobel prizes by MIT community. The “7” & “2” double helix structure & the tiny flames show MIT's growing involvement in biology-related & energy-related research.

Billboard blocking the path to graduation representing the last set of data before moving on. It outlines the word “MIT” & represents the ups and downs of the graduate experience.

The tipped over hourglass under its tail represents the lack of free time and the unknown time to graduation. It also looks like an infinity symbol representing the Infinite Corridor.

The Beaver is confidently holding its degree, sitting on a bed of branches forming the famous letters “IHTFP”. The letter G represents the registrar's designation for graduate students.



## The COOP

- A cooperative started by students in 1882 to serve students and students are still our focus.
- Serving MIT since 1916
- All profits earned on member sales is returned to members. 8.9% returned last year.
- Join for \$1.00 per year

### Convenient Campus Locations

Stratton Student M-F 8:45 - 5:30 S 10:00 - 4:00  
Kendall Square M-F 9:30 - 6:00 S 10:00 - 6:00  
Online [www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com) - always open  
(10 % discount for online orders for Coop Members)

- All the MIT course materials (New - Used - Ebooks - and NOW Rental Texts)
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For more information and to join, visit any Coop store or online at [www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com).

We look forward to meeting and serving you.

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t617-499-3240

