

THE GRADUATE

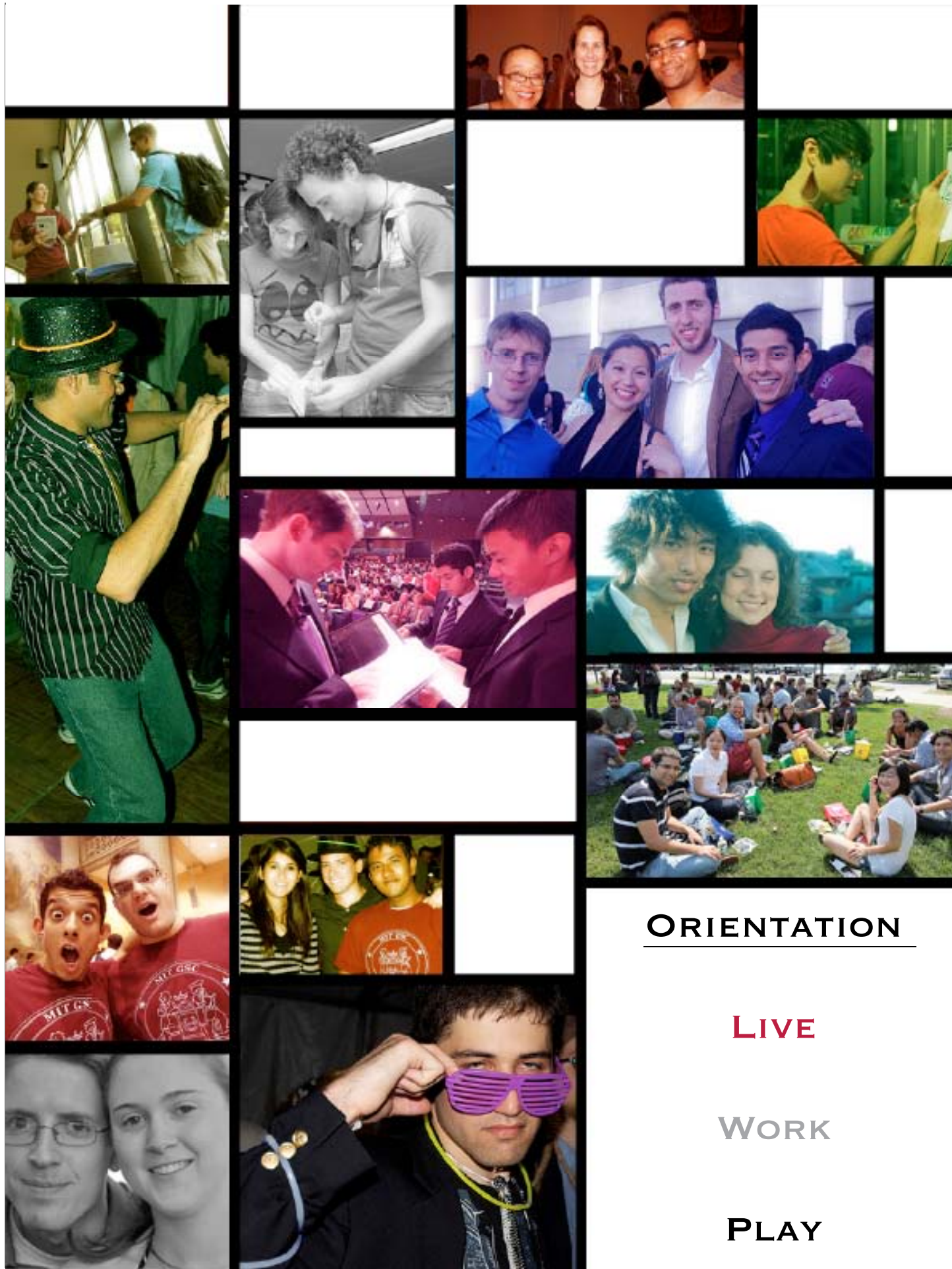
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THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL



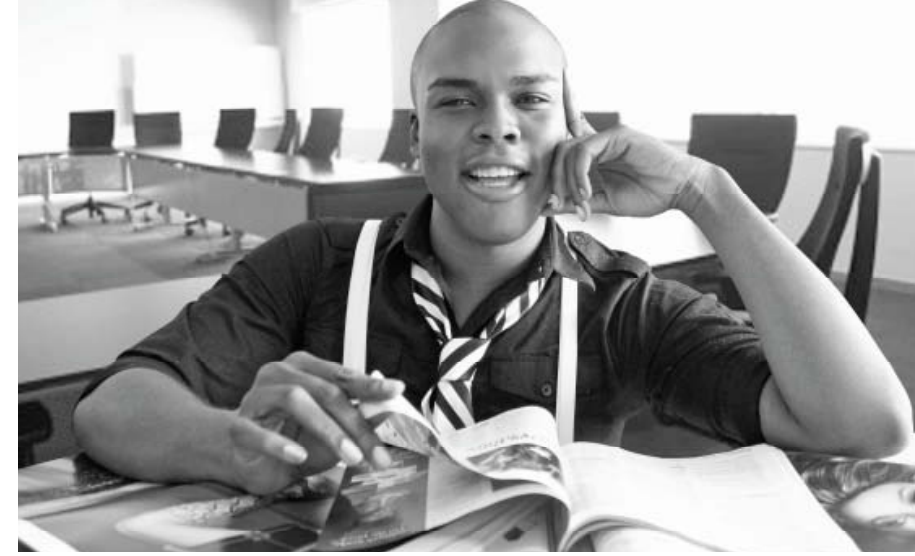


ORIENTATION

LIVE

WORK

PLAY



Welcome
Incoming
MIT
Graduate
Students!

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

This Graduate issue is designed with our readers in mind, so we have divided this publication into four sections that will provide you with the necessary information to help you Live, Work, and Play at MIT. The section entitled “Infinite Corridor of Opportunities” is designed to give you all of the necessary information for you to work hard and excel in your fields of study. This issue will present you with information pertaining to the academic portion of student life at MIT, welcome letters from key figures at MIT, and introduce you to the GSC Leadership Team. Finally, you will be presented with a glimpse of graduate student work and resources available for professional and academic development.

The sections titled “Inspiration from Killian Court” and “The Oval Dome of Opinions” are designed to help you find a balance between focusing on your studies and engaging in activities outside of the classroom, lab, or studio space. These sections will give you all of the necessary information to help you achieve this balance by presenting you with student perspectives on life at MIT and welcome letters from prominent faculty members. You will be introduced to the campus map, where you will learn about key locations for grad students. Our hope is that reading this section will give you a better understanding of life at MIT.

The final section is titled “Lobby 7 of Entertainment”. This section is designed to give you all of the necessary information to enjoy your time here as a graduate student and begin networking with colleagues. This section will also present you with information pertaining to the social portion of student life at MIT. You will find welcome messages from faculty, be presented with an Orientation schedule of events that relates

to socializing, and be given a glimpse into some of the social events that are sponsored by the GSC throughout the year.

As you progress through this handbook, pay close attention to the area that presents information on the 2012 Orientation schedule. This portion of the handbook will provide you with a list of scheduled events and activities that were created to aid you in getting settled at MIT. The activities and events will answer many questions that you may have about student life, and they will also provide you with the opportunity to begin creating strong friendships and connections with new and current MIT students.

As you move along with your studies here, I encourage you all to visit the GSC Orientation website at <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation/> for updates on the list of scheduled events for Orientation and on issues pertaining to graduate student life. You will find that the GSC website and *The Graduate* publication serve as amazing venues 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 team, please send an e-mail to gsc-editor@mit.edu.

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading this *Graduate* issue as much as we have enjoyed producing it. I would like to wish you all the best of luck as you Work, Live, and Play here at MIT.

Rudy Dieudonne
Rudy Dieudonne
Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News

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



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Imani Ivery



Elizabeth Granese

A Welcome Message from your Orientation Chairs

Congratulations on making it to MIT! Even if you've heard it n times already, the (n + 1)th time feels all the more special. It reinforces the notion that you are one of the chosen few. You have been selected to be positioned at the frontiers of knowledge and destined to make a difference in this world by pushing these boundaries.

What makes MIT different from other schools? Three things. First, MIT offers you the opportunity to grow as a person. It offers a holistic experience: one that broadens your academic, social, and emotional outlook. Second, MIT nurtures independent problem solvers. Your learning at MIT is not restricted only to one field of research but more widely encompasses the ability to think outside the box. Third, and perhaps most important, MIT presents diversity of perspective. Very few other institutions can claim to have the myriad social, cultural, economic, intellectual, and emotional textures interwoven into their human fabric. Experience its richness.

As your Orientation Chairs, we are excited to guide you to make a smooth transition into life at MIT. Our graduate orientation program is one of the most extensive and comprehensive student-run orientations in the US. This is made possible by a dedicated team of student coordinators and volunteers working for the Graduate Student Council (GSC) at MIT. We have over 60 events spanning 4 weeks, broadly categorized into *Know the Institute*, *Know the People*, and *Know the City*. We urge you to make the most of Orientation and to attend as many events as possible. Visit <http://gsc.mit.edu/Orientation> for more details and a list of FAQs. We would also love to see you involved with the GSC even after your orientation is over, and we encourage you to give something back to the community. After all, the GSC strives to be a well-rounded student organization that not only fosters collaboration within the graduate population but also serves as an interface with the faculty, administration, and the undergraduate community at MIT.

Make no mistake – MIT is no easy ride. During the course of your graduate experience, you're likely to go through a roller coaster of phases, from the exhilaratingly refreshing to downright frightening. Just like the strongest steels are forged in the hottest furnaces, you too shall emerge emboldened from this test. Take it as a challenge, and enjoy the process rather than concentrating solely on the product. Quoting the legendary Steve Jobs, "The journey is the reward." So welcome aboard, and buckle up for your journey through MIT. We're here to help you get set for one of the greatest adventures of your life.

Neelkanth Bardhan, Cristina Camayd
Neelkanth Bardhan, Cristina Camayd



Neelkanth Bardhan is a second-year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Materials Science & Engineering at MIT. He did his undergrad at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Mumbai, India. He enjoys reading fiction and classical music. He also loves socializing with friends, Google cooking, and inventing new recipes... so call him maybe?



Cristina Camayd is a second year in the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences in the Cellular and Molecular track. She hails from Miami, Florida, and did her undergrad at the public honors college, New College of Florida. She enjoys bartending at the Thirsty Ear, befriending strangers, and spontaneous dancing... so call her maybe?



A Message from your GSC President

Welcome Home!

On behalf of the entire graduate student community, it is my great honor to congratulate you and welcome you to your new university, your new community, and your new home: MIT.

To be very clear, I do not use the word "home" casually. While MIT will certainly serve as your physical home for the upcoming year(s), what's more important is the role it will play in cradling your curiosity and inspiring your endeavors. No matter what your prior training or background, I'm willing to wager that there is no place on earth more academically engaging and mentally exhilarating than the Institute. Welcome to your new intellectual home.

Though I am fairly confident MIT's reputation for exceptional academics, research, and innovation played a major role in your decision to attend, the most important asset of MIT has nothing to do with its classrooms, labs, or startups. The foundation of MIT is not built upon brick-and-mortar as one may suspect - no, the most important and inalienable part of MIT is its people. Why? Because when it comes to cradling curiosity there exists no book that can come close to even the most casual of conversations with a fellow graduate student. There exist no experimental results which inspire more than can a simple coffee with a mentor. There exists no other company or organization with the incredible confluence of talent, passion, and creativity than you'll find at the residences or cafes at Tech. MIT is, and will forever be, your new frame of reference for the world around you.

Since I expect you're going to be inundated with academic requirements, course deadlines, and presentations, I want to use this opportunity to give you a piece of advice you may not hear frequently as you trek towards your degree. Specifically, I want to remind you that there are thousands of other universities in the world which grant Masters and PhDs to brilliant graduate students. The thing which separates an MIT PhD from a non-MIT PhD is, obviously, the university itself. In other words, I encourage you to aggressively and relentlessly engage MIT for all it's worth. Never stop looking for something new to do - something outside your comfort zone - and, if by some completely crazy chance MIT doesn't have what you're looking for

then, by all means, make it happen. Don't spend your entire life in the lab or writing problem sets as this will not differentiate you from the thousands of other PhDs who will be graduating around the world. What will set you apart is what you've extracted from and contributed to MIT in pursuit of your PhD. Get involved.

At the Graduate Student Council (GSC), we work to put on social and academic programming, fund and support graduate organizations and events, advocate for improvements to student welfare, and communicate on your behalf to the senior leadership of the Institute. We do all these things because, in our honest opinion, there's no group more promising and worth working for in the entire world than MIT Grads.

In your class alone there are very likely future Nobel prize winners, business moguls and front-page entrepreneurs, political leaders, public intellectuals and writers, and renowned artists and musicians. Heck, you'll probably talk to at least one of each during orientation alone. Now, I'm not saying this to stroke your egos or to make us feel better about ourselves. Instead, I am trying to awaken you to the opportunities which you can take advantage of by getting involved. At this ONE, UNIQUE, IMPOS-SIBLE TO RECREATE convergence of brilliance, curiosity, and diversity, you have the opportunity to ever-so-slightly influence the trajectories of some of the soon-to-be most exciting people in the world. And let me tell you, minor adjustments, fractional angles of inclination, mean a lot at the end of a lifelong journey.

I certainly hope that, with time, you will begin to feel the same way and consider working with us in our continual effort to improve the lives of students. However, even if student government is not your thing, I urge you to get involved - join organizations, take on leadership roles, elevate those around you. You're here because you want to change the world in some way - why not start here?

There's no better time than now... and now that you're home, there's no better place than MIT.

Brian Spatocco
Brian Spatocco
Graduate Student Council President



Welcome, from the President of MIT

Although I did not do my doctoral work here, I remember very well what it was like, as a young faculty member, to arrive at MIT. Having grown up in Venezuela, I was self-conscious about my English - and even more worried about the snow. Like everyone who comes to MIT, I was concerned about whether my work would be good enough.

But very quickly, I came to feel that MIT was my home. I found myself belonging to a passionate, dedicated “extended family” of brilliant people who always had the patience to answer my questions and were eager to help me succeed. The values of this community impressed me, too - the commitment to excellence, meritocracy and integrity; the impulse always to take the high road and do the right thing; and the passion for working on the big problems that make a difference for humankind.

I had never encountered such a community anywhere else. It inspired me to work harder and more creatively than I ever had before. I loved it then, and I still do. (Also, it turns out the snow is not bad once you get the right clothes...)

You and I will be starting something new together this fall; as you begin your graduate work at MIT, I will begin my job as MIT’s 17th President. On this new adventure, I know I will have to ask for help and advice along the way. I hope you will feel free to let me know how I’m doing - and I hope you will feel free to ask for help from this community whenever you need it, too.

With warm best wishes for a wonderful start,

Rafael Reif
Rafael Reif
President of MIT



Welcome, from the 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 di-

rections. 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



Welcome, from the Dean for Student Life

Welcome to MIT—and to our truly wonderful graduate student community.

You join 6,500 other graduate students to form one of the largest segments of the MIT community. As part of this group, you will not only be indispensable to MIT’s research and academic program, but you will also be vital to the life of our campus.

One of the pleasures of serving as Dean for Student Life (DSL) is working closely with graduate students in a variety of ways to help this community thrive. The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is our strong partner, as well as the House governments in the graduate residences and many student organiza-

tions and committees. Here are just some of the opportunities we provide to help you make the most of your MIT experience:

Wellness and support: The REFS program—short for Resources for Easing Friction and Stress—is a department-based, graduate-student-run, peer support program. REFS are individual graduate students trained to help informally guide others during times of uncertainty, stress, or conflict.

Fostering leadership: MIT L.E.A.D. (Lead, Engage, Act, Develop) is a great way to learn important skills that can help you be a better leader. The program is organized to accommodate your busy schedule; multiple workshops, speakers, and activities are scheduled throughout the year.

Service, from local to global: The MIT Public Service Center works with thousands of graduate and undergraduate student every year. Opportunities range from one-time, local volunteer activities to fellowships that offer you the chance to put your skills into practice around the world.

Religious and cultural life: MIT is a diverse place—and many groups exist to help you find your place here. More than 30 student religious groups are active on campus, as well as numerous cultural associations. These groups can be a marvelous source of support, as well as a great way to meet other students, faculty, and alumni.

Clubs, activities, and athletics: Graduate students work hard, but they play hard, too. Whether ballroom dancing or *Biodiesel@MIT*, the Science Fiction Society or the Science Policy Initiative, there are student clubs for almost any interest. MIT also has thriving intramural and club team programs for casual play or serious local, regional, and national competition in numerous sports.

Visit our website, studentlife.mit.edu, to see current Student Life news and to learn more about the various ways we work to make MIT a welcoming, fulfilling, and exciting place to live and learn. You can also find a handy list of Institute resources, including Student Life offices and programs, at <http://web.mit.edu/student>.

Once again, welcome to campus—and thank you in advance for being such an important part of the MIT community.

Chris Colombo
Chris Colombo
Dean for Student Life



GSC Activities Committee

We are Marie and Alex, the Co-Chairs of the GSC Activities Committee. Although your life here will be filled with rigorous classes and intense research, it is extremely important to balance it with fun. The Activities Committee is dedicated to hosting events that get students away from the lab to have some fun while meeting new people. From our Craft Brew and Mead Tastings to our Ski Trip and Grad Gala, there is something for everyone!

Our aim this year is to increase the number of events that promote meaningful interactions between students. We have some exciting and new ideas that we are thrilled to be planning in the coming year. We love receiving feedback and suggestions, so if you have any questions/comments/thoughts or want to find out how you can help and get involved, feel free to contact us at gsc-ac@mit.edu. If you want to learn more about us and what we do, you can also visit our website at <http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/ac/>.

Marie Giron
Alex Guo
GSC AC Co-Chairs

GSC Academic, Research, & Careers Committee

We are Pavitra and Dimiter, the Co-Chairs of the GSC Committee for Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC), which spearheads initiatives and events aimed at improving academic and professional life at MIT. In the coming year, we will organize a variety of events such as the Grad School 101/102 orientation series, the Professional Development Series about possible career choices, hands-on Professional Skills Workshops, an Academic Career Series, and Symposia to present your work and network with fellow students and alumni.

In addition to these projects, we manage mentorship programs and advocate on academic, advising, and career-related issues. We also hope to help students thrive at MIT by fostering discussion on topics like "efficient work management" and "creating a productive relationship with your advisor."

We are always interested in exploring new ideas and promoting the academic and professional experience of graduate students, and we look forward to seeing you at some of our events this year! For more information and ways to get involved, be sure to check out our website at <http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/arc/>, come to our monthly meetings, or get in touch with us at gsc-arc@mit.edu.

Pavitra Krishnaswamy
Dimiter Ostrev
GSC ARC Co-Chairs

GSC Housing & Community Affairs Committee

First and foremost, welcome to the Institute! As you might expect, the next couple of years are going to be some of the most intense, yet rewarding, in your life. I am Randi (2nd year masters in EECS), and I chair the Graduate Student Council's Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Committee.

HCA's goal is simple: to advocate for you in every possible manner, outside of the academic and career realm. In practice, this goal translates to working with administrators, faculty, and students in a variety of complex projects including (but not limited to) stipend recommendations, on-campus housing pricing, community safety, health services, transportation, off-campus community, family resources, and more. These projects aim at improving students' quality of life through a data-driven and principled approach (as one would expect from the MIT community).

If you are interested in any of these aspects of life at MIT, like working with data, or simply want to chat about existing or new ideas, come talk to me or email me at gsc-hca@mit.edu. For more details on HCA's projects, please visit <http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/hca/>.

Randi Cabezas
GSC HCA Chair

The MIT Class of 2013, Graduate Student Council, and Society of Women Engineers cordially invite you to:

MIT career fair 2012

September 21

Registration opens June 15
career-fair.mit.edu

How to Alienate People & create a Hostile Work Environment

positivity.mit.edu

Greetings from the Office of Minority Education

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 It's 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) if you wish to be added to the OME student list-serv. 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

Greetings from Spouses & Partners at MIT

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

MIT spouses&partners is a support network for the wives, husbands, and partners of students and staff. There are many ways to have a meaningful experience while you are in Boston, and MIT spouses&partners can help you find your

way, explore new possibilities, and connect with the resources and support you need. We help newcomers from all over the world meet each other and create a meaningful life here. For more information, visit <http://spouses.mit.edu>.

Would you like to connect with other MIT families before you arrive on campus? Join us on MIT FamilyNet. It's an online community where you can get news, ask questions in the forums, join interest groups, read members' reviews of local services and stores, and buy or sell items in our classifieds section. You can also find a list of MIT affiliated babysitters on FamilyNet. Request an invitation to join our community at <http://familynet.mit.edu>.

Need help finding childcare or registering your child for school? The MIT Work Life Center provides consultations, a lending library, seminars, and a free 24-hour referral service for concerns about child care, elder care, schools, legal and financial issues and more. Visit their site at <http://hrweb.mit.edu/worklife>.

We're looking forward to meeting you! Check the Orientation schedule for our events and other kid-friendly activities.

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

Greetings from LGBT Services at MIT

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

The five MIT LGBT student groups, the LGBT alumni group, and the allies@mit group provide wonderful networking opportunities as well as educational 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. 28th-30th. Please RSVP to Abigail (afra@mit.edu). All LBGTQ students and allies are welcome.

You can also join in our monthly LGBT Issues Group meetings to learn more about LGBT-related issues at MIT and some ways to get involved.

For more information you can find us online at <http://lbgt.mit.edu>. Please feel free to stop by the Rainbow Lounge in the Walker Building Basement, 50-005, to say hello.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Abigail Francis
Abigail Francis
Director of LGBT Services



Join the Graduate Student Council

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is the representative graduate body which exists to enhance the overall graduate experience at MIT by promoting the general welfare and concerns of the graduate student body, creating new programs and initiatives to provide opportunities for growth and interaction, and communicating with the MIT Administration and Faculty on behalf of graduate students. Now entering our 59th year as an organization, we have successfully advocated for countless improvements to student life while at the same time developing a significant portfolio of programs and support which most grads would now consider essential to the MIT experience.

Some current areas of advocacy include:

- Advising and Mentoring
- Annual Stipend Increases

- Campus Safety
- Families and Children
- Federal-level Open Access, H-1B Visas, Graduate School Funding and Affordability
- New Shuttle/Bus Lines
- Off-Campus Housing Availability
- On-Campus Rent negotiations
- Student Health and Wellness Resources

The GSC is also actively working to support the graduate community through the following programs:

- Career Fair
- GradRat (The Graduate Student Ring)
- GSC Orientation
- GWAMIT Leadership and Empowerment Conferences
- MIT Grad Gala and Ski Trip
- Muddy Charles Pub
- Professional Speaker Series
- >\$15,000 in Graduate Travel Grants
- >\$130,000 allocated funds to graduate student groups

Because of the diverse and dynamic nature of our incredible graduate student body, there are always new and interesting projects to work on! If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, I encourage you to check out our website (<http://gsc.mit.edu/>) or to chat with any member of our team. We have dozens of exciting and fulfilling positions with a range of different time commitments. Make the most of your experience at MIT – join the GSC!

Brian Spatocco

Brian Spatocco
Graduate Student Council President

Career Talk!

Graduate Career Services at MIT

Welcome to MIT and this next awesome chapter in your career! Here at Career Services we want to be sure you know (1) where we are and (2) what we do. Find us at: Global Education & Career Development, Room 12-170; Phone 617-253-4733; Email: mitco@mit.edu; Web: <http://gecd.mit.edu>; Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm weekdays. You are cordially invited to meet with us to learn how we can aid you in your career development.

THINK OF US AS YOUR PERSONAL CAREER CONSULTANTS. We're here to help you learn about specific resources of use to you, as well as to learn the lifelong process of self-examination + opportunity-development, which together will shape your career. Graduate students use Career Services throughout their time at MIT (and beyond) to:

- Discuss career direction, options, and employers of interest to you



- Obtain job search advice for both academic and industry jobs
- Participate in on-campus recruiting (e.g. job postings and interviews)
- Seek guidance on self-assessment and career decision making
- Have your resume, CV, cover letter, and application essays reviewed
- Obtain help with interview preparation and negotiating job offers
- You should make an effort to attend workshops on many of these topics

- You should make an effort to attend workshops on many of these topics
- Attend our career panels (many during IAP) and special speaker events

GREAT WAY TO GET STARTED: Sign on to Career-Bridge, GECD's online career management system, <https://www.myinterfase.com/mit/student/>. This will allow you to sign up for appointments with GECD staff members, search job and internship postings, register for career workshops and events, and access password protected career resources including an online self-assessment tool.

ATTEND THE MIT FALL CAREER FAIR! Coming September 21, this is MIT's largest annual career fair, <http://career-fair.mit.edu/>. Graduate students at all stages can use the Career Fair to connect with employers of interest as well as to explore professional options and opportunities. Come prepared with (1) a list of employers that attract you and (2) an intro – a few sentences in mind to introduce yourself and your interests to company representatives; you may follow this with a question about opportunities in their company for people with your skills and interests. Students who are actively job searching should (3) also bring copies of their resume.

There are additional valuable and varied career events planned and more will be added throughout the year - see our calendar, <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/events/>. Looking forward to meeting you!

Marilyn Wilson

Marilyn Wilson
Sr. Career Development Specialist, Graduate Career Services, GECD



Career Fair 2012

On behalf of the MIT Career Fair 2012 Executive Board, we congratulate you on becoming new students in your respective programs at MIT. We encourage you through your time here to experience the most that MIT has to offer by "taking a drink from the fire hose." One of these great experiences is the MIT Career Fair, Friday September 21, 2012. The Career Fair is the largest student-run fair in the country, hosting over 350 employers, exclusively for MIT students, and is the only one in the fall semester.

Participation in the Career Fair has several advantages for first-year students:

- Increased networking opportunities with companies and research labs for possible summer internships and alignment of research projects
- Possibility of doing an externship during Independent Activi-

ties Period (Winter Break for students to work at a company for 4 weeks)

- Help determine what you want to do in the future
- Ability to sharpen skills needed in graduate school, academic careers, and industry careers
- Company sponsorships help fund graduate student groups and activities

My friends and I attended the Career Fair last year as first year students, and many of our resulting externships and summer internships were done at sponsor companies. We attended many Orientation and Campus events that were funded through the Career Fair. We look forward to you signing up at <http://career-fair.mit.edu> after your MIT certificates are activated.



Kendall Nowocin

Kendall Nowocin
MIT 2012 Career Fair Board Member

Graduate Women at MIT

Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT) 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. Founded in fall 2009, we currently have over 900 members. 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 are also engaged in advocacy on behalf of all graduate students on issues of academics, personal, and professional development and well-being. We welcome all members of the MIT community, including men, to participate in our events and discussions.

We are excited to welcome you to your new home. GWAMIT is poised to help you link up to numerous resources on campus, including the Cheney women's community center and Departmental Women's Groups. We invite you to our Women's Welcome Lunch during Orientation to introduce you to resources such as Community Wellness, dorm programs, and health and transport services to keep you connected to the community. In the meantime, check out our website at <http://gwamit.org>, blog at <http://gwamit.blogspot.com>, Facebook, and twitter to learn more and sign up for our membership mailing list to keep up to date with events and programming.

Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT)



How Grad School Can Prepare You for Careers that Make a Difference

A significant part of the MIT mission is to “develop in each member of the MIT community the ability and passion to work wisely, creatively, and effectively for the betterment of humankind.”

It’s a good goal, but I know from my own experience of grad school that the more immediate goals of getting the data you need and writing the next chapter often get in the way of figuring out how exactly you’re going to do all that good stuff. I survived (and loved!) five years of grad school, and now I work at the MIT Public Service Center (PSC), helping students to answer that question of how to do good for themselves.

At the PSC, we aim to provide the support and opportunities for students to begin working on social impact projects while at MIT and to encourage students to incorporate a service ethic into their long-term careers. This doesn’t mean we want everyone to start their own non-profit or social enterprise! But, if you do, we can help. For instance, Jukka Valimaki (MBA ’10) is a co-founder of EGG-energy, an electricity distribution start-up that provides a low-cost, rechargeable energy source to off-grid households and businesses in East Africa. Jukka received PSC funding to travel to Tanzania during IAP ’10 to build and train EGG-energy’s local sales team. Less than a year later, the business had six local employees and 1,500 customers. Of course, many grad students are aiming for a career in academia.



Contemporary academia has moved far beyond the old ivory tower model, and any experiences that demonstrate that you know how to apply your research in the real world are going to be valu-

able in your academic job applications. A great example is Amos Winter (ME PhD ’11). Amos received his first funding from the PSC in Summer 2005 when he also traveled to Tanzania, in this case to work with local wheelchair workshops. This experience got Amos, an engineer who loves the challenge of design for extreme conditions, hooked on designing low-cost wheelchairs that can survive the rough roads in developing countries. While he was still a grad student, Amos founded the class Wheelchair Design in Developing Countries and then went on to get a post-doc through the SUTD-MIT International Design Center to work on wheelchair production in India. This summer, he was awarded a faculty appointment in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.



In many cases, grad students who receive significant support from the PSC are combining service work with their classes, theses, and career exploration. A recent focus has been our support of grad students helping with the post-Katrina re-planning of New Orleans. In the past 5 years, we’ve supported over 20 major grad student projects in the New Orleans area, ranging from organizing a planners conference in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane to business planning for energy-efficient home retrofits to redeveloping a derelict supermarket. All these projects were closely related to the students’ academic work in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and in many cases the projects led to careers in New Orleans or on directly related projects.

Interested in doing something similar?

We can help you get started. Stop by the PSC office in 4-104 or visit <http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc> to get connected to our staff. We also have a number of events coming up where you can hear from grad students who’ve just returned from their summer adventures combining service and professional development (and a whole lot more besides!) and get information about resources that could support your future work.

Finally, sign-up for the weekly PSC bulletin to get information about all our events and services at <http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/wheretolook/bulletin/>.

Alison Hynd

Alison Hynd
Fellowships and Internships Administrator in the MIT Public Service Center

MIT Trailblazers

Throughout this publication, we have been attempting to show you how to find yourself both professionally and personally while at MIT. In the following two snapshots, we hope to highlight the journey of fellow MIT trailblazers and the route that lead them to their current career choices.

In 1963, a doctoral thesis was published at MIT in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, titled “Line-of-Sight Guidance Techniques for Manned Orbital Rendezvous.” For those unacquainted with the field of Aeronautics and Astronautics, this may as well be another thesis hidden in the stacks of the library. But for Edwin Eugene Aldrin Jr., better known as Buzz Aldrin, this 329-page document represented dreams of the future.

Unbeknownst to him in 1963, Aldrin’s thesis work on manned orbital rendezvous would become essential in the first space docking with the Russian cosmonauts. Furthermore, it is still implemented by NASA to the present day. By 1966, as one of the early astronauts, Buzz created a record for the longest extra-vehicular time (EVA) in space in a Gemini 12 orbital flight mission. However, these accomplishments were just a preamble to the flight of his career.

In 1969, the journey of Apollo 11 had the entire nation watching with bated breath as the first men walked on the moon. Aldrin, Armstrong, and Collins accomplished seemingly im-

possible goals and instantaneously became national heroes.

One may think that Aldrin was destined to reach the moon, or perhaps fate intervened. Whatever may be the case, it cannot be denied that Aldrin’s time at MIT was pivotal in the development of his career and future endeavors.

While Aldrin was successful in rising to the top of his field and breaking new boundaries, another alumnus of MIT, Kofi A. Annan, discovered a passion for humanitarianism. Annan joined the United Nations in 1962 and became a Sloan fellow nearly ten years later. His accomplishments run the gamut; from establishing the Global AIDS and Health Fund to intervening in and responding to humanitarian crises, Annan is a polymath in his own right. Most importantly, he has successfully applied the knowledge he gained as a Sloan fellow to solve disparate and complicated problems that affect society as a whole.

During the 1997 Commencement speech at MIT, Annan conveyed a personal outlook on his time as a Sloan Fellow:

“How could I survive, let alone thrive, in this group of over-achievers? And the answer came to me most emphatically: NOT by playing it according to their rules. ‘Follow your own inner compass,’ I said to myself, ‘listen to your own drummer.’ To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are, what you stand for, where you want to go, and why you want to get there.” With these words of wisdom, we leave you to create new paths, to forge your own identity, and to find your destiny during your formative years at MIT.

Chandrani Mondal
Chandrani Mondal

Wish **The Tech** covered more news relevant to you?
Want **FREE DINNER** twice a week?

The Tech is looking for more **graduate student** writers
(and photographers, page designers, and coders)
No experience necessary!

To learn how you can get involved
email: join@tech.mit.edu



MIT Survival 101

1. Getting to MIT

MIT's main campus address is 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139. Students flying to Boston Logan Airport can pay about \$30 for a taxi. Alternatively, students can get to MIT using public transportation (i.e. MBTA). From the airport, students can take the Silver Line Airport Bus to the South Station stop and then transfer to the Red Line Train (inbound, towards Airport). Get off at the Kendall/MIT stop to access the main campus. See www.mit.edu for details.

Navigation

Navigation in and around Boston is not intuitive and can be very frustrating. A lot of students move in over a short number of days, and Boston has a lot of colleges. If driving, please be sure to allow a generous amount of time to get to your destination. If possible, drivers should be accompanied by an electronic navigation system (e.g. GPS) or a competent navigator and equipped with a detailed map that shows traffic patterns, not just the streets.

Weather

The average Cambridge temperature ranges during the year are: Fall 3 to 17°C/38 to 62°F; Winter -6 to 4°C/22 to 39°F; Spring 5 to 19°C/41 to 67°F; Summer 15 to 28°C/59 to 82°F. Temperatures fluctuate A LOT and randomly, and it rains often and unexpectedly, so be sure to bring a raincoat or an umbrella.

2. Getting around MIT

Parking in Cambridge is limited. Driving around the Boston and Cambridge areas can be frustrating, even for drivers who know the area. Check out <http://web.mit.edu/transportation/index.html> for a variety of transportation information, including MIT parking permits, deals, and subsidies (e.g. T-pass discounts). This website also includes information on free MIT shuttles (including daytime, late-night, weekend, grocery, and more).

3. Moving in

Don't get stranded! Arrange housing before traveling to MIT. The MIT housing webpage is located at <http://7th.writing.mit.edu/>. This website has information about both on- and off-campus housing options specific to MIT. You can also search for off-campus housing listings (plus furniture and other things) at boston.craigslist.org. Be sure to visit possible locations in-person prior to making a final commitment!

4. Health Insurance

All full-time graduate students are automatically enrolled in MIT's Student Extended Health Insurance Plan (more information at <http://form.mit.edu/healthplan/grads.html> in our list). Your department/advisor, teaching or research assistantships, and/or fellowships usually pay for the cost of this plan. If you already have an insurance plan that you would like to keep, you can submit a waiver to the MIT Medical Department. See the Waiver FAQ on the above page for more information; a link to the waiver itself is at the bottom of the FAQ.

Essential Items for IHE at MIT:

1. Student ID

As soon as you arrive on campus, get your student identification card at the MIT Card Services Office, located in room W20-021. Remember to bring a valid picture ID (e.g. driver's license, passport, etc.). For more information, visit <http://web.mit.edu/identity/getcard.html>. This ID card will be an essential part of getting around the MIT campus and also gets you in on all sorts of student deals around town, including free entry to the Museum of Fine Arts and Boston Symphony Orchestra. Information on these and other MIT-specific deals can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/mitdeals/index.html>.

2. E-mail accounts and Internet Service

Before arriving at MIT, you can register for an e-mail account at <http://bit.mit.edu/accounts>. To register after you arrive, go to the computer cluster outside of the Student Services Center in Building 11. Press any key, click on "Register an Account," and follow the instructions. You may need to get an account coupon from your department.

You can get started using Internet on-campus by using the MIT Guest wi-fi network. However, you will eventually want to use the MIT Secure wi-fi network or Athena Clusters around campus. These are available with a valid MIT certificate or e-mail password.

Common off-campus Internet service providers include Verizon, AT&T broadband, and FICL.

3. Get "certificates"

Computer certificates authenticate your identity to MIT's web servers. You need certificates to access some websites, such as student.mit.edu (where you can get your grades and pay student bills), access the online sections of your classes, and download software through MIT's I&S Office. To install certificates, go to <http://ist.mit.edu/accounts> and click on "Certificates".

4. Pay bills

You can pay in person by going to the Student Services Center Office in room 11-126. Alternatively, you can use your newly enabled Athena account and go to <http://student.mit.edu/> and click MITPAY to pay online (you will need the certificate mentioned above).

People to meet:

1. Meet your graduate administrator

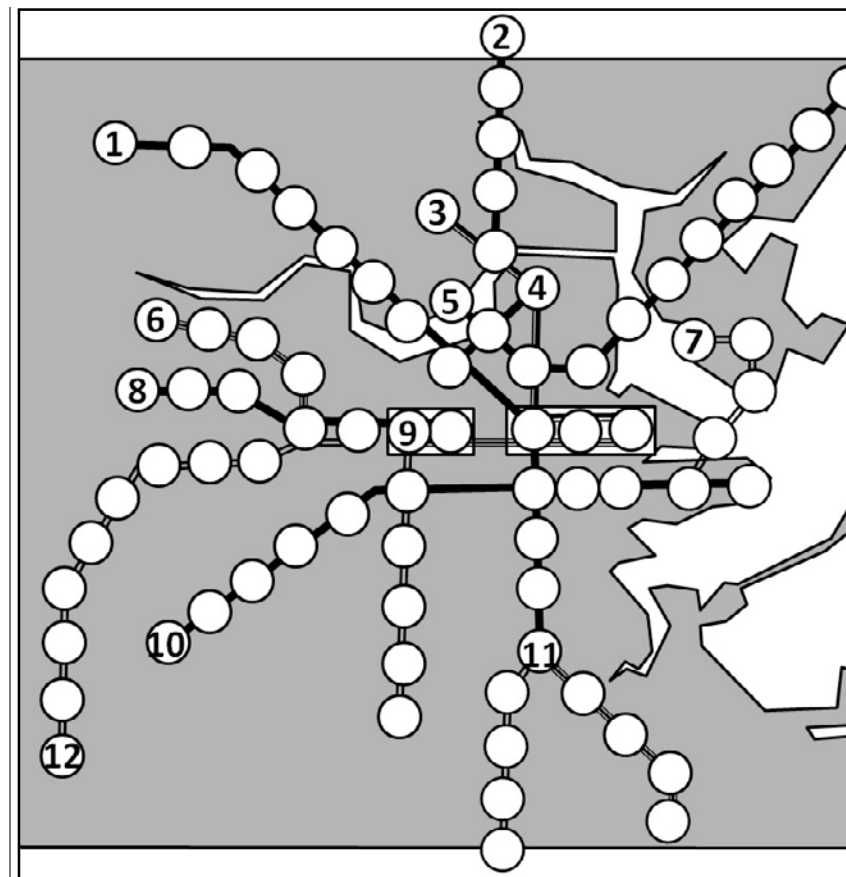
You probably received a letter from your department's graduate administrator over the summer. Now that you have arrived, it would be a good idea to introduce yourself in person. That way, they will get to know you and be more apt to help you when you need it. When the time comes, you will also know who you are looking for!

2. Meet your advisor

Before arriving at MIT, you should schedule an introductory meeting with your academic and/or research advisor(s). If you do not have an advisor yet, you can set a meeting after finding one. Typically, this will vary by departments and courses (i.e. some departments will require students to choose an advisor before arriving at MIT, while others will require students to do rotations and choose an advisor after being at MIT for a certain period of time).

3. Get Orientation

All new graduate students are welcome to attend the Graduate Student Council's (GSC's) Graduate Orientation! MIT's GSC Orientation is the largest graduate student orientation in the country. Over a period of about a month, there are tons and tons of events organized by current MIT graduate students.



Crossing the T's

Follow the arrows (←→↖↗↘↙) and clues to fill in these orientation-themed words. Words travel along lines that pass through the spaces. At the end, the box in the center will contain another special, nerdy word!

1(→↘↘, 13 letters) A good word to learn now, so you don't have to spell it out twice on your tax forms

2(↘, 5 letters) It may be hard to see it from up here on Bunker Hill, so go to MIT for a better view of this Boston landmark

3(↘↘↘, 7 letters) You may feel like a fish out of water if your professor starts using this unexpected grading scheme.

4(↖, 3 letters) Don't get fooled by the acronyms, MITPAY is still unlikely to take this as payment

5(↘→↗, 12 letters) Even if you're not sure where home is, you'll still know who to root, root, root for.

6(↘↘, 5 letters) Feeling bored at MIT? Don't just sit there, act now and find them!

7(→↘↖, 5 letters) For when you really need to get away, make this your first and final stop.

8(→↘↘, 7 letters) There's no good way to sugar coat it. But, if you keep telling yourself you're doing fine, it will all turn out well in the end. In that way, I guess grad. school can be like one of these.

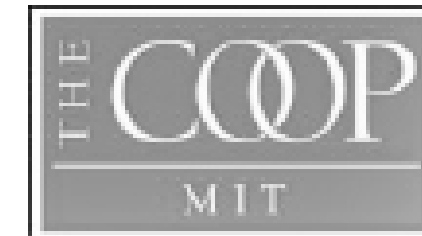
9(↘, 6 letters) Wood-chucking? Ha, no way! Just leave it to me!

10(↗→, 11 letters) Nominally, it's what MIT students do.

11(↘↘, 5 letters to Braintree) A cheaper rent district if you don't mind the T, _____ Boston.

12(↖↘, 5 letters to Ashmont) To get the word out the old-fashioned way, be sure to put up a posting here

13(↗↘→, 11 letters) A hard buy in Cambridge, check out Jamaica Plain if you just want more of this.

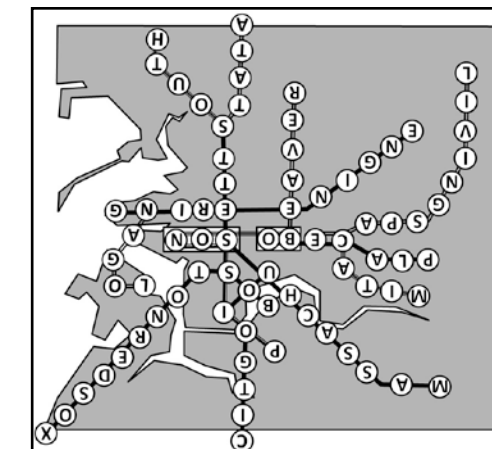


The Coop knows what students need and has been providing the right products, service and advice for more than 130 years. You'll find all the textbooks for all your courses in all the format options (New-Used- E-books and now Rental Textbooks). Our staff is knowledgeable and can provide the right advice. You can only find this in one convenient location- the Coop.

The Coop was started by students and established as a cooperative and has been MIT's campus store in 1916. MIT students are eligible to join the Coop and save money. Last year Coop members received 8.5% of their Coop purchases back as patronage rebate.

The Coop has been an integral part of the MIT experience for generations. Join the Coop and continue the tradition at any Coop location or online at www.thecoop.com

Crossing T's Answers



Can You Direct Me?

By the first day of class, you will realize that navigating the MIT campus is a challenging task. Whereas many other educational institutions organize their buildings and programs by names, MIT organizes its buildings and programs by numbers.



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.

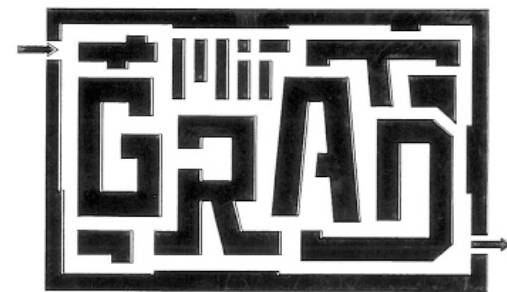


It is useful to know that buildings on the main campus east of the Great Dome (Building 10) have even numbers and those west of it have odd numbers. Buildings west of Massachusetts Avenue are designated W, those north of the Conrail tracks N, those east of Ames street E, and those north of the railroad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

At MIT, the various fields of study are referred to as courses, and each course has a corresponding course number. Here is the list of courses with their corresponding course number.

Course:	Department:
1	Civil and Environmental Engineering
2	Mechanical Engineering
3	Materials Science & Engineering
4	Architecture
5	Chemistry
6	Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
7	Biology
8	Physics
9	Brain and Cognitive Science
10	Chemical Engineering
11	Urban Studies and Planning
12	Earth, Atmospheric, Planetary & Science
14	Economics
15	Business / Management
16	Aeronautics and Astronautics
17	Political Science
18	Mathematics
20	Biological Engineering
21	Humanities (A, F, H, M, L, W)
22	Nuclear Engineering
24	Linguistics and Philosophy
CDO	Computation for Design and Optimization
CMS	Comparative Media Studies
CSB	Computational and Systems Biology
ESD	Engineering Systems Division
HST	Health, Science & Technology
MAS	Media Arts & Sciences
STS	Science, Technology & Society

GradRat



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT 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.

Advice Against Missing Orientation

Over the progression of your first year, many exciting opportunities will arise. Graduate school at MIT offers you a large amount of freedom to shape the experience the way you want. When one door closes, two more and a window will open with a little bit of work. The work, life, and play balance with the friends made along the way will integrate you into MIT's tightknit community. This community is helpful during the up and down times that arise.

Grad School 101 & 102

Grad School 101 and 102, along with the other orientation events, were great for meeting new people, building close friendships, and beginning to paint on the blank graduate school canvas. One of my friends decided to add an externship into her "painting." Three of my friends and I are doing internships; others have gone abroad, are traveling to interesting places, or just staying at MIT working on exciting research. "Life" during the first year at MIT can sometimes feel fast-paced intense, and like you're not supposed to be here. You do belong, but if it was, easy everyone would be doing it. This is why it is good to relax and "play." Taking up sailing, trying to get a pirates license, playing Tetris on the side of the Green Building,

volunteering, getting involved with student groups and the GSC, exercising, and the occasional board game are some starters. It takes everybody some time to transition to this balance.

I encourage you to make the most of your time here by trying new things, getting involved, finding what you enjoy doing, and researching on what excites you. Life is too short to waste it away sad, a piece of advice that was told to me, "When life throws you lemons, just make some lemonade." People have said I make pretty good lemonade.

Kendall Nowocin
Kendall Nowocin

Are You Ready For MIT?

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



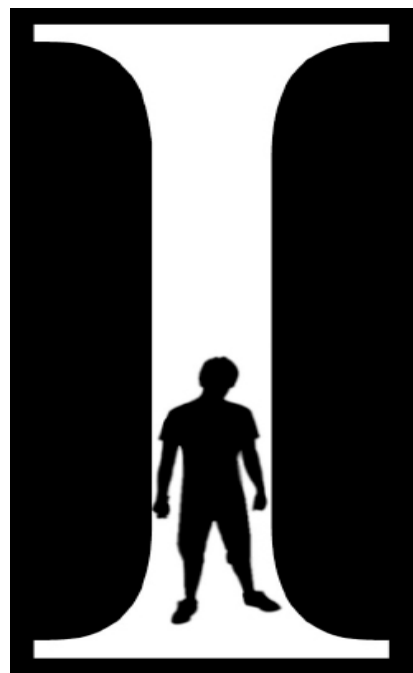
Get Out of My Way!

I can recall that the air in the room was still and crisp, as I sat with my fellow peers while listening to the thesis student introduce his project. This student stood tall and confident as he carefully explained the concept of his project to his advisor and the audience members. The room was dead silent as we gazed in awe of the thesis student, whose relentless effort was evident by the work he showcased to everyone. The entire audience could sense the pride in his work as his eyes flickered with excitement. As the presentation ended, the advisor rose from his seat to deliver his remarks; the students and audience members gathered and surrounded both the speaker and the advisor in an attempt to listen to the praises offered by this esteemed faculty member.

The comments made by the advisor were as swift as the movement of time, yet as sharp and destructive as a sharpened machete. So hurtful were the advisor's words that, as he uttered the syllables, you could sense the words piercing the heart of not only this thesis student, but also the hearts of his mother and grandmother who came to support him, the faith-

ful friends who went without sleep to help him prepare for this moment, and even myself, just a stranger in the crowd. And as the crowd waited with saddened spirits for the thesis student to respond to the advisor's crippling critique, he defended his work by simply stating, "This is what you asked me to do".

These are the words I have heard spoken by many of my frustrated peers after speaking to an advisor or faculty member who has just destroyed all of their hopes of moving forward on a project. It's very disappointing to see that after MIT has recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, and yet there are still students here who do not understand the purpose of this educational institution. MIT does not exist so that faculty members can simply dictate lessons on how to generate innovative concepts; rather, the purpose of MIT is to foster an environment where today's leading individuals in diverse fields of study can gather and help inspire the next generation of leaders. The admissions office at MIT attempts to accept students with the innate potential to make remarkable contributions to their fields of study, and then it provides them with the resources necessary to further develop these qualities. Yet many students chose to emulate their professors who they hold to such a high regard, rather than stepping out from behind their shadow to take their rightful positions as the new great thinkers of our time.



Literary writer Oscar Wilde once wrote "Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation." I urge my readers not to fall prisoner to remarks such as this, where your existence at MIT is simply a reenactment of your advisor's past efforts. Take advantage of all of the resources provided by MIT, and begin generating the identity that will help forge your own path in life.

Rudy Dieudonne
Rudy Dieudonne
Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News

There is More to MIT Than Just Going to Lab and Conducting Research

The Infinite Corridor, without too much intention, has become (or perhaps always has been) the place to define and redefine oneself and to ponder the easily forgotten philosophical questions of life. And by life, I mean the world outside of the hallway connecting your desk to the lab, vending / coffee machine, bathrooms, couch (that you have proudly napped on), and the case of beer in the cold room (if you are only so lucky).

As MIT graduate students, we spend most of our time conducting novel research, pursuing academic knowledge, and perfecting our craft. Research, eat, sleep, research, research, and more research can become a commonplace routine. This leaves little opportunity to develop outside interests and to gain skills necessary for a career after graduate school. It's very easy to get caught up in the hubbub of advisor meetings, classes, and lab, so much so that all else is put on the back burner. However, it is possible that pursuits and thoughts outside of the sphere of daily life may actually make your academic career more fruitful and successful.



This Sunday, in my umpteenth walk down the Infinite Corridor, I nearly ran into a unicyclist. Instead of scurrying by, I chose to watch the talented performers of the Juggling Club at MIT. Their work was flawless, and most importantly, they looked happy and excited to be performing. They aren't the only MIT members exploring other interests. Hundreds of posters line the walls of the Infinite Corridor, advertising events, club activities, auditions, career fairs, design competitions, and workshops, to name a few.

If all of these opportunities are found within a single corridor, the sum of what can be done in Boston and Cambridge is a number too large to define. The question is, what, if anything, do you want to do? Is it worth your time to take on a new conquest or to push and explore a different side of you? I can only answer for myself, but I suggest the next time you take a walk down the Infinite Corridor, stop for a minute and take a breath. Look around and see what the MIT and the Boston/Cambridge community has to offer you, and think about what you want out of your graduate career and beyond. You may just be surprised by what you come up with.

Chandrani Mondal
Chandrani Mondal



Beyond the Walls of MIT

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

A Series of Transitions

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 at <http://housing.mit.edu>, our own Rent Monkey at <http://rentmonkey.mit.edu>, and Craigslist at <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 it 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

Transitioning from the Office and Into the Lab

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, two years 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

Lessons Learned During My First Year

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. 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 would help me develop my skill sets that I'd require the most when I finished my program and pursued my professional life.

As an 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, and share your joys and problems is very important when you are pursuing your academics.

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



WELCOME TO MIT!

Before you dive into your studies, now is a great time to get your finances in order and familiarize yourself with a solid and prestigious credit union exclusive to the MIT Community.

As an MIT Graduate Student, you and your family are eligible for all the benefits of MIT Federal Credit Union membership.



WHY WE'RE BETTER

When it comes to personal finances, many people default to doing their business with banks. What you may not know is that banks are not your only option.

A credit union is a financial cooperative, offering the same products and services as a bank. Furthermore, a credit union is insured, just like a bank. Yet unlike a bank, a credit union is owned and operated by its members. It is also not-for-profit, which allows it to operate at a lower cost than for-profit institutions. As a result, a credit union like MIT Federal Credit Union (MITFCU) is able to offer higher returns on savings and lower rates on loans.

NOT JUST ANY CREDIT UNION

MITFCU is exclusively for MIT students, alumni, employees, affiliates, and their families. We exist solely to help our members realize their financial goals.

THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

- Totally FREE Checking Account
- Savings Account
- Debit MasterCard®
- Apply for a VISA® Credit Card
- Free mobile banking, online banking, bill pay, e-Statements, e-Deposits, and FinanceWorks
- Alternative Student Loans

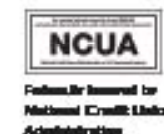
JOIN OR GET TO KNOW US BETTER

Tech Square Branch
700 Technology Square
Building NE48
M-F, 8:30am-4:00pm

Student Center Branch
84 Massachusetts Avenue
Building W2D, Room 116
M-W & F, 9:00am-4:30pm
Th, 9:00am-5:30pm

Online
www.mitfcu.org

Call Center
617.253.2845
M-F, 8:00am-5:00pm



The Lies Your Mentor Told You

It was a harsh lie when your professors said that if you followed their directions, then you could survive the semester and produce a respected research project. It was a far greater lie to be told by your advisor that your anxiety over your research is due to your irresponsibility and laziness. Studying at an institution where you are constantly expected to perform at your maximum capacity can prove to be poisonous to even the most unwavering students. What is more detrimental is when your relentless efforts to further your research are only met with harsh criticisms directed towards your work ethic and learning style. Yet influential writer Peter F. Drucker, with the help of Harvard Business Review, has published an article entitled “Managing Oneself,” which has shed light on a question that has plagued graduate students from the moment they begin their studies at MIT, “Why am I not performing at the level I am expected to?”

“Why am I not performing at the level I am expected to?”

In his piece, Drucker remarked “Success in the knowledge economy comes to those who know themselves, their strengths, their values, and how they best perform,” a remark that only glimmers true to a person who has fully realized their identity. Both Drucker and I share similar sentiments on the concept of understanding yourself in order to forge your own particular path in life. So often my peers have expressed the concerns they have about their performance level in comparison to their co-workers and the schedule that their advisors have forced upon them. When looking at this problem in hindsight, it becomes apparent that the answer to their problems is quite clear: you cannot fit into MIT, but you must make MIT fit you! Drucker only reaffirms this concept as he poses a series of questions to help his audience uncover their professional identities and quickly unravel the mystery behind their performance style.

“You cannot fit into MIT, but you must make MIT fit you!”

He poses the questions: “What are your strengths? How do you perform? Are you a reader or a listener? What are your values? Where do you belong?”

These questions clearly address the minute factors that coalesce to form a student’s identity as a graduate student and professional individual. With these answers in mind and the veil of

uncertainty lifted, you should vividly begin to see your true self in relation to your co-workers and your advisor. It may quickly become apparent that the timeline generated by your advisor does not coincide with your work ethic. For instance, if you were advised to review a few audio recordings that discuss a topic that is relevant to your research, you may find that due to the fact that you are a reader rather than a listener, you will read a written copy of the audio recording instead. There are a large number of ways that a person could redesign directions given to them to fit their work ethic and still keep everyone satisfied.

“Successful careers are not planned.”

Peter F. Drucker’s article, along with this piece, should signal an awakening in the minds of many talented individuals who constantly feel abandoned by their academic talents the moment they arrive at MIT. This institution was not brought into existence as a method of revealing to students their worst professional traits; rather, this institution was created to help students discover their identity that will propel them into their position as a dominant contributor to our society. It was more eloquently stated by Drucker when he remarked, “Successful careers are not planned. They develop when people are prepared for opportunities because they know their strengths, their methods of work, and their values.”

Rudy Dieudonne

Rudy Dieudonne

Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News



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 im-

portant problems in the lab form 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, pay 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, however, they are key to a sustainable future.

Todd Schenk

Todd Schenk

Dear Graduate

Dear Graduate,

I’m worried! I’m used to being towards the top of my class, but I’m worried that I will no longer be so at MIT. I’ve always heard stories about MIT being full of the smartest people in the world, of it being a center of innovation, creativity, and genius. What if I end up being the dumbest person in my class? What should I do?

Sincerely,

No-Longer-The-Smartest

Dear No-Longer-The-Smartest,

Surprisingly (or perhaps not?), that is exactly the way I felt when I decided to come to MIT! When I first got to MIT, my department head told us that, statistically, 50% of us will be at the top, and 50% of us will be at the bottom. Keep

this in mind, and always try to view things relatively. MIT is one of the best universities in the world - just being a part of MIT already puts us at the top! Being part of the bottom 50% of the top 1% in the world is not, in the end, significantly different than being at the top 50% of the top 1% in the world.

Another concern might be related to grades. Well, grad school is not about grades - if you think it is, you should reevaluate that belief. Grad school, and specifically MIT, is about research, about innovation, about creativity. It is about learning, thinking, and problem solving; it is not about tests or projects or grades. Your experience at MIT and the value you place on it shouldn’t be tied to grades - instead, think of what you want to learn, what you hope to improve about yourself and the world around you.

The fact is that MIT does not accept students that will not succeed at MIT, so rest assured that you deserve to be here. You have earned your place at MIT, and don’t let anyone else (including yourself) say otherwise. You will succeed.

Sincerely,

The Graduate

From a Student to a Professor, MIT is Where I Want to Be

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 that 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 Chemical and Biological Engineering



Discover the Arts at MIT



Taking a class in arts or humanities may seem like a departure from your graduate curriculum, which of course will be focused in your discipline, but you might be surprised at how it may stretch your capacity for creative thinking, experimentation, and imaginative problem solving.

Beyond taking classes in arts and humanities, do you realize how many ways you can unwind and enjoy art as a graduate student at MIT?

Hang museum art in your room, view entire collections at top Boston arts institutions, make art with artists, learn from speakers involved in the arts, and toast the arts at gala events. The range is extraordinary, offering opportunities to enrich your life, relax, and meet new people.



Decorate your walls with a real Miró

Each September, through the Student Loan Art Program, over 500 framed original works of art from the List Visual Arts Center are made available for loan to MIT students! Probability is high that you will be able to decorate your dorm room with a real Sol

LeWitt, Alex Katz, or Joan Miró. Please visit http://listart.mit.edu/student_loan_art_collection for more information.

Toast the arts

The Graduate Arts Forum program sponsors sizable arts events and provocative panels, lectures, and discussions. Upcoming events during orientation and at the end of the semester include a reception co-hosted by the List Visual Arts Center in early September, during the student loan art program lottery; a gala on September 28 at the Harvard Museum of Natural History; the third annual gallery event on December 12 at the Copley Art Society in Boston on Newbury Street; and a graduate Arts Soirée at the MIT Media Lab on March 9, where you can join 600+ fellow grad students at this popular arts event. More info at <http://arts.mit.edu/participate/grad-arts-forum/>.



Express yourself

The Student Art Association invites you to sign up for non-credit classes in ceramics, drawing, Chinese painting, and more, at the start of each semester and during the summer and IAP sessions. Develop your skills in an open, hands-on, unpressured environment, in studios accessible nearly 24 hours a day. Whether you're a novice or an intermediate level artist, you can create a work of art to enjoy long after your graduate experience is over. More info at <http://arts.mit.edu/saa>.

Enrich your life off campus, for free

The Council for the Arts at MIT has made it possible for you to simply show your MIT student ID to enjoy free admission to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Institute of Contemporary Art, Harvard Art Museums, and Photographic Resource Center at BU. For those interested in performing arts, show your MIT ID at the Boston Symphony Orchestra box office to receive a student card for access to free tickets to select performances. Tickets to other ensembles are also available, for more information, visit <http://arts.mit.edu/tickets/tickets-for-students/>.

To learn more about the arts at MIT, visit <http://arts.mit.edu> or email arts@mit.edu.

Leah Talatinian

Leah Talatinian
Communications Manager, Arts at MIT

Annual Graduate Student Events

Now that you have completed the admissions process and are now a part of our MIT family, we can 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 night 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, conversation, and shared experiences.



Oreintation 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. You would normally find Tim only at sporting and campus wide events, but Tim always makes an exception and comes out to welcome incoming graduate students.



Graduate Student Picnic:

Directly after attending the Welcome Address, new MIT graduates are invited to take part in the annual Graduate Student Picnic. This event takes place on the Kresge Lawn, and food and drinks are provided. This event gives all incoming graduate students the opportunity to meet one another and socialize while enjoying the summer environment.



Graduate Ski Trip:

During IAP, which normally takes place between the fall and spring semesters, 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.



Grad Gala:

Every year, the Grad Gala proves to be one of the most talked about events on our 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 locations in downtown Boston, where students enjoy elegant drinks, fine cuisine, and enchanting music. The Grad Gala is truly a memorable event that every grad student should attend.



Acoustic Barbecue:

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



The 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 enjoy appetizers and drinks as they move from room to room, viewing artwork and listening to music. The types of art work included are interactive art, paintings, sculptures, and many more. It is an amazing night for graduate students.

Rudy Dieudonne
Rudy Dieudonne
Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News

Muddy Charles Pub

The Muddy Charles Pub, affectionately referred to as "The Muddy," has been present on the MIT campus since 1968, where it has welcomed everyone from Nobel Laureates to graduate students, played host to entrepreneurs and their start-ups, and enjoyed global exposure. The Pub provides a relaxing atmosphere, plus a beautiful view of the Charles River, for all members of the MIT community to enjoy. A wide range of beer, wine, and non-alcoholic selections are offered, with rotating taps of various New England microbrews. Every "Weekly Wednesday" evening, the Pub offers wings and veggies on the house! Select Mondays have an international flare as part of the "Muddy Monday" program featuring food, beers, wines, music, and décor from all over the world. The Pub is run by a Board of Governors consisting of graduate students, alumni, and faculty and operated by a staff of graduate students.

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 2pm-11:30pm, and Friday, 12noon-11:30pm.

Location: The Pub is located in Walker Memorial (W50) at 142 Memorial Dr. and is open to all 21+ (ID at the door) members of the MIT community. E-mail: muddycharlespub@mit.edu, Web: <http://mit.edu/muddy>, Twitter: @muddycharlespub, Facebook: The Muddy Charles Pub group

Torin Clark
Torin Clark

The Thirsty Ear Pub

I recently finished my Ph.D. and am honored to share with you some gilded nuggets of wisdom about life at MIT. You may have heard MIT is a magical wonderland full of brilliant minds, passionate students, and an infectious belief that you can change the world. Don't worry; this is all true. You have undoubtedly also heard, however, that graduate school won't be easy. This is also true. The challenges you'll face in graduate school won't necessarily come from where you expect.

You can only get by with a little help from your friends, and nothing brings people together like karaoke every Thursday night at the Thirsty Ear Pub. First year I was afraid, I was petrified, but I grew strong and I learned how to get along. As long as you know how to karaoke, I know you'll stay alive. You've got all your life to live, you've got all your songs to give, and you'll survive. You will survive (hey, hey). Graduate students have got to hold on to what they've got, cause it makes a difference if you make it or not. At the Thirsty, you've got each other, and that's a lot. Take my advice and you'll make it, I swear (woah, living on a prayer).

On Thursday nights in lab, remember you don't have to go home but you can't stay there. Gather up your jackets, and move it to the Thirsty. So sing us a song, you're a graduate student. Sing us a song tonight. We're all in the mood for a melody, and karaoke will get you feeling alright. Some will win, some will lose, some were born to sing the blues. Oh, school can feel like it goes on, and on, and on, and on.. but go to the Thirsty and don't stop believing, hold on to that feeeelliiiiinnng!

Matt Smith
Matt Smith



Muddy Charles Pub

MONDAY - THURSDAY
7:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Kitchen 'til 11 p.m.

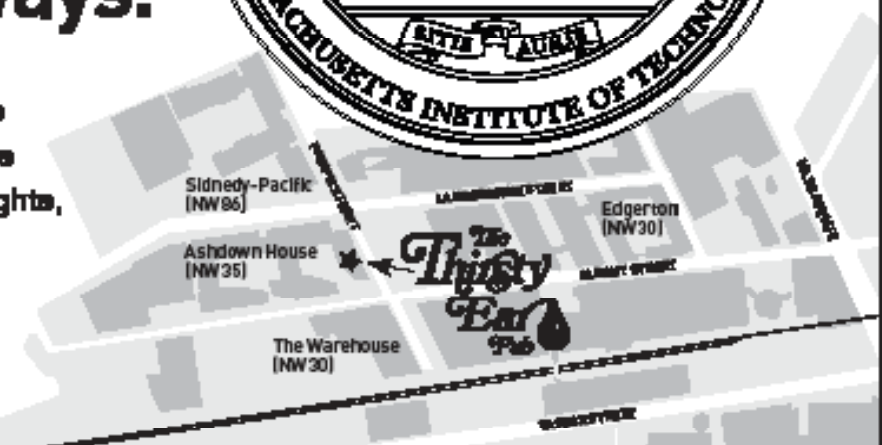
**Great food.
Great prices.
Free soda, always.**

EVENTS:

Trivia Night | 9 p.m. - Wednesdays
Karaoke Night | 9 p.m. - Thursdays
**Regular Sports Nights, Comedy Nights,
Flight Nights, and more!**

Plant the pub Fridays for \$100!
see: <http://thirsty-ear.mit.edu>

21+ Cost Photo ID Required



Cambridge/Somerville 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 weekends, 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 Sundays, **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 comical atmosphere, consider the **ImprovBoston (40 Prospect St.)**, where daily live comedy shows bring Cambridge residents together.

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 wander

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 to 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 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 a 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 **Burien (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 music 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.

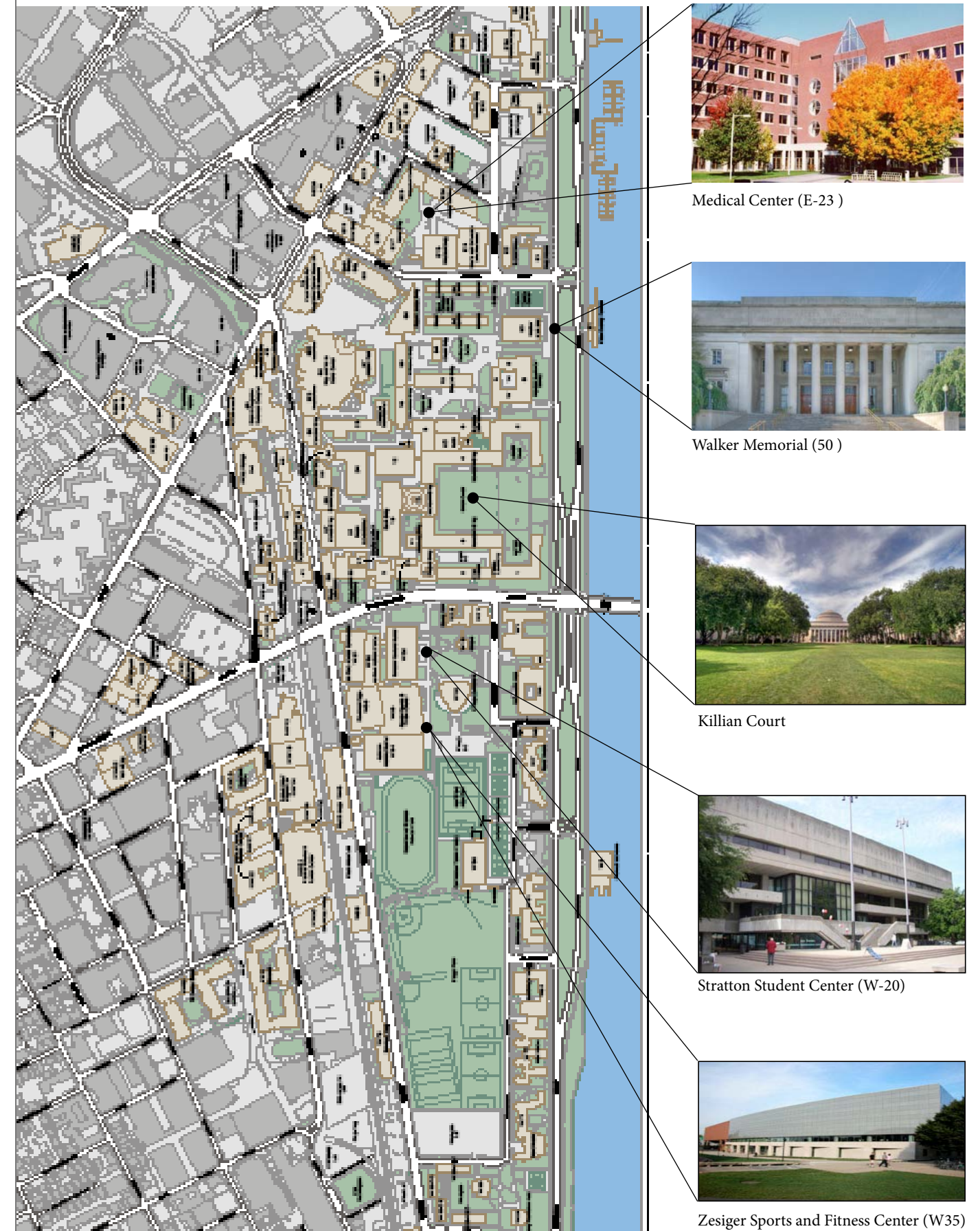
Union Square:

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

Campus Map



Medical Center (E-23)



Walker Memorial (50)



Killian Court



Stratton Student Center (W-20)



Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center (W35)

LIVE

(KNOW THE CITY)

Wednesday 08/29

Campus Police Welcome Lunch
at W20-306
11:30am-1:00pm

Thursday 08/30

Families 101
Location TBD
9:00-11:00AM

Saturday 09/01

Warehouse Food Truck Court
at NW30
6:00pm-8:00pm

Sunday 09/02

Prudential Skywalk & Ice Cream
at 50-220
6:00-9:30pm

Wednesday 09/05

Pub Crawl
Location TBD
8:00P onwards

Saturday 09/08

Grad Volunteer Day
at W20
8:00am-5:00pm

Apple-Picking Trip
Date and location TBD

Boston Tour
Date and location TBD

WORK

(KNOW THE INSTITUTE)

Monday 8/27

Grad School 101
at 26-100
9am-3:30pm

Tuesday 8/28

Grad School 102
at 34-101
10am-4:30pm

Tuesday 8/28

English Language Test
Location TBD
9am-12pm

Tuesday 8/28 & Wednesday 8/29

Information Booth
at Lobby 10
9:00am-5:00pm

Wednesday 8/29

Spouses & Partners Welcome
W20-307
10:30am-1:00pm

Thursday 8/30

Welcome Address
at W16
12pm-3pm

Friday 09/07

GWAMIT's Women's Welcome Lunch
at W20-La Sala
12:00pm-01:30pm

Friday 9/7

Grad Rat
at 50-140
5pm-8pm

PLAY

(KNOW THE PEOPLE)

Sunday 8/26

TEEC Barbeque
at NW35
5pm-7:30pm

Wednesday 08/29

Boston Harbor Cruise
at Boston Harbor
07:00pm-10:00pm

Thursday 08/30

Techlink Welcome Banquet
at 50-140
6:00-9:00PM

Friday 8/31

Sid-Pac BBQ & Movie
at NW86
5:30-11:30PM

Saturday 09/01

Edgerton Dance Party
at NW10
9:00PM-1:00AM

Tuesday 09/04

Reception Under the Stars
at 14
07:30-10:00PM

Wednesday 09/05

GSC Open House & Dinner
at 50-140
5:00-8:00PM

Saturday 09/08

Ashdown Dance Party
at NW35
9:00pm-1:00am

This is a **selected** list of events. Please visit the GSC website: <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation/> for a complete and up-to-date list of scheduled events for Orientation.