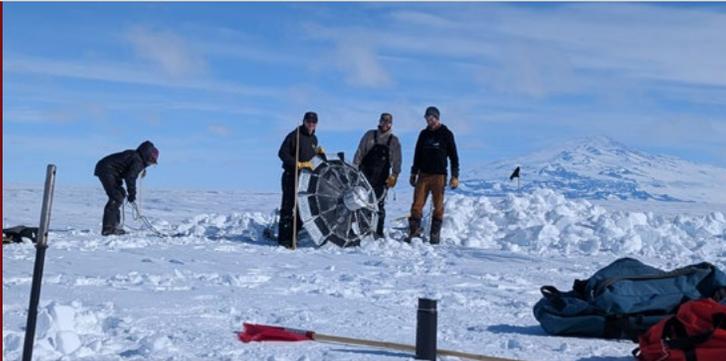


# Quarter Century Club

Your First Chapter  
in MIT History

**25 Years Proud!**



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology

March 2026





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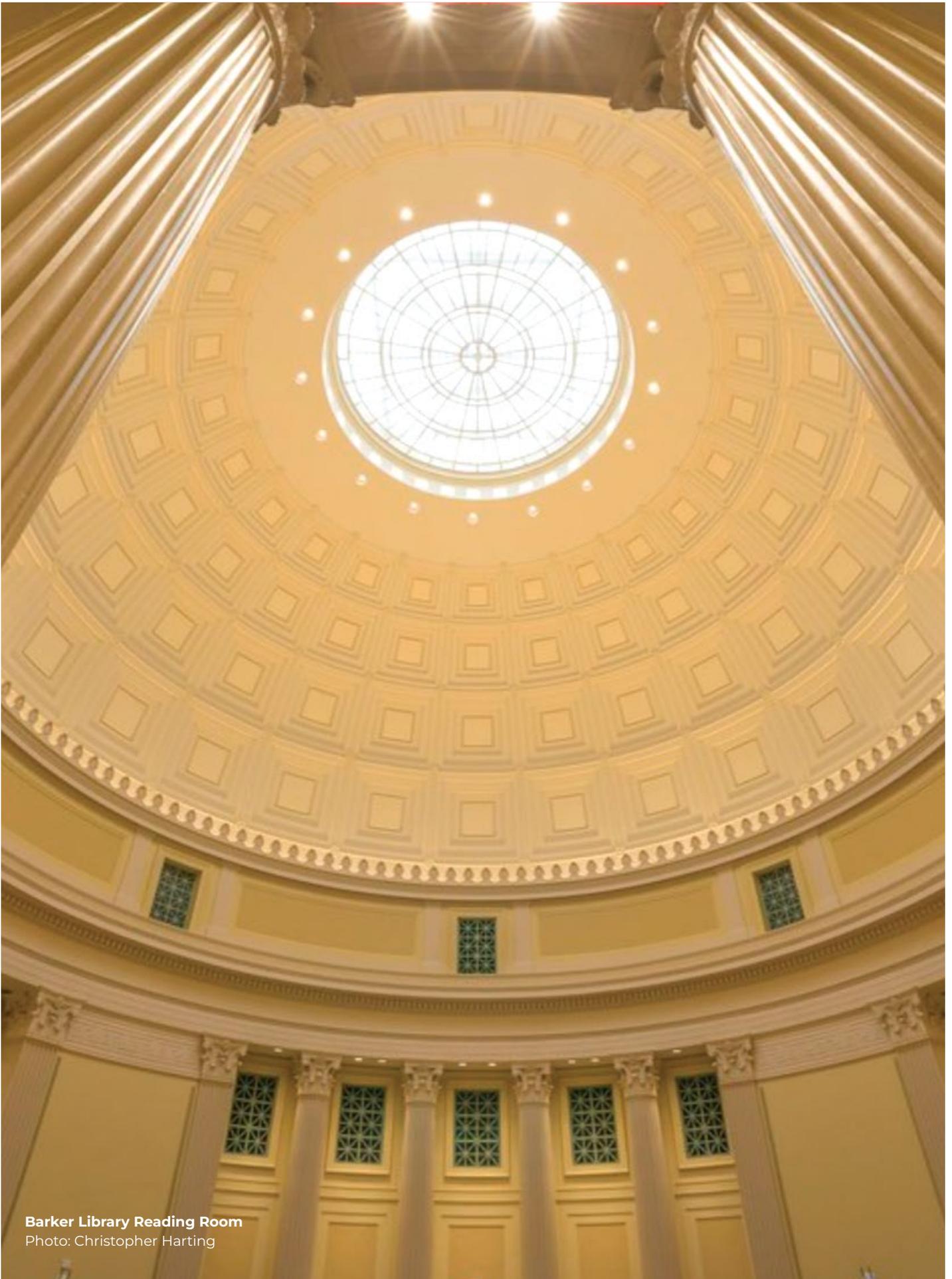
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**Sources:**

- MIT Libraries
- MIT Lincoln Laboratory News
- MIT News



**Barker Library Reading Room**  
Photo: Christopher Harting

*2000*

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*2002*



## 2000

- MIT celebrates the start of the 21st century with the Millennium Ball.
- Prof. Evelyn Hammonds establishes the MIT Center for the Study of Diversity in Science, Technology, and Medicine.
- Groundbreaking for Ray and Maria Stata Center for Computer, Information and Intelligence Sciences.
- MIT and Caltech join forces to develop an easy-to-use, reliable, affordable, and secure U.S. voting machine that will prevent a recurrence of the problems that plagued the 2000 presidential election.

## 2001

- MIT Mystery Hunt celebrates its 20th anniversary.
- The Laboratory for Energy and the Environment is established to make significant and innovative contributions to energy and environmental sustainability.
- Eight recipients with MIT connections win Nobel Prizes. Among them, Prof. Wolfgang Ketterle shares the Nobel Prize in physics.
- A National Science Foundation award leads to the establishment of MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms.
- MIT announces OpenCourseWare, a web-based publication of the educational materials from the MIT faculty's courses, open for educators in the non-profit sector, students, and individual learners around the world.
- At age 20, Erik Demaine becomes MIT's youngest faculty member.
- U.S. President George W. Bush appoints MIT President Charles M. Vest to Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.
- MIT community responds to the tragic events of September 11th.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded jointly to the United Nations and Kofi Annan MS '72 "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world."
- "Technology and the Dream: Reflections on the Black Experience at MIT 1941-1999," by Clarence Williams, adjunct professor of Urban Studies and Planning is published by the MIT Press.

## 2002

- The Department of Materials Science and Engineering opens the Nanomechanical Technology Laboratory.
- DSpace@MIT, an open source digital repository, is developed to save, share, and search MIT's digital research materials.
- Prof. H. Robert Horvitz shares Nobel Prize in physiology.
- MIT dedicates Simmons Hall and the AI and Barrie Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center.
- Philip S. Khoury, Ford International Professor of History, is appointed the inaugural Kenan Sahin Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.
- Prof. Daniela Rus receives a MacArthur genius grant. Her research in distributed robotics – groups of machines that combine, cooperate, and collaborate to perform tasks – is vital to the future of robotic achievement.
- Institute Prof. Ann Graybiel '71 receives the National Medal of Science. Her work has revolutionized the understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the brain, and the role of the basal ganglia.
- Robert Langer, Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, wins the Charles Stark Draper Prize, "engineering's Nobel," for inventing medical drug delivery.

*2003*

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*2007*



## 2003

- Enhanced Regional Situation Awareness is developed by Lincoln Laboratory for the U.S. Air Force to provide improved defense of the airspace surrounding the National Capital Region.
- Institute Prof. Sheila E. Widnall '64 is appointed to NASA's Columbia Accident Investigation Board.
- Dana G. Mead '67, retired chair and CEO of Tenneco Inc., is elected chairman of the MIT Corporation.
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science celebrates its 100th anniversary.
- The Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies is established to devise high-tech capabilities to increase a soldier's survivability in combat.
- The Laboratory for Computer Science and the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory merge to form the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL).
- The Broad Institute, a research initiative to realize the promise of genomic medicine, is launched.
- Prof. Erik Demaine receives a MacArthur genius grant. His book on the theory of folding started the field of computational origami with wide practical applications.
- The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT is founded by Profs. Esther Duflo PhD '99, Abhijit Banerjee, and Sendhil Mullainathan, with the support of MIT's Department of Economics.

## 2004

- MIT President Charles M. Vest serves on the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Prof. Tim Berners-Lee is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his pioneering work on the World Wide Web.
- Prof. Maria T. Zuber is appointed to the Presidential Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy.
- Jason E. Szuminski '01 becomes first MIT graduate to play Major League Baseball.
- The Ray and Maria Stata Center is dedicated.
- Erika Ebbel '04 is named Miss Massachusetts for the Miss America Pageant.
- MIT mathematician and wrestler Nate Ackerman PhD '06 competes at the Olympics in Athens.
- MIT selects its 16th president, Susan Hockfield, its first neuroscientist and female president, to succeed Charles M. Vest.
- MacArthur genius grants are awarded to Angela Belcher, Amy Smith SM '95, Vamsi Mootha, and Julie Theriot '88.
- Prof. Frank Wilczek is awarded the Nobel Prize in physics.
- The MIT-Mexico Program is established.
- The Boston Red Sox win their first world championship in 86 years; MIT celebrates!



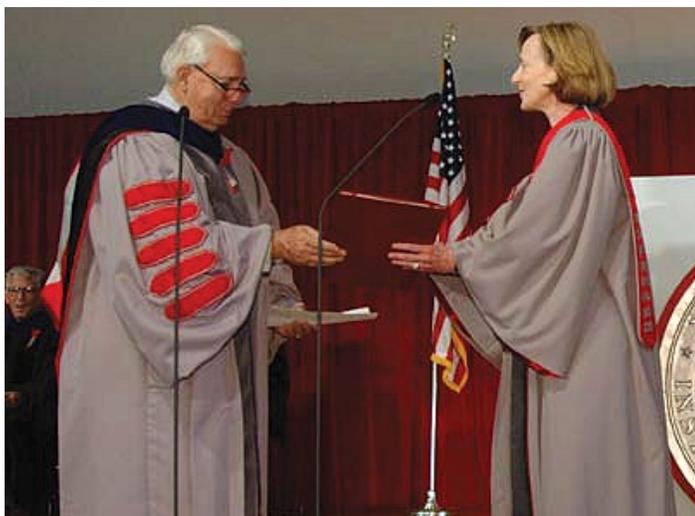
**As a hack, a replica of the Wright brothers' biplane is erected on top of the Great Dome to mark the 100th anniversary of human powered flight.** Photo: Courtesy of IHTFP Hack Gallery



**The Ray and Maria Stata Center for Computer, Information, and Intelligence Sciences at MIT, designed by architect Frank Gehry, opens its doors on May 7, 2004. The 730,000-square-foot complex – Gehry's largest building to date – is home to high-level research in computer science, linguistics and philosophy.** Photo: Gretchen Ertl

## 2005

- MIT reaches out to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.
- MIT workers labor around the clock for two days to pull MIT through the blizzard of 2005.
- Professorship is established to honor Challenger astronaut and MIT alumnus Ronald E. McNair PhD '76.
- MIT celebrates the 200th birthday of MIT founder and first president William Barton Rogers.
- The Sloan School plans to offer an undergraduate minor in management.
- Biological engineering is the first entirely new curriculum established in 29 years.
- Robert S. Langer, Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, is named Institute Professor.
- Ethernet inventor Robert M. Metcalfe '68, accepts the National Medal of Technology at a White House ceremony.
- Prof. Richard R. Schrock wins the Nobel Prize in chemistry.
- Robert J. Aumann PhD '55 wins the Nobel Prize in economics.
- MIT generously responds to Hurricane Katrina through fundraisers, volunteerism, and hosting educational symposia.
- MIT reaches out to victims of an earthquake that devastates parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India.
- Profs. Stephen J. Lippard and Phillip A. Sharp receive the National Medal of Science.
- MIT dedicates the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Complex, the world's largest neuroscience center.
- Randal Pinkett MBA '98, SM '98, PhD '02 triumphs on "The Apprentice" and lands job with Donald Trump.



**At a May 2005 inauguration, President Susan Hockfield accepts the leather-bound copy of MIT's charter from Dana G. Mead, chairman of the Corporation – the act by which she formally becomes the Institute's 16th president.**

Photo: Donna Coveney/MIT News

## 2006

- Macroeconomist Ben S. Bernanke PhD '79 is appointed Federal Reserve Chairman.
- Profs. Robert Langer and Ali Javan are named to the National Inventors Hall of Fame.
- Prof. Daniel G. Nocera carries the Olympic torch for the Winter Olympics opening ceremony.
- Prof. Linda Griffith invents the "Liver on a Chip" structure used in drug testing and wins a MacArthur Fellowship for "shaping the frontiers of tissue engineering."
- Sal Khan '98, MEng '98 quits his job to focus full-time on creating an online educational platform. Khan Academy, the product of this work, goes on to revolutionize online learning, and micro lectures will amass nearly 300 million views today. Khan will be MIT's 2012 Commencement speaker.
- Prof. Gerbrand Ceder initiates the MIT Materials Genome Project to create the "Google of material properties," a catalogue of all known inorganic compounds and their properties.
- Carl Dietrich '99, SM '03, PhD '07, Anna Mracek '04, SM '06, and Samuel Schweighart SM '01, PhD '05 found Terrafugia. Their first product, the Terrafugia Transition, is a fixed wing street legal vehicle that will meet federal certification as both a car and a plane.

- A recording of "Mottetti di Montale" by Institute Prof. John Harbison is nominated for a Grammy award.
- Dean of SHASS Prof. Philip S. Khoury is appointed Associate Provost.
- The MIT-Spain Program is created within MISTI.

## 2007

- MIT's Broad Institute and Harvard receive a \$100M gift to advance the understanding and treatment of severe mental illnesses.
- Biodiesel@MIT, a student group initiative, wins national contest for converting vegetable oil from campus dining facilities into fuel for MIT biodiesel campus vehicles.
- Approximately 15,000 people attend the first annual Cambridge Science Festival at MIT, the first and largest multi-day celebration of science and technology in the United States.
- Congress commends E8 math team, including two MIT scientists, for mapping one of the largest and most complicated structures in mathematics.
- Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy delivers MIT Compton Lecture, "A Life in Public Service."
- MIT shares sorrow and support for Virginia Tech in response to its campus shooting.
- President Emeritus Charles M. Vest is elected President of the National Academy of Engineering.
- Rhonda Jordan, PhD student, performs on "Dancing with the Stars."
- Astronaut Pamela Melroy SM '84 becomes the first MIT alumna to command a space mission.
- Dr. Robert M. Randolph is installed as MIT's first chaplain to the Institute.
- MIT and Ford announce new energy research partnership on sustainable transportation.
- Dropbox, Inc. is founded by Drew Houston '06 and Arash Ferdowsi. Houston will be the 2013 MIT Commencement speaker.
- Green Center for Physics is dedicated.
- Time magazine honors MIT for inventiveness.
- OpenCourseWare celebrates the on-line publication of virtually all MIT courses (1,800)

*2008*

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*2012*



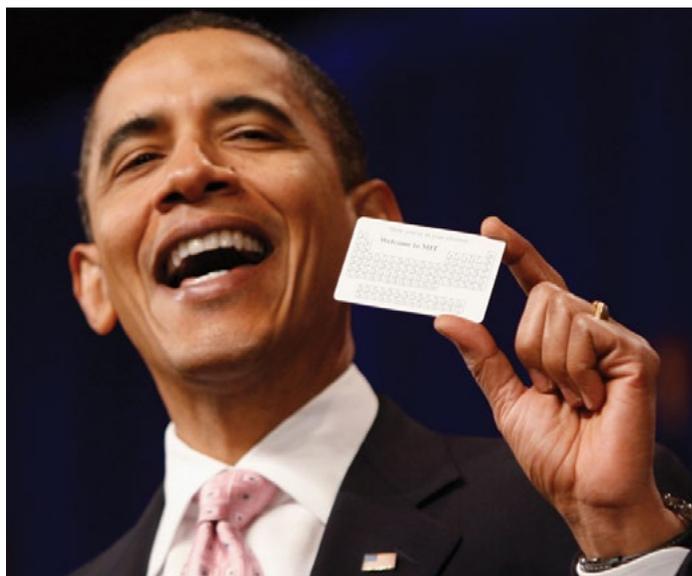
## 2008

- New financial aid program makes MIT tuition-free for families earning under \$75K.
- Prof. Junot Diaz wins Pulitzer for his debut novel, “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.”
- Ford Professor of Engineering Barbara H. Liskov is named Institute Professor.
- Lincoln Laboratory is awarded the Robert J. Collier Trophy for achievements in aero-astro.
- U.S. elects Barack Obama, the country’s first African-American president.
- MIT is awarded the Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration for developing and supporting Kerberos, the world’s most widely used authentication system for computer networks.
- Andrew Viterbi ’56, SM ’57 receives the National Medal of Science.
- Five discoveries from MIT are named Discover Magazine’s Top 100 stories of the year.

## 2009

- Prof. Adele Naude Santos is honored with the Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education.
- U.S. and world face unprecedented financial crisis.
- MIT faculty unanimously votes to adopt a policy to make their scholarly articles available to the public for free online.
- At a White House press briefing, MIT President Susan Hockfield joins President Barack Obama in calling for a “truly historic” new level of federal funding for clean energy research.
- MIT Energy Initiative Director Prof. Ernest J. Moniz is selected to serve on President Obama’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.
- Fast Company names Joseph F. Coughlin of the MIT AgeLab, Neri Oxman PhD ’10, a Media Lab student, and Sloan’s Peter Senge, to its inaugural list of the “100 Most Creative People in Business.”
- Biochemist Prof. JoAnne Stubbe wins National Medal of Science.
- Lincoln Laboratory develops and demonstrates the Lincoln Distributed Disaster Response System which enables information from airborne platforms, distributed weather stations, GPS-enabled devices, and other sources to be shared by responders at emergency command centers and front lines.
- Prof. Esther Duflo PhD ’99 receives MacArthur Fellowship for transformative work in economic development.

- The MIT Community Development and Substance Abuse Center receives the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Science and Service Award for its first-of-a-kind alcohol screening and intervention program for college students.
- Oliver E. Williamson ’55 is named co-winner of the Nobel Prize in economics.
- Cadet Col. Ryan W. Castonia ’10 is named U.S. Air Force Cadet of the Year.
- The MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team places second in Australia’s World Solar Challenge.
- The shuttle Atlantis brings astronaut Robert Satcher ’86, PhD ’93, an orthopedic surgeon, back to Earth after an 11-day NASA mission.
- Prof. Anne Whiston Spirn’s book “Daring to Look” wins the Great Places Book Award from the Environmental Design Research Association.
- MLK Visiting Scholar Donal Fox performs the world premiere of his concerto “Peace Out for Improvised Piano and Orchestra” at Carnegie Hall.
- The Howard Hughes Medical Institute names the Picower Institute’s discovery of a single protein that is specifically associated with learning and memory one of the biggest stories of the year.
- MIT senior Jiaqi “Jean” Cui wins two episodes of the popular TV quiz show “Jeopardy!”.



**President Barack Obama makes a historic visit to MIT on October 23, 2009 and praises MIT’s commitment to energy research. President Obama holds up a periodic table of elements, given to him by one of MIT’s researchers.**

Photo: Courtesy of MIT News

## 2010

- MIT President Emeritus Paul E. Gray is awarded the IEEE Founders Medal in recognition of his “exemplary career of leadership in education, research, and public policy.”
- Fariborz Maseeh ScD '90 donates \$24M to expand the Institute's undergraduate student body. The dormitory formerly known both W1 and Ashdown House will be renamed Fariborz Maseeh Hall.
- Prof. Joe Haldeman receives the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master award from the Science Fiction and Science Fantasy Writers of America.
- “Hello Twitterverse!” Timothy “TJ” Creamer '92 is the first astronaut to utilize a new Internet connection to tweet live from the International Space Station.
- The MIT cycling team captures the Division II Omnium at the Collegiate National Track Championships for the third consecutive year.
- MIT Press publishes its 9,000th book.
- MIT aids Haitian and Chilean earthquake relief efforts.
- Microsoft chairman Bill Gates delivers lecture, “Giving Back: Finding the Best Way to Make a Difference,” in packed Kresge Auditorium.
- State of the art Media Lab Complex is dedicated.
- John S. Reed '61, SM '65, retired chairman and CEO of Citigroup and former chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, succeeds Dana G. Mead PhD '67 as chair of the MIT Corporation.
- Prof. Mary C. Fuller is awarded the Levitan Prize in the Humanities. She also receives a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship.
- Institute Prof. Peter A. Diamond PhD '63 shares the Nobel Prize in economic sciences.
- R. Erich Caulfield SM '01, PhD '06, a member of the MIT Corporation, is chosen as one of 13 members of the prestigious White House Fellows program.
- Prof. Sally Haslanger, a scholar widely respected for her work on the metaphysics of gender and race, receives highest honors from two prestigious associations in philosophy.
- The Beaver Works Center is initiated through a series of Lincoln Laboratory-funded capstone research projects in the School of Engineering.



**Astronaut Timothy “TJ” Creamer '92 tweets from space: “Hello Twitterverse! We r now LIVE tweeting from the International Space Station – the 1st live tweet from Space! :) More soon, send your ?s”** Photo: NASA

## 2011

- MIT's Sesquicentennial begins on January 7, the 150th anniversary of MIT's founding. The MIT Museum unveils a new exhibition of Institute objects and stories drawn from its rich history. The 150-day celebration begins!
- This year marks the 60th anniversary of Lincoln Laboratory's founding as a U.S. Department of Defense laboratory conducting research and development for national security. The Laboratory celebrates with events, exhibits, and The Heritage Lectures series.
- Prof. Eric Grimson PhD '80, head of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, enters into office as MIT's new chancellor, succeeding Prof. Phillip L. Clay.
- MIT mobilizes to aid earthquake and tsunami relief efforts in Japan.
- MIT celebrates Charter Day on April 10 with “The Next Century Convocation” at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.
- David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research is dedicated.
- U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano delivers the annual Compton Lecture entitled “The Future of Science as Public Service.”
- MIT holds its first open house in more than 30 years. Approximately 20,000 visitors descend on campus for “Under the Dome” and experience an up-close view of MIT's cutting-edge work.
- Amy Smith '84, SM '95, ENG '95, a senior lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, receives the Olympus

Innovation Award for the creation of the D-Lab program – Development, Design and Dissemination – to solve problems in developing countries.

- FAST Light, the two-day finale event of the three-month-long Festival of Art + Science + Technology, illuminates MIT's campus and the Charles River.
- Elza Bilong from the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Doreen Lopes-Smith from Resource Development are named MIT's 2011 YMCA Achievers for serving as mentors and for their community work in Greater Boston.
- David Page, Whitehead Institute Director and MIT professor, is honored with the March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology.
- President Susan Hockfield and MIT welcome more than 225 educators from around the world to the OpenCourseWare Consortium Global 2011 to celebrate the first 10 years of OpenCourseWare.
- MIT signs international charter that deepens commitment to campus sustainability.
- The Boston Globe publishes a special magazine to celebrate "150 ideas, inventions and innovators" from MIT "that helped shape our world." Also featured is an introduction written by Bill Gates titled "Why MIT Matters." The essay cites MIT's historic moments, Gates' personal use of MIT OpenCourseWare content, and the Institute's entrepreneurial spirit.
- Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito presents the George Washington Book Prize to Prof. Pauline Maier for her book "Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787–1788."
- The U.S. Senate passes a resolution to commemorate and honor MIT on its 150th anniversary.
- At the invitation of President Barack Obama, MIT President Susan Hockfield is named co-chair of the administration's new Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP).
- Researchers at Lincoln Laboratory's LINEAR project discover 2011 MD, an asteroid that passes only 7,500 miles above Earth's surface – a close call in astronomical terms.



On June 4, 2011, Toast to Tech brings together the MIT community to cap its 150th anniversary celebrations. The windows of the Prudential Center are lit up to read "MIT 150" in a towering tribute. Photo: Dominick Reuter

- Liftoff of Space Shuttle Atlantis marks the beginning of the end of nearly four decades of collaboration between MIT and NASA on the nation's space shuttle program. A total of 27 MIT graduates have flown on 59 space shuttle missions. MIT has produced more NASA astronauts than any other private university.
- The design for the MIT Global Challenge website wins a silver International Design Excellence Award. The MIT Public Service Center worked with a Toronto design team to develop a platform that engages alumni, faculty, staff, students, and collaborators to develop solutions to challenges such as agriculture, education, water, and health.
- Prof. Mary (Missy) Cummings appears on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report."
- MIT Medical is the first building on campus to be 100-percent tobacco-free inside and out.
- Lincoln Laboratory and its Bike Week Challenge team pedals to the grand prize award in the annual MassCommuter Challenge.
- Rudolf Jaenisch, a founding member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and MIT biology professor, receives the Medal of Science from President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House.
- Adam Riess '92, whose observations of distant supernovae helped reveal that the universe is rapidly expanding, shares the Nobel Prize in physics.
- Director of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Prof. Tyler Jacks, is appointed to the National Cancer Advisory Board.
- School of Architecture + Planning (SA+P) alumna Jennifer Allora SM '03 represents the U.S. at the Venice Biennale.
- The MIT Corporation elects Israel Ruiz SM '01 executive vice president and treasurer.
- The MIT Sport Taekwondo Club team competes at the World University Games in China.
- Two MIT researchers, Mriganka Sur and Li-Huei Tsai, are elected to the Institute of Medicine.
- Skolkovo Foundation and MIT collaborate on developing a graduate research university located outside of Moscow.
- Living Pink, a student-led survey of nearly 1,300 undergraduates, reveals predominantly positive sentiments in MIT's undergraduate residences toward LGBTQ students. Survey results are used to guide and encourage incoming students, influence living group policy, and educate the MIT community.
- Pilotless planes are controlled via iPhones in Seattle as they fly around the MIT athletics fields.
- MIT undergraduate team places first in iGEM's health and medicine track and fourth overall out of 160 teams.
- Lincoln Laboratory helps celebrate the official unveiling of the Space Surveillance Telescope (SST) in New Mexico. The Lab developed critical technologies for the SST as well as integration of the entire SST system.
- Popular Science Magazine names a device developed by the Affective Computing group at the Media Lab that measures vital signs using a low-cost camera as one of the year's ten best inventions.
- Dr. Grant H. Stokes, head of Lincoln Laboratory's Aerospace Division, and J. Scott Stuart, a technical staff member in the Space Control Systems Group, receive NASA Group Appreciation Award. The award is presented to the Near Earth Object Observation Program team.
- MIT launches MITx, a program that will offer courses online and make online learning tools freely available.
- MIT receives a \$26.5 million gift from the Simons Foundation to create the Simons Center for the Social Brain at MIT, a new initiative to catalyze autism research.
- Prof. Christopher Knittel is named first energy faculty chair.
- Miles Barr SM '08, PhD '12, Prof. Vladimir Bulović, and Prof. Karen Gleason '82, SM '82 invent materials that make it possible to produce durable, cheap photovoltaic cells on paper or fabric.
- MIT saves \$3.5M on energy this year and broadly advances sustainability across campus thanks to five years of work by the MIT Campus Energy Task Force.
- A scientific reunion of more than 200 alumni, former faculty, and postdoctoral scholars commemorate 50 years of linguistics at MIT.
- Scientific American selects Project Angstrom's self-aware computing project based in CSAIL as one of the "Ten World Changing Ideas."

## 2012

- Craig Cheney '14 appears in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" which profiles college and high school athletes. Cheney is named to the first team All-Northern Division by the Collegiate Water Polo Association, and was the 2009 Rookie of the Year.
- Prof. Edward Boyden of the MIT Media Lab and the McGovern Institute for Brain Research wins the newly established A. F. Harvey Engineering Research Prize for his work in optogenetics.
- The MIT Public Service Center organizes inaugural IAP Community Service Day.
- First MITx course on circuits and electronics is taught by Prof. Anant Agarwal and draws 155,000 students from 162 countries.
- MIT Libraries receive papers dating from 1955 of MIT Institute Professor and distinguished linguist, philosopher, and activist Noam Chomsky.
- The Princeton Review ranks MIT a top school for video game design.
- The MIT-Japan Program at the Center for International Studies receives a grant for the MIT Japan 3.11 Initiative. The project prepares for year two in its response to Japan's triple disaster.
- The MIT men's basketball team sets new Institute records for wins (29-2) and winning percentage and advances to their first-ever Final Four. The team's historic season ends at the hands of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the NCAA Division III semifinals in Salem, VA.
- A contingent of science and engineering graduate students from MIT delivers a petition in support of research funding to members of Congress as part of Stand With Science, an effort to bring together America's science and engineering graduate community and add their voice to the ongoing discussion about the federal deficit.
- The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences welcomes PEN New England to the group's new home at MIT. PEN New England is the largest branch of PEN America, and affiliated with PEN International, the oldest human rights and literary organization in the world.
- L. Rafael Reif, fellow Quarter Century Club member, distinguished electrical engineer, and provost is selected as MIT's 17th president. He assumes the MIT presidency on July 2, succeeding Dr. Susan Hockfield.
- Prof. Chris A. Kaiser, who led MIT's Department of Biology through a period of innovation and renewal in his eight years as department head, is selected as MIT's next provost.
- The Institute celebrates the inauguration of L. Rafael Reif in September. "One Community, Together in Service" is the theme for the inaugural festivities and President Reif's administration.
- Profs. Sallie (Penny) Chisholm and Robert Langer are awarded the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.
- R&D Magazine recognizes Lincoln Laboratory with four 100 Awards for improving air traffic management; enabling wide-field-of-view optics; providing secure cryptographic key management; and increasing the power and brightness of industrial lasers used in welding and cutting.
- Superstorm Sandy rocks the entire eastern seaboard and affects 24 states. Sandy is the second costliest hurricane in U.S. history.
- Physics Prof. Raymond Ashoori is awarded a five-year, \$1.7M grant by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which will support further development and enhancement of a novel condensed matter physics measurement technique known as "time domain capacitance spectroscopy."



**Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation marks its 10th anniversary in 2012. Pictured, from left, President L. Rafael Reif; his wife, Christine; Deshpande Center founders Jaishree and Desh Deshpande; and Deshpande Center Faculty Director Prof. Charles Cooney.** Photo: Russ Campbell

*2013*

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*2017*



## 2013

- U.S. President Barack Obama nominates MIT Energy Initiative director Prof. Ernest J. Moniz as Energy Secretary.
- Prof. Anant Agarwal, President of edX, along with Profs. John Hansman PhD '82 and Edward Merrill ScD '47 are elected to the National Academy of Engineering.
- Director of Sports Medicine Tom Cronan is named the Massachusetts Athletic Trainer of the Year.
- U.S. President Barack Obama hosts the 2012 U.S. Kavli Prize winners in the Oval Office including Institute Profs. Mildred Dresselhaus and Ann Graybiel '71, and Dr. Jane Luu PhD '90 of Lincoln Laboratory to recognize their landmark contributions in nanoscience, neuroscience, and astrophysics, respectively.
- MIT and Harvard University, the founders of the online-learning initiative edX, convene academic leaders and other online-learning experts for a summit titled "Online Learning and the Future of Residential Education."
- The Priscilla King Gray Award is established by the Undergraduate Association and the Public Service Center to recognize an undergraduate for his or her public service at MIT and its surrounding communities.
- MIT's Great Dome and the Barker Library reading room, a 75-foot rotunda with an intricate 27-foot skylight, or oculus, is restored to its original splendor.
- On Patriots' Day, April 15, two bombs explode at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three people and injuring more than 260 people.
- The FBI releases images of two suspects connected to the bombings on April 18. On this evening, MIT Patrol Officer Sean A. Collier is killed in the line of duty on MIT's campus by the two suspects.
- The MIT community comes together to share expressions of love and mourning for Officer Sean A. Collier. On April 24, a formal memorial for the MIT and law enforcement communities is held on Briggs Field. Speakers include U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, MIT President L. Rafael Reif, and MIT Police Chief John DiFava. James Taylor, accompanied by the MIT Symphony Orchestra, and a cappella singing groups perform. A memorial fund is established in honor of Officer Collier.
- Alumnus Robert J. Shiller SM '68, PhD '72 wins Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.
- Prof. Anant Agarwal, President of edX, and Junot Diaz, Professor of Writing at MIT, appear on "The Colbert Report" on separate occasions.
- NASA selects Lincoln Laboratory-led TESS project for 2017 mission. The project will launch telescopes to search for previously undetected exoplanets.
- Dennis Freeman, Professor of Electrical Engineering, is appointed Dean for Undergraduate Education.
- MIT President L. Rafael Reif appoints Prof. Edmund Bertschinger, head of the Physics Department, to the newly created post of Institute Community and Equity Officer.
- MIT's Lobby 10 is renamed "Memorial Lobby" to commemorate MIT alumni who have given their lives in wartime as members of the military services.
- The annual Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences is established. The prize is awarded for "excellence in research aimed at curing intractable diseases and extending human life." Profs. Eric Lander and Robert Weinberg are among the inaugural winners for their respective genomic research initiatives.
- Charles Marsteller Vest, 15th President of MIT, passes away. Vest's presidency was marked by an increased MIT presence in advising Washington D.C.; a burgeoning campus; the construction of innovative research centers; growth in the MIT endowment; and the frank admission of and renewed push to correct contemporary gender discrimination within university life.
- MIT and Lincoln Laboratory open Beaver Works, the new, dedicated center designed to facilitate research, workshops, and class work through the creative fusion of collaborative spaces and prototyping facilities.

## 2014

- MIT receives a record number of undergraduate applications – 18,357.
- Prof. Martin Schmidt SM '83, PhD '88 is named MIT Provost.
- Prof. Cynthia Barnhart SM '85, PhD '88 is named MIT Chancellor.
- MIT's mascot, Tim the Beaver, celebrates his 100th birthday.
- The Collier Medal is established to recognize individuals or groups "whose contributions exceed the boundaries of their profession... who have contributed to building bridges across the community, and... who consistently and selflessly perform acts of kindness." The first Collier Medal is awarded at the MIT Excellence Awards to the student-run ambulance service MIT EMS.

- Prof. David W. Miller is appointed Chief Technologist of NASA, serving as the agency's principal advisor and advocate on NASA technology policy and programs.
- Institute Professor Mildred Dresselhaus is presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by U.S. President Barack Obama. The Medal of Freedom is the highest award bestowed by the U.S. government upon American civilians. Prof. Dresselhaus is also a recipient of the National Medal of Science, awarded by U.S. President George H.W. Bush in 1990.
- MIT and The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy co-host the "Big Data Privacy: Advancing the State of the Art in Technology and Practice" conference on campus.
- The life of the late MIT President Emeritus Charles M. Vest is celebrated with a memorial service on March 6. Among those who offer remarks are Robert Brown, President of Boston University and former MIT Provost; Shirley Ann Jackson '68, PhD '73, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and member of the MIT Corporation; and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. In video remarks, Jackson and Gore remember Chuck as a "self-effacing and courageous" man and a "true visionary."
- The annual Compton Lecture features the Hon. Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to U.S. President Barack Obama. Her lecture, "Built to Last: Opportunity, and the Economics of Empowerment," shines a light on the importance of greater inclusion in education, with the hope that we can "change the narrative in this country about who is supposed to grow up dreaming of becoming a scientist, an astronaut, or an engineer."



**In 2014, with a stunning record of 9-0, the MIT Engineers football team achieves its first ever undefeated regular season – and first perfect football season since 1881. After their 24-13 victory over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, MIT players are awarded the New England Football Conference trophy.** Photo: Phil Hess/DAPER

- The Vest memorial is followed by the dedication of the newly renamed Charles M. Vest Student Street in the Ray and Maria Stata Center.
- Patrick McGovern '59 passes away. McGovern is the founder of International Data Group (IDG), a publisher of computer-related news, information, and research. IDG was the first publisher of the popular “For Dummies” series of books. He and his wife Lore established the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT and at Peking University.
- Lincoln Laboratory’s free “situational awareness app” gains attention for its widespread use among California firefighters. The tool, called Next-Generation Incident Command System, is used by over 250 emergency management agencies in California and allows firefighters to do fire mapping in real time using graphical tools and common incident mapping symbols.
- Karen Gleason '82, SM '82, Professor of Chemical Engineering, is appointed MIT Associate Provost.
- A memorial ceremony to honor MIT Police Officer Sean A. Collier is held to mark the first anniversary of his death. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and Cambridge Mayor David Maher are among the speakers. The event includes a community picnic and “MIT Strong” rally to cheer on the MIT Strong marathon team.
- Composed of 40 community members, the MIT Strong marathon team runs the Boston Marathon and raises over \$150,000 for the Sean A. Collier Memorial Fund.
- Dr. Eric D. Evans, Director of Lincoln Laboratory, is appointed Vice Chair of the Defense Science Board. The DSB is composed of leading U.S. scientists and engineers who provide the department of defense independent input on science and technology issues.
- Profs. Daron Acemoglu, Emery Brown, Alan Grossman, and Timothy Grove are named to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.
- Julia Collins MEng '10 breaks records on “Jeopardy!” posting 20 victories, third-best all time.
- National Medal of Science winner, Prof. Susan Solomon is named the founding director of the Institute-wide initiative on the environment.
- Prof. Sallie “Penny” Chisholm, a pioneer of research on ocean’s photosynthetic organisms, receives MIT’s Killian Award, the highest honor for MIT faculty members.
- MIT’s Academic Media Production Services (AMPS) wins a New England Emmy Award for its work on the music documentary “Awakening: Evoking the Arab Spring Through Music,” which aired on WGBH.
- MIT AeroAstro celebrates its 100th anniversary.
- Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart SM '85, PhD '88 leads effort to address sexual assault on campus by conducting a detailed survey of all MIT undergraduate and graduate students. The findings and report outline first steps to minimize unwanted sexual behavior at MIT.
- Tom Menino who served as the mayor of Boston for an unprecedented five consecutive terms (1993 to 2014) dies.
- Haystack Observatory celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- MIT community engages in dialogue on race in response to events in Ferguson, MO and Staten Island, NY. Students, faculty, and staff hold silent protests, organize panel discussions, and facilitate group discussions as part of Black Lives Matter events.
- MIT Sloan students — working with administrators and other graduate students across campus — launch the OneMIT initiative, a multifaceted effort to connect graduate students across all five Schools.
- Associate Prof. Carol Matsuzaki '95, '96, MIT Tennis Head Coach, leads the Engineers to the program’s first Elite Eight in the 2014-15 season as the team won the NEWMAC regular-season crown before winning three straight NCAA matches to move into the National Quarterfinals.

## 2015

- Boston is selected by U.S. Olympic Committee as the U.S. bid city for 2024 Olympics.
- Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick to participate in MIT’s Innovation Initiative.
- MIT basketball coach Larry Anderson marks his 300th win as the Engineers’ head coach and tells the Boston Herald, “I can’t think of any profession I’d rather be in right now than coaching basketball at MIT. It’s a pretty special place.”
- Forbes hails MIT standouts in science, education, energy, technology, and health care.
- As part of a series of cybersecurity initiatives by British Prime Minister David Cameron and President Barack Obama, the two nations announce that MIT’s Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) will face off against the University of Cambridge this fall for a special student hackathon dubbed “Cambridge v. Cambridge.”
- Prof. Robert Langer is named the winner of the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering. The award credits Langer with improving more than 2 billion lives worldwide through the disease treatments created in his lab.



**MIT President L. Rafael Reif takes part in the 2015 official unveiling of the Robert Robinson Taylor postage stamp at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. “Robert Robinson Taylor truly represents the best of MIT,” he said.**

Photo: Courtesy of Tuskegee University

- After interviewing hundreds of MIT community members, as well as conducting extensive research on practices both at MIT and at its peer institutions — Institute Community and Equity Officer Prof. Edmund Bertschinger releases report that includes a wide array of recommendations for ways to increase the sense of collegiality and inclusion at the Institute.
- Prof. Ioannis Yannas, recognized for inventing “artificial skin,” to be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.
- MIT is the first university to hold an administration-sponsored debate on fossil fuel divestment.
- Prof. Marc Kastner is named the first president of the Science Philanthropy Alliance, a coalition of nonprofit institutions and foundations dedicated to increasing investment in basic science research.
- The U.S. Postal Service issues stamp to honor architect and educator Robert Robinson Taylor, MIT Class of 1892. Taylor is MIT’s first African-American graduate, and is believed to be the country’s first academically trained Black architect.
- Sabrina Drammis '16 is voted to the Capital One Academic All-America Women’s Basketball First Team.
- MIT’s graduate program in engineering is ranked as the best in the nation in U.S. News & World Report’s annual rankings. The Institute has held the No. 1 spot since 1990, when the magazine first ranked such programs.
- MIT undergraduate admission decisions are announced on “Super” Pi Day, 3/14/15 9:26:53 a.m., representing the first 10 digits of pi. The Admissions Office’s two-minute video encourages students to “keep your eyes to the skies this Pi Day.” The fictitious video, which garners local and national media attention, depicts a swarm of drones carrying acceptance letters across the country and the world.
- Boston’s “wicked winter” breaks all-time snow record at 110.6 inches.



**Mathematics Professor Emeritus Michael Artin and MIT Corporation Life Member Shirley Ann Jackson '68, PhD '73 are awarded the 2015 National Medal of Science, the nation's highest honor for scientists and innovators.**

Photos: Donna Coveney (Artin) and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Jackson)

- The Collier Memorial is dedicated to celebrate the life of MIT Police Officer Sean Collier. In a shape akin to an open hand, the memorial represents the many connections Collier built with the MIT community, as well as the sense of service he brought to his job.
- There are 190 current or upcoming courses being offered through edX.
- CSAIL researcher Michael Stonebraker wins Turing Award, often referred to as “the Nobel Prize of computing.”
- A pioneering figure in performance art and video, Prof. Emerita Joan Jonas represents U.S. at Venice Biennale.
- Dzhokhar Tzarnaev is found guilty on all 30 counts in the Boston Marathon bombing and subsequent attacks.
- U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and his counterpart Ali Akbar Salehi PhD '77, Director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, join talks in Geneva as part of the effort to establish a nuclear deal. MIT Prof. Emeritus Moniz and Dr. Salehi focus on the technical aspects of the negotiations. A key framework for the desired nuclear deal is announced.
- MIT dominates at annual Putnam Mathematical Competition, taking five of six top individual spots.
- Aeronautics and Astronautics Prof. Dava Newman is appointed NASA's deputy administrator, the agency's number-two position.
- Political Science Prof. Melissa Nobles is named the new dean of MIT's School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.
- Former MIT Institute Prof. Mario J. Molina delivers Karl Taylor Compton Lecture “Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Communication.”
- Tyler Jacks, a pioneering cancer biologist and director of MIT's Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, receives MIT's James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award. Jacks is recognized for his leadership of MIT's cancer research community, and his influence on the field of cancer research.
- Astronaut Mike Massimino SM '88, PhD '92 is the first-ever guest speaker at MIT's Investiture of Doctoral Hoods.
- The deans of all five of the Institute's Schools announce MIT's official launch on July 1 of the new Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS). Offering a range of cross-disciplinary academic programs, including a new undergraduate minor in statistics, IDSS will be directed by EECS Prof. Munther Dahleh.
- The U.S. Supreme Court rules that same-sex marriage is a legal right across the United States.
- The MindHandHeart Initiative is launched to enhance mental health services and overall well-being at MIT.
- Bid organizers and the U.S. Olympic Committee jointly agree to pull Boston's improbable bid to host the 2024 Summer Games.
- Composer and Media Lab Prof. Tod Machover debuts multiple new works at prestigious Lucerne Festival.
- MIT joins in Supreme Court amicus brief supporting consideration of race in admissions.
- A new report estimates that, as of 2014, MIT alumni have launched 30,200 active companies, employing roughly 4.6 million people, and generating roughly \$1.9 trillion in annual revenues.
- Black student leaders present recommendations for a more inclusive MIT.
- Preliminary plan sets priorities for sustainable buildings, stormwater and land management, materials, and greener labs.
- Lincoln Laboratory demonstrates novel 101-element laser system at the “Wait, What?” technology expo.
- The MIT Public Service Center is renamed the PKG Center in honor of Priscilla King Gray, one of the center's co-founders.
- The Solve conference, produced by MIT Technology Review, brings more than 350 leaders in technology, philanthropy, business, and policy to address pressing global problems.
- Paul Modrich '68 shares the Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work on DNA repair mechanisms.
- Dr. Mordechai Rothschild, leader of the Chemical, Microsystem, and Nanoscale Technologies Group at Lincoln Laboratory, receives the Edwin H. Land Medal.

- Actor and filmmaker Matt Damon is announced as MIT's 2016 Commencement speaker!
- President Emerita Susan Hockfield is chosen to serve as president-elect of the American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Her three-year term begins in February 2016.
- Dr. Peter F. Moulton SM '71, PhD '75, a member of the senior technical staff in the Laser Technology and Applications Group at Lincoln Laboratory, is elected to the 2015 class of Fellows of SPIE, an international society for advancing optics and photonics technologies.
- Economics Prof. Heidi Williams wins MacArthur genius grant for her work on the effects of patent policies and technology on medical research and health care.
- The Times Higher Education World University Rankings names MIT one of the top three universities worldwide for arts and humanities education.
- MIT introduces a "MicroMaster's" credential from MITx as well as a new pathway for the pursuit of an MIT professional master's degree.
- The U.S. Air Force 66th Air Base Group awards Lincoln Laboratory a "Superior" security rating for the tenth consecutive year.
- Dr. Grant H. Stokes, head of the Space Systems and Technology Division at Lincoln Laboratory, is elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering.
- A team from MIT takes top honors at a competition at Texas A&M to design the Hyperloop, a high-speed transportation concept dreamed up by Tesla Motors and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk.
- Scientists from MIT and Caltech, along with others around the world, make the first direct detection of gravitational waves reaching the Earth, using an instrument known as LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory). The discovery confirmed Albert Einstein's prediction from 100 years ago. MIT Professor Emeritus Rainer Weiss '55, PhD '62 is a co-founder of LIGO.
- Dr. David Shoemaker SM '80, Director of the MIT LIGO Laboratory, testifies before Congress on the significance of LIGO.
- MIT explores options for the creative reuse of the iconic Metropolitan Storage Warehouse, focusing on reuses of the building as maker spaces, common and study spaces, research and innovation spaces, and street-level retail.
- Sepsis-curing device that filters blood to prevent organ failure wins inaugural MIT Sloan Healthcare Innovations Prize.

## 2016

- Dr. Dimitris G. Manolakis, a senior staff member in the Applied Space Systems Group at Lincoln Laboratory, is named a Fellow of the IEEE for his "contributions to signal processing education, algorithms for adaptive filtering, and hyperspectral imaging."
- MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund Program (Sandbox), an Institute-wide program that will support student initiated ideas, is launched. The endeavor opens more pathways for student innovators and will connect students with tailored educational experiences, mentoring, and up to \$25K to help qualified students and teams nurture their creative brainstorm.
- Dept. of Mathematics returns to its home in the historic Bosworth Building 2 after a major renovation and restoration project led by Ann Beha '75 and her architectural firm.
- Suzy Nelson is named Vice President for Student Life.
- Dean of Admissions Stu Schmill '86 joins peers in recommending increased consideration of prospective students' concern for others in college admissions. The resulting report, "Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions," is endorsed by 80 college admissions professionals and other stakeholders.
- Madame Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, delivers the Karl Taylor Compton Lecture, "Demographic Change and Economic Well-being: The Role of Fiscal Policy."
- The 2016 U.S. presidential election heats up with possible nominees, billionaire Donald Trump, Former New York Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.
- Following a renovation project, historic building E52 re-opens. The original Sloan building, now named the Morris and Sophie Chang Building after Morris Chang, SB '52, SM '53, ME '55, is home to Sloan, Dept. of Economics, and the Samberg Conference Center.
- Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announces that an independent nonprofit founded by MIT is selected to run a new, \$317M public-private partnership to accelerate innovation in high-tech, U.S.-based manufacturing involving fibers and textiles.
- Construction of MIT's future home for cutting-edge nanoscience and nanotechnology research is in high gear.
- Librarians, architects, and other scholars gather at MIT for an Institute-wide task force to reflect on the Future of Libraries.



**MIT2016: Celebrating a Century in Cambridge! Spring activities include concerts, a play by Prof. Alan Brody, symposia, a day of public service, and Under the Dome Open House. The celebration is capped off on May 7, 2016 with “Moving Day” — Crossing the Charles Competition and an evening Mind and Heart Pageant. Here, The Salute the Smoot Brigade, led by architecture student Abigail Anderson, marches across the Mass. Ave. Bridge. Members of the brigade are exactly 1 Smoot—or 5 feet, 7 inches—tall. Photo: Andy Ryan**

- MIT2016 inaugural Together in Service Day to strengthen MIT-Cambridge ties includes volunteer-based activities held around the campus, region, and world.
- MIT’s Open House attracts 40,000 visitors on April 23. Nearly 80 departments and labs host more than 380 activities, held in 170 locations across campus.
- Apollo 13 commander James Lovell’s visit to MIT draws capacity crowd as he recounts lunar mission’s “successful failure.”
- MIT marks 100 years in Cambridge on May 7, hosting a daylong series of events, including a community parade, river competition, pageant, and dance parties. MIT’s “Crossing the Charles” procession and competition was a featured part of the Institute’s Moving Day with Grand Marshal Oliver Smoot ’62 riding at the front of the parade.
- MIT announces Campaign for a Better World, a comprehensive fundraising initiative aimed to raise \$5 billion to advance work on some of the world’s biggest challenges.
- Lincoln Laboratory establishes a supercomputing center. New facility will enable interactive, high-performance computing for data analysis.
- Profs. Arup Chakraborty, Nancy Lynch PhD ’72, Hidde Ploegh, and David Sabatini are elected to the National Academy of Sciences for their “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.”
- Judy “JJ” Jackson returns to MIT as diversity and inclusion officer, as part of the Institute’s ongoing effort to make MIT a more welcoming and inclusive place.

- The City of Cambridge approves MIT's Kendall Square Initiative, which includes the development of six new buildings as well as a variety of new open spaces and retail venues.
- MIT Softball secures a spot in NCAA College World Series for the first time in program history.
- Maria Zuber, MIT Vice President for Research, is elected as chair of the National Science Board.
- At MIT's Commencement ceremony, actor, filmmaker, and Cambridge native Matt Damon urges graduates to "turn toward the problems that you see and engage with them."
- More than 600 community members convene in the Institute's latest public discussion of diversity, tolerance, and inclusion — matters made all the more salient by the recent series of high-profile gun killings in the U.S.
- Chemical Engineering alumna Eboney Hearn '01 is named Director of the Office of Engineering Outreach Programs.
- MIT Libraries launches MIT Reads, an Institute-wide program that aims to build community and foster understanding through a series of shared reading and discussion events.
- MIT celebrates the reopening of the Samuel Tak Lee Building (Bldg. 9), which underwent extensive renovations to upgrade building systems and to create modern, lively, and functional spaces.
- Rachel Bennett is named Director of the Council for the Arts at MIT.
- Scientists and engineers at MIT's Plasma Science and Fusion Center make a leap forward in the pursuit of clean energy. On its final day of operation, the team sets a new world record for plasma pressure in the Institute's Alcator C-Mod tokamak nuclear fusion reactor.
- MIT to neutralize 17 percent of carbon emissions through purchase of solar energy.
- Paula Hammond, the David H. Koch Professor in Engineering and head of MIT's Dept. of Chemical Engineering, is elected to the National Academy of Medicine in recognition of her distinguished contributions to medicine and health.
- U.S. President Barack Obama discusses artificial intelligence in a one-on-one conversation with MIT Media Lab Director Joi Ito.
- To mark Ada Lovelace Day — an annual celebration of the history of women in the STEM fields — the MIT Libraries present a selection of MIT's holdings by 10 noted women in STEM, including Ada Lovelace, Alice Ball, Hertha Ayrton, Marie Curie, Mary Somerville; Rachel Carson, Émilie du Châtelet, Caroline Herschel, Maria Agnesi, and Maria Mitchell.
- MIT launches The Engine, a new kind of enterprise designed to support entrepreneurs committed to societal impact through scientific and technological breakthroughs.
- Economics Prof. Bengt Holmstrom shares Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his work on contract theory.
- MIT swimmer Margaret Guo '16 is named NCAA Woman of the Year, becoming the first MIT student-athlete and just the fourth Division III student-athlete to ever receive this honor.
- Stunning the nation and the world, Donald J. Trump defeats Hillary Clinton in the U.S. presidential election.
- Eight student-led teams hoping to launch ventures ranging from real estate development, to urban diagnostics, to novel design solutions for schoolchildren have been selected as the inaugural cohort for DesignX, the new entrepreneurship accelerator from MIT's School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P).
- Lincoln Laboratory garners six R&D 100 Awards for innovations in air traffic safety, biomedical devices, and magnetic field detection.
- American Sign Language at MIT Club is formed.

## 2017

- Lincoln Laboratory researchers develop a microscope that can chemically identify individual micron-sized particles. The new approach could one day be used in airports or other high-security venues.
- General Electric releases a video featuring Institute Professor Emerita Mildred Dresselhaus that imagines a world where female scientists like her were celebrities, to both celebrate her achievements as well as to encourage more women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The G.E. commercial airs on television during "The Academy Awards." Sadly, Prof. Dresselhaus passes away in February.
- In an address held at MIT, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry highlights the peril of climate change and the economic promise of clean energy.
- The Women's March on Washington and 673 Sister Marches across the nation and world draw five million demonstrators to protest Donald Trump.
- MIT Media Lab to participate in \$27 million initiative on artificial intelligence ethics and governance.
- MIT signs agreement to redevelop the Volpe Center with new federal building and mixed-use development on the 14-acre parcel in Kendall Square.

- MIT moves into second place in the all-time national rankings for Academic All-American student-athletes. MIT has 252 superstar scholar-athletes!
- West Garage site is identified for new undergraduate residence hall.
- Mathematics Prof. Tom Leighton and the late Danny Lewin SM '97 are named to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Akamai founders are honored for applying algorithms to solve web congestion.
- MIT responds to U.S. President Trump's executive order on travel. MIT leadership helps directly affected community members; President Reif speaks against the executive order and for national unity.
- MIT and 16 others file amicus brief concerning executive order restricting travel to U.S. Universities argue that the ability to welcome students and scholars from all countries is critical to their educational missions.
- MIT's new startup accelerator The Engine names Katie Rae, a veteran tech innovator, entrepreneur, and investor, as its President and CEO and as managing partner of its first investment fund.
- Prof. Eric Lander, pioneer of human genomics, delivers annual Killian Faculty Achievement Award Lecture.
- Aerospace engineer Aprille Joy Ericsson '86, Instrument Project Manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland and an alumna of MIT's Dept. of Aeronautics and Astronautics, delivers keynote talk at MIT's 43rd annual celebration of Martin Luther King's life and work.
- Maia Weinstock's creation celebrating the history of women in the U.S. Space program is selected to become official LEGO set. Ms. Weinstock is the Deputy Editor of MIT News.
- MIT senior Lilly Chin wins "Jeopardy!" College Championship and takes the \$100,000 grand prize!



**On August 21, 2017, throngs gather on campus, at the MIT Wallace Observatory in Westford, and nationwide to watch the Great American Solar Eclipse — a solar eclipse that could be seen across North America. Lincoln Laboratory staff captures first-of-their-kind infrared images of the solar eclipse that can help further our knowledge of the Sun's mysterious corona. Photo: John Love/The Sun News**

- The Atlas Service Center opens in Bldg. E17 and provides a single location where community members can receive in-person guidance about services and complete a range of in-person activities, from new employee orientation to getting a passport photo or a T-pass.
- MIT physicists create a new form of matter, a supersolid, which combines the properties of solids with those of superfluids.
- CSAIL Prof. Tim Berners-Lee wins \$1M Turing Award from the Association for Computing Machinery, for inventing the World Wide Web, the first web browser, and the fundamental protocols and algorithms allowing the web to scale.
- Strike Group Defender, a serious game developed by Lincoln Laboratory, Office of Naval Research, and Metateq, wins gold in the government/military category in the International Serious Play Awards.
- Media Lab develops a free-standing robotic system capable of 3D printing the basic structure of an entire building or sculpture.
- Scratch Day @ MIT is one of more than 1,100 global events to celebrate the kids' programming language and online community on its 10th anniversary.
- An MIT and University of California at Berkeley collaboration develops a technology that provides a novel way of obtaining clean, fresh water directly from moisture in the air, even in the most arid environments.
- Austin Filiere '18 is drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 8th round of the MLB draft, the highest in school history. David Hesslink '17, the winningest pitcher in MIT history and baseball analytics ace, is also selected in the MLB draft but decides to join the Seattle Mariners' operations office.
- EECS Prof. Anantha Chandrakasan is named Dean of the School of Engineering, succeeding Aero & Astro Prof. Ian A. Waitz, who will become Vice Chancellor.
- Founded by Tarana Burke in 2006, the Me Too Movement (#metoo) emerges in the national dialogue as a vital conversation to change culture in ways that end sexual violence, support survivors, and eliminate toxic office spaces through open dialogue.
- MIT custodian Francisco Rodriguez is detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at a regular-check in. The MIT community rallies with public displays of support, petitions, and fundraisers. MIT's Office of General Counsel helps to secure pro-bono legal representation from Goodwin Procter.
- Reverend Kirstin Boswell-Ford is named Chaplain to the Institute, succeeding Robert Randolph, MIT's first chaplain.
- Plasma Science and Fusion Center pioneers a new recipe for heating plasma.
- Walker Memorial marks its 100th anniversary. Designed as MIT's first student center, the campus landmark initially housed World War I military personnel.
- Paul Gray '54, SM '55, ScD '60, a devoted leader at MIT whose lifetime career at the Institute included turns as a student, professor, dean of engineering, associate provost, chancellor, 14th president, and MIT Corporation chair, passes away on Sept. 18 after lifelong career of service and leadership at the Institute.
- This year's hurricane season is catastrophic. Hurricane Harvey pounds Texas with floods; Irma's extreme winds batter Florida and the Caribbean. Hurricane Maria then rages upon Puerto Rico and other islands already reeling from previous storms. In the buildup and aftermath, Lincoln Laboratory quickly assembles teams and technology to aid federal agencies in managing these disasters.
- Gene-editing technology developer Neuroscience Prof. Feng Zhang is awarded \$500K Lemelson-MIT Prize.
- New paper-based test to rapidly diagnose Zika virus is developed at MIT.
- EECS Prof. Regina Barzilay wins MacArthur genius grant for her work in computational linguistics and applying machine learning to the field of oncology.
- HUBweek shines spotlight on Kendall Square's innovation ecosystem; MIT community plays central role in Greater Boston's third annual festival of ideas and innovation.
- Michael Rosbash PhD '71 wins the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology for his discovery of the mechanisms of circadian rhythms.
- Physics Prof. Rainer Weiss SB '55, PhD '62 shares the Nobel Prize for groundbreaking contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves. This prize marks the ninth Nobel in Physics to be awarded to an MIT faculty member, and the twelfth to go to an MIT alumnus.
- MIT launches The Engine, a new venture to provide capital for funding "tough tech." The Engine provides long-term funding, resources, and support for long-term extended projects that require time to commercialize.
- LIGO and Virgo make first detection of gravitational waves produced by colliding neutron stars. Discovery marks first cosmic event observed in both gravitational waves and light.

- Singer and actress Audra McDonald wins the 2018 McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT.
- Chemical Engineering develops sensors applied to plant leaves that can warn of water shortage.
- Lincoln Laboratory partners with organizations to develop Water Aid and Renewable Power. WARP uses solar power to run a submersible pump and a purification system to produce between 850-1,000 gallons of clean water daily. The system was installed on the roof of a Boys & Girls Club in the Puerto Rican town of Loiza to bring much-needed clean water to the 30,000 residents following devastating hurricane season.
- MIT reports on its expanding work to address sexual assault on campus, and issues new policies regarding sexual assault, consensual relationships in the workplace or academic environment, and mandates sexual harassment and misconduct training for all faculty, staff, and postdocs.
- Sloan Prof. Dimitris Bertsimas SM '87, PhD '88 and his colleagues reveal an algorithm that can match a patient with Type 2 diabetes to the most effective drug or treatment based on their unique medical history and genes.
- Engineers in Chemical Engineering design specialized nanoparticles that turn a watercress plant into a glowing light source.
- MIT custodian Francisco Rodriguez is released from ICE detention to spend Christmas at home. The struggle to secure asylum for Rodriguez, with support from his MIT peers and friends, continues.
- Lincoln Laboratory, the National Institutes of Health Integrated Research Facility, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases are developing new technology that may provide early warnings of exposure to disease-causing pathogens.
- MIT Video Productions receives its second New England Emmy Award for its documentary, "A Bold Move," which documents MIT's move to Cambridge in 1916, and honors its leaders and visionaries.

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## 2018

- Athletics Director Julie Soriero receives the NCAA President's Pat Summitt Award for her devotion to developing student-athletes and making a positive impact on their lives.
- MIT launches ReACT (Refugee Action Certificate Program) which brings an MIT-caliber education to refugees and other displaced populations with an intensive two-week session led by MIT faculty members and students.
- Former Google leader Eric Schmidt joins MIT as visiting innovation fellow.
- Butterfly Network, a startup co-founded by an MIT alumnus, premieres a handheld medical-grade ultrasound machine. The device, called iQ, costs a fraction of traditional stationary ultrasound machines, and plugs right into an iPhone lightning jack.
- MIT Quest for Intelligence, an initiative to discover the foundations of human intelligence and drive the development of technological tools that can positively influence virtually every aspect of society, is launched.
- MIT announces the initial findings of an undergraduate primary-research course, "MIT and Slavery," investigating the historical connections between MIT's legacy and slavery. Students of the first class examined the influence of slavery on MIT's founding, its growth and success as a technical institution, and its founder and early supporters. MIT hosts the first community event to discuss this historical inquiry, "MIT and the Legacy of Slavery: Reviewing the Early Findings."
- Alexa Aguilar, an MIT graduate student and research assistant in Lincoln Laboratory's Advanced Sensors and Techniques Group, is named one of "Tomorrow's Engineering Leaders: The 20 Twenties" by Aviation Week Network. She is investigating new designs for miniature ultrawideband antennas.
- AJ Edelman '14 represents Israel in the men's skeleton at the 2018 Winter Olympics.
- MIT researchers and scientists from Brigham and Women's Hospital develop a new way to power and communicate with devices implanted deep within the human body. These devices could be used to deliver drugs, monitor conditions, or treat disease by stimulating the brain with electricity or light.
- MIT Professor Emerita Joan Jonas receives the Kyoto Prize. She is cited for her "immeasurable impact" in pioneering the integration of performance art and new media.
- Prof. Daniel Hastings is named head of Aeronautics and Astronautics.



**MIT.nano building's clean-room labs occupies four interconnected floors and is available for use by researchers from any department and all MIT's schools. The air purity is maintained by cycling the air through huge filtration systems.**

Photo: Wilson Architects

- Composer, musician, and former MIT visiting artist Jamshied Sharifi '83 receives a Tony Award for best orchestrations on "The Band's Visit."
- Prof. Evelyn Wang, an expert in high-efficiency energy and water systems, is named head of Mechanical Engineering.
- The MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- It's nearly impossible to break a dry spaghetti noodle into only two pieces – MIT mathematicians solve this age-old spaghetti mystery. Applications include enhancing the understanding of crack formation and how to control fractures in other rod-like materials.
- CSAIL researchers develop a system that lets robots inspect random objects, and visually understand them enough to accomplish specific tasks, like picking up virtually any object, without ever having seen them before.
- MIT.nano building, the largest and most sophisticated facility of its kind in the U.S., opens to usher in a new age of nanoscale advancements.
- Lincoln Laboratory is recognized at the annual National GEM Consortium Conference in Los Angeles for its diversity and inclusion leadership in the STEM fields.
- MIT will reshape itself to shape the future, investing \$1 billion to address the rapid evolution of computing and AI — and its global effects. At the heart of this effort: a \$350 million gift to found the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing. The new College, slated to open in Sept. 2019, represents the most significant structural change to MIT since the early 1950s, which saw the establishment of schools for management and for the humanities and social sciences.

- Smartphone app “Hey, Charlie” developed by Emily Lindemer PhD '17 and her team supports those struggling with addiction by using social contacts and location information to give gentle reminders for staying engaged with recovery.
- The Boston Red Sox set a new franchise record with 108 wins in a season and capture the World Series!
- Students in MIT’s course 6.811 (Principles and Practices of Assistive Technology) design a device that will help Pauline Dowell, a legally blind MIT employee, sail more independently.
- Researchers R. Vincent Leslie and Idahosa Osaretin from Lincoln Laboratory’s Applied Space Systems Group participate on two NASA-led teams whose work on a next-generation microwave sounder may lead to greatly improved forecasting of storm systems. These teams are recognized with NASA Agency Honor Awards, NASA’s highest commendations.
- Inspired by the futuristic shuttlecrafts on “Star Trek,” AeroAstro engineers build and fly the first-ever plane with no moving parts. Instead of propellers or turbines, the light aircraft is powered by an “ionic wind” – a silent but mighty flow of ions that is produced aboard the plane, and that generates enough thrust to propel the plane over a sustained, steady flight.
- Jay Sklar of Lincoln Laboratory shares his experience of applying adaptive antenna array technologies to the sensing of high-frequency (HF) communication signals in his new book “Modern HF Signal Detection and Direction Finding.”
- MIT Open Learning launches Center for Advanced Virtuality to explore how MIT can use virtual reality and artificial intelligence to better serve human needs.
- CSAIL’s new RePaint system aims to faithfully recreate paintings using deep learning and 3-D printing.
- In its Robotics Outreach at Lincoln Laboratory (ROLL) program, 80 staff volunteers coach K-12 students to solve STEM challenges including food safety, medical technology, disaster recovery, the water cycle, animal welfare, and how to build robots.
- Lincoln Laboratory’s lidar data which is processed quickly helps FEMA assess flooding and damages caused by Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas.
- A burgeoning area of study at MIT, the field of music technology covers a range of activities, from analyzing musical data to computer-assisted composition, to building new kinds of instruments and creating new sounds.

- Brian Telfer, a senior staff member in Lincoln Lab’s Bioengineering Systems and Technologies Group, is awarded the IEEE Region 1 Technological Innovation Award for his significant contributions to technologies that protect national security.

## 2019

- MIT “Policy Congress” examines the complex terrain of artificial intelligence regulation. The first MIT AI Policy Congress features panel discussions on a variety of AI applications, and 25 speakers – including two former White House chiefs of staff, former cabinet secretaries, homeland security and defense policy chiefs, industry and civil society leaders, and leading researchers.
- MIT researchers develop a new cryptocurrency that drastically reduces the data users need to join the network and verify transactions – by up to 99 percent compared to today’s popular cryptocurrencies, leading to a much more scalable network.
- A new study co-authored by Brain and Cognitive Sciences Prof. David Rand shows that crowdsourced judgments about the quality of news sources may effectively marginalize false news stories and other kinds of online misinformation.
- The New England Patriots claim their sixth title in 18 seasons by edging the Los Angeles Rams, 13-3, in Super Bowl LIII.
- MIT researchers engineer a robot to teach itself the complex physics of Jenga, making a big step in the daunting quest to get robots to manipulate objects in the real world.



**Esther Duflo PhD '99 and Abhijit Banerjee, MIT economists whose work has helped transform antipoverty research and relief efforts, are named co-winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, along with another co-winner, Harvard University economist Michael Kremer.** Photo: Bryce Vickmark

- Institute Professor Sallie “Penny” Chisholm of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Biology is awarded the Crafoord Prize for discovering *Prochlorococcus*, the most abundant photosynthesizing organism on Earth.
- MIT students and inmates of South Bay House of Correction team up to design and paint a massive two-story mural at the facility.
- Lincoln Laboratory researchers develop device to record and assess noise levels, and alert users if they are being exposed to harmful noise. The device aims to prevent hearing-loss and optimize hearing protection devices worn by warfighters and laborers.
- Building and landscape designs for a new federal building on the Volpe parcel in Kendall Sq. are now complete. MIT will build a new headquarters for the U.S. DOT Volpe Center which will consolidate operations of six different buildings. Artist Maya Lin is commissioned to create an engaging and inviting public landscape. Central to the open space will be Lin’s landscape-integrated art piece – a physical and visual representation of the Doppler effect, manifested in undulating grassy mounds that depict sound waves.
- A unique event in New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art brings together MIT designers, researchers, and students along with the Met and Microsoft to explore new visions about how AI might drive stronger connection between people and art.
- Profs. Cullen Buie, Hadley Sikes, and Justin Steil are honored with the Committed to Caring Award for supporting their graduate students through collaborative planning, managing mental health, and promoting diversity and inclusivity.
- In an op-ed piece in “Financial Times,” President L. Rafael Reif argues for sustained federal investment in artificial intelligence, and encourages the nation’s colleges and universities to prepare students for new societal challenges posed by AI.
- A workshop organized by Lincoln Laboratory and Civil and Environmental Engineering explores national security repercussions of climate change.
- An MIT-led research team develops a drug capsule that could be used to deliver oral doses of insulin, potentially replacing the injections that people with type 1 diabetes have to administer every day.
- Research Laboratory of Electronics and Lincoln Laboratory team up to bridge quantum science and quantum technology for real-world applications.
- In The New York Times Magazine cover story “The Secret History of Women Coders,” Mary Allen Wilkes, a “programming whiz” who worked at Lincoln Laboratory, is featured for her work in the 1960s on the creation of the LINC, an early minicomputer.



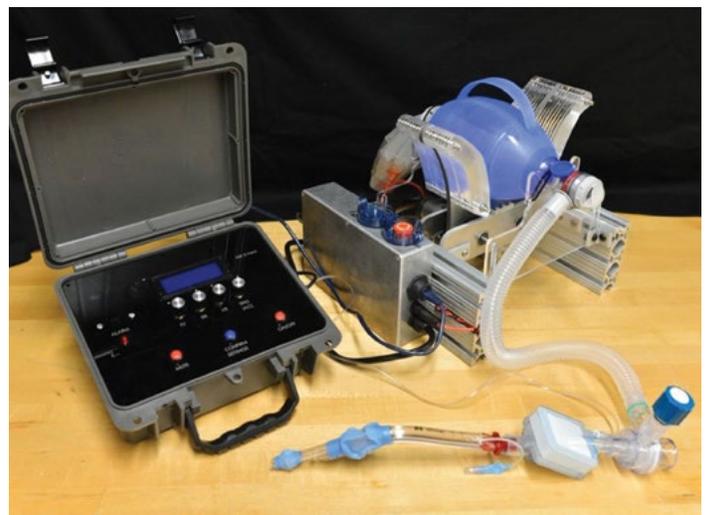
**Lincoln Lab’s Huntsville staff volunteers make computer science a reality for Alabama students at East Lawrence High School. Students enjoy working together in teams to learn programming and build their own robot during this STEM workshop.** Photo: Keith Henderlong

- The Investiture of Doctoral Hoods and Degree Conferral, a ceremony for MIT’s new doctoral degree holders, is held on Killian Court for the first time. Distinguished biochemist Squire Booker PhD ’94 emphasized the importance of opportunity for all in his keynote speech. Booker is the Evan Pugh Professor of chemistry and of biochemistry and molecular biology and Eberly Family Distinguished Chair in Science at Penn State University.
- Dan Huttenlocher SM ’84, PhD ’88 is named the inaugural dean of the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing.
- “Hello World, Hello MIT.” MIT celebrates the launch of the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing with symposia, student computing challenges, and conferences featuring world-renowned leaders. The new College will link disciplines across the campus and prepare students to understand how computers work and how they affect every aspect of society.
- Highly acclaimed vocalist Renée Fleming delivers the Karl Taylor Compton Lecture: “Music and the Mind.” With four Grammys and the National Medal of Arts to her credit, she also spearheads a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health that focuses on the science connecting music, wellness, and the brain.
- Through brain wave stimulation, MIT neuroscientists show that they can improve cognitive and memory impairments similar to those seen in Alzheimer’s patients.
- “One.MIT,” a new installation at MIT.nano, displays a 6-inch silicon wafer depicting an image of MIT’s Great Dome. The image was formed by etching the names of the more than 270,000 people associated with the Institute from 1861 to spring 2018.

- An international team of more than 200 astronomers, including scientists from MIT's Haystack Observatory, captures the first direct images of a black hole. The team accomplished this remarkable feat by coordinating the power of eight major radio observatories on four continents, to work together as a virtual, Earth-sized telescope.
- Ramona Allen, who has served the Institute for 30 years in a variety of progressively senior human resources roles, is named as MIT's Vice President for Human Resources.
- Longtime Lincoln Laboratory researcher John Goodenough wins Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He's one of three scientists recognized for developing the lithium-ion battery. Goodenough explored the physics of magnetic materials during his Lincoln Laboratory career.
- The scenic quad formerly known as North Court, one of the major gateways to campus from Main Street and Kendall Square, is now Hockfield Court, in honor of Dr. Susan Hockfield, who was president of MIT from 2004 to 2012.
- The MIT Museum presents The Polaroid Project: At the Intersection of Art and Technology, a fascinating story of the Polaroid company told through MIT's unique Polaroid Collection and an array of stunning Polaroid photographs. After traveling around the world, this extensive exhibition of more than 300 objects stops at the MIT Museum, approximately one block from where instant film was first invented.
- Lincoln Laboratory hosts inaugural workshop on artificial intelligence for national security with 200+ registrants.
- "From Controversy to Cure: Inside the Cambridge Biotech Boom," a new documentary film by MIT Video Productions, chronicles the biotech boom in Cambridge. Film looks at how Kendall Square became a beacon for industries working on treatments for diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and diabetes.
- Real-time visibility estimates are a critical need in remote areas where visual flight is common and automated weather stations are scarce. Lincoln Lab staff members Robert Hallowell and Michael Matthews develop the Visibility Estimation through Image Analytics, an algorithm with an eye for visibility to help pilots in Alaska.
- Saturday robotics workshops led by Lincoln Lab staff volunteers help middle and high school girls dispel "computing phobia."
- Lincoln Lab's William Delaney who has 60+ years of MIT service receives the Eugene G. Fubini Award, the highest award given by the Secretary of Defense to a civilian who has had advisory roles in national-level defense studies and task forces.

## 2020

- Kate Byrd, an associate staff member in Lincoln Laboratory's Advanced Sensors and Techniques Group, is named one of Aviation Week Network's 20 Twenties for 2020.
- With help from spaghetti and color-changing fibers, MIT researchers develop a new mathematical model to predict a knot's stability.
- CSAIL researchers create a new system, RFocus, a software-controlled "smart surface" that uses more than 3,000 antennas to boost a phone's signal strength by 1,000-percent.
- A completely passive solar-powered desalination system developed by researchers at MIT and in China could provide more than 1.5 gallons of fresh drinking water per hour for every square meter of solar collecting area. Such systems could potentially serve off-grid arid coastal areas to provide an efficient, low-cost water source.
- MIT engineers design bionic "heart" for testing prosthetic valves and other cardiac devices. This device made of heart tissue and a robotic pumping system beats like the real thing.
- Using a machine-learning algorithm, MIT researchers have identified a powerful new antibiotic compound. In laboratory tests, the drug killed many of the world's most problematic disease-causing bacteria, including some strains that are resistant to all known antibiotics.
- MIT researchers design a new disposable, affordable "smart" diaper embedded with an RFID tag to sense and communicate wetness to a nearby RFID reader, which in turn can wirelessly send a notification to a caregiver that it's time for a change.



**MIT-based team works on rapid deployment of an open-source, low-cost ventilator to alleviate hospital shortages.**

Photo: David L. Chandler



**One-hundred MIT community members hold peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstration on steps outside Lobby 7. Organized by MIT graduate students Cadence Payne SM '20 and the Black Graduate Student Association co-president PhD candidate Chelsea Onyeodor, "I felt it was important to call attention to issues Black students faced specifically at MIT," Onyeodor wrote, adding that she wanted "our pain and our frustration to be seen." Photo: Kevin Pho**

- MIT engineers devise a decision map to identify the best mission type to deflect an incoming asteroid.
- Anthropology Prof. Susan Silbey whose path breaking work has examined the U.S. legal system as experienced in everyday life, delivers the Killian Lecture "Resilience of Law: Stories from Everyday Life."
- To combat supply chain counterfeiting, which can cost companies billions of dollars annually, researchers invent a cryptographic ID tag that's small enough to fit on virtually any product and verify its authenticity.
- Kevin Richardson, one of the Central Park Five, who have all been exonerated of their unjust conviction, delivers the keynote speech at this year's annual MIT Martin Luther King Luncheon.
- Researchers create an automated text-generating system that pinpoints and replaces specific information in relevant Wikipedia sentences, while keeping the language similar to how humans write and edit.
- Researchers identify security vulnerabilities in a mobile voting application that was used during the 2018 midterm elections in West Virginia.
- A crash course in deep learning organized and taught by grad students Alexander Amini and Ava Soleimany reaches more than 350 MIT students each year; a million-plus other people have watched their lectures online over the past three years.
- EAPS researchers will help direct Mars 2020 rover sample acquisition.



**Andrea Ghez '87 is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of a “supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy.” She shares the prize with Roger Penrose and Reinhard Genzel. She is the fourth woman to ever win a Nobel Prize in Physics.** Photo: Marcio Jose Sanchez/Associated Press

- Covid-19 coronavirus spreads across the globe and is characterized as a pandemic. Many world leaders urge people to stay home and implement a travel ban. Social distancing remains the most effective way to slow the spread. Mask mandates go into effect around the country.
- The pandemic sends economies around the globe into a spiral, reducing the demand for oil. Oil prices tank and a global recession is triggered as countries go into lockdown. The Dow Jones Industrial Average suffers its worst single-day point drop ever on March 9.
- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declares a state of emergency. An executive order is implemented that limits the number of persons allowed at gatherings in public and private residences. Schools across the state quickly transition to remote learning.
- MIT classes go online. Faculty and hundreds of staff implement remote work and learning. Zoom makes it feasible for people to work and connect virtually, while workplaces are shut down.
- Congress approves a \$2 trillion stimulus – the largest emergency aid package in U.S. history – to aid American workers, small businesses, and industries nationwide struggling with economic disruption.
- Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and International Olympic Committee postpone the Summer Olympics until 2021.
- MIT chemists design a drug candidate that can bind to the viral protein coronaviruses use to enter human cells, potentially disarming it. The potential drug is a short protein fragment, or peptide, that mimics a protein found on the surface of human cells.
- Another MIT team designs disposable face shields that can be mass produced quickly to address PPE shortages in hospitals.
- Police-involved killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor spark the Black Lives Matter Movement, peaceful protests, and conversations about systemic racism, inequality, and racial injustice across the U.S.
- MIT community creates a virtual version of MIT's iconic Campus Preview Weekend for admitted students.
- MIT students build a 1:1 scale replica of MIT in Minecraft, a sandbox style game akin to digital LEGO.
- MIT's first online Commencement includes a surprise visit from the International Space Station, as well as “Comusica” a video “portrait” of 800 voices from the class of 2020 singing a single note to create a unique song.
- CSAIL researchers develop a new system that enables a robot to disinfect surfaces and neutralize aerosolized forms of the coronavirus.
- For the first time, MIT astronomers and elsewhere watch a supermassive black hole's corona — the ring of high-energy particles that encircles a black hole's horizon — disappear and then reappear. Although the cause of the transformation is unclear, the researchers guess it may have been caused by a star caught in the black hole's gravitational pull.
- MIT neuroscientists find that aging negatively affects a brain circuit critical for maintaining motivation to learn new things and engage in everyday activities. They also show they could boost older mice's motivation to engage in certain learning activities by reactivating this circuit.
- Lincoln Laboratory receives Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Small Business Partnerships. The award is given for the Laboratory's work with small businesses and commitment to help keep the small business community thriving. The Laboratory works with more than 2,000 Mass. small businesses.
- MIT researchers train an artificial intelligence model to distinguish asymptomatic people infected with Covid-19 from healthy individuals through forced-cough recordings. In experiments, the AI model accurately identifies 98.5% of participants who were confirmed to have Covid-19.

- Former Vice President Joe Biden is elected as the 46th President of the U.S. Kamala Harris, Vice President-elect makes history as the first female, first Black, and first South Asian American to be elected Vice President. More than 159 million people vote in this election – even with Covid restrictions in place – the highest voter turnout since 1900. Results weren't announced until Nov. 7, four days after the election. President Trump goes on to challenge the results for months after the election.
- The Japanese satellite QZSS, which carries an optical payload developed by Lincoln Laboratory, is deployed into the geosynchronous belt to monitor objects in that region of space. These sensors will support the comprehensive space domain awareness tracking efforts that provide for warning of impending collisions.
- Amanda Hubbard, principal research scientist at MIT's Plasma Science and Fusion Center, receives Secretary of Energy's Appreciation Award for her role in the formation of the U.S. Burning Plasma Organization.
- New York nurse Sandra Lindsay is the first American to receive the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Developed in less than a year, Pfizer's vaccine is the first to be approved for emergency use, followed by Moderna.
- Lincoln Laboratory is recognized by U.S. Department of Labor as a HIRE Vets Medallion Award recipient for its commitment to recruiting, employing, and retaining veterans.
- NASA astronauts Jasmin Moghbeli '05 and Kate Rubins, a former researcher at MIT's Whitehead Institute, train for future Artemis missions. Each have a chance at becoming the first woman on the moon.
- Dr. Melissa Choi, Assistant Director of Lincoln Laboratory, and David Ebel, principal staff member in the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance and Tactical Systems Division, receive awards for their service to the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.
- Two Lincoln Laboratory teams, the Earth Intelligence Engine project team and the Puckboard project team, are recognized with awards from the Department of the Air Force–MIT Artificial Intelligence Accelerator.
- As 2020 comes to a close, MIT continues remote work and education. Mass. still has Covid-19 restrictions in place and mask mandates. Cases continue to rise around the world and the Alpha variant of Covid-19 is discovered in Great Britain.

## 2021

- MIT researchers, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and marine biologists in Cuba discover slimy microbes that take up excess nitrogen and may protect coral by preventing algal competition which stresses coral reefs.
- MIT announces the launch of the interdisciplinary Center for Constructive Communication which will leverage data-driven analytics to better understand current social and mass media ecosystems and design new tools and communication networks capable of bridging social, cultural, and political divides.
- A mob of pro-Trump demonstrators storm the U.S. Capitol in an effort to stop lawmakers from certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election. Lawmakers from both parties flee the congressional chamber for safety. Trump is accused of inciting his supporters to riot.
- U.S. President-elect Joe Biden selects two MIT faculty leaders — Broad Institute Director Eric Lander and Vice President for Research Maria Zuber — for top science and technology posts in his administration. Lander is named Presidential Science Advisor and is nominated as director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Zuber is named co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.
- President-elect Biden also selects Gary Gensler, a leading finance expert and a faculty member at the MIT Sloan School of Management, as his nominee to be chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- MIT researchers develop a new type of neural network that can change its underlying equations to continuously adapt to new data. The advancement could improve models' decision-making based on data that changes over time, such as in medical diagnosis and autonomous driving.
- Two new MIT dorms – New Vassar and the Graduate Towers in Kendall Square – open to students.
- For the first time, the Mystery Hunt goes completely virtual. Participating hunters retrieve items sent into a parallel universe and bring them home.
- Taking inspiration from origami, MIT engineers design a medical patch that can be folded around minimally invasive surgical tools and delivered through airways, intestines, and other narrow spaces, to patch up internal injuries.



**A community discussion examines the complexities of Asian American and Pacific Islander identity and acceptance at MIT, while underscoring the need for collaborative work among groups to combat prejudice and create equity. The forum is held amid a string of violent assaults on Asian Americans in the U.S., which raised public awareness about anti-Asian discrimination.** Photo: Peter Dizikes

- While NASA rover Perseverance moves across the Jezero crater, the MIT-designed Mars MOXIE, installed in the belly of the rover, sucks in carbon dioxide-heavy Martian air and converts it into oxygen. If it works, MOXIE will prove a viable path to producing oxygen and sustaining future human explorers on Mars.
- Computer scientists develop a deep-learning-based system that allows computers to create holograms almost instantly. The system can be used to create holograms for virtual reality, 3D printing, medical imaging, and more. It's efficient enough to run on a smartphone!
- Dr. Jeremy Kepner, a Lincoln Laboratory Fellow in the Cyber Security and Information Sciences Division and a research affiliate at MIT's Math Dept., is named Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). Kepner is the first Lincoln Laboratory researcher to attain the rank of SIAM Fellow and the ninth from MIT.
- Koch Institute scientists develop a method for delivering vaccines directly to the lungs through inhalation.
- A collaboration between anthropologists and computer scientists finds that coronavirus skeptics use sophisticated data visualizations to argue against public health orthodoxy like wearing a mask. The researchers conclude that data visualizations aren't sufficient to convey the urgency of the Covid-19 pandemic because even the clearest graphs can be interpreted through a variety of belief systems.

- MIT startup Global Research Innovation and Technology develops an all-terrain wheelchair that “can go where regular wheelchairs can't — including grass, mud, or rocky terrain. For athletes who use wheelchairs, it offers the opportunity to compete in events such as a Spartan Race, or the ability to join friends on a hike or a beach day.”
- Susan Solomon, an atmospheric chemist whose work explaining the Antarctic ozone hole informed international policy, receives the James R. Killian, Jr. Faculty Achievement Award.
- Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of George Floyd.
- MIT unveils a new action plan to tackle the climate crisis, committing to net-zero emissions by 2026 and charting a course marshaling all of MIT's capabilities toward decarbonization.
- President Joe Biden signs into law June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day, a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. This is the first new national holiday since MLK Day was established in 1983.
- Ben Linville-Engler SM '18, Certificate and Industry Director in MIT's System Design and Management program, is awarded the Collier Medal. In the early stages of the pandemic, Linville-Engler joined the state's Manufacturing Emergency Response Team, and was a liaison to the FDA helping manufacturers get PPE and ventilators into the hands of those who needed them. Mass. is now seen as a model for how to launch a manufacturing response to a pandemic, thanks to his leadership.
- An Excellence Award for Innovative Solutions is awarded to the COVID Testing/COVID Apps Team—30 people who came together from across the Institute to implement a COVID testing and contact-tracing program for the community. As one nominator stated, “I can think of no other single contribution during the pandemic that has so directly enabled MIT to continue its research and educational missions while keeping the community safe. This effort has been a spectacular success.”
- Excellence Awards in the Serving Our Community category are presented to the –  
**MIT Medical Clinical Response Team** – in the very early days of 2020, MIT Medical Director Dr. Cecilia Stuopis SB '90 assembled a committee to manage an emergency response to the pandemic, these ten doctors and nurses immediately jumped into action. The team fine-tuned and scaled up their efforts, setting up multiple weather-proof screening facilities. Soon, they were testing more than 3,000 people a day.

**MIT PPE team**, a team of 27 from every corner of the Institute. Early in the pandemic, the team distributed more than 1.2 million items of PPE. One in five units of PPE in Mass. was sourced from MIT.

### **Housing and Residential Services Operations**

**Team** – with 17 members are recognized for their work supporting the residential communities during the pandemic. They were on the front lines during the pandemic, day in and day out. Because of their amazing efforts, Covid transmission was kept to a minimum.

**Kyle Filipe**, Director of IT Support Services, for the technical support he provided to countless members of the community during the pandemic. He set up specialized support hotlines – the one for faculty fielded 1,000 requests alone.

- MIT and Harvard University announce that assets of edX, the nonprofit they launched in 2012, an open online platform for university courses, would be acquired by the publicly-traded Ed-tech company 2U.
- As an important step forward in MIT's ongoing efforts to create a more welcoming and inclusive community, the Institute hires six new assistant deans, one in each school and in the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing, to serve as diversity, equity, and inclusion professionals.
- MIT and Harvard engineers design a prototype face mask that can diagnose the person wearing the mask with Covid-19 in about 90 minutes. The masks are embedded with tiny, disposable sensors that can be fitted into other face masks and could also be adapted to detect other viruses.
- An MIT team creates the first fabric fiber with digital capabilities. The fibers can sense, store, analyze, and infer data and activity after being sewn into a shirt. The researchers say the fibers could be used to monitor physical performance, to detect diseases, and for a variety of medical purposes.
- Using observations of gravitational waves, physicists from MIT and elsewhere confirm a major theorem created by Stephen Hawking in 1971. The theorem states that the area of a black hole's event horizon — the boundary beyond which nothing can ever escape — will never shrink.
- Melissa Nobles, the former Kenin Sahin Dean of the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, becomes the Institute's new chancellor. A political scientist, Nobles succeeds Cynthia Barnhart who is returning to research and teaching after seven years as chancellor.



**MIT community members gather for an Institute event hosted by President L. Rafael Reif to welcome MIT's new Chancellor, Melissa Nobles. Nobles is a Professor of Political Science and previously served as Kenan Sahin Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences from 2015 to 2021.**

Photo: Bryce Vickmark

- The newly renovated Hayden Library and Building 14 courtyard open to the MIT community. The spaces were re-envisioned to provide areas for collaborative work, exploring collections, a teaching and event space, a new cafe, and areas to unwind, surrounded by greenery and natural light.
- MIT announces the conclusion of its Campaign for a Better World, raising \$6.24 billion to support the Institute's work on some of the world's most pressing challenges. Altogether, 112,703 individuals and organizations contributed to the campaign, which was publicly launched in 2016 and formally ran from 2011 to 2021.
- FDA grants full approval of Pfizer Covid vaccine for people 16 and older.
- The Federal Laboratory Consortium awards their Excellence in Technology Transfer Award for the Northeast region to two Lincoln Laboratory technologies developed to improve security. Both technologies have transitioned to commercial use.
- MIT's innovation and entrepreneurship community gets 50,000 square feet of new space to work with. The Institute's new Innovation HQ encompasses five floors in the recently renovated Suffolk Building, or E38, in the heart of Kendall Square. It serves as a hub for students at every stage of their entrepreneurial journeys, from undergraduates to PhDs, and includes space for alumni, faculty members, and staff.
- Audiences return to Broadway theater in New York City for the first time in 18 months.
- The first ever flight into Earth's orbit by four civilian, non-astronaut space tourists takes off for a three-day trip.

- Sonia Raman completes 12 seasons as head coach of the MIT women's basketball team, transforming the Engineers into a regional power. Then last summer, the NBA called. Now, she's an assistant coach for the Memphis Grizzlies, one of a small but increasing number of women coaching in the league.
- Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, nearly 20,000 people are now studying, working, or living at MIT on any given day. Thanks to a robust plan to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 on campus — masking, attesting, testing, and access control — the number of positive Covid-19 cases remains very low (at or below 0.1% of tests conducted). By fall semester, nearly all classes, labs, and offices are in-person.
- Lincoln Laboratory transfers its Simulated Automatic Exposure Notification (SimAEN) technology to the CDC. The CDC funded the project to address a growing need to model the effects of COVID-19 mitigation strategies. SimAEN simulates the potential spread of COVID-19 by modeling the behavior of individual agents which represent people.
- Many Covid-19 patients report symptoms affecting the ears, including hearing loss and tinnitus. Dizziness and balance problems can also occur, suggesting that the SARS-CoV-2 virus may be able to infect the inner ear. A new study from MIT and Mass. Eye and Ear provides evidence that the virus can indeed infect cells of the inner ear, including hair cells, which are critical for both hearing and balance.
- Marsh plants, which are ubiquitous along the world's shorelines, can play a major role in mitigating the damage to coastlines as sea levels rise and storm surges increase. A new MIT study provides greater detail about how these protective benefits work under real-world conditions shaped by waves and currents.
- MIT labor economist Joshua D. Angrist, whose influential work has enhanced rigorous empirical research in economics, is awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. Angrist shares the award with Guido Imbens of Stanford Business School and David Card of UC Berkeley. Angrist is cited for his work establishing new methods of conducting “natural experiments” in economics — studies using data in which otherwise similar groups of people are separated by crucial variables, allowing researchers to better grasp cause and effect in complex social situations.
- The MIT Welcome Center opens in Bldg. E38 just steps from the Kendall/MIT MBTA subway station. “This open, bright, and welcoming space allows us to craft an even better visit experience for our prospective students and their families,” says Stu Schmill, Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services.



**The MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team takes first place at the 2021 American Solar Challenge in the Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) category. During the five-day race, their solar car, Nimbus — designed and built entirely by students — beat eight other SOVs from schools across the country, traveling 1,109 miles and maintaining an average speed of 38.4 miles per hour.** Photo: Courtesy of MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team

- The first scientific analysis of images taken by NASA's Perseverance rover confirms that Mars' Jezero crater — which today is a dry, wind-eroded depression — was once a quiet lake, fed steadily by a small river some 3.7 billion years ago.
- MIT researchers discover a way to jump-start the immune system to attack tumors. The method combines chemotherapy and immunotherapy to spur immune cells into action.
- Lincoln Laboratory wins nine R&D 100 Awards. A life-detecting radar, a microscale motor, and a quantum network architecture are among this year's most innovative new technologies.
- David Julius '77 shares the Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine with Prof. Ardem Patapoutian of the Scripps Research Institute, for their discoveries in how the body senses touch and temperature. Using capsaicin, a compound that gives chili peppers their distinctive burning sensation, Julius was able to identify a receptor in the nerve endings of skin that responds to heat.
- After 40 years at MIT, including eight as its senior academic officer from 2014-2022, MIT Provost Martin Schmidt SM '83, PhD '88 plans to return to his alma mater as the 19th president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the nation's oldest technological research university.
- GOAT event wizard Gayle Gallagher, Executive Director for MIT Institute Events and Protocol, retires after 45 with MIT, and passes her wand to the next generation of event magicians.

- Michelle Wu is elected Mayor of Boston, making her the first woman and person of color to hold the post. Originally from Chicago, Wu graduated from Harvard with a degree in economics in 2007, then earned a J.D. from Harvard Law in 2012. Wu became a member of Boston's City Council in 2013 and was elected three times to the position before being elected Mayor.

## 2022

- Asst. Prof. Karthish Manthiram is named an honoree of "Committed to Caring" for encouraging students to live balanced lives.
- Former MIT Field Hockey head coach Cheryl Silva is inducted into the Nation Field Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
- Yen-Jie Lee '58 and team at MIT's Laboratory for Nuclear Science and elsewhere find evidence of X particles in the quark-gluon plasma produced in the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.
- MIT Energy Initiative launches the Future Energy Systems Center. The new MITEI consortium focuses on speeding the energy transition, engaging with industrial leaders to deploy clean energy advances at scale.
- Prof. Agustín Rayo PhD '01 is named Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.
- Prof. Cynthia Breazeal SM '93, SCD '00 is named Dean of Digital Learning at MIT.
- Profs. Mircea Dincă, Guoping Feng, Ian W. Hunter, and Evelyn Ning-Yi Wang SB '00 and Senior Research Scientist David H. Shoemaker SM '80 are elected as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Association for Computing Machinery names Profs. Elchanan Mossel and Rosalind Picard SM '86, SCD '91 as fellows for outstanding accomplishments in computing and information technology.
- Prof. Nancy Kanwisher SB '80, PhD '86 wins National Academy of Sciences Award in the Neurosciences for her groundbreaking work on the functional organization of the human brain.
- MIT President L. Rafael Reif announces his plan to step down as president in December after serving more than 10 years in this position.
- Cynthia Barnhart SM '86, PhD '88 is named MIT Provost after seven years as chancellor.
- Susan M. Collins PhD '84 becomes the first woman of color to lead the Boston Federal Reserve Bank.



**Alexis Sablone '16 Olympian and seven-time X Games medalist is named the head coach for the United States women's skateboarding team in the upcoming Olympic Games.** Photo: Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

- Office of the Vice Chancellor and the Registrar's Office recognize Profs. Kenneth Kamrin PhD '08 of MechE; Jeffrey Lang SB '75, SM '77, PhD '80 of EECS; W. David McGee of EAPS; and Matthew Shoulders of Chemistry as Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellows.
- MIT Morningside Academy for Design is created as a new hub for cross-disciplinary education, research, and innovation.
- Prof. George Lusztig is awarded the prestigious Wolf Prize in Mathematics for his work on geometric representation theory and algebraic groups.
- MIT Center for Real Estate launches the Asia Real Estate Initiative.
- Jonathan Schwarz is appointed Director of MIT Institutional Research.
- Lincoln Laboratory receives diversity and inclusion award at HR Executive Summit for their numerous events, initiatives, and ongoing programs to build a more open and inclusive workplace.
- Lincoln Laboratory develops a smartwatch-based system that warns recruits when they are at risk of heat injury.
- Lincoln Laboratory develops the AI-Guided Ultrasound Intervention Device, a life-saving technology that helps a range of users deliver complex medical interventions at the point of injury.
- MIT graduate students successfully form a union affiliated with the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) in a 1,785 to 912 vote.

- Journalist Martin Baron, Executive Editor of the Washington Post from 2013-2021, delivers the Karl Taylor Compton Lecture, “Reality Check: Facts under Assault, Democracy Threatened.” During his 11 years with the Boston Globe, the newspaper won six Pulitzer Prizes for public service, explanatory journalism, national reporting, and criticism. The public service recognition was awarded to the Globe in 2003 for its investigation into the cover-up of sexual abuse by clergy in the Catholic Church. The story of the investigation was told in the 2015 movie “Spotlight” which won the Academy Award for Best Picture.
- The U.S. Senate confirms Ketanji Brown Jackson appointment to the Supreme Court in a historic vote. Justice Jackson will be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Following her Senate confirmation, Jackson remarked: “In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court.”
- MIT’s Lab for Education and Application Prototypes (LEAP) at MIT.nano is the first in a network to advance manufacturing, providing hands-on photonics education across the state.
- MIT expands its commitment to Indigenous scholarship and community at MIT. New measures build on insights from a course on the Indigenous history of the Institute, now in its third semester.
- Associate Prof. Amy Moran-Thomas receives the 2021-22 Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award in recognition of her “exceptional commitment to innovative and collaborative interdisciplinary approaches to resolving inequitable impacts on human health.”
- The MIT Press and Harvard Law School Library launch new series offering high-quality, affordable law textbooks. “Open Casebook” series will make first-year law school texts more accessible to students across the United States.
- Rise Bionics, founded by D-Lab Scale Ups fellow Arun Cherian, creates customized assistive devices for patients in India.
- The Climate Grand Challenges competition identifies five flagship projects that seek to tackle big problems in the global response to climate change: Bringing Computation to the Climate Challenge; Center for Electrification and Decarbonization of Industry; Preparing for a new world of weather and climate extremes; The Climate Resilience Early Warning System; and Revolutionizing agriculture with low-emissions, resilient crops.
- MIT Spouses & Partners Connect marks its 50th anniversary supporting the personal, social, and professional growth of all spouses and partners of MIT community members who relocate to the Boston area.
- MIT celebrates a series of in-person Commencement ceremonies honoring the Class of 2022. A special celebration is also held to welcome back the Classes of 2020 and 2021 to campus.
- A team of researchers led by Haystack Observatory creates a system to image in 3D ionospheric changes during storms.
- MIT Sloan School Prof. Robert C. Merton PhD '70 is named the recipient of MIT’s 2021–2022 James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award and delivers the Killian Lecture “Emergence of Financial Engineering from Financial Science — An MIT Story.”
- MIT announces five flagship projects in its first-ever Climate Grand Challenges competition. These multiyear projects focus on unraveling some of the toughest unsolved climate problems and bring high-impact, science-based solutions to the world on an accelerated basis.
- A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches the Transporter-5 mission into orbit. The mission contains a collection of micro and nanosatellites from industry and government, including one from Lincoln Laboratory called the Agile MicroSat (AMS).
- Building on the 2019 success of the first image of a black hole, astronomers at Haystack Observatory and the global Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) collaboration captures the first image of the black hole Sagittarius A\* in the Milky Way. EHT researchers from across the globe announce the imaging of Sagittarius A\*, or Sgr A\* (pronounced “sadge-ay-star”) at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.



**People from across MIT gather outside the Student Center on March 3, 2022 for a candlelight rally to support MIT’s Ukrainian community and condemn attacks on Ukraine by Russian forces.** Photo: Stephanie Tran/DSL

- Paolo Parravano is awarded the inaugural MIT Staff Award for Distinction in Service as part of the MIT Excellence Awards. His citation reads in part, “In more than 30 years of service to MIT, Paul Parravano has won the admiration, affection, and respect of countless individuals, inside and outside MIT. Officially, Paul serves as Co-Director of the Institute’s Office of Government and Community Relations. But you will have a better sense of his true role and his impact if I tell you that Paul is often referred to as the “Mayor of MIT.”
- MIT unveils the new Wright Brothers Wind Tunnel. Since its dedication in 1938, the Wind Tunnel has become a campus landmark used for education, research, industry, and outreach. Today, MIT is home to the most advanced academic wind tunnel in the country, capable of reaching wind speeds up to 230 mph, with the largest test section in U.S. academia.
- A reimagined MIT Museum opens in a new 56,000-square-foot space in the heart of Cambridge’s Kendall Square. The museum invites visitors to explore the Institute’s innovations in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math — and to take part in that work with hands-on learning labs and maker spaces, interactive exhibits, and venues to discuss the impact of science and technology on society.
- Associate Prof. Angela Koehler of Biological Engineering takes on the most challenging drug targets. Using biological, chemical, and engineering tools, she has developed strategies to attack molecules once thought to be “undruggable.” By taking aim at proteins that interact with the undruggable proteins, she can indirectly disable them or reduce their impact. This approach has already yielded one potential cancer drug that is in early-stage clinical trials, with others in the pipeline.
- Chemistry Prof. Danna Freedman is named a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship for her work on novel molecules that could be used for quantum sensing and communication.
- Moriba Jah, a Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Scholar, is also named a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship for his work on space sustainability. Jah is an Associate Professor in the Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics Dept. at the University of Texas at Austin.
- Profs. Mark Bear and Laura Kiessling '83, along with MIT alumni Krishna Shenoy SM '92, PhD '95 and David Tuveson '87 are elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Martin Burke, a former student in the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology, is also elected.
- Lincoln Laboratory is recognized by Richard De Fatta, Deputy to the Commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, for 60 years of support of the Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.
- “Drawing Together,” a social and ecological resilience project in New York City, is awarded Norman B. Leventhal City Prize. The project is led by MIT’s Miho Mazereeuw, associate professor and director of the Urban Risk Lab; Nicholas de Monchaux, professor and head of the Dept. of Architecture; Carlos Sandoval Olascoaga PhD '21, a postdoc in Architecture and the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing; and Tonya Gayle, executive director of Green City Force.
- MIT affiliates are well-represented among new and recent Nobel laureates who took part in the first in-person Nobel Prize ceremony since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Winners include Ben Bernanke PhD '79; K. Barry Sharpless, a former member of the chemistry faculty; and Carolyn Bertozzi, a Lemelson-MIT Prize winner and the daughter of Physics Professor Emeritus William Bertozzi.
- An All-Institute dance party is hosted by L. Rafael Reif as a thank you to the community as he approaches the conclusion of his tenure as MIT’s 17th president. The party is attended by thousands of students, staff, faculty, and their guests.
- Sally Kornbluth, a cell biologist whose eight-year tenure as Duke University’s provost has earned her a reputation as a brilliant administrator, a creative problem-solver, and a leading advocate of academic excellence, is selected as MIT’s 18th president. She assumes the presidency on January 1, 2023 succeeding Dr. L. Rafael Reif who served as president from 2012 to 2022.
- During a special screening of the latest Marvel Studios production, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” students share their enthusiasm at seeing MIT on the big screen.

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## 2023

- Maura Healey is sworn in as the 73rd Governor of Massachusetts on January 5, becoming the first woman and first openly LGBTQ+ person elected Governor in Massachusetts' history. She served two terms as the Attorney General of Massachusetts from 2014-2022.
- Priscilla King Gray, co-founder and namesake of MIT's Public Service Center and wife of former MIT President Paul Gray, dies at 89. For more than 50 years, Mrs. Gray championed public service and helped build a sense of community at MIT.
- Space Force delivers first payload for Japan's QZSS satellites. The two hosted payloads, designed by Lincoln Laboratory, will keep tabs on spacecraft and dangerous debris in geosynchronous orbit (GEO).
- A new academic program developed at MIT aims to teach U.S. Air and Space Forces personnel to understand and utilize artificial intelligence technologies. The program researchers found that this approach was effective and well-received by employees with diverse backgrounds and professional roles.



The “Barbie” movie sparks a massive cultural phenomenon. Incoming MIT students surprise President Sally Kornbluth with “Barbie” installation. For Interphase EDGE/x participants, a life-sized Barbie-themed TARDIS prompts reflections on social norms. Photo: Ellen Patton



Celebrating the upcoming presidential inauguration of Sally Kornbluth, the South Asian student dance group, MIT Mirchi, is jazzed up following their stage performance on Killian Court. Photo: Gretchen Ertl

- The MBTA Green Line Extension opens service to Somerville, Medford, and Cambridge. The project involved construction of six new Green Line stations along the Medford Branch and Union Square Branch. Lechmere Station is also relocated and reconstructed.
- At MIT's annual luncheon honoring Martin Luther King Jr., activist and author Angela Y. Davis delivers powerful keynote address about the need for change and "the need to renew our commitments to struggle against racism, materialism, and militarism."
- MIT soccer player Karena Groff '22 is named NCAA Woman of the Year. Groff is a graduate student in Biological Engineering and is the second MIT student-athlete ever to earn Woman of the Year honors.
- Prof. Peter Dedon of Biological Engineering is elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- A visionary Haystack proposal is selected for funding by the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts program: the Great Observatory for Long Wavelengths (GO-LoW). Led by Dr. Mary Knapp '11, PD '17, PhD '18 of Haystack Observatory, the GO-LoW team of scientists and engineers includes Lenny Paritsky (Haystack) and Ekaterina (Kat) Kononov '12, MNG '13 (MIT).
- Hari Balakrishnan, a faculty member in EECS and a principal investigator in CSAIL is awarded the Marconi award for communications technology.
- Haystack Observatory scientists contribute to major ALMA correlator upgrade, focusing on supporting a component of the correlator upgrade that allows the collection of ALMA dishes to operate as a "phased" array.
- The ACAS X program, funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, brings collision avoidance capabilities to a range of air vehicle types. Development of ACAS X began as an internally funded research and development project at Lincoln Laboratory in 2008. Now, there are multiple versions of the project to cover different types of aircraft and needs.
- Peter W. Shor PhD '85, Morss Professor of Applied Mathematics, is named the 2022-23 recipient of MIT's Killian Faculty Achievement Award and delivers the Killian Lecture on Quantum Computing.
- A team from Lincoln Laboratory and the University of Michigan innovates a new way to label fabrics by weaving fibers with engineered reflectivity into them. This new process of labeling aims to reshape and improve textile sorting and recycling.
- Robert Metcalfe '69, a CSAIL research affiliate and MIT Corporation life member emeritus, receives the Turing Award, often referred to as "the Nobel Prize of computing," for his invention of Ethernet.
- A new "Dialogues Across Difference" speaker series is launched as a way to learn how to think about taking on difficult subjects across differences of opinion, background, viewpoint, and life experience. The first speaker in the series is John Tomasi, President of Heterodox Academy, who emphasized the importance of humility in community and intellectual life as a means of engaging with differing perspectives and difficult questions.
- In May, MIT's campus is transformed for a community street fair and multi-day celebration for the inauguration of Sally Kornbluth, MIT's 18th president. Thousands pack Killian and Hockfield courts to enjoy student performances, amusement park rides, exhibits hosted by MIT's departments and labs, and delicious food.
- The theme for the inaugural festivities is "Curiosity Unbounded." In her inaugural address, President Sally Kornbluth urges the MIT community to tackle pressing challenges, especially climate change, with renewed urgency – "Join us in something important and new."
- Paula Hammond, a leading innovator in nanotechnology and head of Chemical Engineering, is named the recipient of the 2023-2024 James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award. Hammond, an MIT Institute Professor, is honored for her work designing novel polymers and nanomaterials, which have extensive applications in fields including medicine and energy.
- Middle school teachers learn about radar and engineering fundamentals during Lincoln Laboratory's summer program.



**Lauryn McNair, Assistant Dean of LBGTQ+ Women and Gender Services, speaks at the celebratory reopening of the Margaret Cheney Room which is a historically women-oriented space, focusing on women and gender.** Photo: Jodi Hilton



**Working with mentors and military operators, cadets are addressing U.S. Special Operations Command challenges in autonomy, data analytics, communications, and blood delivery. Here, U.S. Air Force and Army cadets learn about robotic systems in the Lincoln Laboratory's Autonomous Systems Development Facility.** Photo: Glen Cooper

- The MIT First Nations launch team, MIT Doya, blasts their first rocket to a height of 1,290 meters, placing second at the 2023 First Nations Launch contest in Wisconsin. The team chose the name Doya (ᐃᑦᑲ), meaning “beaver” in the Cherokee language.
- In Kendall Square, the new John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center opens after nearly a decade of collaboration with the Institute. MIT designed and constructed the highly energy-efficient building as part of an agreement that will allow the Institute to develop 10 additional acres of land in Kendall Square that are no longer needed by the federal government.
- Prof. Mounji Bawendi wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his influential work on techniques to generate quantum dots of uniform size and color. Prof. Bawendi is honored along with Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov.
- Chevalier (Chevy) Cleaves, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Lincoln Laboratory, is featured in the October cover story of CIO Views magazine, highlighting his leadership in diversity and inclusion efforts in higher education, business, government, and research and development.
- Lincoln Laboratory's ILLUMA-T, deployed on the International Space Station, communicates through laser signals with NASA's Laser Communications Relay Demonstration satellite, which relays the data to Earth.
- EECS student Justin Yu wins the 2023 Classic Tetris World Championships.
- Cybersecurity technology developed by Lincoln Laboratory researchers more than a decade ago is at the core of the first-place Foundry award for the 2023 National Security Innovation Network Foundry and Forge Showcase Day.
- MIT Institute Professor Paula Hammond who has led ChemE since 2015 is named Vice Provost for Faculty.
- Lincoln Laboratory staff advise Massachusetts Sea Cadets for an underwater robotics competition called SeaPerch.
- In response to the crisis in the Middle East, President Kornbluth launches Standing Together Against Hate, a community-driven initiative coordinated by Chancellor Melissa Nobles. The initiative will support efforts led by MIT faculty, staff, students, and the administration to come together, MIT-style, to use problem-solving skills to address antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hate.

- Lincoln Laboratory hosts its fifth-annual RAINNS workshop focusing on AI for national security.
- Dr. Eric Evans announces plans to step down as Director of MIT Lincoln Laboratory on July 1, 2024, after 18 years leading the Laboratory that has served the nation through its technology research and development since 1951. Evans will transition into the role of fellow in the Director's Office and will also hold an appointment as a Senior Fellow in MIT's Security Studies Program.
- Paolo Parravano, who worked for 33 years to build enduring MIT connections with elected officials and the local community, passes away. Former Co-Director of the Office of Government and Community Relations, Parravano is remembered for his care and compassion.
- DMSE Breakerspace, a new materials laboratory and lounge on the Infinite Corridor, invites undergraduates to explore materials, blending science, technology, and hands-on discovery.
- Christine Taylor-Butler '81, MLK Visiting Scholar, author of children's literature, and community activist, presents "The Importance of Dreaming: Why Diversity Matters in STEM and Children's Literature."
- During a three-week residency at MIT, the Steinway Spirio | r, a piano embedded with technology for live performance capture and playback, offers music lovers the opportunity to engage with this new technology through a series of workshops.
- MIT study finds language-processing difficulties are an indicator — in addition to memory loss — of amnesic mild cognitive impairment, a risk factor for dementia due to Alzheimer's disease.
- Karl Reid '84, SM '85 is named Vice President for Equity and Inclusion.
- MIT's Electric Vehicle Team, which has a long record of building and racing innovative electric vehicles, is building a hydrogen-powered electric motorcycle, using a fuel cell system, as a testbed for new hydrogen-based transportation.
- Lincoln Laboratory partners with the Commercial Drone Alliance to develop tools that will aid safety assessments of unmanned aircraft operations.
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers designates three historical Lincoln Laboratory technologies as IEEE Milestones: the Mode S air traffic control (ATC) radar beacon system; 193-nanometer (nm) photolithography; and the semiconductor laser. The latter recognition is shared by Lincoln Laboratory, General Electric, and IBM.

## 2024

- Prof. Kristala L. J. Prather '94 assumes role as head of Chemical Engineering (ChemE).
- Philip J. Erickson assumes position of Director of MIT Haystack Observatory, succeeding longtime Director Colin J. Lonsdale. Erickson is an accomplished radio scientist and ionosphere-magnetosphere researcher.
- A new comic takes readers through a history of infectious disease discoveries. "A Paradigm Shift in Infectious Disease" follows MIT Associate Professor Lydia Bourouiba and artist Argha Manna, who are both protagonists and creators of the project.
- MIT chemists have developed a battery cathode based on organic materials, which could cut the EV industry's reliance on scarce metals with high financial, environmental, and social costs.
- A new model from the MIT Sports Lab predicts how shoe properties will affect a runner's performance. "Way down the road, we imagine that if you send us a video of yourself running, we could 3D print the shoe that's right for you. That would be the moonshot," says postdoc Sarah Fay.
- MIT engineers have developed a cryptographic ID tag, based on terahertz waves, that can reveal with near-perfect accuracy whether an item is real or fake. The key is in the glue on the back of the tag.



**The MIT women's cross country team claims its first NCAA Division III National Championship after being ranked No. 1 for most of the season.** Photo: Natalie Green

- In a letter to the MIT community, President Sally Kornbluth introduces the Climate Project at MIT, a major campus-wide effort to solve critical climate problems with all possible speed.
- MIT.nano Immersion Lab works with AR/VR startup to create transcontinental medical instruction.
- MLK Celebration Gala pays tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. and his writings on “the goal of true education.” Now in its 50th year, the annual event features remarks from MIT community members and civil rights activist Janet Moses.
- Miguel Zenón, Assistant Professor of Jazz at MIT, wins Grammy Award. The renowned saxophonist wins Best Latin Jazz Album along with pianist Luis Perdomo for their album, “El Arte Del Bolero Vol. 2.”
- MIT community gathers on campus to view the 2024 partial eclipse and witness 93% totality.
- William H. Green is named director of the MIT Energy Initiative. In his new role, the Professor of Chemical Engineering plans to speed up the consensus process among academics, business leaders, and policymakers for a successful energy transition.
- Alison Badgett is named director of the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center. With decades of experience in the nonprofit sector, she will lead the center as MIT boosts social impact experiential learning opportunities.
- College and university campuses across the U.S. protest the Gaza War.
- The Institute hosts a series of “Dialogues Across Difference,” guest lectures, and campus conversations encouraging community members to speak openly and honestly about freedom of expression, race, meritocracy, and the intersections and potential conflicts among these issues.
- Physics Prof. John Joannopoulos receives the 2024-2025 Killian Award, the Institute’s highest faculty honor, for his pioneering work in photonics that helped to advance tools for telecommunications and biomedicine.
- At Commencement, biotechnology leader Noubar Afeyan PhD ’87 urges the MIT Class of 2024 to “accept impossible missions” for the betterment of the world. Afeyan is chair and co-founder of the biotechnology firm Moderna, whose groundbreaking Covid-19 vaccine has been distributed to billions of people in over 70 countries.
- Profs. Nancy Kanwisher, Robert Langer, and Sara Seager are awarded prestigious Kavli Prizes, for their outstanding advances in the fields of neuroscience, nanoscience, and astrophysics, respectively.
- The new home of the Ragon Institute of Mass General Brigham, MIT, and Harvard University opens in the heart of Kendall Square. The building will serve as a hub for research on the development of immunology-based treatments.
- The Boston Celtics win their 18th NBA championship, the most across the league.
- The new Graduate Junction housing complex on Vassar Street opens.
- The Climate Project at MIT appoints leaders for each of its six focal areas, or Climate Missions –
  - **Decarbonizing energy and industry:** Associate Dean of Engineering, Elsa Olivetti PhD ’07
  - **Restoring the atmosphere, protecting the land and oceans:** Associate Prof. Andrew Babbin (EAPS) and Prof. Jesse Kroll (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
  - **Empowering frontline communities:** Associate Prof. Miho Mazereeuw (Architecture)
  - **Building and adapting healthy, resilient cities:** Prof. Christoph Reinhart (Architecture)
  - **Inventing new policy approaches:** Prof. Christopher Knittel (Sloan School)
  - **Wild cards, “unconventional solutions outside the scope of the other missions”:** Associate Prof. Benedetto Marelli (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
- “Rollerama” roller rink opens in Kendall Square. A summertime installation by MIT’s Real Estate group features free roller-skating and fun activities for the broader community.
- Dr. Melissa Choi is named director of MIT Lincoln Laboratory. With decades of experience working across the Laboratory’s R&D areas, she brings a focus on collaboration, technical excellence, and unity. Melissa Choi is also a 2024 inductee to the QCC!
- Dedication ceremony celebrates the new Schwarzman College of Computing building.
- Since 2008, Lincoln Laboratory staff based in Kwajalein have led a 10-week summer internship in IT careers for Republic of the Marshall Islands residents.
- Michael John Gorman takes his post as director of the MIT Museum. In a Boston Globe interview, Gorman states “Museums can give people that spark, that hunger to learn and to dive in deeper. If we are that meeting place for the amazing minds we have around MIT and Cambridge and the Boston area with the broader public, then we can ignite a lot of those sparks.”
- Hurricane Helene causes widespread catastrophic damage and numerous fatalities across the Southeastern United States.

- Institute Professor Daron Acemoglu and Prof. of Entrepreneurship Simon Johnson are honored with the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, along with James Robinson of the University of Chicago, for their work on the relationship between economic growth and political institutions.
- MIT alumnus Victor Ambros '75, PhD '79 also share the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Gary Ruvkun, who completed his postdoctoral research at MIT alongside Ambros in the 1980s. They were honored for their discovery of MicroRNA.
- President Kornbluth announces two additional all-Institute collaborative efforts: The MIT Human Insight Collaborative (MITHIC) aims to bring together scholars in the humanities, arts, and social sciences with colleagues across the Institute as a way to amplify MIT's impact on challenges like climate change, artificial intelligence, pandemics, poverty, democracy, and more. Second, the MIT Health and Life Sciences Collaborative (MIT HEALS) will draw on MIT's strengths in life sciences and other fields, including AI and chemical and biological engineering, to accelerate progress in improving patient care.
- Republican nominee Donald Trump is elected the second U.S. president in American history to win two non-consecutive terms, defeating Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris who became her party's nominee after incumbent President Joe Biden stepped down from the race.
- The U.S. Department of Labor recognizes Lincoln Laboratory with the HIRE Vets Platinum Medallion Award for demonstrating unparalleled commitment to attracting and retaining veterans. U.S. Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su presented the award during a virtual award ceremony on October 31, 2024.
- MIT announces that undergraduates with family income below \$200,000 — a figure that applies to 80% of American households — can expect to attend MIT tuition-free starting next fall. In addition, families with income below \$100,000 can expect to pay nothing at all toward the full cost of their students' MIT education, which includes tuition as well as housing, dining, fees, and an allowance for books and personal expenses. President Kornbluth calls the new cost structure, which will be paid for by MIT's endowment, "an inter-generational gift from past MIT students to the students of today and tomorrow."

## 2025

- On January 3, the Biden White House presented National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology and Innovation, the nation's highest honors for scientists and innovators, to four MIT faculty members. Biological Engineering Prof. Angela Belcher and Prof. Emery Brown of Brain and Cognitive Sciences are awarded the National Medal of Science. MIT Institute Professor Paula Hammond '84, PhD '93, and Prof. Feng Zhang of Brain and Cognitive Sciences are awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.
- Political Science Associate Prof. Ariel White explores how previously incarcerated people and others on the margins of U.S. politics might participate more fully in our democracy. Although they tend to be left out of discussions on voting, "I think there is a much broader story to be told here," she says.
- Mechanical Engineering Prof. Evelyn Wang is appointed the Institute's inaugural Vice President for Climate and will lead the Climate Project at MIT beginning April 1.
- Richard Locke PhD '89 is named Dean of the MIT Sloan School of Management. A former faculty member, the accomplished scholar and energetic leader returns to the Institute with a broad vision and deep experience.
- A series of deadly wildfires decimate communities across the Los Angeles area forcing 200,000 to evacuate and destroying more than 18,000 homes and structures.



**The new Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building opens in February 2025, "giving MIT musicians the conservatory-level tools they deserve," says MIT President Sally Kornbluth.**

Photo: Ken'ichi Suzuki

- In a new course co-taught by EECS and Philosophy professors, students tackle moral dilemmas of the digital age. Distinguished Professor of Computing Armando Solar-Lezama poses the same impossible question to his students that he often asks himself in the research he leads with the Computer Assisted Programming Group at MIT: “How do we make sure that a machine does what we want, and only what we want?”
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces drastic across-the-board cuts to the research funding it supplies to universities, hospitals, medical schools, and research centers in every U.S. state. In response, MIT joins a federal lawsuit with peer institutions to block the cuts, that emphasizes their threat to American innovation and public health.
- The MIT Generative AI Impact Consortium is launched, fostering collaborations between MIT researchers and industry leaders; support high-risk, high-reward projects; and provide open-source solutions to benefit society.
- Artfinity kicks off on February 15 at the new Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building with a program spanning classical, jazz, chamber music and traditional music of Senegal and Bali. In the following weeks, the festival will offer more than 80 free events. All are open to the public, offering wonderful opportunities to enjoy the arts at MIT.
- A new MIT class explores the pedagogical possibilities of dance.
- U.S. Space Force’s Space Systems Command and Japan launch first bilateral space effort. Both U.S. payloads for this mission were designed and built by Lincoln Laboratory.
- In collaboration with the University of Notre Dame, Lincoln Laboratory staff develop SPROUT, a flexible robot capable of navigating under collapsed structures, helping emergency responders search through rubble.
- Pivot Bio, co-founded by Biological Engineering Prof. Chris Voigt, has developed a nitrogen product that is replacing synthetic fertilizer across millions of acres of American farmland. Based on nitrogen-producing microbes, the technology is helping to make farming more sustainable and efficient.
- Lincoln Laboratory and MIT researchers are creating new types of bioabsorbable fabrics that mimic the unique way soft tissues stretch while nurturing growing cells to accelerate healing.
- USAISR and Lincoln Laboratory team up on AI tool for nerve block anesthetics. The device will be capable of allowing a non-expert to deliver a regional nerve block with pinpoint precision.
- Cynthia Barnhart SM '86, PhD '88 plans to step down as MIT’s provost, effective July 1. Barnhart, who served as MIT’s chancellor for more than seven years before becoming provost in 2022, will return to the faculty following a sabbatical.
- The MIT HAUS (Homes Architecture Universal Sustainability) Project is working on a groundbreaking solution to the global housing crisis by developing low-cost, 3D-printed homes using recycled polymer composite materials. Their goal? To mass-produce sustainable housing and make a real impact on under- and unhoused communities worldwide.
- A new MIT study identifies steps that can lower not only emissions, but also costs, across the combined electric power and natural gas industries that now supply heating fuels.
- Legena Henry SM '10 is the CEO of Rum and Sargassum, a startup that converts invasive seaweed into renewable natural gas to fuel cars.
- MIT engineers prepare to send three payloads to the moon. Data from the devices will help future astronauts navigate the moon’s south polar region and search for frozen water.
- Biology Associate Prof. Stefani Spranger is working on understanding and solving why some cancers, like lung and ovarian cancer, don’t respond well to immunotherapy.
- MIT engineers develop a programmable computer in the form of a single elastic fiber that can be sewn into a garment. Base-layer clothing with these fiber computers is being tested in the Arctic to monitor U.S. service members’ health and safety in extreme environments.
- A collaboration between MIT professors of Urban Studies and Planning and the Association of Ukrainian Cities aims to empower Ukraine’s municipal leaders to drive recovery after the war.
- Five years, five triumphs in Putnam Math Competition! Undergrads sweep Putnam Fellows for fifth year in a row and continue winning streak.
- MIT Professor of the Practice Carlo Ratti curates Venice Biennale’s 19th International Architecture Exhibition.
- AeroAstro Prof. David Darmofal SM '91, PhD '93 is named Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate and Graduate Education.
- MIT student-athletes help to secure their team’s first NCAA national championship in Institute history: Women’s track and field wins both the indoor national championship and outdoor national championship, while women’s swimming and diving wins the national title as well.



**The OneMIT Commencement ceremony gives students, family, and friends a chance to celebrate years of hard work by the Institute's newest graduates.** Photo: Gretchen Ertl

- Dimitris Bertsimas PhD '88, Vice Provost for Open Learning and Professor of Operations Research, is named the recipient of the 2025-26 James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award for his educational leadership in operations research.
- MIT engineering students put a common belief to the test by examining whether eggs are really strongest at their tips. Their experiments reveal that eggs dropped on their sides — not their tips — are far more resilient.
- At OneMIT Commencement ceremony, Hank Green urges the Class of 2025 to work on “everyday solvable problems of normal people.” Green is a hugely popular content creator and YouTuber whose work often focuses on science and STEM issues, and who has built, with his brother, John, the educational media company Complexly.
- Dr. Phil Erickson, Director of MIT Haystack Observatory, gives the prestigious CEDAR Distinguished Lecture in Des Moines, Iowa. The nomination for Erickson described how his work has “profoundly enriched the CEDAR (Coupling, Energetics, and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions) community through the unique combination of space physics knowledge and a deep technical knowledge that enables space physics advancements.”
- The “Outfinite” — the open space connecting Hockfield Court with Mass. Ave. — is officially named the L. Rafael Reif Innovation Corridor in honor of President Emeritus L. Rafael Reif, MIT’s 17th president.
- EECS Prof. Anantha Chandrakasan who has held multiple leadership roles at MIT, is named the Institute’s new provost, effective July 1.
- With an emphasis on approachability, Prof. Mark Bear’s book “Neuroscience: Exploring the Brain” enters its fourth decade as the text of undergraduate neuroscience classes worldwide.
- Undergrad Mason Estrada signs a contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, after the team selects him in the 7th round of the Major League Baseball draft on July 14. The star pitcher has been studying aerospace engineering at MIT. Now his pitches, and career, will take flight in professional baseball!
- MIT documentary “That Creative Spark” wins New England Emmy Award. The film produced by MIT Open Learning’s video team shows the art and science of hand-forged knives with master bladesmith Bob Kramer.
- Gaspare LoDuca joins MIT from Columbia University as Vice President for Information Systems and Technology and CIO.
- NASA selects Adam Fuhrmann '11 for astronaut training. The AeroAstro alumnus, who participated in Air Force ROTC and the Gordon Engineering Leadership Program at MIT, is a test pilot and one of 10 new astronaut candidates selected from around the nation.
- MIT hosts the Cambridge Science Carnival, a hands-on event managed by the MIT Museum that draws approximately 20,000 attendees and features more than 140 activities, demonstrations, and installations tied to the topics of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM).
- Thieves break into the Louvre during a brazen daylight robbery in Paris. While tourists peruse art, the thieves make off with jewelry said to be of incalculable worth.
- The Undergraduate Advising Center’s new home in Building 11 creates a bright, welcoming, and functional destination for MIT undergraduate students.
- The Boston Public Library (BPL) presents *Revolution! 250 Years of Art & Activism in Boston* featuring more than 100 artworks and documentary materials from the BPL’s renowned Special Collections. The exhibition explores America’s evolving struggles for freedom, civil rights, and belonging. The exhibition is part of *Road to Revolution*, the BPL’s three-year cycle of programs leading to the anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.

- MIT mourns the tragic passing of Prof. Nuno Loureiro. In a letter to the MIT community, President Sally Kornbluth wrote, “With great sadness, I write to share the tragic news that Professor Nuno Loureiro, Director of the Plasma Science and Fusion Center (PSFC), died early this morning from gunshot wounds he sustained a few hours before. In the face of this shocking loss, our hearts go out to his wife and their family and to his many devoted students, friends and colleagues.”

## 2026

- Paula Hammond '84, PhD '93, an Institute Professor and MIT's Executive Vice Provost, begins her new position as Dean of MIT's School of Engineering.
- Lincoln Laboratory celebrates its 75th anniversary.
- An Ad Hoc Committee on AI Use in Teaching, Learning, and Research Training is formed to examine how AI is currently used across the Institute and develop recommendations that address opportunities, challenges, and policy needs. The committee will gather input from the MIT community and peer institutions, with findings expected by the end of the spring semester.
- Researchers propose a roadmap for using transcranial focused ultrasound, a noninvasive way to stimulate the brain and see how it functions. Lincoln Laboratory researcher Dr. Daniel Freeman states “This is a tool that's not just useful for medicine or even basic science, but could also help address the hard problem of consciousness. It can probe where in the brain are the neural circuits that generate a sense of pain, a sense of vision, or even something as complex as human thought.”
- The new Committee on Accelerating Translation and Entrepreneurship (CATE) will focus on reducing barriers to creating startups and identifying new opportunities for successful translation and entrepreneurship.
- During IAP, “The Moth” hosts workshops at MIT to help participants of all ages craft, revise, and share their personal stories. The final storytelling showcase events are held in Bldg. 4-163.
- Researchers at Lincoln Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory successfully trap and manipulate ions using in-vacuum cryoelectronics, allowing for reduced thermal noise and improved sensitivity. This proof-of-principle experiment marks an important advancement toward building large-scale ion-trap quantum computing systems.
- A reboot of getfit launches as the MIT Recreation getfit Challenge.



**Haystack Observatory polar geodesy team of scientists and engineers, in collaboration with AeroAstro, successfully designed, built, deployed, operated, and retrieved unique seismo-geodetic ice penetrator (SGIP) instruments in Antarctica.**

- Music Composition Prof. Keeril Makan is appointed Vice Provost for the Arts.
- MIT's 52nd annual MLK luncheon celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. features remarks by President Sally Kornbluth, senior officers, and a keynote by Paula Hammond, Institute Professor and Dean of Engineering.
- Prof. Tomás Palacios is appointed Director of the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies.
- Mechanical Engineering Prof. Maria Yang takes on the role of Vice Provost for Faculty.

**The Quarter Century Club formally welcomes 178 new members representing the 2025 and 2026 classes at a March 2 luncheon at the Samberg Conference Center. Congratulations!**





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