Welcome Incoming MIT Graduate Students!

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

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

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

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

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

As you move along with your studies here, I encourage you all to visit the GSC Orientation website at http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation/ for updates on the list of scheduled events for Orientation and on issues pertaining to graduate student life. You will find that the GSC website and The Graduate publication serve as amazing venues for sharing information, ideas, opinions, and activities. We are constantly looking for submissions of artwork, poetry, or short fiction articles that may be of interest to our readership. We welcome all writers, photographers, artists, and layout designers onto our team who have the desire to communicate important issues clearly. If you are interested in joining our team, please send an e-mail to gsn-editor@mit.edu.

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

Rudy Dieudonne
Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News
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Graduate Student Council Officers & Committees

Name: Brian Spatocco
Position: President

Name: Aalap Dighe
Position: Vice-President

Name: Bomy Lee Chung
Position: Secretary

Name: Eric Victor
Position: Treasurer

Activities Committee Chairs
- Marie Giron
- Alex Guo

ARC Committee Chairs
- Pavitra Krishnaswamy
- Dimitre Ostrev

Orientation Committee Chairs
- Neel Bardhan
- Cristina Camayd

HCA Chair
- Randi Cabezas

Muddy Chair
- Torin Clark

GSC Administrators
- Imani Ivery
- Elizabeth Granese
Infinite Corridor of Opportunities

A Welcome Message from your Orientation Chairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

Welcome Home!

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

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

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

Since I expect you’re going to be inundated with academic requirements, course deadlines, and presentations, I want to use this opportunity to give you a piece of advice you may not hear frequently as you trek towards your degree. Specifically, I want to remind you that there are thousands of other universities in the world which grant Masters and PhDs to brilliant graduate students. The thing which separates an MIT PhD from a non-MIT PhD is, obviously, the university itself. In other words, I encourage you to aggressively and relentlessly engage MIT for all it’s worth. Never stop looking for something new to do — something outside your comfort zone — and, if by some completely crazy chance MIT doesn’t have what you’re looking for, then, by all means, make it happen. Don’t spend your entire life in the lab or writing problem sets as this will not differentiate you from the thousands of other PhDs who will be graduating around the world. What will set you apart is what you’ve extracted from and contributed to MIT in pursuit of your PhD. Get involved.

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

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

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

Brian Spatocco
Graduate Student Council President
Welcome, from the President of MIT

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

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

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

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

With warmest wishes for a wonderful start,

Rafael Reif
President of MIT

Welcome, from the Dean for Graduate Education

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

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

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

Graduate school will, without a doubt, be a transformative experience for you. You will be pushed to your limits. You will experience amazing breakthroughs in understanding. You will establish lifelong mentors and colleagues. Your life will take unexpected directions. You will tap into and hone talents you may not even be aware you have. You will develop important transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, tenacity, and critical thinking. I encourage you to make use of the enormous set of opportunities available to you at MIT: international engagement, personal and professional development, mentoring, public service and outreach, interdisciplinary collaboration, entrepreneurship, leadership, seminars and workshops, networking, social and cultural activities. Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to faculty and staff. We are here to act as mentors, guides, teachers, and counselors to assist you in achieving your academic, personal, and professional goals.

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

Sincerely,

Christine Ortiz
Dean for Graduate Education

Welcome, from the Dean for Student Life

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

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

One of the pleasures of serving as Dean for Student Life (DSL) is working closely with graduate students in a variety of ways to help this community thrive. The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is our strong partner, as well as the House governments in the graduate residences and many student organizations and committees. Here are just some of the opportunities we provide to help you make the most of your MIT experience:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elena Colonello
Chris Colombo
Dean for Student Life

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Elena Colonello
Chris Colombo
Dean for Student Life

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GSC Activities Committee

We are Pavitra and Dimiter, the Co-Chairs of the GSC Committee for Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC), which speaks up, brings attention to, and facilitates important projects and events aimed at improving academic and professional life at MIT. In the coming year, we will organize a variety of events such as the Grad School 101-102 orientations, the Professional Development Series about possible career choices, hands-on Professional Skills Workshops, an Academic Career Development Series about possible career choices, and more. These projects aim at improving students’ quality of life through a data-driven and principled approach (as one would expect from the MIT community).

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

Pavitra Krishnaswamy
Dimiter Dimitrov
GSC ARC Co-Chairs

GSC Housing & Community Affairs Committee

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

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

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

Randi Cabertas
GSC HCA Chair

GSC Academic, Research, & Careers Committee

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Pavitra Krishnaswamy
Dimiter Dimitrov
GSC ARC Co-Chairs

Greetings from the Office of Minority Education

The Office of Minority Education (OME) welcomes you to MIT! The OME is dedicated to promoting academic excellence, building strong communities, and developing professional mindsets among students of underrep-resented minority groups, with the ultimate goal of developing leaders in the academy, industry, and society.

Although the OME focuses primarily on undergraduates, we also work very closely with graduate students. Graduate students facilitate the Incoming MIT Freshman Academic Excellence Workshops; serve as tutors through our Tutorial Services Room (TSR); and mentor undergraduate students through OME professional development programs such as Laureates and Leaders, Mentor Advocates (MANNAP), and Pathway to Grad School.

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

Finally, I encourage you to email Lorena Tovar (ltovar@mit.edu) if you wish to be added to the OME student list-serv. You will receive the bi-weekly OME “Heads Up” E-newsletter, which provides updates on OME programs and events, job opportunities, and other important information. Again, welcome to MIT! Have a wonderful academic year.

Dionetta Jones
Director, Office of Minority Education

Greetings from LGBT Services at MIT

The five MIT LGBT student groups, the LGBT alumni group, and the allies@mit group provide wonderful networking oppor-tunities as well as educational and social events for the entire community. A great way to start the year off is with a wonderful community leadership weekend retreat in Provincetown. This year’s trip is on Sept 28th-30th. Please RSVP to Abigail (apf@mit.edu). All LBGTQ students and allies are welcome.

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

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

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Abigail Francis
Director of LGBT Services
Graduate Women at MIT

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

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

- Increased networking opportunities with companies and research labs for possible summer internships and alignment of research projects
- Possibility of doing an internship during Independent Activities Period (Winter Break for students to work at a company for 4 weeks)
- Help determine what you want to do in the future
- Ability to sharpen skills needed in graduate school, academic careers, and industry careers
- Company sponsorships help fund graduate student groups and activities

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

Kendall Nocenso
MIT 2012 Career Fair Board Member

Career Talk!

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

Think of us as your personal career consultants. We’re here to help you learn about specific resources of use to you, as well as to learn the lifelong process of self-examination + opportunity-development, which together will shape your career. Graduate students use Career Services throughout their time at MIT (and beyond) to:

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

Great Way to Get Started: Sign on to Career-Bridge, GECID’s online career management system, https://www.mycareerx.com/mit/student/. This will allow you to sign up for appointments with GECID staff members, search job and internship postings, register for career workshops and events, and access password-protected career resources including an online self-assessment tool.

Attend the MIT Fall Career Fair! Coming September 21, 2012, this is MIT’s largest annual career fair, http://career-fair.mit.edu/. Graduate students at all stages can use the Career Fair to connect with employers of interest as well as to explore professional options and opportunities. Come prepared with (1) a list of employers that attract you and (2) an intro — a few sentences in mind to introduce yourself and your interests to company representatives; you may follow this with a question about opportunities in their company for people with your skills and interests. Students who are actively job searching should (3) also bring copies of their resume.

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

Marilyn Wilson
St. Career Development Specialist, Graduate Career Services, GECID

Graduate Women at MIT

Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT) is a student-led organization with graduate women representatives across MIT departments. As a subcommittee of the Graduate Student Council, we provide a unified voice for MIT’s graduate women. Founded in fall 2009, we currently have over 900 members. Our programs include a year-round mentoring program, a fall leadership conference, an annual spring empowerment conference, and monthly collaborative events with campus groups and offices. We are also engaged in advocacy on behalf of all graduate students on issues of academic success, personal and professional development, and well-being. We welcome all members of the MIT community, including men, to participate in our events and discussions.

We are excited to welcome you to your new home. GWAMIT is poised to help you link up to numerous resources on campus, including the Career Center’s comprehensive career services, as well as to share opportunities with campus groups and offices. We are also engaged in advocacy on behalf of all graduate students on issues of academic success, personal and professional development, and well-being. We welcome all members of the MIT community, including men, to participate in our events and discussions.

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

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

- Career Fair
- GradRat (The Graduate Student Ring)
- GSC Orientation
- GWAMIT Leadership and Empowerment Conferences
- MIT Grad Gala and Ski Trip
- Muddy Charles Pub
- Professional Speaker Series
- >$15,000 in Graduate Travel Grants
- >$30,000 allocated funds to graduate student groups

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

Brian Spatocco
Graduate Student Council President

Some current areas of advocacy include:

- Advising and Mentoring
- Annual Stipend Increases

Some new programs and initiatives to provide opportunities for growth and interaction, and communicating with the MIT Administration and Faculty on behalf of graduate students. Now entering our 50th year as an organization, we have successfully advocated for countless improvements to student life while at the same time developing a significant portfolio of programs and support which most graduates would now consider essential to the MIT experience.

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is the representative graduate body which exists to enhance the overall graduate student experience at MIT by promoting the general welfare and concerns of the graduate student body, creating new programs and initiatives to provide opportunities for growth and interaction, and communicating with the MIT Administration and Faculty on behalf of graduate students. Now entering our 50th year as an organization, we have successfully advocated for countless improvements to student life while at the same time developing a significant portfolio of programs and support which most graduates would now consider essential to the MIT experience.
How Grad School Can Prepare You for Careers that Make a Difference

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

It’s a good goal, but I know from my own experience of grad school that the more immediate goals of getting the data you need and writing the next chapter often get in the way of figuring out how exactly you’re going to do all that good stuff. I survived (and loved!) five years of grad school, and now I’m trying out how exactly you’re going to do all that good stuff. Need and writing the next chapter often get in the way of figuring out how exactly you’re going to do all that good stuff. For instance, Jukka Salminen, a graduate student at MIT, has spent the past five years helping to build and train EGG-energy’s local sales team. Less than a year later, the business had six local employees and 1,500 customers. The business had six local employees and 1,500 customers.

Contemporary academia has moved far beyond the old ivory tower model, and any experiences that demonstrate that you know how to apply your research in the real world are going to be valuable in your academic job applications. A great example is Amos Winter (SM PhD ’11). Amos received his first funding from the PSC in Summer 2005 when he also traveled to Tanzania, in this case to work with local wheelchair workshops. This experience got Amos, an engineer who loves the challenge of design for extreme conditions, hooked on designing low-cost wheelchairs that can survive the rough roads in developing countries. While he was still a grad student, Amos founded the class Wheelchair Design in Developing Countries and then went on to get a post-doc through the SUTD-MIT International Design Center to work on wheelchair production in India. This summer, he was awarded a faculty appointment in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

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

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

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

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

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

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

By the first day of class, you will realize that navigating the MIT campus is a challenging task. Whereas many other educational institutions organize their buildings and programs by names, MIT organizes its buildings and programs by numbers. The numbers on the campus map corresponds to MIT building numbers. Under this numbering system, a single room number serves to completely identify any location on the campus. In a typical room number such as “7-121”, the figures preceding the hyphen refers to the building number; the first number following the hyphen, the floor; and the last two numbers, the room. Thus, room 7-121 is in building 7, on the first floor, room 21.

The Bezel represents the journey the graduate student takes at MIT. The Beaver is confidently holding its degree, sitting on a bench. The tipped over hourglass under its tail represents the lack of free time and the unknown time to graduation. It also looks like an infinity symbol representing the Infinite Corridor. The Beaver is confidently holding its degree, sitting on a bench of branches forming the famous letters “HFTP”. The letter G represents the registrar’s designation for graduate students.

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It is useful to know that buildings on the main campus east of the Great Dome (Building 10) have even numbers, while those west of it have odd numbers. Buildings west of Mas- The numbers on the campus map corresponds to MIT building numbers. Under this numbering system, a single room number serves to completely identify any location on the campus. In a typical room number such as “7-121”, the figures preceding the hyphen refers to the building number; the first number following the hyphen, the floor; and the last two numbers, the room. Thus, room 7-121 is in building 7, on the first floor, room 21.

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The Oval Dome of Opinions

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

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

I can recall that the air in the room was still and crisp, as I sat with my fellow peers while listening to the thesis student introduce his project. This student stood tall and confident as he carefully explained the concept of his project to his advisor. This student stood tall and confident as he introduced his project. His presence was felt by not only this thesis student, but also the hearts of his fellow peers while listening to the thesis student introducing his project.

The comments made by the advisor were as swift as the movement of time, yet as sharp and definitive as a sharpened machete. So hurtful were the advisor's words that, as he uttered the syllables, you could sense the words piercing the heart of not only this thesis student, but also the hearts of his father and grandmother who came to support him, the faith...
I took courage to get off a plane in a foreign city and start a new life. The rewards can, however, be outstanding. As an international student at MIT, you are not alone, more than a third of graduate students are foreign, coming from almost 100 different countries.

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

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

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

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

Chandrani Mondal

Lessons Learned During My First Year

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

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

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

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

Alpita Masurkar

MIT Federal Credit Union

WHY WE’RE BETTER

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

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

NOT JUST ANY CREDIT UNION

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

The smart money

JOIN OR GET TO KNOW US BETTER

Tech Square Branch
270 Technology Square
Building N18
Building WB, Room 116
M, T, W, F 8:30am—4:00pm
Th, 9:00am—5:00pm

Online
www.mitfcu.org

Call Center
617-253-3885
M, F, 8:30am—5:00pm

The value of membership

– Totally FREE Checking Account
– Savings Account
– Debit MasterCard
– Apply for a VISA® Credit Card
– Free mobile banking, online banking, bill pay, e-statements, e-checks, and Financial Alerts
– More about business loans

http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/pandp/
Dear Graduate,

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

Sincerely,
Robert Langer

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Robe
Discover the Arts at MIT

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

Toast the arts

The Graduate Arts Forum program sponsors sizable arts events and provocative panels, lectures, and discussions. Upcoming events during orientation and at the end of the semester include a reception co-hosted by the List Visual Arts Center in early September, during the student loan art program lottery; a gala on September 28 at the Harvard Museum of Natural History; the third annual gallery event on December 12 at the Copley Art Society in Boston on Newbury Street, and a graduate Arts Soirée at the MIT Media Lab on March 9, where you can join 500+ fellow grad students at this popular arts event. More info at http://arts.mit.edu/participate/grad-arts-forum/.

Decorate your walls with a real Miró

Each September, through the Student Loan Art Program, over 500 framed original works of art from the List Visual Arts Center are made available for loan to MIT students! Probability is high that you will be able to decorate your dorm room with a real Sol LeWitt, Alex Katz, or Joan Miró. Please visit http://listart.mit.edu/student_loan_art_collection for more information.

Hang museum art in your room, view entire collections at top Boston arts institutions, make art with artists, learn from speaking, experimentation, and imaginative problem solving.

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

Hang museum art in your room, view entire collections at top Boston arts institutions, make art with artists, learn from speaking, experimentation, and imaginative problem solving.

To learn more about the arts at MIT, visit http://arts.mit.edu or http://arts.mit.edu/participate/grad-arts-forum/.

Enrich your life off campus, for free

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

Explain yourself

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

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

Leah Talatinian
Leah Talatinian Communications Manager, Arts at MIT

Express yourself

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

Welcome Banquet:

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

Graduate Student Picnic:

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

Annual Graduate Student Events

Harvard / MIT Party:

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

Graduate Ski Trip:

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

Orientation Welcome:

During Orientation, there is a large number of people who will be introduced to all incoming graduate students. One of these figures is the MIT mascot, Tim the Beaver. Tim the Beaver has been the mascot of MIT since at least 1914. You would normally find Tim only at sporting and campus wide events, but Tim always makes an exception and comes out to welcome incoming graduate students.
Grad Gala:
The Grad Gala proves to be one of the most talked about events on our campus. This event is the one night of the academic year where students dress in their best and dance the night away. The gala takes place in one of the most prominent locations in downtown Boston, where students enjoy elegant drinks, fine cuisine, and enchanting music. The Grad Gala is truly a memorable event that every grad student should attend.

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

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

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

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

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

Rudy Dieudonne
Editor-in-Chief of Graduate Student News

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

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

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

Matt Smith

The Thirsty Ear Pub

E-mail: muddycharlespub@mit.edu, Web: http://mit.edu/muddy, Twitter: @muddycharlespub, Facebook: The Muddy Charles Pub group

Muddy Charles Pub

Ym-Thu 7:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. KItchen 'til 2 a.m.


Presented by:

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

Visit the PUB Fridays for $100! See: http://thirsty-ear.mit.edu

21+ Cash Photo Id Required
Cambridge/Somerville
Hot Spots Exposed!

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

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

Central Square:
Why take the green line all the way to Allston when we have our Central Square? Serving breakfast and lunch se-
tions all day, The Friendly Toast is the place to go for beer. Can’t decide? Try your hand at spinning the wheel of beer - but be warned: You spin it, you have to buy it. The middle East Restaurant and Nightclub is the place to go for live music, Toast (1912 Massachusetts Ave.), a small bar with bands every night.

Inman Square:
Ok, so now it’s time to venture off the red line. The next two squares require a bus from Central. You can catch the 83 to Inman Square in Cambridge if you don’t want to make the 20 minute walk from campus. Inman is a quiet little residential square which is the place to go for some great neighborhood hotspots. Bukowski’s (128 Cambridge St.) is the place to go for beer. Can’t decide? Try your hand at spinning the wheel of beer - but be warned: You spin it, you have to buy it. The middle East Restaurant and Nightclub is the place to go for live music, Toast (1912 Massachusetts Ave.), a small bar with bands every night.

Davis Square:
The last stop on the red line, Davis is a super-trendy stop in Somerville and full of great spots. Grab a coffee with the alternative crowd at Diesel Café (257 Elm St.) before catching a movie at Somerville Theater (55 Davis Sq.), where you can get a beer to go along with your movie, and check out the intriguingly-named Museum of Bad Art when the show is over. Davis also has a number of great venues for after the show, including Bur- ren (247 Elm St.) for live music or the super-bip Indian restaur-

tant/nightclub Diva Lounge (246 Elm St.). For decent eats and cheap drinks in a super laid-back diner atmosphere, head to The Friendly Toast (1255 Cambridge St.).

Union Square:
This one is definitely the hardest to get to. The 91 bus will take you there from Central; otherwise, a car or bike is best. However, brunch at the family-owned and operated Neighborhood Restaurant (25 Bow St., Somerville) is worth it. Union Square bars like the Independent (75 Union Sq.) and Precinct (70 Union Sq.) offer entertainment in this up-and-coming square. You have there it, my top picks from this side of the river. I hope that I included something that might entice you to get off of cam-
pus and explore your surroundings.

Steven M. Elliott
http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/pandp/
## Live (Know the City)

- **Wednesday 08/29**
  - Campus Police Welcome Lunch at W20-306 11:30am-1:00pm
- **Thursday 08/30**
  - **Families 101** Location TBD 9:00-11:00AM
- **Saturday 09/01**
  - Warehouse Food Truck Court at NW30 6:00pm-8:00pm
- **Sunday 09/02**
  - Prudential Skywalk & Ice Cream at 50-220 6:00-9:30pm
- **Wednesday 09/05**
  - Pub Crawl Location TBD 8:00P onwards
- **Saturday 09/08**
  - Grad Volunteer Day at W20 8:00am-5:00pm
- **Apple-Picking Trip** Date and location TBD
- **Boston Tour** Date and location TBD

## Work (Know the Institute)

- **Monday 8/27**
  - Grad School 101 at 26-100 9am-3:30pm
- **Tuesday 8/28**
  - Grad School 102 at 34-101 10am-4:30pm
- **Tuesday 8/28**
  - English Language Test Location TBD 9am-12pm
- **Tuesday 8/28 & Wednesday 8/29**
  - Information Booth at Lobby 10 9:00am-5:00pm
- **Wednesday 8/29**
  - Spouses & Partners Welcome W20-307 10:30am-1:00pm
- **Thursday 8/30**
  - Welcome Address at W16 12pm-3pm
- **Friday 09/07**
  - GWAMIT’s Women’s Welcome Lunch at W20-La Sala 12:00pm-01:30pm
- **Friday 9/7**
  - Grad Rat at 50-140 5pm-8pm

## Play (Know the People)

- **Sunday 8/26**
  - TEEC Barbeque at NW35 5pm-7:30pm
- **Wednesday 08/29**
  - Boston Harbor Cruise at Boston Harbor 07:00pm-10:00pm
- **Thursday 08/30**
  - Techlink Welcome Banquet at 50-140 6:00-9:00PM
- **Friday 8/31**
  - Sid-Pac BBQ & Movie at NW86 5:30-11:30PM
- **Saturday 09/01**
  - Edgerton Dance Party at NW10 9:00PM-1:00AM
- **Tuesday 09/04**
  - Reception Under the Stars at 14 07:30-10:00PM
- **Wednesday 09/05**
  - GSC Open House & Dinner at 50-140 5:00-8:00PM
- **Saturday 09/08**
  - Ashdown Dance Party at NW35 9:00pm-1:00am

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