Dear Volunteers,

It has been a busy fall in Cambridge as well as in the regions with so many clubs and groups coordinating exciting programs. As always, we were happy to welcome many of you back to campus for one of our biggest alumni events, the Alumni Leadership Conference on September 15-16. One of the highlights this year were the terrific presentations given at the Clubs Workshop by two of our alumns, Gary Brackenridge ’97 from New York, and Brian Brown ’93 from Colorado. Gary gave an entertaining presentation on the new volunteer recruitment and management plan developed by the Club of New York this year, and Brian shared important tips on how to secure sponsorship for club events. I encourage you to look at the presentations – as well as other presentations from ALC – online at: http://alum.mit.edu/ne/alc/presentations.html.

The other exciting news from this fall involved the new SmarTrans™ release that occurred on Monday, November 6. We continue to solicit your feedback regarding our online services, and our continued upgrades are in direct response to your requests. Please see the SmarTrans™ article on the opposite page for details on the new features.

As of the end of November, our community of 963 club and group volunteers has coordinated 519 events and recruited 5,637 members. This represents a tremendous amount of engagement with alumni worldwide, and we appreciate your efforts to make MIT the powerful global force that it is. Moana, Krista and I thank you now and throughout the year for your hard work. Please be sure to thank your volunteers regularly as well. Whether it’s through a holiday party or through a thoughtful email or written note, the effort you take to say thank you will go a long way toward making your volunteers feel appreciated and feel that the time they devote to your organization is well spent.

Have a healthy and happy holiday season,

Melissa Marquardt, Director, MIT Clubs and Regional Programs

Shine the Spotlight on an outstanding volunteer!

Do you know of a club volunteer who went above and beyond the call of duty for an event or program? Don’t wait till it’s too late! Nominate them for the Alumni Association’s Volunteer Honor Roll of Service.

The Association is considering nominations for service during the time period of July 1-December 31, and the deadline is December 31, 2006.

By submitting your nominations, you help the MIT Alumni Association give recognition for extraordinary individual performance by a volunteer at the local level. Alumni, parents, widows, spouses, faculty and students are eligible.

For more information on the honor roll, visit our Web site at: http://alum.mit.edu/gv/volunteer/recognition/honor-roll.html and nominate a volunteer today!

MIT Teacher Award Program

Bill Reenstra ’72, a former President of the Club of Delaware Valley, and current volunteer for the Club of Northern California was moved by President Hockfield’s desire for MIT to enhance K-12 education and serve as an inspiration for America’s youth. He formulated a plan to create a three way partnership among inspirational teachers, the Institute, and MIT alumni. Bill has engaged Sally Susnowitz, the Director of the MIT Public Service Center, Josh Schulier ESD ’00, InvenTeams Program Officer for Lemelson, and Clubs staff in the development and rollout of this program.

The MIT Teacher Award Program will involve an administrative committee which will solicit nominations from current MIT students of teachers who inspired them. The committee will partner with regional MIT Clubs to publicly celebrate and support selected teachers in their area. We believe that national publicity from this initiative will reinforce MIT’s reputation for motivating and celebrating excellence. The program will create new assets for inspirational teachers and their schools, and enhance the relationship between MIT and its alumni. We’re excited that we’ve received commitments to participate in this new program from the vast majority of alumni clubs! If you have questions or ideas you’d like to discuss regarding the MIT Teacher Award initiative, please contact Melissa Marquardt at (617) 253-8244 or at melissam@mit.edu.

Volunteer leaders gathered September 15-16 at the Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC) to discuss how to turn their vision for benefitting MIT and their communities into action. “Collaboration is definitely the watchword of MIT’s future and all of our futures,” President Hockfield told more than 400 attendees of Saturday’s plenary session. And collaborate they did. Conference participants shared success stories, networked, and swapped advice on everything from planning reunions and fundraising to team building and recruiting underrepresented minorities to MIT.

They also received important Institute and research updates and celebrated 31 award winners. Among this year’s award winners were Club of Northern California’s current board chairman John D. Chisholm ’73, winner of the Bronze Beaver award; Club of New York’s immediate past President, Kenneth Wang ’71, winner of the Harold E. Lobdell ’17 award; and Club of Colorado’s VP of Student Affairs and Treasurer, Kathleen E. Brown ’93, winner of the George B. Morgan ’20 award. The MIT Club of Hartford also received the Presidential Citation Award for its spectacular 100th Anniversary Celebration held in November 2005.

In all, over 100 Club Officers from 26 U.S. states and 6 countries took part in the dynamic exchanges that occurred at workshops which included highlights of the Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program (UPOP) and the Public Service Center’s Science and Engineering Program for Teachers (SEPT), and focused on best practices in communications, team building and event planning. We hope many of you who attended went away with a renewed sense of purpose and new ideas about how to continue to build the MIT volunteer network at the Club level.

If you missed this year’s Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC) and would like to refresh your memory on the content of some of the programming offered, visit http://alum.mit.edu/ne/alc/presentations.html to view some of the presentations made at this year’s ALC.

Save The Date for next year’s Alumni Leadership Conference, September 28 – 29, 2007!
MIT Enterprise Forum® News


Did you also know that any of the MIT Enterprise Forum’s recent Global Broadcasts are available on DVD and make for an excellent event either alone or in conjunction with a local panel? For a list of the programs and topics, please visit http://enterpriseforum.mit.edu/network/ and click on Global Broadcasts. You can even preview each broadcast by watching them via Web-streamed video to see if the topic is right for your local alumni. Or, you can download any of our 2006 programs as a video podcast at http://enterpriseforum.mit.edu/network/podcasts.html.

To become a local viewing site, either for January or a past program, please contact Greg Wymer at 617-253-2440 or mitef@mit.edu.

Three SmartTrans™ New Features

Our new releases were effective November 6! One of the most highly requested features is Member authentication for ticket type. SmartTrans™ provides a default member ticket type to be used if membership validation is required in order for the member price to be offered on your event registration form. Officers can activate the default member ticket by checking the box next to it. When the end-users have logged in to register, only the current members will be able to see the member ticket price in addition to all other ticket types, if the member authentication ticket has been activated. In order for member-validation to be successful, it is important for clubs and groups to submit their online membership information to Marilyn Finlay (mfinlay@mit.edu) in a timely manner.

Please note: Groups can decide to offer a member ticket price and not utilize the member authentication ticket type. This member ticket type will be displayed to all users.

A new “Date-activate” ticket function is also available. This feature can be used if you want to publish a particular ticket type on a date later than the event publish start date. Officers have the options to set the active and inactive date of a ticket type. This feature will be helpful if groups want to sell an “early-bird” or “late-registrant” ticket type. Additionally, Officers can decide to offer a member ticket price and not utilize the member authentication ticket type that a registrant can purchase by using the “Limit per Registration” feature.

Officers also can modify the Event Capacity and Ticket Limit per ticket type after the event has been published. The capacity number can now be changed to any number greater than the total number of registrations received. The ticket limit per ticket type can be changed to any number greater than the total number of tickets already sold for that particular ticket type.

SmarTrans™ enhancements are developed based on feedback or requests from you, the SmartTrans™ users. As always, we welcome your comments and feedback. Please feel free to contact us at any time at smarttranshelp@mit.edu.

A Special Event for Our Graduate Alumni Community

The MIT Alumni Association, in conjunction with regional Clubs, is planning a webcast and reception for graduate alumni (those who received a graduate degree from MIT) for February 27, 2007. This is an excellent opportunity to increase graduate alumni engagement, learn about one of the Institute’s priorities, and expand regional involvement. If your Club or group would like to be involved in planning this event locally, please contact Kim Cole at kcole@mit.edu or your regional programs staff member. New and seasoned graduate alumni volunteers are welcome! For additional information, visit http://alum.mit.edu/broadcast.

2007 Women’s Leadership Conference

The MIT Alumni Association is thrilled to be planning the Women’s Leadership Conference: Changes, Challenges, Choices for March 30 – March 31, 2007 in San Francisco, CA. The Women’s Leadership Conference is a celebration and exploration of MIT Women as leaders and innovators. We will discuss topics such as work/life integration, mentorship, and the changing role of women, as well as hear from remarkable MIT alumnae regarding their careers, industries, and life stories. The event will be marketed to all MIT alumnae. For additional information, visit http://alum.mit.edu/wlc or contact womensleadership@mit.edu.

MIT10

MIT10 will replace “Young Alumni” as the way we refer to recently graduated alumni, (graduate and undergraduate alumni who have earned their degree in the past 10 years). The MIT10 brand will help market the suite of programs and services the Alumni Association provides for alumni in this demographic.

We ask all Clubs to share this information with your Club areas and to please start using this terminology. For those with “young alumni” email listservs and chairs we will begin to ask you to please use the MIT10 listservs and to call the position MIT10 Chair. Please contact your Alumni Affairs Officer with any questions.

Toast to IAP

The fourth annual Toast to IAP is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2007. Last year, 29 clubs around the world participated by gathering young alumni to celebrate Independent Activities Period. If your club would like to participate this year, please contact your Alumni Affairs Officer.

Beaver Badge

This edition’s Beaver Badge® goes to BGALA (Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alumni) for their October e-Newsletter. Not only did it promote their upcoming events, it served to pay tribute to a board member and ALC award winner. Links to appropriate articles of interest to BGALA constituents were also included. Congratulations BGALA officers and keep up the good work.

*The Beaver Badge of Excellence is in recognition of a program, initiative or event that a club of group has done