The end of a year is a notoriously arbitrary occasion for reflection, and the end of a volume of The Tech is perhaps an even worder time for contemplation. But my yearlong term as editor in chief tied me to the news at MIT — stories that were by turns surprising, bizarre, and heartbreaking — so this seems to me an apt opportunity to look back.

Though 2014 thankfully lacked any singular event like the marathon bombings and subsequent murder of Officer Sean Collier in April 2013, MIT once again saw more than its share of tragedy. We lost graduate students Hadi Kasab, Eliana Hechter, Kai-hlin Goldstein, and Austin Travis this year, as well as professor Seth Teller, sophomore Phoebe Wang, and other members of the MIT community. Every death in the extended MIT family takes a toll, but students, faculty, administrators, and others made special efforts this past fall to open doors and come together in response to so much sad news.

Some of the news this year was simply strange. Another fall at a fraternity — this time LCA — resulted in minor injuries and a new, shorter-lived party ban, paralleling the similar outcome of an incident at Phi Sig one year before. Hopefully this streak is broken in 2015. Professor Jonathan Gruber became the unlikely subject of a political firestorm, and the MIT football team turned heads with an unexpected string of hard-earned wins that propelled them two games into the Division III playoffs.

Both surprising and troubling was Walter Lewin’s fall from grace — the once-revered emeritus professor was found to have used his position as an edX instructor to carry out disturbing sexual harassment. It was a jarring development to the many students who first came to know classical mechanics or even the name of MIT through his lectures, but the severity of his offense is clear.

The conversation around sexual misconduct came to the forefront at the Institute in 2014. The sexual assault survey released last year, in many ways the first of its kind, revealed that MIT is not immune to the challenges facing universities across the nation. Many of the survey results, including the 17 percent of female undergrads who said they experienced behavior defined as sexual assault, approach worrisome national rates.

I was proud to see discussion of this topic in the pages of The Tech. Survivors of sexual abuse bravely shared their stories, and advocates and allies challenged the community to hold itself to a higher standard. I was also glad to see students and faculty speak out on other important issues, from a more inclusive graduation invocation, to justice for undocumented immigrants, to an examination of racial biases at MIT following national attention to the Michael Brown and Eric Garner cases.

It’s sometimes hard to tell what matters to MIT students. Some of the news I found most striking barely got noticed, while seemingly clear-cut stories ignited controversy. But I think that somewhere amid the late nights, formulaic briefs, and urgent updates that keep our paper running, we all hope students care about what happens to their community. The Tech plans to be a part of whatever events and conversations will define 2015, and we hope you do too.

—Austin Hess

Volume 134 Editor in Chief
Fighting sexual assault can’t be optional for MIT students

As we look ahead to 2015, we hope that this discussion of these issues and many others is just a start. We hope that the community will actively seek to itself informed, and that those who have made mistakes will continue to speak up.

— Jacob Lunden, Opinion Editor
Enhancing student impact on community decisions

By John W. Halloran Jr.

Editor’s Note: This column originally ran in the May 3, 2014 issue of The Tech.

After Bexley Hall closed last May, some members of the student body and parents de-

tained to have a meaningful voice throughout any remaining developments related to the
dorm. Unfortunately, now, in Spring 2015, students too much time has passed without engaged
ing the dorm in a constructive way.

This void highlights a failure on the part of the administration, student leaders, and the
effective group. The administration and student leaders are the ones who failed to open an open,

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NEWS IN REVIEW

Jan. 1
Legal recreational marijuana retailers open in Colorado.

Feb. 3
President L. Rafael Reif appoints Martin A. Schmidt PhD ’88 as MIT’s new chancellor. She is the first woman to hold the post, and succeeds Eric Grimson PhD ’80.

March 6
Hadi Kandi, a master’s student in MIT’s Computing for Design and Optimization program, is found dead in his room in South-Pacific Hall. His death would be ruled a suicide in June.

April 15
Two hundred and thirty-two female students go on strike in Nigeria. Boko Haram, an Islamic extremist organization, claims responsibility for the kidnapping.

April 28
Armed in the prevalence of nanotechnology, MIT prounces plans for BNNS, a state-of-the-art nanorobotics research center to be built in Building 17’s location.

April 16
The Delta Upsilon chapter at MIT is suspended following an investigation that uncovered “inappropriate behavior during unsanctioned events.” MIT immediately with- draws its recognition of the chapter.

April 17
Professor Seth Teller takes his own life at the age of 50. At the time of his death, he was a faculty member in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and held the Robotics, Vision, and Sensor Networks group at MIT’s Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

July 17
Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 is shot down by a missile in eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

June 21
Kathryn R. Goldstein, a fourth-year graduate student studying architecture, is found dead in her dorm. Officials believe she died in an accident while on a morning run.

Aug. 16
To mark the first anniversary of the death of MIT Police Officer Sean Collier, MIT unveils designs for a memorial to be built near Stata Center, in his memory. Collier was fatally shot there a year earlier in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings.

Sept. 27
In the first sexual assault survey of its kind, 17 percent of female MIT undergraduate respondents say they have experienced definitions of sexual assault. This rate is in line with the widely cited national average that one in five U.S. undergraduate women have been sexually assaulted. Of such statistics are usually measured by random sample.

Dec. 14
MIT’s request to demolish Bentley Hall is approved by the Cambridge Historical Commission after clearing the MIT Corporation. Pending approval from the city of Cambridge, MIT’s request to demolish the building will go to the city’s Historical Commission.

Dec. 16
Deshikar Trangam appears in court for his final personal hearing almost two years after he allegedly carried out the Boston Marathon bombings with his now-deceased brother, leaving three dead and over 250 injured. In a rare death penalty trial for Massa- chusetts, it is being prosecuted as the first death penalty trial in the country in recent years. The trial is set to begin in 2015. The judge noted that the defense’s request to move the trial to a place less affected by the bombings.

Jan. 1
The Supreme Court agrees to decide whether states must allow same-sex marriages. A ruling is expected in June or earlier. The move came after decisions in lower courts that brought the number of states in which gay mar- riage is legal up to 36.

Feb. 24
Legislators and not scientists celebrate the restoration of $2.2 million of federal funding to the MIT Alcatel tangential cyclotron, which is used for experiments.

July 21
The Broad Institute announces a $50 million donation from philanthropist Ted Stanley to fund research on psychiatric disorders and treatments. The gift is one of the largest for scientific research in history.

Oct. 31
Lambda Chi Alpha is placed under a five-year suspension by their national organization. The suspension was authorized after the fraternity field house was closed over alcohol inspections during a temporary suspension period that had been in place after a woman fell from their window during rush week.

Nov. 12
MTI forms the national anti-sexual assault task force “It’s On Us” on campus.

March 21
Rostov formally annexes Crimea amid continued unrest in Ukraine, whose leader had been removed the previous month.

Nov. 24
A grand jury fails to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, and within hours, “Black Lives Matter” posters appear around campus.

June 6
Nearly 3,500 students graduate without hearing the traditional commencement prayer from MIT’s chaplain, who instead gave a secular, inclusive invocation. “An inclusive committee had made the change after an atheist graduate student op-ed in The Boston Globe.”

Jan. 16
A “MIT Strong” team runs the 2014 Boston Marathon to show their support for MIT Police Officer Sean Collier and raise money for the Sean A. Collier Memorial Fund.

Dec. 17
The U.S. and Cuba move to restore diplomatic relations after more than half a century of hostility.

Nov. 7
MIT lifts a 49-person temporary suspension of Sigma Phi Epsilon, a fraternity, after a woman fell four stories through a skylight at Phi Sigma Kappa in September 2013.

Jan. 18
To mark the first anniversary of the death of MIT Police Officer Sean Collier, MIT unveils designs for a memorial to be built near Stata Center, in his memory. Collier was fatally shot there a year earlier in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings.

June 10
The Hams and Game group, also known as HBH, captures Mousal, the second-largest city in Iraq.

April 18
An “MIT Strong” team runs the 2014 Boston Marathon to show their support for MIT Police Officer Sean Collier and raise money for the Sean A. Collier Memorial Fund.

July 2
The 2013 Olympics in Sochi, Russia, begin with a spectacular opening ceremony.

Sept. 24
Phoebe Wang ’17 is found dead in her MacGregor dorm room. Her cause of death has not been released as of Jan- uary 2015.

Oct. 24
MIT announces that sections of Sidney-Pacific Hall will close for renovations, displacing 370 graduate students. Work to replace the main heating, ventil- ation, and air-conditioning systems begins this summer.

Nov. 23
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Dec. 2
The Tech lists a feature on the details be- hind the suspension of MIT’s Delta Upsilon. An anonymous heating complaint led MIT and the international fraternity to investigate and find instances of personal derision, forced sleep deprivation, and underage drinking in the pledge program. Brokers interviewed have few complaints about the pledge program, though, in- stead describe injustices that they felt occurred in the subsequent investigations.

Dec. 20
The MIT football team finishes its historic season at 10-1-2 games into the NCAA Division II play- offs. The Engineers went undefeated in the regular season for the first time since 1881, making the front pages of The Boston Globe and The Wall Street Journal.

Nov. 4
Republicans make sweeping gains in Congress and in state elections across the country during the midterm elections.

Jan. 6
President L. Rafael Reif names Cynthia Barnard PhD ’88 as MIT’s new chancellor. She is the first woman to hold the post, and succeeds Eric Grimson PhD ’80.

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Nov. 4
The MIT Bitcoin Project closes its sign-up form for MITI-undergrads to receive $300 in bitcoins. The group hoped that the additional research and experiential opportunities would attract the best students to MIT.

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The Delta Upsilon chapter at MIT is suspended following an investigation that uncovered “inappropriate behavior during unsanctioned events.” MIT immediately with- draws its recognition of the chapter.

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MTI wins a 49-person assembly line at Cambridge and Brookline fraterni- ties. The limit was placed on all FSILGs after a woman fell in a fall from a window at Lambda Chi Alpha during rush week.

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The MIT Corporation is legal up to 36 states in which gay mar- riage is legal up to 36 states. The move came after deci- sions in lower courts that brought the number of states in which gay mar- riage is legal up to 36.

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MIT cancels a section of Sidney-Pacific Hall due to a recent fire. Sections of the building are scheduled to be repaired later this fall.

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Oct. 29
Syria begins in the first detailed examination of the alleged chemical weapons attack in the western Al-Qamishliya region that killed seven people. The investigation was initiated by the OPCW referring the matter to the UN in August.

Sept. 22
President L. Rafael Reif appoints Martin A. Schmidt PhD ’88 as MIT’s new chancellor. She is the first woman to hold the post, and succeeds Eric Grimson PhD ’80.

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A YEAR IN COMICS

Q.E.D. COMMENCEMENT ISSUE

WHAT IT IS...

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE

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WHAT IT FEELS LIKE

BY ERIKA TRENT

INSTITUTE USED "FINAL EXAM CURVEDALE" STUDENT IS CONFUSED?

STUDENT RECEIVES THE LAST REQUIREMENT BADGE!

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE THE NEW INSTITUTE CHAMPION!

CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2014!

A YEAR IN COMICS

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning...

by Letitia Li

UPPERCUT

by Steve Sullivan
As in previous years, Boston was a prominent center of eclectic and exciting cultural events in 2014. In addition to hosting internationally known musicians and performers, like St. Vincent, The Knife, and Lily Allen, it also allowed up-and-coming recording artists and songwriters like Holly Herndon, Moss, and London Grammar to showcase their work to the city’s concert-goers. Boston Calling, a musical festival that has now become the city’s trademark event, brought many musicians in the spring and fall, bolstering Boston’s cultural importance. Boston Ballet provided fans of ballet with on-site productions, from Cinderella and Pride to Jewels and Close to Chuck. Those who appreciate theater and performance arts had many opportunities to see famous actors and performers, like Mikhail Baryshnikov, in Boston’s theater productions. The city was also a hub for movie screenings — the most critically acclaimed movies of 2014, such as The Grand Budapest Hotel, Birdman, and Boyhood, attracted extra attention.

Though long known for its highly technical environment, MIT once again showed that its vibrant arts scene attracts worldwide attention. Joan Jonas, a professor emeritus at MIT, was chosen to represent United States at the 2015 Venice Biennale, an important, international contemporary art exhibition. Rosalind蓟Welsh, a Grammy Award-winning vocal octet, premiered MIT lecturer Elena Ruehle’s opera Cassandra in the Temple’s Xerxes Auditorium. MIT Open, the annual competitive ballots’ dance competition organized by MIT/RIDT, brought former World Latin Dance Champions, Michael Maltowski and Joanna Lewis, up to Rockwell Cage. The Theater Department helped MIT host Infinite Record: Archive, Memory, and Performance, an international artistic research project led by Bedford University College/Norwegian Theatre Academy. And, as always, MIT’s student groups offered various shows, including concerts, plays, and dance performances, to the local community. 

Deniz Bozic
Arts Editor

### The Tech’s Best of 2014

This year, all departments of *The Tech* voted on the best movies, music albums, and TV shows of 2014. With a wide selection of best-of titles, from Oscar-nominated movies to lesser-known music albums and TV shows, *The Tech* presents its 2014 favorites in three different categories.

Deniz Bozic and Cennnah Hezoor
Arts Editors

#### BEST MOVIES OF 2014

*Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*
Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu
Starring: Michael Keaton, Edward Norton, and Emma Stone

*Boyhood*
Directed by Richard Linklater
Starring: Ellar Coltrane, Patricia Arquette, Lorelei Linklater, and Ethan Hawke

*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*
Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, and Sebastian Stan

*The Grand Budapest Hotel*
Directed by Wes Anderson
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, F. Murray Abraham, and Tony Revolori

*How to Train Your Dragon 2*
Directed by Dean DeBlois
Starring: Jay Baruchel, Cate Blanchett, Gerard Butler, and America Ferrera

*Interstellar*
Directed by Christopher Nolan
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, and Matt Damon

*Selma*
Directed by Ava DuVernay
Starring: David Oyelowo, Tessa Thompson, Tom Wilkinson, and Lorraine Toussaint

*The Imitation Game*
Directed by Morten Tyldum
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, and Matthew Goode

*The Lego Movie*
Directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller
Starring: Chris Pratt, Will Ferrell, and Elizabeth Banks

*X-Men: Days of Future Past*
Directed by Bryan Singer
Starring: Hugh Jackman, James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, and Jennifer Lawrence

#### BEST MUSIC ALBUMS OF 2014

*2014 Forrest Hills, by J. Cole*
Released: December 9, 2014
Record Label: Dreamville, Roc Nation, and Columbia Records

*Benji, by Sun Kil Moon*
Released: February 11, 2014
Record Label: Caldo Verde Records

*I Never Learn, by Lykke Li*
Released: May 2, 2014
Record Label: LI Recordings and Atlantic Records

*Music for the Uninvited, by Leon Vynehall*
Released: March 15, 2014
Record Label: 3024

*Nikki Nack, by tUnE-yArDs*
Released: May 5, 2014
Record Label: 4AD

*Run the Jewels 2, by Run the Jewels*
Released: October 24, 2014
Record Label: Mass Appeal, Sony RED

*St. Vincent, by St. Vincent*
Released: February 24, 2014
Record Label: Loma Vista/Republic

*Annie Clark, also known as St. Vincent, whose 2014 record formed in Boston’s House of Blues on 27 Feb. 2014.*

#### BEST TV SHOWS OF 2014

*Game of Thrones*
Created by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss
Starring: Peter Dinklage, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, and Lena Headey

*House of Cards*
Created by Beau Willimon
Starring: Kevin Spacey, Robin Wright, and Kate Mara

*How to Get Away With Murder*
Created by Peter Nowalk
Starring: Viola Davis, Billy Brown, and Alfred Enoch

*Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*
Created by HBO/John Oliver
Hosted by John Oliver

*Parks and Recreation*
Created by Greg Daniels and Michael Schur
Starring: Amy Poehler, Rashida Jones, and Aziz Ansari

*Sherlock*
Created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman

*The Good Wife*
Created by Robert and Michelle King
Starring: Julianna Margulies, Matt Czuchry, and Archie Panjabi

*The Legend of Korra*
Created by Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko
Starring: Henry Rollins, Gray DeLisle, Bruce Davison, and Alyson Stoner

*Transparent*
Created by Jill Soloway
Starring: Jeffrey Tambor, Gaby Hoffmann, Jay Duplass, and Amy Landecker

*True Detective*
Created by Nic Pizzolatto
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Woody Harrelson, and Michelle Monaghan

#### ARTS IN REVIEW

This year, *The Tech* presents its 2014 favorites in three different categories.

Deniz Bozic and Cennnah Hezoor
Arts Editors

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Denis Bozic
Arts Editor
1. MIT President L. Rafael Reif, along with Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88, Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88, and members of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity complete the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on Aug. 22. “Black Lives Matter” posters appear around campus in reaction to the Ferguson, Missouri, shooting of Michael Brown on Aug 9.

2. Students of the Martin Luther King Jr. Design Seminar, a program offered over IAP 2014, display art installations in Lobby 10 addressing topics such as human rights, justice, racism, and equality.

3. The 36 people the Next Sail team managed to fit on a highly modified tech dinghy was enough to attract the attention of the Massachusetts State Police during the MIT Sailing Challenge on Friday, May 16.

4. MIT’s 148th Commencement was on Friday, June 6. Over 2,700 students graduated, receiving over 3,400 degrees.

5. Thousands of paper cranes adorn the Stata Center’s Gates Atrium in remembrance of Officer Sean Collier on Friday, April 18.

6. Flosstradamus performs before MIT students during the annual Springfest concert in Johnson Ice Rink.

7. Andrew A. Busse ’15 leaps over his opponents as he spikes the ball over the net. The Engineers overcome a deficit to clinch a 3-2 victory over UC Santa Cruz on Thursday Feb. 20.

8. Sailboats return in the waning light of a late October evening. A waning crescent moon hangs brightly in the sky.