1881 - 1888: Life Begins At Eighty-One

The 1880s were a time of rapid development and change at MIT. The school was expanding its facilities and faculty, and new programs were being introduced. The electrical engineering department, for example, was one of the first in the country to offer a full-time course in the subject. The first class that had ever completed the course was a group of students who had entered MIT in its early years.

In 1883, the first issue of the school newspaper, The Tech, was published. It featured articles on current events, student life, and campus news. The paper continued to be published weekly until 1916. In 1885, the school's first annual commencement was held, with President Waiker presiding over the ceremony.

In 1886, the school's electrical engineering department established a laboratory for the study of electricity. It was named the Stevens Laboratory in honor of Stephen A. Stevens, a former MIT professor and noted electrical engineer.

The highlights of the 1880s include the opening of the new electrical engineering laboratory, the establishment of the Stevens Laboratory, and the first annual commencement. The school continued to grow and develop, and its reputation as a leading institution of higher education began to spread.

In 1887, the school's first athletic intercollegiate event, the November 30, 1881 tug-of-war team, was held. The event was won by a team from the eastern part of the country, and it was the first time that MIT had participated in an athletic event.

In 1888, the school's first annual meeting was held, with the president and faculty members addressing the gathering. The meeting was a significant event in the school's history, and it marked the beginning of a new era of growth and development.

The 1880s were a time of great change and growth at MIT, and the school continues to be a leader in the field of higher education to this day.