Rogers struggled to found MIT

By Margaret Tzakonis

Decades in a new series intended to preserve the history of MIT through the eyes of historians, photographers and alumni. This is the story of one of the most important, the mission of the founder of the institution that many today expect to "polytechnic institute."

In 1850, he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), graduating in 1853. As president of the University of Virginia, he and his family enrolled. As president, he oversaw the construction of a block of land in Back Bay, which he hoped would expand into a great institution that would "with the purpose in mind: to establish a school that would be new to all of us."

Over the years, the university faced many challenges, including financial difficulties and crises at this time necessitated by the Great Boston Fire of 1872 and the Panic of 1873. Financial crises at this time necessitated doubling the tuition to $200, thereby halving the enrollment, and reducing faculty salaries and numbers.

Many of the early classes were free evening courses sponsored by the Lowell Institute School, which were open to men and women of all ages, but "Boston Tech" refused to admit women as regular students. As a result, Ellen Swallow, with her bache-

Rogers died in 1879, leaving a legacy of innovation and society of scholars. In a letter, Rogers wrote "I live and the highly cultured nature and society of glori-

decades

in education, Runkle even led an unheard-of mining expedition of faculty and students to the west coast to collect ore for labora-

ty use. During Runkle's admin-

istration, Professor Charles Eliot, who had left MIT for the presi-

dency of Harvard, started to merge MIT with Harvard's只要是 Lawrence Scientific School, effectively making the Institute part of Harvard. The Corpora-

tions rejected the proposal, and sustained independence through

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result,

Ellen

Swallow,

with

her

bache-

lor's
degree

from

Vassar,

was

forced
to

study

as

a

special

student

whom

she

called,
"a

dangerous

animal" as he re-

sponded.

But,
"winning
a

war"

which
others
would

keep
open,"
the

she

was

granted

a
degree

in

1873.

married

Professor

Robert

Richards,

and

pursued
her

career

in
sanitary
chemistry

and

environ-

mental

control.

It

was

not

until
1883

that

women

were

eli-

gible
to

the

regular

students.

Meanwhile, the administration
gained

women

as

special

students,

and

in

1885,

MIT

opened

its

gates
to

women,

creating

a

new

world

for

its

attention.

"The

WHY

CAME
THE

KODAK

DEMO

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