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am deeply saddened by the loss of our colleague, and her passing will leave a void in [our] academic leadership.

Former president Paul E. Gray '54, who is currently serving as the chairman of the MIT Corporation, said, "Margaret MacVicar was an extraordinary innovator, leader and educator. The greater community of learners—of teachers and students at all levels—is diminished by her death."

Created UROP, pushed for reform of the curriculum

One of MacVicar's most noted accomplishments was the 1990 creation of UROP, which made hands-on research experience a regular part of undergraduate life at MIT. The program has since been cited for national excellence by the US Secretary of Education, as well as the National Science Foundation and private foundations.

She was also involved in the push for increased diversity among the student body, the adoption of the Humanities, Arts and Social Science Distribution System, a revision of the science distribution requirement and changes in the pass/no credit freshmen grading system.

Most recently, MacVicar led the fight to make biology a General Institute Requirement, along with calculus, chemistry and physics. Following her suggestion that the faculty that they "take the bold move now," they voted overwhelmingly at their May meeting to add the course to the freshmen requirements.

MacVicar was also the Institute official responsible for policy regarding the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and issued a statement last April criticizing the military's policy of excluding homosexuals from the program. She said such policies were "deeply troubling," and that they "run counter to the values of inclusion and equality which are at the foundation of this institution."

Personal history

MacVicar was born on Nov. 20, 1943, and moved with her family to Flin, MI, when she was three years old. She entered MIT in the fall of 1961, working both during the year and the summer in order to finance her education. MacVicar overloaded on courses while at MIT in an attempt to save more money by graduating early. She was successful, receiving an SB in physics in 1964.

Her career in graduate school was equally fast-paced and successful, both at MIT, from which she received an ScD in 1967, and the Royal Society Mond section of Cavendish Laboratory, in the University of Cambridge in England, where she was a post-doc fellow.

In 1969, MacVicar returned to MIT, where she joined the Department of Physics as a faculty member. In 1973, she was the first recipient of the Class of 1922 Career Development Award, created by class alumni to support young faculty members of exceptional promise and unusual devotion to teaching.

MacVicar's cancer was first diagnosed last year, but she continued working at her job until recently. Smith said that "for the last several months, those of us who were familiar with her situation were not at all hopeful about it."

He added that there has been little discussion about who will succeed her, despite the fact that "people should have been aware, and were aware, that this was a decision that would be upon us."

MacVicar is survived by her parents, George and Elizabeth MacVicar of Delafield, WI, and two sisters, Anne Amato of Brookline, MA, and Victoria MacVicar of Pepperell, MA.

Buckybonnet wins big at Ig Nobel

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accepts donations from Nobelists and Olympians.

Thomas Kyte's discovery of "the heaviest element in the universe, Administratum," was rewarded with the physics prize. The award also mentioned Kyte's achievements as "detectors of atoms and the original man of knowledge."

The Pedestrian Technology Institute In 1969, MacVicar returned to MIT, where she joined the Department of Physics as a faculty member. In 1973, she was the first recipient of the Class of 1922 Career Development Award, created by class alumni to support young faculty members of exceptional promise and unusual devotion to teaching.

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