Welcome Class of 1997

Welcome, and congratulations. Getting in to MIT is no small feat; incoming students deserve a round of applause and a hearty handshake. Now the real work begins.

MIT is a hard school. Until the time you take your place on the commencement platform, you will have undoubtedly challenged yourself in ways you can't begin to imagine: socially, physically, and intellectually. That, after all is what MIT is about - stretching your mind, developing your abilities, pushing your limits.

Take control of time here. Pursue your interests, seek out the company of people you like. Don't afraid to try something you have never experienced before. And if you are having trouble, don't be afraid to ask for help.

MIT provides a wealth of opportunities for new students - sports, activities, research programs. But these offerings go only to those aggressive enough to ask for them. Investigate these opportunities - they'll shape your MIT experience just as much as any lecture or recitation section will.

Most of all, remember that at MIT, nothing is permanent. Students can switch classes, switch roommates, switch living groups, swap jobs, switch majors with suprising ease. In your first year here, treat MIT like an adventure - new and exciting, and full of sudden twists and turns. You have at least a year to choose majors, and at least two chances to change.

MIT can be exhilarating: exciting classes, cutting-edge research, wonderful teachers. It can also be cruel: bad food, dull classes, insensitive administrators. MIT can make you doubt your choices and second-guess your decisions. But you will get through it.

So welcome to MIT, the best and the worst of all possible worlds. With your help, it can only get better.

Stand Up and Tell People Who You Are

Column by Eva Moy

Welcome to MIT. I'm not the first one to say it, and I certainly won't be the last. But welcome anyway.

So here you begin your journey through this hallowed institution. Four hard years of tears and toil will shape you as the professional and as the person you will be. Here you stand, looking up at a long flight of stairs, ready to take the first step. The first step is the easiest.

This afternoon you will go to the President's convocation; it's mandatory. Within a few days, you'll figure out that "mandatory" is only a suggestion, like traffic lights in Boston. That's why they try to pack all the mandatory stuff at the beginning of Residence Orientation and Orientation Week. In the meantime, give President Vest a chance to tell you what a great honor it is to be here.

Seriously, though, look around. This is your class. These are the people you will be working with and competing against for a long time to come. Pick out a friendly face and smile at it. Wave. (There are enough her.

Columnists and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 29, MIT, Boston, 02139. Most of them are published within a week. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication. Letters and cartoons must be the author's signature, address, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

To Reach Us

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