



2007 BRASS RAT



THE HISTORY

In the spring of 1929, C. Brigham Allen appointed representatives from the Classes of 1930, 1931, 1932 to the first Massachusetts Institute of Technology Ring Committee. Charged with designing the first Standard Technology Ring, the Committee looked to the past for inspiration.

Lester Gardner, Class of 1989, had proposed the beaver as the Institute mascot at the Technology Club of New York. On January 17, 1914, President Richard C. MacLaurin formally accepted the Beaver as the mascot of the Institute. The beaver adorns the bezel while the opposing shanks display MIT and the class year.

Each year has designed a unique ring, representative of their experiences at MIT. As the seventy-sixth ring committee, we are proud to present the 2007 Brass Rat, a ring that embodies both the tradition and individuality of the Class of 2007.



THE BEZEL

The beaver juggles three objects, symbolizing the tension we face daily, between class work, activities and need for fun. In the beaver's hands are an hourglass and compass, symbolizing the valuable time we spend at MIT before making our way in the world. Up in the air is the elusive diploma that bridges our time here and our future. The sand in the hourglass spells out a "V" and an "H," to honor both our outgoing president, Charles Vest and our incoming president, Susan Hockfield, whose arrival occurred our sophomore year.

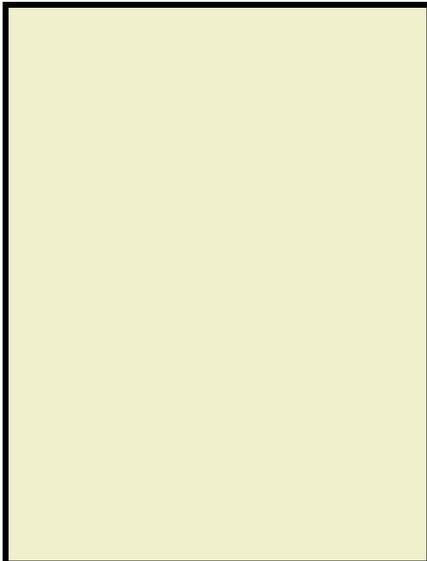
The nighttime setting of the scene parallels our nocturnal life-styles as MIT students. Two moons, one in the sky above him and one reflected in the water, since when we graduate in June 2007 under a blue moon.

Behind the beaver stand Kresge Auditorium and the Stata Center, the past and current renditions of "modernity." Kresge, the site of countless performances, is where our entire class was first united at the freshman orientation welcome. Stata signals MIT's focus on the future, both in its innovative design and in the ground-breaking research occurring inside.

The pile of sticks below the beaver, which haven't yet been formed into a dam, represents how we are spending our time at MIT accumulating the tools to construct our future. One stick has a shower head at the end, since we were the last class officially to be part of the great MIT tradition of being showered before the first 8.01 exam. The beaver is sitting on eight ivy leaves, conveying MIT's academic prowess and superiority to the eight universities in the Ivy League.

THE CLASS SHANK

Below the “2007” on the class shank is a scroll with the number “140” on it, since we are the one hundred fortieth graduating class of MIT.

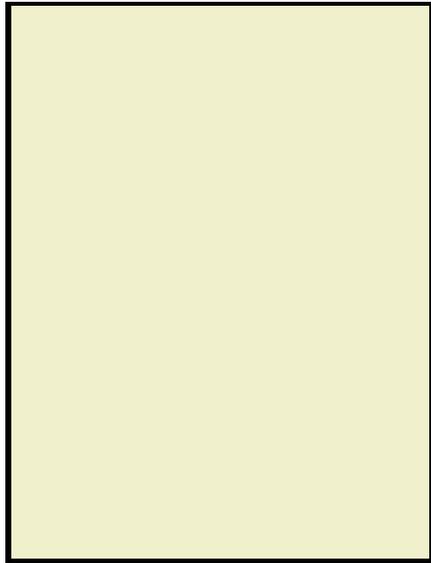


The scene is set in Killian Court, site of commencement and also home of the Great Dome, the site of several famous MIT hacks. One notable hack during our freshman year was the Wright brothers’ plane on the dome, which celebrates the hundredth anniversary of their first flight. On the plane, nineteen is written in Roman numerals, the course number for hacking.

On the front of the dome, “CURSE” is written backward to recognize the Boston Red Sox’s World Series victory after 86 years of defeat, successfully reversing Babe Ruth’s curse.

Beneath of the steps of Killian is an owl, the symbol of Athena, who is both the goddess of wisdom and also the icon of MIT’s computer network. The owl’s wings spell out the uniquely MIT words “punt” and “tool,” which echo the “work hard, party hard” nature of student life here.

THE SEAL SHANK



The two figures on the seal, the worker and the thinker, personify “mens et manus,” MIT’s motto. The figures, one man and one woman, denote 2007’s even gender ratio. It also honors the first woman president of MIT. The tradition of MIT is of progress and the construction of a better future; those tenets are incorporated in this revision of MIT’s seal.

The flame above the lamp between the people resembles a flag, due to the immense controversy the flag policy generated our freshman year.

Beneath the seal burns a candle, symbolizing the light of knowledge. In addition, the candle serves to remind us of the blackout that occurred during the second semester of our freshman year.

The laurel leaves around the candle signify the victories taking place during our time at MIT; from the athletic victories of the New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox to the Nobel Prize and other awards given to professors, and especially the awards of achievement given to students.

THE SKYLINES



The Boston skyline features the buildings in the Hancock complex, the Millenium building, the familiar Citgo sign, and a blimp over Fenway Park in the night sky. In the middle of it all is the Prudential Tower.



The Cambridge skyline centers on the Great Dome, one of the most recognizable places on campus. On the right is the Green Building, the tallest building in Cambridge, and on the left are Ashdown and McCormick.

THE ENGRAVED MAP

The hacker's map depicts campus slightly beyond Massachusetts Avenue (starting at the Zesiger Center) to Ames, and from Vassar to Memorial Drive. Confusing to the outsider, the map is included so that we never forget the convuluted paths we took to get to class on time and avoid harsh weather conditions.



THE ACCESSORIES

THE PRICES

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THE RING COMMITTEE



FRONT Charlene Shih, Raja Palaniappan, Alejandro Gonzalez, Nicole Ackerman, Ben Navot, Tabitha Bonilla **BACK** Mitra Lohrasbpour, Zhera Ali, James Lin, Xiaolu Ning, Theresa Eugenio, Winston Lin

“We first thought of the kangaroo which, like Tech, goes forward by leaps and bound. Then we considered the elephant. He is wise, patient, strong, hard working, and like all those who graduate from Tech, has a good tough hide. But neither of these were American animals. We turned to Mr. Hornaday’s book on the animals of North America and instantly chose the beaver. The beaver not only typifies the Tech, but his habits are peculiarly our own. The beaver is noted for his engineering and mechanical skills and habits of industry. His habits are nocturnal. He does his best work in the dark.”

Lester Gardner, Class of 1898

