

Associate Provost

The 2006–2007 academic year saw several important changes in the MIT arts community.

Ford International professor of history Philip S. Khoury left the deanship of the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) after 15 years to assume the new position of associate provost in June 2006. His responsibilities include developing MIT's noncurricular arts and international strategic initiatives and promoting the public's understanding of science and technology. Khoury retains the portfolio previously held by the associate provost for the arts, most recently professor of theater arts Alan Brody. Areas of responsibility include the Office of the Arts, the MIT Museum, and the List Visual Arts Center (LVAC). He is also MIT's new representative on the board of trustees of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. Ellen Salvi, formerly of SHASS, serves as the new administrative assistant in the Office of the Associate Provost. She replaced Michelle Hinkle, who left MIT in September.

In the 2007 spring term, Khoury appointed Lori Gross advisor to the associate provost. Gross, who previously served as director of the Museum Loan Network, organized and chaired several strategic committees on resource development, facilities, and communications for the arts. These committees were populated by arts faculty and staff from the Creative Arts Council and other groups, and they will continue their work in the coming year.

Effective July 1, 2007, Gross will assume the new position of director of arts initiatives and advisor to the associate provost.

Two arts community stalwarts left the Institute in 2006–2007: Glenn Billingsley, director of resource development in the Office of the Associate Provost; and Mary Haller, director of arts communication in the Office of the Arts. Both will be missed for their camaraderie and their many contributions during years of service to the arts and to the Institute. The associate provost now relies on the vice president for resource development and his staff for development support, and he works with school development officers when appropriate. No decision has been made on whether or how the director of communications will be replaced.

The Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT), a collaboration between MIT and the Underground Railway Theater, held its first full production during the first Cambridge Science Festival in April 2007. CC@MIT produced a play based on adjunct professor of humanities Alan Lightman's book *Einstein's Dreams*. Following its success, the associate provost and Lightman raised seed funding for two years from the deans of engineering, SHASS, and science. The hope is that the Council for the Arts will also support this catalytic effort.

The Creative Arts Council (CAC), chaired by Khoury in collaboration with Gross, met monthly throughout the academic year. The council discussed how to make an effective case for the Laboratory for Performing Arts concept and for making the arts central to any development plans for the Massachusetts Avenue corridor leading to

Central Square in Cambridge. Discussion also focused on how best to convey the excitement and achievement of the arts both within the MIT community and to the wider world. And the council talked about which recommendations made in the 1987 Joskow Report on the Arts have and have not been implemented two decades later. New CAC representatives in 2006–2007 included the new dean of SHASS and Kenan Sahin professor of the history of technology Deborah Fitzgerald, former Sloan School of Management dean and professor emeritus William F. Pounds (a CAC alumnus), and Leila Kinney, an administrator in the Comparative Media Studies program.

The associate provost participated in advisory board meetings for the MIT Museum and LVAC and served on the executive and grants committees of the Council for the Arts, which he addressed in October 2006 at the council's 34th annual meeting. In the fall term, Khoury also taught with Michèle Oshima, director of Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs, and faculty in the Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program.

Philip S. Khoury
Associate Provost

More information about the Office of the Associate Provost can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/office/provost/>.