



## ATHLETICS AT MIT

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

#### Named, endowed funds

Fund for MIT Athletics: \$10 million

Faculty/coach chair: \$2.3 million

Operational support, one varsity program: \$750,000 to \$1 million

#### Facility/equipment upgrades

Permanent lighting for Steinbrenner Stadium: \$200,000

Dasher boards for Johnson Ice Rink: \$200,000

Upgrades to Pierce Boathouse office: \$35,000

*For more giving opportunities, please see page two.*

### FOR MORE INFO:

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### A training ground for leaders

## Supporting athletics at MIT

MIT's students harbor amazing stores of energy: intellectual energy, of course, but also creative, social, and in most cases, athletic energy. Well over half of first-year students each year arrive having played at least one varsity sport in high school, and that interest persists once they come. Overall, more than four-fifths of undergraduates engage in sports or recreation in some form—and our grad student body isn't far behind.

In response to mounting student demand, along with growing competition among top universities focused around non-academic opportunities for students, MIT has acted. Key features of today's athletic-recreation program include:

- ◆ 41 varsity sports, one of the highest such figures nationwide
- ◆ a host of club offerings, which are open to grad students as well as undergrads
- ◆ 21 intramural sports programs—also open to grad students—that collectively involve roughly 2,000 individual competitions each year
- ◆ a professional and dedicated coaching staff
- ◆ a reasonable level of emphasis (we give no athletic scholarships and make no special admissions provisions for the athletically gifted).

### Doing well, aiming higher

Our approach works. One indicator: we've had more National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Academic All-Americans than any other Division III school. We've also nurtured premier athletes. In 2003, for example, then first-year students Jessica Huot and Juha Valkama went to the world ice-dancing championships in Japan.

But more than anything else, MIT athletics is about opportunity. Any undergrad can try out for a varsity sport. Field and court availability is generally good to excellent. And with the Zesiger Center—the three-story, state-of-the-art recreation and sports facility that opened in 2002—activities like swimming, squash, and physical workouts have hit new heights.

Going forward, MIT and its Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) will be focusing more than ever on building our sports and recreation program. Why so? Athletics can teach invaluable lessons: about decision-making, persistence, team-building, strategy. Students who take part in regular, disciplined physical activity are often mentally more alert and engaged than their less active counterparts. And, far from least important, athletics offers a superb respite from the severe academic pressures facing MIT's students.

One further reason: MIT students *deserve* the chance to explore and enhance their physical skills. These are truly future leaders—the individuals who not only have entrepreneurial inclinations and a gift for engineering change but also a grasp of the scientific and technological issues that increasingly shape society. For many, sports and recreation are a key part of preparing for a lifetime of achievement, and MIT owes them the opportunity to act on that aim.

### Building for the future

To meet our goal of creating one of the nation's broadest, most effective, and most democratic athletic programs won't be easy. We must move on a variety of fronts, from upgrades of existing varsity or club programs to major projects. But we've made our choices and created a long-range plan. Key goals include:

- ◆ safeguard and/or upgrade current facilities, including the crewhouse and selected fields
- ◆ plan for longer-term capital projects
- ◆ build stable support for specific varsity sports programs and for our superb staff of coaches and assistants.

Frankly, though, we enter this new phase of our drive to craft a truly comprehensive athletic-recreation program facing major challenges. MIT's overall athletics budget is \$10.5 million yearly—lean for such an extensive enterprise, but also a big stretch for the Institute. Thanks to a modest athletics endowment and wonderful support from alumni, we nearly keep pace, but not quite: this fiscal year, DAPER is drawing down on its reserves to the tune of \$300,000, and stinting on vital maintenance and rehabilitation.

In true MIT fashion, we *know* we can make up such gaps, and go forward with needed improvements, too. We hope you'll help. Remember that this is not

only about enhancing athletics on this campus but also about giving a unique resource for society—our student body—the chance to hone leadership skills that will serve them, and all of us, for decades to come.

### Giving opportunities

Here are the giving options in athletics and recreation.

Named, endowed funds\*:

- ◆ Fund for MIT Athletics (*overall support, helping fund a range of varsity and other programs as well as selected small facilities projects*): \$10 million
- ◆ Faculty/coach chair: \$2.3 million
- ◆ Operational support, one varsity program (*of your choice*): \$750,000 to \$1 million

Facility/equipment upgrades:

- ◆ Lighting for Steinbrenner Stadium (*permanent lighting for MIT's only competition-quality turf field*): \$200,000
- ◆ Dasher boards for Johnson Ice Rink (*to replace outdated and difficult-to-remove boards around the rink with new, truly portable ones*): \$200,000
- ◆ J.B. Carr Tennis Facility design study (*to study converting the outdated "bubble" facility to a semi-permanent one, and expand it from four to six courts*): \$50,000
- ◆ Upgrades to Pierce Boathouse office (*to renovate and bring up to standard the headquarters for our "crewhouse," which is used by our eight coaches in the sport*): \$35,000
- ◆ Naming gift for five "JF" competition sailing craft, used in varsity sailing's intercollegiate racing program (*fleet totals 18 vessels*): \$25,000

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\* *Endowed funds last in perpetuity. If you create such a fund, MIT will invest and manage it, and averaged annual returns will go to support the sports or recreation priority that you designate. In creating such a fund, you can apply any name, or names, you desire.*