Dean, School of Science

The School of Science plays a worldwide leadership role in education and research through its dedication to the advancement of scientific knowledge and the education of students on the constantly evolving frontiers of science. An exciting increase in interdepartmental interactions and multiple disciplinary groups has developed in the School, reflecting the ever-changing scientific environment. Our graduate education programs are ranked among the very top in all the disciplines of the School by a variety of organizations. Maintaining that high standard is the highest priority of the faculty and administration in the School.

New Initiatives

This spring, construction began for the brain and cognitive sciences project. This state-of-the-art facility—which will house the Picower Center, the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and the McGovern Institute for Brain Research—is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2005. The new building will include offices, research facilities, and conference space.

Building and Strengthening a Diverse Community

One of the highest priorities of the School administration is to support our existing outstanding faculty and to recruit to MIT exceptionally talented young researchers and educators—especially underrepresented minorities and women—to our faculty. A new faculty search policy has been established with standards to guarantee every faculty search is used as a vehicle to increase the diversity of our faculty. In AY2004, 12 assistant professors joined the School, including two women.

Faculty Awards

Our faculty received numerous honors in recognition of their research and service, many offered by professional societies and professional communities. The individual reports from the School's departments/labs/centers will make note of many of these awards. Several especially notable awards deserve additional mention here. Professor Nancy Hopkins of the Department of Biology and Professor Maria Zuber of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences were elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Monty Kreiger of Biology was named a MacVicar Faculty Fellow. The School of Science Graduate Teaching Prize was awarded jointly to professors Hazel Sive and Ilaria Rebay of Biology, and the Undergraduate Teaching Prize was awarded to Professor Barton Zwiebach of the Department of Physics.

Staff Awards

The School of Science Rewards and Recognition Program continues to recognize the many dedicated and hardworking people within our department, labs, and centers. During academic year 2004, two Infinite Mile ceremonies were held, one in the fall of

2003 and the other in the spring of 2004. At the fall ceremony, 15 individuals awards and 2 team awards were presented. For the spring nominations, the awards were split into two categories: the Infinite Mile Award and the Dean's Educational and Student Advising Award. At the spring ceremony, 17 individual and 1 team Infinite Mile Awards were presented and 17 Dean's Educational awards were given out. In addition, the School offers the Spot Award program, which recognizes employees "on the spot" for doing something beyond their normal duties. A total of 69 Spot Awards were given out to a variety of administrators, support staff, service staff, technical staff, and research staff.

Academic Program Statistics

There were 870 undergraduate majors in the School of Science during the past academic year, a 2 percent increase from the previous year. The number of minority student majors at the undergraduate level changed as follows:

African Americans	32 to 26 (18% decrease)
Hispanics	71 to 79 (11% increase)
Native Americans	18 (No change)
Asian Americans	237 to 238 (0.42% increase)

Sixty-three minors were awarded in the School in AY2004. The female undergraduate population increased from 426 to 448. One-quarter of the Institute's upperclass undergraduates were enrolled in the School of Science. Graduate enrollments in science increased from 1,082 to 1,107, representing 18 percent of the graduate population at MIT. The number of minority students at the graduate level changed as follows:

African Americans	14 to 18 (2.8% increase)
Hispanics	17 to 40 (135% increase)
Native Americans	2 (No change)
Asian Americans	71 to 77 (8% increase)

The number of female graduate students increased from 362 to 375. The overall percentage of female graduate students is 33 percent.

The 270 faculty members in the School this year represents a 3.4 percent increase from the previous year. The undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio remained at 3 to 1, and the graduate student-to-faculty ratio remained at 4 to 1.

Fundraising

New gifts and new pledges to the School of Science totaled $21.8M in FY2004. The campaign total for the School reached $262.9M at the end of the fiscal year.

Research Volume

The FY2004 research volume for units within the School of Science totaled $148.4M, a $7.8M (5.3%) increase over FY2003. The primary sponsors, in order of the size, are the US Department of Health and Human Services (primarily the National Institutes of Health), the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and NASA. It should be noted that the impact of School of Science faculty extends beyond the units of the School. The research volume for Science faculty at the Institute totaled $227.2M, a $64.3M (74%) increase over FY2003. This significant increase represents the addition of the Broad Institute to MIT as well as growth in neuroscience and computational systems biology.

The many new research initiatives and fundamental discoveries that occurred in the various departments and laboratories of the School of Science are discussed in the reports of those units.

Robert J. Silbey
Dean, School of Science
Class of 1942 Professor of Chemistry

More information about the School of Science can be found on the web at http://web.mit.edu/science/.