

## **Dean for Student Life**

The promise of the report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning came closer to realization this academic year, resulting in an exciting, productive, and rewarding year. The Division of Student Life (DSL) has been charged to steward the programs and services that support the working and living environment at MIT. This is a responsibility to which it is energetically committed. As stated in the DSL mission, the division leads campus efforts to set new standards for excellence in integrating living and learning at MIT. Each office works to foster a safe, healthy, and supportive environment for the campus community to maximize the well-being and development of skills for a balanced life.

Central to the successes achieved this year was the leadership displayed across the organization as we partnered and collaborated among our offices, with other Institute offices, as well as with students, faculty, alumni, and parents. In addition, the support received from senior leadership was an essential component to our ongoing success.

Our objectives of systematic integration, expanded shared services, and enhanced financial and operational efficiencies provided strategically important, value-added services in FY2004, the successful results of which are evident in the list of accomplishments below.

Notable in all of the work of DSL from year to year is the theme of collaboration. In our shared responsibility to attract and support the growth and maturation of some of the world's most talented students, we do so with the certain knowledge that lessons learned in the residence hall or in fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups (FSILGs), on the sports field, in the Chapel, or in a student activity make lasting impressions. The accomplishments in the reports that follow are cited more than once by separate reports. This is a reflection of our operating philosophy and the collaboration requisite to providing comprehensive, quality services to our students and the MIT community at large. Below we have highlighted a few of the overarching achievements realized this year.

### **Accomplishments**

- Received the report from the FSILG Task Force and began to implement its recommendations, including the hiring of a senior staff person to foster and facilitate support and interactions with our alumni
- Provided seed money for the FSILG Co-op, which had a very successful first year
- Funded a winter shuttle for the FSILGs in Boston
- Developed new Housing and Dining financial models, which will result for the first time ever in the elimination of all Institute subsidies to these areas as well as the return of more than \$2 million to the Institute in FY2005
- Expanded our dining programs, especially migrating the Simmons plan to Baker and Next House, and introduced a kosher meal plan

- Opened the Student Street and the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) sections of the Stata Center
- Hosted two successful visiting committees: DSL and DAPER
- Began the transition of Enterprise Services from the executive vice president to DSL
- Finalized the multi-year study and plan for a revised and equitable rent structure for the graduate residence halls
- Introduced web-based systems for parking registration, event registration, Physical Education (PE) registration, and online housing assignments for graduate students with a significant improvement in service in all areas and a reduction in both time and cost
- Saw one of the most successful years ever for our varsity sports teams, added six Academic All-Americans, and won two national championships
- Completed a draft of a new Student Rights and Responsibilities document for discussion, revision, and implementation in FY2005
- Celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Public Service Center, which, with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, also received a \$100,000 National Science Foundation planning grant to incorporate service learning department-wide
- Completed the third year of our Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) program, which has resulted in a zero percent recidivism rate for students who participated
- Began to use the BASICS program as a judicial sanction for student violation of alcohol policies, also with a zero percent recidivism rate
- Implemented a new support group for students returning from medical leave, a collaborative effort between Counseling and Support Services and MIT Mental Health
- Completed Phase I of a feasibility study for new student housing and forwarded it to the chancellor and executive vice president
- Worked closely with the MIT Alumni/ae Association and the Department of Resource Development to build relationships, define roles, establish priorities, build infrastructure, and further the integration of Student Life fundraising and friend-raising priorities into their respective organizations
- Produced with MIT Video Production Services a series of Student Life videos on CD to be used in conjunction with fundraising and friend-raising presentations. Incorporating key messages on education and learning enabled by Student and Community Life at MIT, the CDs feature testimonials from involved students, faculty, and staff. Copies have been made and sent to our educational counselors, key members of the Resource Development staff, senior officers and staff, and housemasters in DSL.
- Retained two experienced communications consultants to support the DSL's goals to refine key messages and become more systematic with outreach and communications. One of the consultants will focus on DSL, while the other will work specifically with DAPER and the emerging Friends of DAPER alumni group.
- The Friends of DAPER drafted and implemented their organizing charter, clarified roles and responsibilities, developed specific goals for this fiscal year,

and have instituted a regular meeting schedule to ensure the accomplishment of their agenda. Created by the Alumni/ae initiative, Friends of DAPER has taken a leadership role in supporting the development of fundraising and visibility for DAPER.

- Working relationships between MIT and the Cambridge Licensing Commission, Boston Licensing Board, Boston Fire Department, and Inspectional Services were significantly improved this year with special help from the staff of Student Life Programs and the Office of Community Development and Substance Abuse.

I am extremely proud of what has been accomplished by our staff and students this year and look forward to the coming year with excitement and enthusiasm.

**Larry G. Benedict**  
**Dean for Student Life**

*More information about the Division of Student Life can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/dsl/>.*