Thank You!

A big thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, staff, and students who made this 50th anniversary celebration possible:

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Class of 1962
Debbie Douglas, MIT Museum, and Dayan Paez ‘08
for their work on the Smoot Stick
Ilan Moyer ‘09 and Melissa Rothstein G
for their work on the Smoot Plaque
Chris Fematt ‘08
for designing the Smoot Logo

Big ’50s Party!

Saturday, October 4, 2008
6:30-11:00 p.m.
MIT Museum
Tonight's Schedule

6:30-7 p.m.   Tech Model Railroad Club  
              Open House (N52-118)

7:30 p.m.    Logarhythms Alums  
              Performance  
              (MIT360 - 1st Floor)

8-10 p.m.   Tech Model Railroad Club  
              Open House (N52-118)

8:30 p.m.   “Smoot Stick” Dedication  
            with Tom O’Connor ’60,  
            Ollie Smoot ’62, and  
            Lambda Chi Alpha  
            brothers (MIT360)

9:30 p.m.   Logarhythms Alums  
              Performance (MIT360)

10:30 p.m.  Food and Bar Service Ends

For Your Entertainment

In addition to the wonders of the MIT Museum, we encourage you to enjoy these other MIT traditions.

Tech Model Railroad  
The Tech Model Railroad Club of MIT is where hackers have gathered since 1947 to play with trains and computers. Come take a tour of our huge layout in N52-118, with its hand-built miniature city and custom computer control system!  
Doors are open from 6:30-7 and from 8-10.

MIT Logarhythms Alums  
The MIT Logarhythms Alums number 300 members worldwide. Every June and at other random times, some configuration of us assembles in Boston, miraculously all four parts - First Tenor, Second Tenor, Baritone, and Bass - to entertain the MIT community and beyond. We sing at Symphony Hall prior to Tech Night at the Pops concert and at other MIT and non-MIT functions. We perform close-harmony arrangements that make people smile, laugh, think, cry, wax nostalgic, and even sing along. We’ve been sharing this joy for over 59 years. We have active members from 1949 to the present era. When our voices blend, the power of physics does the rest, and Resonance is on our side.
New Smoot Plaque: MIT Class of 1962

This plaque was unveiled this afternoon by MIT President Susan Hockfield and Mead Wyman ‘62. It is an aluminum prototype of the final titanium plaque which will be installed on the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge later this year. All design and tooling was done at the MIT Hobby Shop.
Growing up Smoot: Sherry Smoot Freitas GM '99

Growing up, the Smoot marks were little more than an interesting story about an off the wall prank my dad participated in when he was young. I didn’t truly grasp the enormity of the Smoot marks until I moved to Cambridge to pursue a business degree at Sloan in 1997. Everywhere I went in Boston, let alone MIT, people asked me if I was related to THE Smoot. Who knew that dear ole dad was so famous? I guess I should have been clued in by the amazing number of newspapers, magazines, and even novels that describe or reference the Smoot marks.

Although my brother and I both attended MIT, we each escaped the plots by our classmates to remeasure the bridge with our lengths. I think it is appropriate that the Smoot marks have remained in their historically accurate length and that the honor still rests wholly with my dad. Dad has always said, “You never know what may make you famous”. And since you can now compute distances in Google Earth in Smoots, I guess he knows what he is talking about. Love you dad!

Repainting the Smoots: Lambda Chi Alpha

It was 11:30 p.m. on a Wednesday night when my eleven pledge brothers and I gathered in a room in Baker House to plan out our night. With three cans of paint we were about to go out to the Harvard Bridge to paint the Smoots. The excitement is contagious as we march out into the cold feeling like we were about to become a part of history. With 12 guys, it took us about 2 hours to paint the whole bridge, in which time 2-3 cars stopped on the bridge to ask us what we were doing. They all smiled when we said we were painting the Smoots.

Part of the tradition has become for the freshmen to go back to the house after finishing to wake up the brothers with pots and pans. Once all the brothers have come downstairs they have to guess what color the Smoots are now painted. It is an honor to be in the fraternity that repaints the Smoots and carries on the tradition. Everywhere I go the Smoot story is known as MIT folklore. It is incredible to be able to tell them that I painted them once.

- Brandon Suarez ‘09, President