Dear Class of 1978,

As autumn is in full splendor in Cambridge and MIT’s campus is as vibrant as ever, I am pleased to share an update on the Class of 1978 Student Aid Fund. Today’s students are eager to learn, collaborate, be challenged, and effect positive change, and they fully embrace the *mens et manus* tradition. At the same time, they express deep gratitude for the opportunity to be here—an opportunity afforded in large part by donors like you.

By supporting undergraduate scholarships, you ensure the Institute’s ability to remain a meritocracy, where financial constraints are no obstacle for those who earn admission to MIT. The following pages provide a glimpse into the truly remarkable impact of your fund. Your generosity is transformative in both the financial support it provides today, as well as by demonstrating the importance of philanthropy to those who will one day be alumni themselves.

As you well know, our students are among the brightest and most talented in the world, and they face many challenges and pressures during their time on campus. By supporting undergraduate scholarships, you afford students the opportunity to focus on their studies and activities, not the financial burden. At the same time, you demonstrate to them the importance of philanthropy.

On behalf of the Alumni Association and MIT, I thank the alumni and friends who contribute to this fund, and the leadership who made this endowment a fundraising priority.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Beth McGonagle

*Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship, MIT Annual Fund*

Enclosures

November 2013
Robert J. Bertucci 2014

Belleville, Illinois
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science major

Senior Robert Bertucci continues as a Class of 1978 Scholar. Below he shares with you some of his interests and activities.

MIT ACTIVITIES

ATHLETICS
I am a four year varsity letter winner and pitcher on the MIT baseball team.

COMMUNITY SERVICE
I mentored 9th grade students entering high school through OEOP (Office of Engineering Outreach Programs). I also volunteered at the Boston Marathon water table and ran instructive baseball camps for young boys.

DORMITORY/FSILG
I am a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Gamma Pi Chapter, where I am social chair and alumni relations chair.

ACADEMIC/RESEARCH INTERESTS
Marine robotics team
Edgerton Center
Center for Sports Innovation

I am interested in artificial intelligence as it relates to game development and robotics.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES
I played baseball in the prestigious Futures Collegiate Baseball League. I worked for Fosta-Tek Optics as a consultant/software developer.

CAREER PLANS
I am searching for full time positions as a software developer.

MY TIME AT MIT
I will never forget advancing to the first NCAA Regional Tournament in 35 years with the MIT varsity baseball team.

I have found MIT to be a very challenging school academically, but I know that the hard work that I have put in through my four years will be worth it when I succeed after graduation.
Lauren E. Burke 2014

Norwell, Massachusetts
Linguistics major

Senior Lauren Burke continues as a Class of 1978 Scholar. Below she shares with you some of her interests and activities.

MIT ACTIVITIES

ARTS
I have been in the MIT Concert Choir all three years, was the soprano section leader for two, and was president of the choir last year.

I've participated in an MIT Chamber Society vocal group the past two semesters, and have participated in a musical with the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players. I have also sung in my Christian fellowship's worship band for the last two years.

ACADEMIC/RESEARCH INTERESTS
I've held two UROPs (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program) in the past, in CSAIL (Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory) and RLE (Research Laboratory of Electronics).

I am very interested in natural language processing (NLP). I'm studying linguistics but have focused on computer science, and I've worked in an NLP UROP at MIT, an internship working with artificial neural networks, and an internship this past summer at a local computational linguistics company.

OTHER
I am heavily involved with MIT Cru, the MIT chapter of the international Christian organization Cru. We serve as a Christian fellowship for students and engage in outreach and service.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
I traveled to Madrid, Spain over the Independent Activities Period (IAP) this year, with the foreign languages department's IAP-Madrid program. I lived with a Spanish family and took Spanish II in Madrid to better learn the language, but as it was my first time out of the country, I learned much more about understanding and loving people as a part of a culture and lifestyle that are very different from mine.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES
I interned with a computational linguistics company, Basis Technology, where I worked on a product that utilizes their multilingual text analysis software within Microsoft Word and Excel.

CAREER PLANS
I'd like to work in computational linguistics, either finding a job or getting a master’s degree. I'm also terribly interested in dictionaries (in the not-computer science sense of the word) and how words are used and how languages and meanings within languages change over time, but that hasn't appeared to be a near-future career plan.

MY TIME AT MIT
I feel like I won't forget any part of my undergraduate experience here. I guess one memory that I'm still grappling with is the failure I experienced my freshman fall. I failed, hard, my physics midterm and
chemistry midterm in quick succession, and I was so numb to acknowledging that failure that I was too afraid to work any harder, because it seemed like the hardest work I was used to doing still caused me to fail. So I didn’t work any harder. I kept up what I was doing, and the finals were just more passable than the midterms, so I passed.

I’m still trying to understand the depths to which I can push myself, and I’m trying to overcome the fear of pushing myself as hard as I can and still failing. I didn’t understand that MIT would challenge all of my past notions of "hard work," or "being challenged." But MIT has certainly challenged me to figure out what I’m passionate about in this world, because I certainly can’t assume I’m passionate about what I’m good at, because comparatively I’m not good at anything here. And that’s a truth I realized when I failed for the first time in my life, freshman fall at MIT.

MIT has shaped who I am, and certainly changed me from who I was freshman year. The educational opportunities I’ve encountered here have changed my course of study completely to a field I had never heard of before coming here. I’ve had countless opportunities given to me to experience rewarding travel, jobs, research, and relationships. These experiences will impact my future career, but also everything about my future both within and after MIT.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you so much! MIT was worth every cent to me, and I appreciate that the donors believe that allowing me to be here is worth something to them.
Senior Chase Lambert continues as a Class of 1978 Scholar. Below he shares with you some of his interests and activities.

**MIT Activities**

**Athletics**
I played ultimate frisbee for my first year at MIT, where I had a bunch of fun but didn’t serve any positions.

**Community Service**
At MIT, my main activities have been working at a bike shop, habitat for humanity, and teaching. I’ve taught various classes in both Spark and Splash, along with some other side classes during the year. I also participated in LTI (leadership training institute) for a semester where I helped high school students grow as leaders, every Sunday.

**Dormitory/FSILG**
I’ve helped out in various activities in Burton Conner, like making pancakes and setting up parties (making paintings and such). I moved into an Independent Living Group (ILG) called Pika this year, but I’ve already been around throughout MIT and have helped them during rush and their work weeks. I was also a part of Zeta Beta Tau for a year, where I excelled in all my duties. I didn’t officially hold any positions in these living group activities though.

**Academic/Research Interests**
My freshman year I built an android program that allowed users to use twitter with just their voice. They could both upload tweets and listen to tweets by others in their friend’s voices. This year, I am working with Professor Katabi on indoor location tracking using RFID multi-path spectrum analysis. I'll mostly elaborate on teaching, because that’s probably my favorite. Over the course of MIT, I’ve taught many classes with educational studies program (ESP) and LTI.

I also did the MIT Accelerating Information Technology Innovation program (AITI) in Ghana one summer, where I taught a class of 25 students a large amount about computers. This past January, I was in Germany and had a fantastic time teaching high school students not only technology but history, science, and frisbee! I also have worked for Quizlet for two Januaries. Quizlet is the largest educational website in the world and I did some research into a few games, one of which was wildly successful (it won $100k in prizes at a competition).

**International Experience**
I went to Germany where I taught for 4 weeks at a high school in Karlsbad. The week before, I traveled from Berlin to Dresden to Prague to Munich and had an awfully great time. I could rattle on forever, but I must say that the new year in Berlin is the best new year I’ve ever had (people are allowed to launch fireworks in the streets!)
**Summer Activities**
I worked at Planet Labs, a company that is building the world’s largest constellation of earth imaging satellites (and soon to be the largest constellation of satellites). It’s in San Francisco.

**Career Plans**
I’m not yet sure what my career plans are; probably some sort of software or entrepreneurship, presumably in California.

**My Time at MIT**
During the snowstorm when all of Boston was closed down, creativity soars. My friend and I painted a 6 foot mural of the lion king. After, we went over to Pika to have some wonderful food, which was then followed by riding down a snow slide that had been made off of a 10 foot barn. We then made a snow man taller than a giant, and one of our friends made a snow bunker nearby that could easily fit 4 people (and it was warm)! Oh, and there was a snowball fight with 500+ people on Killian. Wow, what a day!

I think, by far, the best thing about MIT is the people that I’ve had the privilege to meet. The conversations I’ve had and the small things I’ve learned from these people outweighs anything else. The populace is just incredible and I hope to be in such an environment for the rest of my life. I think another token that should not be missed is the name of MIT. It’s already been incredibly helpful. I’ve been able to talk to pretty much anyone I could possibly want. I find that while traveling I have no issue in finding people to stay with, and I can imagine at least part of that is due to MIT. I think this small edge can really help me become so much more useful in the world.

**Thank You**
I really, truly, with all my heart hope that I will be in your position in the future. Helping me through college is such an incredible thing for you to do. I reflect every day how insanely lucky I am. I’m healthy and I go to MIT, I couldn’t ask for a better life; there’s just no way. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
Sophomore Melody Liu has been named a Class of 1978 Scholar. Below she shares with you some of her interests and activities.

**MIT Activities**

**Arts**
I play the piano and violin.

**Community Service**
I taught a Science Club at a local school in Cambridge.

**Dormitory/FSILG**
I am the housing chair of my dormitory, New House. I run the process to place the new freshmen in their rooms.

**Academic/Research Interests**
I worked with MIT Geomorphology lab to determine the rate of precipitation on an island in Hawaii.

**International Experience**
I did my MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) in China. I worked in Taiwan for 8 weeks, worked with Academica Sinica for astrophysics, as a summer student. I was able to work on telescopes TAOS and SPICA, while exploring Taiwan's tourist attractions on the weekends. I lived in a dormitory on NTU campus and got to know a few of the other students.

One of my classes, Physics and Chemistry of the Earth and Terrestrial Planets in spring 2013 took us on field geology trip to the Himalayas in India. We were able to drive through and observe the different plate boundaries that resulted from the collision of India and Eurasia, creating the Himalayas. We also collected paleomagnetic data for processing later.

**My Time at MIT**
Every student at MIT is amazing and passionate about something. Everyone is so inspiring in how much they care about their work, extracurriculars, and each other. I love the community at MIT.
Sophomore Abraham Shin has been named a Class of 1978 Scholar. Below he shares with you some of his interests and activities.

**MIT ACTIVITIES**

**ATHLETICS**
I participated in sports pistol club.

**DORMITORY/FSILG**
I am in Theta Xi. I was the Community Service Chair and am currently the vice president for the semester.

**ACADEMIC/RESEARCH INTERESTS**
I worked in Professor Freeman's RLE lab the summer of 2013.

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES**
I did my Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) in Professor Freeman's Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE) at MIT.

**CAREER PLANS**
I am not sure at the moment what my career goals are.

**MY TIME AT MIT**
I was fortunate enough to meet many people with whom I can share my passions, whether it is electrical engineering, tennis, or guitar. And after joining a fraternity, I have been nurturing lasting relationships with brothers. With MIT education, I found my new passion in electrical engineering, which I had never thought of a potential major or career path.

My biggest surprise at MIT so far has been the professors' personal involvement with students in active learning. At first, I was afraid that due to the number of students in each class, professors will not have time to focus on students who need help, but it was not the case for most classes.

**THANK YOU**
Thank you so much for your contribution to MIT that allows students like me to take advantage of the most prestigious education in the midst of outstanding faculty and students.
MIT is a true meritocracy, admitting the best and brightest students regardless of their financial circumstances and awarding financial aid solely on the basis of need. The full cost of an MIT education—tuition and fees; room and board; books, supplies, and personal expenses; and average travel allowance—now surpasses $59,000 a year. Resources are needed to ensure that an MIT education remains accessible to all talented young people. Your gifts to scholarships at MIT make dreams possible. Students come here to make an enduring impact on the world. With your support, they will surely succeed.

**CLASS OF 2017 PROFILE**

- **18,989** Applicants
- **1,548** Students admitted
- **8.2 %** Admission rate
- **1,116** Students enrolled
- **72%** Enrollment yield
- **55%** Men
- **45%** Women
- **8%** International students
- **48** States represented
- **52** Countries represented
- **16%** First-generation students
- **67%** Students who attended public high school
- **41%** Valedictorians*
- **92%** Students in top 5% of their class*
- **723** Mean SAT I verbal score
- **769** Mean SAT I math score

*Excluding unranked students.

**FINANCIAL AID AT MIT**

- **$43,498** MIT 2013-2014 tuition and fees
- **90%** MIT undergraduates receiving some form of financial aid
- **58%** MIT undergraduates awarded an MIT scholarship
- **32%** MIT undergraduates whose need is great enough that they rely on financial aid to pay their full tuition
- **$33,697** Average MIT scholarship
- **41%** MIT Class of 2013 graduates with student loan debt
- **$17,891** Average student loan debt at graduation for Class of 2013
- **65%** MIT undergraduates who work term-time
- **$3,058** Average term-time earnings

All financial aid statistics based on 2012-2013 academic year.