

Update from Bob Ferrara '67, Division of Student Life

July 10, 2012

Hello FSILG alums,

This is the summer semiannual message regarding MIT's Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group (FSILG) community. As is typical, there are successes and some setbacks to report. Despite overall membership numbers being relatively stable for several years, the challenges in maintaining an outstanding living environment have been growing, as our involved alumni know very well. With our interest and support, these groups can continue to provide the intense shared educational and personal development experience that we enjoyed.

I. FSILG Community Highlights

FSILG Strategic Planning Effort. A major activity this year has been the compilation of a detailed Strategic Plan. The purpose of the plan is to assist the FSILG community's leadership—students, alumni, and staff—to position the community over the next 5 years to meet the needs of future generations of MIT students. In addition, it considers a much longer time horizon with regard to maintenance and management of the 38 independently owned or managed residential properties. The timing of the plan is no accident; MIT's Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo asked the [Association of Independent Living Groups](#) (AILG) to initiate this work in parallel with a similar planning effort that the Division of Student Life has undertaken.

In preparing the plan, a core [Strategic Planning Committee](#) – led by past AILG Chair and former Theta Xi National President Steve Baker '84 – consulted more than 20 stakeholder groups from across the Institute for their impressions of, and ideas about, the FSILG community. The committee then worked with a group of approximately 40 students, alumni, and staff to identify five strategic themes. Five separate teams then developed 4 to 5 specific initiatives to advance each theme. In all more than 200 people from across the Institute contributed to the plan; it represents the collective vision and ideas of a significant cross section of the MIT FSILG community.

Toward the end of this academic year, each of the major governing groups presented the plan to their constituencies. The three undergraduate councils – the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the sororities' Panhellenic Association, and the Living Group Council – all endorsed the plan. The AILG, which represents all the FSILG alumni corporations, discussed it at length during the June AILG Annual Meeting. The membership voted to support all the Themes, Initiatives, and Purpose of the plan, but requested changes to the wording in several places – especially to clarify the optional nature of many proposed activities. These clarifications are being made and the full plan will be presented at the next AILG Plenary meeting in September. All participants will be ready to engage in the implementation phase this fall.

The Number Six Club Wins FSILG&D Service Challenge. Community Service runs deep among today's generation of MIT students. To capitalize on this, MIT's Public Service Center developed the [FSILG&D Service Challenge](#), a process in which participating fraternities, sororities, independent living groups, and dormitories rally around community service and document their activities. For the past two years, a distinguished panel selects the winner, whose living group name is engraved on a plaque and receives up to \$2,000 from the PSC to implement service projects in the next academic year. In 2011, the first-ever award was given to Sigma Alpha Epsilon for their local community partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, the Museum of Science, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. To kick off the 2012 Challenge, the Public Service Center hosted a photo contest; Phi Beta Epsilon took first place with their 70-person group, the largest college team, in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure: Boston. Then, this past May, the Number Six Club took home the top overall honors with an array of philanthropic fundraising and hands-on service, including an Easter egg hunt for kids from the Italian Home for Children, a program for emotionally and behaviorally challenged children. The MIT news office trumpeted this success in a very complimentary [article](#).

FSILGs Well Represented in 2011-12 Award Cycle. The spring academic term ends with lovely New England weather and a slew of celebratory events acknowledging the great work and outstanding achievements of individual students and FSILG organizations. Besides the Public Service Center awards noted just above, there are several other major ceremonies and recognition activities on the MIT Campus. Here are the key ones:

[MIT Awards Convocation](#). The venerable 10-250 classroom is the traditional site of the [MIT Awards Convocation](#). The most recent convocation was held on May 9, a proud moment to see so many FSILG affiliated

members recognized on this momentous occasion. The most prestigious FSILG chapter award, the D. Reid Weedon Jr. '41 Alumni/ae Relations Award, was announced there. Each of the two co-winners, Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and Theta Delta Chi fraternity, was presented with a \$5,000 check. Another high point occurred when former IFC President Gordon Wintrob '12 (Phi Sigma Kappa) received a Karl Taylor Compton Prize from MIT President Susan Hockfield.

FSILG Awards Reception. The FSILG Office hosted the annual [FSILG Awards Reception](#) on Tuesday, May 15. A variety of undergraduate individual and chapter awards were presented. New this year was the creation of the Stephen D. Baker '84 [Outstanding Change Initiative Award](#); the first recipient was Alpha Phi sorority.

IFC Awards. The Interfraternity Council hosted a very well attended dinner on May 1st at the MIT Faculty Club. The main activity was the presentation of the [annual awards](#), but a good deal of time was also directed to explaining and inviting participation in support of the FSILG Strategic Plan.

Student Leader Awards. At the [Student Leader Award](#) (SLA) celebration this past May 18th, the Interfraternity Council was recognized with a Bridge Builder Award for their enhanced educational programs and community building initiatives. Phi Beta Epsilon was also recognized with the SLA Philanthropy Award.

Living Group Council Reinvigorated. A committed group of undergraduates and alumni from the six Independent Living Groups (ILGs) have worked since February to reinvigorate the Living Group Council after it had languished for several semesters. Led by newly elected Speaker Eyas Alsharaiha '13 of the Number Six Club and Secretary Daniel Fremont '13 of Epsilon Theta, the LGC has held meetings every other week through the latter half of the spring semester to discuss issues pertinent to the ILGs. Alsharaiha has worked to reestablish relationships with the other councils and the MIT administration, and the LGC has become actively involved in the FSILG strategic planning effort. [The Living Group Council website](#) contains information on this vibrant and diverse segment of the FSILG community.

Panhellenic & LGC Communities Participate in Recruitment Boot Camp. As we all know, recruitment is the lifeblood of FSILGs. So on May 18th and 19th over 100 members of the Panhellenic and Living Group Council communities participated in "Recruitment Boot Camp". This workshop was facilitated by Laurel Pepper, a former national staff member with Alpha Chi Omega sorority. She focused on proven recruitment methods and assisted participants in enhancing the branding and marketing campaigns of their organizations. As alumnae from its six member sororities understand, the [Panhellenic Association](#) has a very involved recruitment process, quite unlike that for the Fraternities or ILGS. They really attempt to match each potential new member, typically freshmen women, with the most appropriate sorority. Several years ago Panhel moved their major recruitment period from January to early September, to be more in line with other groups. This coming year, the sororities agreed to reduce the period from four days to three days, and include a new first day orientation. Given Panhel's excellent track record, this should work even better. Panhel is quite a remarkable organization, accurately billing itself as the "largest women's organization on the MIT campus", with almost six hundred undergraduate members.

MIT Panhellenic Meets with BU Panhellenic. While close in distance, the MIT Panhellenic community has not always maintained a close relationship with the sorority community at Boston University. Throughout the spring semester, MIT Panhellenic President Denzil Sikka '13 of Alpha Phi worked to develop relationships with other area Panhellenic presidents, in particular, with BU Panhellenic President Marisa Feehan. This interaction culminated with the MIT Panhellenic executives attending a BU Panhellenic meeting on March 21st to discuss ways the communities could collaborate to support the new [National Panhellenic Conference Unanimous Agreement X](#), which asserts the right for sororities to exist as women-only private social organizations. The meeting was a rousing success, as the MIT Panhellenic leaders left the meeting confident in this collaboration, and with new ideas to better the MIT sorority community.

IFC Embraces Strategic Plan & Member Education. The Interfraternity Council has long been blessed with active and forward looking student leadership. This year's group has created some interesting programs for its members and become very involved with the FSILG Strategic Planning effort. In the words of IFC President Tommy Anderson '13 of Zeta Psi, the IFC Exec Board "has been working with fellow stakeholders of the MIT FSILG community in an attempt to discover and enumerate ways in which our community can reflect, improve, and expand. We are in full support of the Strategic Plan that has resulted, as we believe that it is an important step towards long-term goal setting for our community, as well as a necessary element for the continuation of our success. To adopt this plan and to begin implementation, we have taken the steps to form an [IFC Strategic Task Force](#), made up of several specific committees to address the individual initiatives of the Strategic Plan. This Task Force is charged with monitoring the progress of the Strategic Plan's implementation from the fraternity perspective. Committee Chairs have been selected, and we have begun the process of planning for

the fall. We are excited to begin this process, and are looking forward to working with the AILG and FSILG community towards completing these important goals". This kind of enthusiasm lifts everybody connected with this effort.

This past academic year, the IFC made educational programming another top priority. Responding to two early-in-the-term student tragedies on campus, the IFC found a trainer to host "Question Persuade and Refer (QPR)" trainings which gave participants three steps to help prevent suicide. Nineteen chapters were represented with over fifty participants. The IFC also partnered with students and staff from LGBT@MIT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered) to write a training curriculum to help make our fraternities more welcoming to the LGBT community. Twenty-five participants from twelve chapters came together for an open and honest dialogue about the culture within their chapters and confronting stereotypes of their chapters. In addition to those two programs, the IFC Delegates Council hosted several guest speakers from across campus and discussed topics such as sexual assault awareness and dining and the impact of the meal plan on fraternities, and held workshops for treasurers and house managers. The IFC brought in a well-known guest speaker Cory Ciocchetti to discuss "Chasing Authentic Success", with a focus on students finding their true passion and not always going for what is "expected" of them. He challenged students to practice honesty, integrity and to be people of character. Lastly, the IFC also teamed up with the brothers of Phi Beta Epsilon for a presentation about hazing prevention. Alongside Todd Sullivan, Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life at the University of Connecticut, they presented information about hazing, including the hidden harms that are not always discussed. The PBE brothers presented some scenarios and had participants discuss how they would handle that situation. Todd then held a discussion about how to have a new member program that creates meaningful experiences and is non-hazing.

II. Alumni Achievements

MIT's EVP Israel Ruiz Keynotes at AILG Annual Meeting. Last October [Israel Ruiz](#) SM '01 was confirmed as MIT's Executive Vice President & Treasurer. From this key position, he oversees all the administrative operations of the Institute. Israel has historically been very helpful to the FSILG community, so it seemed natural to invite him to be the keynoter at the [Association of Independent Living Groups](#) (AILG) Annual Meeting. His address provided a crash course in the evolution of MIT's finances and the challenges for tomorrow. This is a subject Israel knows well, as he has served previously as MIT's budget director and most recently as Vice President of Finance. You will be pleased to know that Israel's successor as VP of Finance is Mike Howard '86, who is not only an MIT alum but also a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. This annual meeting and dinner provides an occasion to introduce and thank MIT staff, people like Israel, who are important partners in MIT's FSILG community. All told, about 20 such key MIT staff attended the gathering.

Though a very social event, the AILG meeting has a business side as well. The annual report was discussed by AILG Chair Ernie Sabine '66 of Student House, next year's budget was approved, and board elections were conducted. This year AILG Secretary Rich Possemato '01 (Nu Delta) and Steve Baker '84 (Theta Xi), who had been on the board previously, were elected to three year terms. Also, three alums were elected to 1 year Ombudsperson positions – Stan Wulf '65 (Phi Delta Theta), Annmarie McAninch '96 (Alpha Phi), and Tom Yu '96 (Fenway House). Thanks to all of these people for their service to the FSILG community.

Project for High-Speed Network Connections to Campus. Over the past few years, the Community Network Upgrade Project has touched every single one of the 41 FSILG-occupied buildings. Funded by the [Independent Residence Development Fund](#) (IRDF), the latest wired and wireless computer networks were installed everywhere, ensuring that all ***internal*** networks were state-of-the-art. Now the AILG's IT-Telecomm Committee is focusing on a new project to allow very high speed ***external*** connections for the Boston & Brookline FSILGs, which are not directly connected to the MIT fiber optic ring. Clearly, high speed network connectivity (i.e. higher bandwidth) is a requirement for today's MIT students. As such we have been collaborating with MIT's IS&T department to design and build a direct fiber connection, which will enable network service equaling that of any of the MIT Residence Halls and campus-based FSILGs. This project, supported by the Division of Student Life and IRDF, will require two years and over a million dollars to complete. In the meantime, twelve FSILGs have elected to upgrade their current external bandwidth – via a Verizon commercial service. This is a significant expense, but it does qualify for partial IRDF reimbursement.

IRDF and SPGH Ready for Capital Campaigns. As much needed modernization and deferred maintenance issues are addressed, the IRDF remains a key to our community's future. Contributions are picking up, and must continue to do so if we are to make those necessary renovations and investments. A new [IRDF Photo Gallery](#) illustrates many of the renovations that have already been accomplished. This gallery was organized by IRDF Advisory Board member Lisa Tatterson '99 of Alpha Chi Omega. The response by students with these

photos was so good that another round is planned for the fall. Also, thanks to the [revised procedure](#) in effect for IRDF Project Grants (the popular Annual Educational Operating Grants and Construction Loan programs are not affected), the IRDF balance sheet is very solid. It needs to be; five major capital campaigns are underway and we hope even more are forthcoming.

Several FSILGs have also joined the [Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing](#) (SPGH) to help with major renovation campaigns. This is a good fit. SPGH was formed at the University of Illinois to aid in the preservation of historically and architecturally significant Greek houses – like those MIT has in abundance! The entire Back Bay and Bay State Road areas are historic districts. Ever since Tom Holtey '62 of Chi Phi discovered SPGH, the relationship with MIT fraternities has steadily deepened and become more productive. The SPGH Directors have come here and I have gone to Champaign-Urbana to visit them as well. Recognizing the importance of this relationship, the SPGH recently asked Tom to join their board; he readily accepted. Besides Tom and the SPGH connection, there are many others ready to help FSILGs get started with capital renewal. The AILG Finance Committee and the MIT Annual Fund can be very helpful. And the IRDF interest rates are very low, as low as allowed by law. So this is a very auspicious time to bring MIT's FSILG housing stock back to its former splendor.

AILG Hosts Education Session for Alumni Volunteers. On Thursday, April 26th, the [AILG Education Committee](#), headed by Ryan Andrews '10, sponsored its third annual Alumni Connections Seminar at the Hulsizer room in the new Ashdown graduate dormitory. This seminar had two primary goals: 1) educating alumni/ae volunteers on the resources available to them and 2) “connecting” volunteers from different FSILGs so they can be resources to each other. Over 25 volunteers attended, and received a “speed dating” version of all the resources available to FSILGs and Alumni Corporations from MIT, the AILG, and the [FSILG Cooperative, Inc.](#) (better known as just the FCI). The FCI is the purchasing cooperative wholly owned by MIT FSILGs, and is now among the largest such organizations in the country. As an added bonus, this year's seminar also included a review of the FSILG Strategic Plan. After the formal seminar, participants headed to the Thirsty Ear Pub (MIT's graduate bar, also located in Ashdown) for refreshments. Overall, the seminar was a complete success, with several attendees remarking that events like the Alumni Connections seminar, with its mix of education and networking, are critical to maintaining our strong FSILG presence. The [slides](#) from the seminar are available on the AILG website.

FSILG Awards Honor Alums. Since alumni engagement is so crucial to keeping this FSILG community thriving and on track, it is no surprise that there are many deserving alums to honor at the [FSILG Awards Ceremony](#), held just before finals this past May 15th. As noted in an earlier item in this message, the initial purpose is to recognize undergraduate chapters and leaders; but this event has evolved into a very meaningful ceremony that includes our alumni volunteers. This year, 12 FSILG alums were selected for the Outstanding Alumni Volunteer Awards. Many were Boston area locals, but Tom Lee '97 of Alpha Delta Phi was also honored. Tom flies in every year from San Francisco and stays throughout the recruitment week to coach his ADP charges. Judging from the chapter's recruiting success of the last few years, his coaching really works. In addition, a record seven alums were recognized for their exceptional commitment as live-in Resident Advisors.

Two more special people were honored with “Lifetime Achievement” awards. Herb Cantor '44 was given long overdue recognition for his work from the late 1940's until the late 1960's with Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity here. The “Sammies” have since evolved into Fenway House. When in early 1961, the chapter learned that its lease on its house in Brookline would not be renewed, Herb led the search for a new home and helped negotiate the purchase of a house at 34 The Fenway, for which he personally guaranteed the mortgage. At the Sammie reunion in September 2011, Herb and his wife Barbara were the honored guests at the closing dinner, and received a standing ovation from all the attendees.

The story of the other Lifetime awardee, Tom Egan of Delta Kappa Epsilon, is equally compelling. Tom served for seventeen years as cook, chef, counselor, and mentor to the DKEs. For this service, he was initiated as brother four years ago. Then, at the young age of 50, Tom passed away unexpectedly three months ago. His DKE fraternity brothers were a huge part of his life. In fact, DKE President Russell Spivak '13 was asked to give the eulogy by Tom's family. The mutual love, respect, and devotion that Delta Kappa Epsilon has developed for those who work at 403 Memorial Drive is simply extraordinary. Before Tom, John “Jack” Jackson and Lew Gosman were fixtures at Delta Kappa Epsilon. There is a beautiful bronze sculpture in the hallway dedicated to their memory. Matt McGann '00 of the Admissions Office even authored a [special blog](#) on how special these relationships are. Led by Sandy Warrick '72, with help from Mark Spadafora '08, DKE brothers have rallied to raise money for a new Tech Dinghy. Named the *Lew, Jack, and Tom*, the boat will be dedicated in the fall.

FSILGs Costs Compare Favorably to Dorms. For the past four years, the AILG Finance Committee has conducted a comparative study of housebills to help FSILGs make informed decisions. This data contrasts the

costs of FSILG living to the campus residence halls. This past year 30 member organizations participated, reporting a system-wide occupancy rate of 83%. The average housebill was \$7,376 per academic year, representing an annual increase of 3.5% over the each of the past three years. In comparing the value of FSILG room and board to that of the residence halls, the most significant factor is a chapter's meal plan. Most member organizations provided a comprehensive meal plan, and for those chapters, a student who takes full advantage of their chapter meal plan would see a significant cost-savings compared to the residence halls. However, as most students often eat several meals on campus, the actual amount spent by FSILG students is likely closer to the amount spent in the residence halls. (These data, of course, do not calculate the additional immeasurable benefits of FSILG membership!) The goal of this work is to enable chapters to set competitive housebill rates, putting enough aside for the maintenance and capital improvement necessary to set high expectations on the quality of FSILG living. The MIT residence halls have been steadily improving their living environments and the FSILGs must keep pace.

FSILGs Host Reunion Weekend Receptions. A record of thirty FSILGs participated in the [Living Group Open Houses](#) during this past June's Reunion weekend. This custom was an experiment begun in 2008 that has now become a permanent fixture of this busy weekend. The original idea was to afford an opportunity for alumni returning for their Class Reunions to visit their old MIT living group. Now many FSILGs also sent out invitations to local alums and to parents of graduating seniors, who deeply appreciate the chance to relax after the long ceremony in Killian Court. One very special Reunion event was 100th Anniversary of MIT's Lambda Chi Alpha chapter. Over one hundred brothers returned for a weekend of festivities. The occasion also marked the formal kickoff of a fundraising drive to renovate the LCA chapter home at 99 Bay State Road, a magnificent Boston townhouse originally built for members of the illustrious Saltonstall family of Massachusetts. For other important milestones in MIT chapter histories, please visit the [FSILG history website](#).

III. MIT News

New President, New Provost. It is hardly a surprise that the biggest news on campus these days is the [selection of Provost Rafael Reif](#) to succeed Susan Hockfield and become MIT's 17th President. Rafael received an incredibly warm welcome when introduced to the MIT community as President-elect in 10-250 this May, just hours after the MIT Corporation voted to adopt the Presidential Search Committee's recommendation. Incidentally, the Search Committee was headed by the same alum who headed the previous search, Jim Champy '63 of Phi Kappa Sigma. The choice was greeted enthusiastically by students, faculty, and alumni alike. Rafael formally assumed the MIT presidency last week, and the inauguration has just been scheduled for Friday, September 21. We hope you can be back on campus then. This is the same weekend as the Alumni Association's Leadership Conference; it will be a great time to be on campus. Just last week, Biology Professor [Chris Kaiser](#) was named to succeed as Provost, putting in place MIT's new senior leadership team.

Review Committee on Orientation Concludes, Next Steps in Progress. The Review Committee on Orientation released [their report](#) in early February 2012. The release was anticipated with some trepidation, but no major FSILG recruitment changes were recommended at this time. However, major shifts will be seen in the shortening of Orientation Week activities by one day, revamping the Residence Exploration (REX) activities, modifications to the Orientation Planning Committee, and the removal of City Days from the Orientation Schedule. In late February, members of the FSILG Strategic Planning Committee – FSILG Assistant Dean Marlena Love, David Hutchings '10, and Steve Baker '84 – met with the Chair of the Review Committee on Orientation, Professor Roe Smith, and others. It was a positive discussion and, as the report mentions, the Committee was torn on the outcome of providing a recommendation for the "right" time for recruitment. Another committee will be charged in the fall 2012 semester to deeper explore these issues related to FSILG recruitment.

The Tech recently covered [the impacts to the FSILG community](#) from the Committee's recommendations. In response the student governing groups are developing proactive initiatives for this fall, including a stronger emphasis on educating incoming students and families about the FSILG Community by providing information in the Student Center during Orientation Week and a more collaborative approach to a structured recruitment kick off on Saturday, September 1st.

DSL and AILG Collaborate on Strategic Plan. As mentioned in the previous message, the Division of Student Life (DSL) is very engaged in a Strategic Planning effort. At Dean for [Student Life](#) Chris Colombo's urging, we have tried hard to mesh the DSL work with the FSILG-wide strategic plan exercise mentioned in the very first item of this message. My sense is that the mutual engagement has helped both planning efforts. The [FSILG plan](#) is already available and, later in the fall when it is published, the full [DSL plan](#) will incorporate and

complement it in many areas. I have had the privilege of being a part of both efforts, and there have been quite a few eye-opening experiences along the way as the Division seeks to renew and refocus its efforts in supporting MIT's 4,400 undergraduate and 6,200 graduate students. MIT is still MIT and committed as ever to excellence, but I have come to learn how the landscape and student expectations differ today from the simpler times when I was a student. Also, as a veteran of several planning efforts in the corporate world, I've learned to accept and adjust to a very different set of expectations, circumstances, and pace that exist in the academic world. It has been a great learning experience.

Updates from the FSILG Office and Residential Life & Dining. This past February 29th, FSILG Asst. Dean Marlena Love and I presented a [history of the FSILGs](#) to colleagues in the Division of Student Life, as a segment of the DSL History Series. This series was developed during the current DSL Strategic Planning effort and includes an interesting lineup of historical perspectives on Religious Life at MIT, the Athletic department, Residential Life Programs (RLP) and the MIT Hobby Shop.

There have also been a variety of staff changes in the FSILG Office and neighboring departments in Residential Life. Jennifer Meredith left her position as program coordinator in the FSILG Office to become the Senior Administrative Assistant for Residential Life Programs (RLP). During this transition, Jess Bolandrina, an undergrad student at Northeastern, is interning with the FSILG Office this summer and another Graduate Assistant will join the FSILG Team in August for an academic year-long appointment.

Other changes within the department include the departure of Donna Denoncourt, a longtime FSILG friend and alum initiate of Pi Beta Phi sorority, from the Director of Residential Life Programs (RLP) position in early June. Christina Davis is coming from Princeton to take over this role in mid-July. Naomi Carton (Associate Dean for Residential Life and Dining), Nilam Kotadia (Manager of Dormitory Assignments), and Josh Cheney (Guest and Conference Housing) are also new faces in the Department.

Dennis Collins was recently named Director of Residential Life for Capital Renewal, Renovation and Repair for the department of Residential Life & Dining. In this position, Dennis will directly oversee the strategic planning for capital renewal, manage the renovations of the residences and dining facilities, and consult for the FSILGs to ensure a quality residential experience. This is a great move, as Dennis is already an integral stakeholder engaged with the FSILG Community and FSILG Strategic Plan. Dennis' current role of Director of Housing has been modified to the Director of Housing Operations and a search to fill this position is currently underway.

Finally, we should mention that the FSILG Office has a [new website](#) and [Tumblr](#) presence.

And thanks for all you do! Alumni are absolutely essential to the continued health and vitality of MIT's FSILG community. Your continued help is deeply appreciated, whether it is connecting with other alums, advocating for your chapter and the FSILG community, doing valuable volunteer work, or helping financially. With this sustained effort, we will indeed continue to have among the very best and most varied college residence communities in the nation.

Sincerely,
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And here is the contact information for two key colleagues. Any one of us would love to hear from you, especially if you are interested in volunteering with this remarkable FSILG Community.

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PS. MIT Dean of Admissions Stu Schmill '86 reacted quickly when the TV satirist Stephen Colbert referred to MIT as "just a tech school". Here is a [great video](#) from the lighter side of life at MIT.

PPS. This message and all prior e-mails in this series can be found on the [FSILG Archive](#) on the Division of Student Life web site.