



Students talk to prospective employers at the annual Fall Career Fair, Friday, September 22.

KATE LU—THE TECH

## IN SHORT

Oct. 6 is the Add Date. It is also the last day to drop half-term subjects.

Oct. 9 is Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Oct. 10 is a Student Holiday: no classes!

The Tech's mailing lists have been shut down; use [tt-join@mit.edu](mailto:tt-join@mit.edu) and the following mailing lists: [tt-news-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-news-editors@mit.edu); [tt-opinioneditors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-opinioneditors@mit.edu); [tt-photographyeditors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-photographyeditors@mit.edu); [tt-arts-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-arts-editors@mit.edu); [tt-campus-life-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-campus-life-editors@mit.edu); [tt-science-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-science-editors@mit.edu); [tt-sportseditors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-sportseditors@mit.edu).

Interested in joining The Tech? Email [tt-join@mit.edu](mailto:tt-join@mit.edu)

Send news and tips to [tt-news-editors@mit.edu](mailto:tt-news-editors@mit.edu)

# More details arise on MIT and GSU agreement

*Kornbluth: "The negotiations were thoughtful, serious, collaborative."*

By Russel Ismael  
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 25, President Kornbluth announced in an email to the MIT community that the administration and the MIT Graduate Student Union (GSU) reached an agreement. That same day, the GSU announced that the contract had been ratified, according to an X account with the handle @MIT-GradUnion. The contract vote passed in favour, with 999 voting for it, and 44 people against—a split of 95.8 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

Kornbluth believes that this contract will bridge a gap between the research being conducted and students' wellbeing. "In concert with a faculty advisory committee, we sought to be responsive to our graduate students without jeopardising our research and educational enterprise or the interests of other members of our community," Kornbluth wrote.

The new contract will give GSU members intellectual property rights on par with faculty and staff, 15 vacation days in a year, up from ten, and a grievable workload clause to prevent burnout. A \$10,000 need-based grant for employee members with children was also agreed upon. Doctoral and eligible Master's students with children are also afforded the same privileges, with grants beginning at \$6,500 for one child to \$8,500 for three or more children.

The GSU also successfully bargained for workplace provisions like transitional funding when changing advisors and further protection from discrimination and harassment. Such protection includes clauses such as gender equity, where a member may safely seek re-

course if facing gender-based harassment, and restroom equity, allowing access to gender-affirming restrooms.

Improvements on pre-existing arrangements were also made, as graduate students are now given a 70 percent T-Pass subsidy, up from the previous 50 percent, and a substantial 83 percent dental insurance subsidy, which did not exist before. Moreover, international students will also receive a new \$1,200 bonus to cover their immigration fees and an assurance that the International Students Office will process their request in a timely manner.

Furthermore, graduate students, from research assistants to instructors (Instructor-Gs), will expect a raise in their wage rates per each year of the contract. In the coming years, increases will begin at 3.5 percent and 3.25 percent, respectively, along with a back pay increase of 5.4 percent this calendar year. The GSU can request MIT to provide the aggregated wage data to ascertain the pay rate of each GSU member. In addition to a pay raise, research and teaching assistants, along with Instructor-Gs, can expect a tuition remission commensurate with the effort expected of their position.

The GSU's contract will expire in 2026, where the GSU will negotiate with MIT again if both parties want to extend or terminate the agreement. In this period, the GSU will be unable to hold any strikes, as stipulated in the contract. Kornbluth stated that both parties "struck a good balance" and believes that it "[laid] a foundation of good faith and mutual respect for the future." Kornbluth wrote that she hopes to move ahead with "a sense of new beginnings."

## Professor Moungi Bawendi wins 2023 Chemistry Nobel Prize

On Oct. 4, Moungi Bawendi, the Lester Wolfe Professor of Chemistry, was announced as a winner of the 2023 Chemistry Nobel Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for his work in "the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots." Bawendi shared the prize with his postdoctoral advisor, Louis Brus of Columbia University, and Alexei Ekimov of Nanocrystals Technology.

According to the prize announcement, Bawendi "rev-

olutionised the chemical production of quantum dots, resulting in almost perfect particles." Bawendi's work with quantum dots has seen various applications from solar cells to surgery.

In a press conference held on Oct. 4, Bawendi was introduced by President Kornbluth who said that "we cannot imagine anything more electrifying." She added "you'd be hard pressed to find a community with a greater reverence for the wondrous

beauty of basic discovery science and the incredible power of innovation to better our world than the people of MIT."

At the press conference, Bawendi stated that the future of quantum dot research is bright. "I think 30 years ago, none of us who started the field could have predicted 30 years later we'd be where we are today... innovation comes out in directions that you can't predict."

— Alex Tang

## 2023 MIT security and fire safety report released; President Sally Kornbluth shares new update on ongoing across-campus listening tour

Page 2



Students browse the List art gallery, looking for a piece to take home for the semester through the List Student Art Lending Program, Tuesday, September 19.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

### SPORTS BLITZ

Read about the past two weeks of sports for MIT (reader's digest version)!

CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3

### LONG-TERM FRIENDSHIPS

Read about our campus life editor's musings on friendships. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3, 6

### A BLUE RIBBON TAKEOVER

Chef Dan Bazzinotti develops new restaurant Pescador. ARTS, p. 6



### CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Learn more about this year's STEM-focused festival in Cambridge! PHOTO, p. 4

### FUN PAGES

XKCDs, sudokus and crosswords, and haikus to fill the week!  
FUN, p. 7

### SECTIONS

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Campus Life ..... 3  
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# Cambridge Science Festival



**The One Sphere** stands on display in the Open Space as part of the Cambridge Science Festival.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH



**Cambridge Science Festival** hosts a pop-up exhibit of #IfThenSheCan, featuring 30 3D-printed statues celebrating contemporary women innovators in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

EUNICE ZHANG—THE TECH



Children explore exhibits at the **Carnival** in the Kendall/MIT Open Space, Sunday.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH



**The Highlander Robotics Team** showcases their robot at the Carnival, Sunday.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH





Dr. Ronda Hamm stands next to her statue at a meet-and-greet during the Science Carnival, Sunday.



Dr. Joyonna Gamble-George stands next to her statue at a meet-and-greet during the Science Carnival in the Kendall/MIT Open Space, Sunday. The statue was part of the #IfThenSheCan exhibit.



Community members watch a demonstration at the Carnival in the Kendall/MIT Open Space, Sunday. The event was part of the Cambridge Science Festival put on by MIT Museum, running from September 25 to October 1.



Children build with blocks at an interact exhibit at the Carnival in the Kendall/MIT Open Space, Sunday.



Award-winning chef Dan Bazzinotti fronts Blue Ribbon Group's second Kenmore Square outpost.

**Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–12 a.m.**

A friend soon made Bazzinotti aware of an opening at the esteemed Blue Ribbon Group's newly planned Boston spaces. Initially, his response was ambivalent; at that point, Bazzinotti was contemplating a move away from the restaurant world. "I was looking for butchering jobs," he says, wanting to return to his passion for salumi and whole-animal carving. But after hearing the New York-based group's plan for their expansion to Boston — three restaurants, each with its own distinct vision — he was intrigued. "One of the best things [about] Eataly was that I could bounce around — I wasn't stuck in one restaurant," says Bazzinotti. "Now you're telling me I can do that in a sushi restaurant, a Latin restaurant, and a French restaurant, all under the same umbrella?"

Within the menu's loose limits, creativity abounds. Well-filled lobster tacos and corn "ribs" with cotija. Oysters prepared asado with chili butter. Branzino, grilled over hot coals in a wood oven and served with blue corn tortillas and a panoply of salsas. Bazzinotti's classic ceviche from the 18-seat ceviche bar with red snapper, shrimp, and cho-

Luck doesn't sound very scientific, but I believe that it plays a role in situations like these. Maybe fate is a more appropriate word, given that this friend-

Actually, scratch what I just wrote. I am not ready to face the inevitable.

Today, Bazzinotti's kitchen still seems to operate like a culinary playground. He claims the kitchen's easygoing culture trickles down from the bosses themselves: "Bruce and [his brother and business partner] Eric are so important. They don't come in to nit-pick, they come in to say, 'Alright guys, what's exciting?'" Offering five ceviche specials at once? Sure! Paying homage to the space's oyster bar roots with six different oyster preparations? Of course! Spur-of-the-moment Italian dishes? Why not! Bazzinotti seems to be happier cooking Italian food on his own terms. "You have our back-waiters and our servers and our dishwashers excited to work there and be a part of this restaurant, which, in turn, makes for a really great restaurant"

Like its neighbor Blue Ribbon Sushi, Pescador strikes many balances. Some guests wear dress shirts, while others prefer shorts. Island music and themed decor belie an ambitious slate of food and drink. Red Sox fans enjoy a beer and a pizza next to businessmen sipping tequila, and somehow, it feels right. It's the same feeling diners experience at the sushi bar next door and the same feeling diners will experience when the brasserie opens this fall: one of belonging. Because Blue Ribbon group isn't just about food — it's about creating places where everyone feels at home.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a black smartphone. The screen is lit up and displays a grid of various mobile application icons. The icons include Adobe Acrobat, Airtel, Allegro, Aparat, Behance, Business, CamScanner, Chomikuj.pl, Chrome, Currents, Disk, Earth, Evernote, Facebook, feedly, and others. The phone is held at an angle, and the background is blurred.



FUN PAGES

pages 7–8

# Midterm 1

Solution, page 2

9							6	5
7		1			9		3	
2			6			1		
3	7	6		2			4	
	2			3		7	8	6
		2			5			8
	9		8			3		4
5	8							7

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# Add/Drop

Solution, page 2

			1				9	3
			8		9	6		
	5				7			
8	3	5	6			2		
	1		3		8		6	
		9			5	1	3	8
			7				1	
		2	5		3			
4	6				2			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# Shapeshifts

by Manaal Mohammed '25

Solution, page 2

## ACROSS

- 01 Menthol pain relieving balm with an apt name  
07 Pang  
11 Water bottle ingredient that causes reproductive harm, shortly  
14 It might be heard in the herd mooing  
15 Present  
16 Sam \_\_\_\_\_ (Dr. Seuss character)  
17 Activity for four couples  
19 Acme Corp. wares (for Wile E. Coyote)  
20 Hoechlin and Posey  
21 Malign  
23 Stimulate (as interest)  
26 Bonds  
28 Jane Austen novel titled as the main character's name  
29 PC brand  
30 Relationship fallout, often  
32 Hawaiian welcome item  
33 Net  
34 Center for some sports, shortly  
35 "Dig in!"  
37 Picasso and Braque, e.g.  
41 Tool used to pierce leather  
42 Old letter  
43 \_\_\_\_-tzu (philosopher)  
44 Discussion where those involved agree with each other to the point of redundancy, in modern slang  
48 Like some fiction  
49 "Then again," in text  
50 Singer Ora  
51 Ottomans, for some  
52 Region known as the "Las Vegas of Asia"  
54 Go out briefly?  
56 Type of forest game  
57 Change into another form ... or like 17-across, 30-across, and 44-across structurally  
62 Draw  
63 A few  
64 Leafs  
65 ERP might help treat it

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14							15					16		
17							18					19		
					20					21	22			
23	24	25				26			27		28			
29					30					31				
32				33					34					
35			36					37				38	39	40
					41			42				43		
44	45	46				47					48			
49					50					51				
52				53		54			55					
56				57	58							59	60	61
62				63					64					
65				66					67					

- 66 Understanding, maybe  
67 Boston suburb (not Worcester) (not Arlington) (not Roslindale) (...)  
**DOWN**  
01 Contacts on Slack, say  
02 \_\_\_\_ au  
03 [reading this]  
04 Work break  
05 Where to put pastrami  
06 Neutrogena shampoo offering  
07 Islamic canon law  
08 More taut  
09 Curve  
10 Honeytrappers  
11 "Dig in!"  
12 It might come before Canal or Papers  
13 Acela provider  
18 Abhor  
22 French thanks  
23 It might be seen near a mall  
24 "Makes sense!"

- 25 Left  
27 White's style partner  
30 A shaman, for one  
31 \_\_\_\_ Rexha  
33 Wail (as a cat might)  
36 \_\_\_\_ Baron Cohen, "Borat" creator  
37 Tastefully select  
38 Run one's mouth, maybe  
39 It might be sweet  
40 Soaks, as bread in soup  
42 Shot again  
44 Wake up  
45 Crooked type?  
46 Oscillated  
47 Spanish tuber  
48 They're larger in the dark  
51 Popular lake destination in Northern California  
53 Group that sent the first animal into space  
55 Link warning letters  
58 Shed tool  
59 Wear for the day, informally  
60 Also  
61 Tax ID digits

# The Tech's Existential Crisis Is Your Existential Opportunity

By Paul Schindler, Jr

This newspaper is undergoing an existential crisis. There are not enough staff members and not enough money for it to continue to exist. The money problem can be fixed with help from its 1,200 alumni. But they can't come back and put out the paper and maintain the website. That requires student staff.

I hear you asking, "Why should I care? It's just another club. Clubs cease to exist all the time." The Tech is the only club at MIT specifically mentioned in the U.S. Constitution. It is not a club. It is a news organization. Because I'm an old-timer, let's call it a newspaper.

I'll bet you care about MIT's reputation and rankings, since they affect the value of your degree. There is no major university in America without a student newspaper. No more The Tech? That's a distinction that will devalue your MIT degree.

Why does this matter? As Thomas Jefferson said, "were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." I would rather have The Tech without MIT than MIT without The Tech. Every public institution needs to be held ac-

countable by a free and independent media.

"What's in it for me?" That depends. Is it enough that the paper is a fun, exciting, activity, different every week, which allows you to change the course of events at MIT?

Do you want to get ahead in science or engineering, corporate or academic? Who's more likely to succeed: a person who writes sleep-inducing journal articles and memos, or a person whose time at the newspaper teaches them how to write pithy, informative and readable prose? Just ask your reviewers or your boss.

You can't learn to write that well from a textbook. On-the-job training will take a few years off your career. Or you can get that training at The Tech.

But wait, there's more. Do you like plays, movies or concerts? How about the chance to attend them for free and also to talk, one-on-one, with the actors and performers before or after you watch them?

Are you interested in sports? Do you want to share your opinions with others? The Tech. Do you wish your team's accomplishments were more widely known? The Tech. I guarantee you newspaper photographers will take better pictures of you and your team in action than some person with an iPhone.

Are you interested in the story behind the story? Do you like to know what's going on before everyone else does? Do you have questions about how your department, your school or the Institute are spending your tuition money? Do you want to know why that Independent Living Group or Dormitory was disciplined? A media credential opens virtually every door hiding those who know. You get answers direct from the source. And if they don't let you in, you can tell the public and they can decide for themselves what official reticence means.

Heck, are you interested in weather? The Tech has room for a staff meteorologist.

"I could do all this on social media," you say. Will anyone see it? Will anyone care? Will the administration take your call or change direction as a result of your story? Will you get free passes to arts events? I believe the answer is no.

Not to mention the fact that newspaper work looks good on graduate school applications (they like people who can write), especially for law school.

*Paul E. Schindler, Jr. earned a B.S. in Management in 1974, after serving a term as editor in chief of The Tech. He can be found at [www.schindler.org](http://www.schindler.org).*

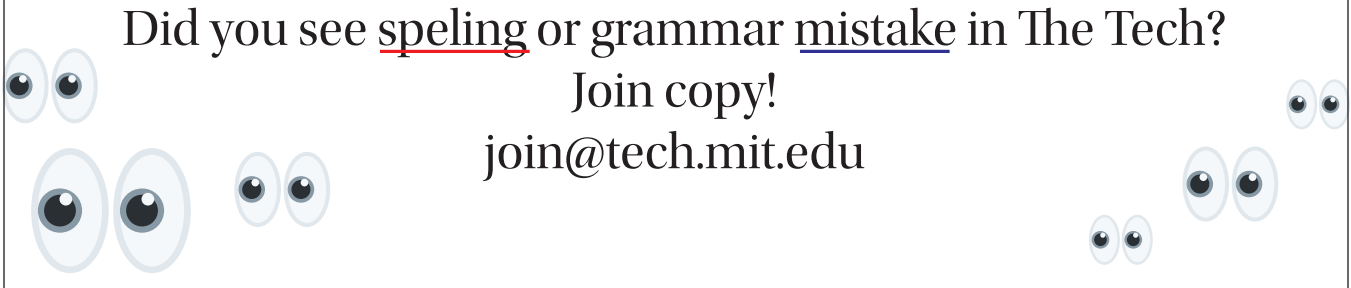
## Are you a tetris ninja?

Use your powers for good!



...by joining the production department at The Tech!

[join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)



Did you see speling or grammar mistake in The Tech?

Join copy!

[join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)



