



**Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Association of Independent Living Groups, Inc.**

Dear Parents of MIT Class of 2013,

We join many others in welcoming your student to the campus. Attending MIT is a wonderful opportunity; we ourselves are the product of that opportunity, and of the nearly unique system of independent living groups found here at MIT. The purpose of this letter is to introduce our living group system to you and answer some questions you may have about student housing at MIT.

The Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) comprises alumni/ae from MIT's 38 fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups (FSILGs). Approximately 40 percent of all undergraduates at MIT choose to affiliate with one of our FSILGs during their first year at MIT and have the opportunity to live in their living groups' houses starting in their sophomore year. The diversity of our living and learning environments is yet another way MIT offers unique educational and personal development opportunities.

Our FSILG organizations have a rich history at MIT: our first fraternity was founded at MIT in 1873; our most recent sorority in 2008. Many FSILGs are all male, some are all female, and some are coeducational. Many of MIT's most distinguished alumni/ae were active members of their fraternity, sorority, or independent living group, and lived in one of our houses as undergraduates. Our members excel in scholarship, athletics, music, theater, and public service. FSILGs give undergraduates unparalleled opportunities to develop leadership skills that are both immediately useful and as graduates, helpful in the business, government, education, and nonprofit world. Recent MIT surveys have confirmed that FSILG alumni/ae play major roles as entrepreneurs starting new companies while creating new fields and new jobs, and that FSILG alumni/ae are more active and more generous in MIT's formal alumni activities, as well as providing continuing support to their undergraduate chapters. By joining an FSILG, your child will have opportunities to meet, network with, and get to know these special alums.

We invite your son or daughter to meet FSILG undergraduates as they arrive on campus this fall. And if you accompany them to MIT, please be our guests at a brunch on Sunday August 30th; you will meet many of the FSILG student leaders, as well as AILG alumni and MIT staff. You will see firsthand why this is a great opportunity worth considering, and why our system at MIT is so healthy and different from the stereotypical picture of Greek campus life.

Each of our groups will be welcoming the incoming freshmen with open houses, study sessions, free dinners, and fun activities in which to take part. On Saturday September 5, our coordinated recruitment events will get underway with a barbeque for all students hosted by the InterFraternity Council (campus fraternities), Panhellenic Association (campus sororities), and Living Group Council (cooperative houses). After dinner, MIT's senior leaders speak on the benefits of our vibrant community, and the students can then spend the rest of the evening meeting FSILG undergraduates and participating in events all around campus. Fraternity, Sorority and ILG Recruitment will continue for the next several days to afford all the opportunity to join an FSILG organization that fits their interests and personality. Helpful information on joining an FSILG is available on the web for both students and parents, including the AILG's own site: <http://www.mitailg.org>.

We wish to personally welcome you to the MIT community, and we hope that you encourage your son or daughter to consider the living and learning opportunities and communal experience that our FSILGs afford their members. If we may answer any questions that you, as a parent, may have about our own experience or our continued commitment to the independent living group communities at MIT, please contact any one of us. We are all elected board members of the Association of Independent Living Groups.

Very truly yours,

Steve Baker '84, MAR '88
Course 4, Architecture
sbaker@alum.mit.edu

Ernie Sabine '66
Course 18, Mathematics
esabine@alum.mit.edu

David Burmaster '69, PhD '78
Course 1, Civil Engineering
d@alum.mit.edu

Sara Pierce '03
Course 10, Chemical Engineering
drebbel@alum.mit.edu

Jim Bueche '62
Course 14, Economics
jbueche@alum.mit.edu

Stan Wulf '65
Course 2, Mechanical Engineering
sawulf@alum.mit.edu