Dear MIT Students,

It was wonderful to see so many of you last night at Flapjacks for Finals, where we had faculty and administrators serve a late-night breakfast to roughly 500 students. As the end of my first year as Dean for Student Life approaches, I am impressed by the remarkable students here and breadth of student life at MIT. I was fortunate to have met a large number of you throughout the year and to have visited every residence hall and most of the independent living groups. It was a pleasure to discuss topics as varied as dining, leadership, diversity and advising with a mixture of students from all areas of campus – both graduate and undergraduate.

As the spring term winds down, the end of the journey approaches for many of you as students at MIT. To those graduating seniors and graduate students receiving their degrees next month, I would like to especially congratulate you on your accomplishments at MIT. Each of you has contributed to the continuing mission of MIT to generate, disseminate, and preserve knowledge, and to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges. As you go out into the world, I wish you much success in both your personal and professional future.

In your time here, you have no doubt worked hard, made many friends, and have become a part of the MIT network that should serve you well for years to come. Wherever you wind up on this globe, you can continue your involvement with MIT and the remarkable people you got to know here. There are many avenues: you can join any of 90+ MIT Alumni Clubs worldwide, maintain your academic connections and seek knowledge updates, stay committed to your living group or residence hall, use the Alumni Directory to locate classmates, come back for reunions and other events on campus, and even consider mentoring students. For just some of ways to stay connected, please look over https://alum.mit.edu/networks/.

If you’ll be returning to MIT in the fall, I encourage you to become more actively involved in student life at MIT. There are endless opportunities! Developing your interpersonal and leadership skills will benefit you for the rest of your life. For example, you can participate in LeaderShape© which takes place each IAP, the Emerging Leaders Conference early in the spring term for freshmen and sophomores, or you can apply to participate in the Community Catalyst Leadership Program for juniors.

Congratulations to you all for an exceptional year and the good work you do. Collectively you have also given me a wonderful introduction to the richness and passion of MIT’s culture and have made this, my first year at MIT, a truly rewarding and memorable time.

All the best,

Chris Colombo
Dean for Student Life