



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of Epsilon Theta,

I am delighted to write in support of the efforts of your House Owning Alumni Corporation as your living group looks to its alumni members to contribute to the important task of renovating and updating your House.

Many changes have occurred at MIT over the past two years, including the decision to house freshmen on campus as well as my own arrival as Dean for Student Life.

I am aware of the perceptions and, in some cases, the hard feelings associated with the freshman housing decision. Some alumni have questioned whether MIT values Independent Residences. Some have questioned whether the Institute will continue to support FSILGS now and in the future.

I am writing to assure you that the Institute's support of the FSILG Community has not diminished, but in fact has increased.

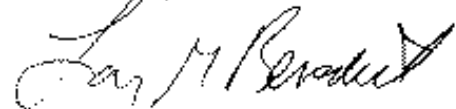
Fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups represent one of the more powerful and effective means by which MIT can achieve its mission of education outside the classroom. The Report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning clearly outlined how the residence system was not simply supportive of MIT's educational mission, but rather, was part of that mission. Many of you benefited from your living experience at ET, learning important leadership, organizational, and human relations skills. Many of you, perhaps most of you, have used the results of those important learning opportunities at ET as you progressed through your careers and became involved and contributing members of other communities. The FSILG System is central to our mission of learning by doing and will continue to play a major role in student life at MIT.

As evidence of the Institute's support, we have recently gathered a team of four professionals to support the work of the student and alumni FSILG leaders. Where previously there was but one advisor for the system, we now boast an Assistant Dean, David Rogers; an Operations Coordinator, Lisa Walsh; a Program Coordinator, Kate Baxter; and a Program Assistant, Denise Vallay. These experienced professionals all have backgrounds in FSILG work, and are full of energy and enthusiasm for the MIT system.

You should also be aware that your alumni and undergraduate leadership at Epsilon Theta are working hard on behalf of the House. We have met with some regularity and I am pleased to tell you that they are "ahead of the curve" in preparing for the upcoming changes to the FSILG system, in developing new programs for residential and non-residential members, and in planning for needed renovations for the House. Epsilon Theta will be strong and well positioned for 2002. They are an example for other FSILGs to follow.

Our office has been actively supporting the efforts of your students and alumni. I hope you will join us by lending your support to their efforts as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry G. Benedict". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Larry G. Benedict

LGB/bm