

MIT Diversity Story Timeline Milestone – Women

- 1865 – Margaret Dayton Stinson becomes the first female employee of MIT (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1873 – 1st female graduate of MIT, Ellen Swallow Richards. See <http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/exhibits/esr/> (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1882 – MIT starts admitting female students, following gift from Women’s Educational Association to provide appropriate facilities for women at the Institute (Source: AMITA) <http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/amita.old/esr/womenslab.html>
- 1890 – Eta Sigma Mu is founded as the first club for women students at MIT. In 1897, the name is changed to Cleofan. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1899 – Massachusetts Institute of Technology Women’s Association (MITWA) founded “to promote greater fellowship among Institute women.” Renamed AMITA in 1964 (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/mitwa.html>
- 1905 – Marie Celeste Turner becomes the first black female to attend MIT. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1906 – Ida Annah Ryan becomes the first female to earn the S.M. from MIT, in Architecture. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1922 – Elizabeth Stuart Gatewood Pietsch becomes the first female to earn the Ph.D. from MIT, in Chemistry. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1945 – First women’s dorm opened, at 120 Bay Street, Boston. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1954-1956 – Ad Hoc Committee on the Place on Women at MIT investigates women’s admission. Informal report to Chancellor Stratton “suggested that women were not successful undergraduates.” (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/postwar.html>. Results conflict with findings from MITWA 1955 alumnae survey (Source: AMITA). See <http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/amita.old/history/coed1955.pdf>
- 1960 – Prof. Sheila Widnall ’60 is the first woman appointed to Engineering faculty; first woman to chair MIT Faculty (1979); first female Secretary of Air Force (1993-1997). (Sources:

AMITA, The Tech 09/16/97) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/postwar.html>;
<http://tech.mit.edu/V117/N42/widnall.42n.html>

- 1963 – Emily Wick becomes the first female tenured professor at MIT. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts) Also, see <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/sixties.html>
- 1963 – Dedication of McCormick Hall (W51), first women’s dormitory on Cambridge campus, gift of Katharine D. McCormick ’04 (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/mccormick.html>
- 1964 – Association of Women Students sponsors national symposium: “American Women in Science and Engineering” (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/sixties.html>
- 1968 – All intramurals now open to women (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/sixties.html>
- 1968 – Margaret MacVicar ’65 starts UROP (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/sixties.html>
- 1968(?) – Women’s newspaper, Sojourner, started (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/sixties.html>
- 1968 – Shirley Jackson & Jennifer Rudd become first African-American women to graduate with SB from MIT (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1970 – Mary Frances Wagley, ’47, becomes the first woman to join the MIT Corporation. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1970 – *Proposal for a New Policy for Admission of Women Undergraduate Students* by Dean Emily Wick (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/mccormick.html>
- 1970 – MIT starts allowing co-ed dorms; MIT drops target numbers for women’s admissions, based on recommendations by Dean Emily Wick ’51 and ad hoc committee on women’s admissions (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/adhoc.html>
- 1972 – Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Women at MIT, headed by Prof. Mildred Dresselhaus & Paula Stone ’72. Other members included Sandra Yulke ’74, Carol Epstein ’72, Christina Jansen ’63. (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/adhoc.html>
- 1973 – Workshop on Women in Science and Technology bring women engineers and scientists to MIT (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/centennial.html>

- 1973 – *MIT – A Place for Women* – brochure sparked by Ad Hoc Committee on Role of Women. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1973 – Alumnae survey conducted by AMITA (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/centennial.html>
- 1973 – Centennial Celebration exhibit featuring “pioneering alumnae” prepared by AMITA president, Susan Schur '60 (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/centennial.html>
- 1973 – Shirley Jackson granted PhD in Physics. First African-American woman in the US. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts) Also see: <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/centennial.html>
- 1976 – WILG (Women’s Independent Living Group) established with AMITA’s help (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/centennial.html>
- 1979 – Prof. Sheila Widnall '60 first woman elected chairman of MIT Faculty (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/critical.html>
- 1984 – Mary Frances Wagley, '47, becomes the first female president of MIT Alumni Association. (Source: Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries, Cambridge Massachusetts)
- 1984 – Ann E. Friedlaender, Ph.D. '64, appointed Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, becoming the first female academic dean at MIT. (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/critical.html>
- 1986 – Ellen Swallow Richards chair endowed (by AMITA?) (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/critical.html>
- 1990 – AMITA Oral History Project developed under leadership of AMITA President Bonny Kellerman and Prof. Marjorie Resnick. Renamed AMITA/MacVicar Memorial (Source: AMITA) <http://www.mit-amita.org/esr/critical.html>
- 1999 – Publication of Study of the Status of Women Faculty in the School of Science, under leadership of Nancy Hopkins, Amgen Professor of Biology (Source: Reports to President, 2000-2001)
- 2001 – Latina Interview Project directed by Lecturer in Foreign Languages and Literatures, Margarita Ribas-Groeger to document the experiences of Latina students at MIT. Results in film, *Nuestras Voces: Being Latina at MIT*, which premieres at the 30th New England Film and Video Festival in 2005. (Sources: Reports to the President 2001-2002; MIT Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures) Film is available here: <http://web.mit.edu/fll/www/projects/NuestrasVoces.shtml>

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2004 – Susan Hockfield is elected 16th president by the Corporation and becomes the first female president of MIT.