

MIT Diversity Story Milestones – LGBTQ

[Note: unless otherwise noted, information listed is based on key informant interviews]

1969 – Student Homophile League started (later becomes G@MIT)

Fall 1970 – Dean of Student Affairs, Dan Nyhart, rejects Student Homophile League’s request to hold a dance in the Student Center, for fear of non-homosexual students being seduced.

Dean later apologizes and dance authorized by the General Assembly (Source: The Tech 09/25/70, 11/20/70) <http://tech.mit.edu/V90/PDF/N33.pdf>,
<http://tech.mit.edu/V90/PDF/N47.pdf>

1992 – GAMIT sponsors series of events to celebrate National Coming Out Day on campus.
(Source: The Tech 10/23/92) <http://tech.mit.edu/V112/N51/out.51n.html>

1993 – Members of Lambda Chi Alpha spray-paint a defamatory remark in front of the Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity house. Following the incident, the IFC and GaMIT cosponsor a talk by gay activist and author Warren J. Blumenfeld. (Source: The Tech 03/04/94)
<http://tech.mit.edu/V114/PDF/N11.pdf>

1994 – GaMIT’s display case in the Infinite Corridor entitled “Greeks and Queers” contains eight posters describing homophobic incidents in the Greek system since 1979. IFC objects to the negative publicity during Greek Week. Series of meetings to open communication lines follows.

1995 – Assault committed against GaMIT booth during Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Awareness Days by unknown fraternity member sparks tension between IFC and GaMIT.

Oct 1995 – GAMIT Posters on campus vandalized (Source: The Tech 10/13/95)
<http://tech.mit.edu/V115/N48/gamit.48n.html>

1999 – “You Are Welcome Here” campaign initiated (Source: The Tech 10/12/99)
http://tech.mit.edu/V119/N49/Gay_life_copy.49f.html

2000 – GABLES (Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Employees and Supporters) Monthly Lunches begin

Mar 2003 – LGBT Issues Group Meetings begin. Monthly gathering of committee of LGBTA faculty, staff, students, and alums to address specific projects dealing with the concerns of the LGBT community.

May 2003 – First Lavender Graduation – annual reception to honor graduate and undergraduate LBGT graduating students.

Fall 2003 – First Annual LBGTQA Community Retreat to Provincetown, MA. Goal is “to foster relationships among LBGT and Ally students and organizations on MIT’s campus and plan MIT’s major LBGT initiatives for the coming school year.”

Nov 2003 – MIT adds protections for transgendered individuals to non-discrimination policy following proposal by LBGT Issues group (source The Tech 11/18/03, <http://tech.mit.edu/V123/N57/57discrim.57n.html>)

May 2004 – Same-sex marriage becomes legal in Massachusetts

July 2005 – Position of Program Coordinator for LBGT services created; made permanent in July 2007. Post held by Abigail Francis (See <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2005/lgbt-1026.html>)

Aug 2006 – MIT makes *The Advocate’s* Top 100 list of gay-friendly campuses (Source: The Tech 08/28/06) <http://tech.mit.edu/V126/N31/31wire.html>

Apr 2008 – Sloan LBGT group receives homophobic threat from fellow Sloan student. Case taken before MIT Committee on Academic Discipline. Outcome not released, though student was neither suspended nor expelled. (Source: The Tech 04/11/08) <http://tech.mit.edu/V128/N18/sloan.html>