Charles M. Vest will step down from his service as the 15th president of MIT effective Monday, Dec. 6. He will remain at the Institute as a member of the faculty in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, although he will be on sabbatical during 2005. He and his wife, Rebecca Vest, will continue to live in Cambridge. Vest has indicated that he is looking forward to spending more time with his family—especially his two grandchildren.

He also looks forward to traveling, writing and continuing his work at the national level on issues in higher education and the development of science and technology policy. He has accepted invitations for visiting lectureships at a number of universities here and abroad, and will continue to serve on the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Concerning Weapons of Mass Destruction, the President’s Council of Advisers on Science and Technology, and on the boards of IBM and DuPont.

His new office address and telephone number at MIT are Room 32-G618, 253-4774. His e-mail address will remain the same, cmvest@mit.edu.

Several recent publications examine and summarize the Vest years at MIT. Vest authored a book, “Pursuing the Endless Frontier: Essays on MIT and the Role of Research Universities” (MIT Press 2004), exploring controversial and significant issues facing academic institutions through the prism of his own presidency. MIT’s Academic Media Production Services (AMPS) recently taped a video interview, “Conversation with Charles M. Vest,” in which Vest discusses his 14 years at the Institute and those that lie ahead. The interview is available online at the AMPS web site. An online timeline of the Vest presidency compiled by the MIT News Office can be viewed at http://web.mit.edu/timeline. Vest ends tenure as 15th president, remains at the Institute as faculty member

Virginia Corless

Virginia Corless, a senior from Skagway, Alaska, has been awarded a Marshall Scholarship to pursue doctoral research in astrophysics at the University of Cambridge. Corless is a physics major minoring in Applied International Studies. Her primary research interest is cosmology; her senior thesis seeks to establish limits on dark matter smoothness in certain galaxy clusters. Corless won MIT’s history essay prize; she also is an actress who has starred in MIT Theater Guild productions. She has lived in seven different places in the U.S., thanks to her father, an aviation consultant who is the founder of the DeBeers diamond mining company, an discovery of Cecil Rhodes, the 1881 Oxford University alumnus and founder of the DeBeers diamond mining company, who became the entrepreneurial embodiment of British colonial expansion into Africa. Of the 89 scholarships currently awarded annually to students from 24 countries, 32 go to U.S. citizens for study at Rhodes’ alma mater.

Elizabeth Masiello

Elizabeth Masiello, a second-year graduate student in molecular biology at MIT, has been awarded a Marshall Scholarship to pursue graduate studies in bioinformatics at Oxford University. Masiello graduated from the University of Michigan in 1997 with a degree in molecular biology and received an M.A. in biochemistry from the University of Cape Town in 1999. While at MIT she has carried out research in the lab of Thomas Hudspeth, a Nobel laureate, and was a member of the research team that discovered the role of a new organelle in the hearing mechanism. Masiello then continued her research at the Max-Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, Germany. MIT is proud to offer a Marshall Scholarship to someone who has devoted so much time to exploring the mysteries of life and has a strong commitment to academic research.

Laurel Yong-Hwa Lee

Laurel Yong-Hwa Lee, a senior from Bothell, Wash., has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to pursue a doctorate in clinical medicine at Oxford University. Lee came to the U.S. at age 16 from Korea. Now a pre-med double-major in brain and cognitive sciences and biology, Lee conducts research at MIT’s Center for Cancer Research and at the National Institutes of Health’s Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke. A turning point in her medical career aspirations occurred two years ago when she volunteered in a shelter for abandoned women and children and a hospital emergency room in Honduras. She became convinced that thorough research training is crucial to the eradication of indigenous infectious disease. Lee rows for MIT’s varsity lightweight women’s crew, and was selected as one of Glamour Magazine’s “Top 10 College Women” in its October issue.

Jessica Lee

Jessica Lee, a senior from San Mateo, Calif., has been awarded a Marshall Scholarship to pursue graduate studies in environmental conservation at Oxford University. Lee is a biology major with a minor in chemistry. She is also a Burchard Scholar who presides over MIT’s Share a Vital Earth (SAVE) organization and helped organize and run MIT’s Earth Day. Her interest in ecosystems began in high school with a four-week summer internship at an organic farm in Frankfurt, Germany. She has since studied with the Marine Science Institute in Redwood City, Calif., and the Max-Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, Germany. At MIT, she has carried out research on E. coli, the tobacco plant’s viral defense mechanisms, and on cyanobacteria and cyanophage in the open oceans. Lee speaks French, German and English, is an accomplished ballroom dancer and has played the piano since age four. She designed and taught a popular course in kitchen chemistry and baking during IAP.

Elizabeth Masiello

Elizabeth Masiello, a second-year graduate student from Solebury, Penn., has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study information technology at Oxford University’s Internet Institute. Masiello is concerned about the societal implications of technological innovations in information systems. She is enrolled in the Technology and
Collective efforts lift us all to the starry heights

Everyone gains when competition is combined with collaboration in higher education

The factors I believe contribute the most to the excellence and competitive success of U.S. higher education include:

- The diversity of institutions—from small liberal arts colleges to large public and private universities—allows students to select the school that best matches their needs.
- New assistant professors have freedom to choose what they teach as well as research.
- Our research universities weave together teaching and research in ways that bring freshness, intensity and renewal to both activities.
- We welcome students, scholars and faculty from abroad. Their intellectual and cultural richness help define our institutions.
- Support of frontier research in our universities has long been an important responsibility of the federal government, which awards grants to researchers on the basis of their merit in a competitive marketplace of ideas.
- A tradition of philanthropy, fostered by U.S. tax law, encourages alumni and others to support our colleges and universities. Scholarship funds they provide allow talented students from families of modest means to attend even the most costly schools.
- Open competition for faculty and students drives excellence.

Such factors could be integrated into the cultural and political contexts of other nations and perhaps be improved on. The enormous success and impact of the Indian Institutes of Technology, established in the 1960s, demonstrate that great universities based on this research-intensive model can rise rapidly anywhere in the world.

Indeed, the situation is far from static. Germany is working to better integrate the powerful free-standing Max Planck Research Institutes with German universities to capture the dynamism that comes from interweaving teaching and research. In the U.K., issues of access, affordability and top-up fees are subjects of intense debate, and visionary activities such as the Cambridge-MIT Institute seek to better couple the stellar intellectual power of British universities to national competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship.

China has committed to transforming several of its universities into world-class research-intensive institutions, as have Singapore, Mexico and many other nations. The next 50 years should produce healthy competition and progress in advanced learning and research. But cooperation is very important, too.

The internet and worldwide web will make possible global research collaboration, sharing of knowledge and collective creation of educational materials.

Local universities will not be displaced or replaced. Rather, teaching and the creation of knowledge at each university will be elevated by the Linac-like efforts of a multitude of individuals and groups all over the world. This tectonic shift can be thought of as the emergence of the meta-university.

Of course, scholars and teachers have always advanced their work collectively through conferences, seminars and correspondence. But the scale of participation, speed of propagation and sophistication of access and presentation that we will see in the coming years are unprecedented.

One catalyst for this new dimension of global cooperation is MIT’s OpenCourseWare initiative, which is making the basic teaching materials for virtually all our subjects available on the Internet at no charge to all teachers and learners.

The residential university will continue to be the best venue for bright young men and women to live and learn among dedicated scholars and teachers. Institutional quality will be raised through competition and adaptation of elements of the U.S. model.

But the meta-university—the electronically enabled global collaboration of teachers and researchers—will rapidly advance and improve higher education everywhere.

Spanning the Vest years: 1990 – 2004

On Inauguration Day, May 10, 1991, Charles M. Vest and Rebecca Vest look ahead to their future as MIT’s President and First Lady.

Following a community celebration in their honor on Sept. 18, 2004, Chuck and Becky Vest depart the Stata Center walking hand-in-hand.
To All Members of the MIT Community

Please come to a reception to welcome

Susan Hockfield on her first day as MIT's 16th President

Monday, Dec. 6, 2004
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
MIT Student Center
Lobby 10 holiday shopping

Holiday shopping arrives in Lobby 10 this month with these warm-weather favorites: handmade jewelry, handknit goods, blown glass, sculptures and figurines will be available for purchase.

• Holiday Craft Fair, Dec. 2 and 3, 9am - 5pm
• Glass Lab Holiday Sale, Dec. 2 and 7, 10am - 5pm
• Holiday Ceramics Sale, Dec. 8 and 9, 10am - 4pm

GO ONLINE! For complete events listings, see the MIT Events Calendar at: http://events.mit.edu

Editor’s Choice

WORLD AIDS DAY

Highlights include the AIDS Memorial Quilt, chocolate buffet ($5) and raffle tickets ($3), Sponsored by the Women’s League.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 1 - 5

WEDNESDAY December 1

XXIV Drawings For Dante’s Home
Exhibition features 34 illustrations by Robert Rauschenberg. Room E35-406, 9am-5pm, 253-4400.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Highlights include AIDS Memorial Quilt, chocolate buffet, raffle tickets. 10am-4pm, Lobby 10.

THURSDAY December 2

Holiday Craft Fair of Technical Crafts

India & China’s Entrepreneurial Trajectory
Exhibition on technology and innovation in key high-tech clusters. Dec. 2-3. 8:30am-5pm, Kresge Auditorium and Student Center.

Refugee Rights After 9/11
Talk comparing the Canadian and U.S. approaches by Dr. Obiora Okpara, Professor on Human Rights and Justice Research Fellow. 4:30-6:00pm. Room E36-115, 253-7614.

Future of Wireless Voice Services
Flaming, Motola, Wireless Systems Group, 4pm. Bartos Theater.

Friday of Future Wireless Voice Services Philip J.

"Sir Alfred de Charles de Gaulle Airport"
20th film. 6pm. Room E3-133. 258-8438.

Israel Folk Dancing
8pm. Lobby 13. 484-3287.

THURSDAY December 2

Hart Nautical Orchestra Season Opener
"Quorum": A virtual full show display. 8am-8pm. Har Hart Nautical Gallery (55 Mass. Ave.). 253-5942.

Weekly Anime Screening
MIT Anime Club presents the best of Japanese animation. 7pm. Room E 113.

Hunt Theater Ensemble Winter Concert
Performance incorporating dramatic text, dance and heightened gesture. Dec. 3-4, 8-11pm. Kresge Little Theatre. 253-4680.

SATURDAY December 4

7th Annual MIT Venture Capital Conference
Keynote Speaker, Jeffrey Citron, CEO of Wapage. 8am-5pm. Tang Center.

Traditional Wooden Framed Bridge Construction
A Lecture by Arnold Grabin, Jr., third-generation bridge builder. 2pm. MIT Museum. 253-4444.

MIT Chamber Orchestra Dante Anzolini, director. Corelli’s “Concerto for the Lute of Naples,” Dowland’s “Serenade.” 5pm. Killian Hall. 452-2934.

Chorallaries’ MIT Fall Concert
MIT’s co-ed a cappella group. Room 54-100. 3:35-359.

MIT Wind Ensemble

SUNDAY December 5

MIT Chamber Music Society of Schuman’s Piano Quartet in E flat, Zelenka’s Sonata in F. Four Christmas Carols No. 2 in G minor. 5pm. Killian Hall. 253-9800.

MIT Chamber Orchestra Mozart’s String Quartet No. 3, Samuel Barber’s Summer Music, Elliott Carter’s Woodwind Quintet, Brahms’ String Quartet in C minor. 7pm. Killian Hall. 253-9800.

Concert of Contemporary Greek Songs
Pianos, lianopoulou, piano; Thedoulou Vekas, violon; zoukouzi; Panayota Haloukakis, vius; Loukas Damis, bass; George Larnis, percussion. $20, $12 MIT affiliations, $8 students, 7:30pm. Kresge Little Theatre. 547-4770.

Concert Band Concert
Concert Band, conductor E. Reynolds, director, Jasmin Buske, Assistant director, 8pm. Kresge Auditorium.