DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE MIT SLOAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT,

This past May, I was proud to welcome more than 1,900 alumni and friends back to campus for our Building the Future celebration and Alumni Weekend 2011. In one long weekend, the School saw the dedication of its new building, a faculty-led academic colloquium, a meeting of the four global Executive Boards that guide its engagement with the world, and a slate of activities that gave classmates and their families a chance to reconnect.

We were excited for alumni to visit our new building, the centerpiece of which is the Joan and William A. Porter 1967 Center for Management Education. As expected, this new addition to campus did not disappoint.

Many of you commented not only on the stunning glass and stone façade, bordered by the Charles River on one side and Kendall Square on the other, but also on the level of excitement inside the building. For the past year, this building has brought a renewed energy to our faculty, students, and colleagues across MIT and around the world. It was a privilege to share this excitement with alumni and friends.

The School’s new building is not just a capital improvement project or a routine update to the School’s facilities. It is the launching point for a new, kinetic era in MIT Sloan’s history. It is a driver for something we have always had: a unique and diverse community of students, faculty, and alumni dedicated to action and collaboration, and passionate about innovation.

I see the building as a platform for enhanced collaboration across MIT, among the Institute’s student body, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. In the not-so-distant future, I see students from across MIT using the Porter Center for Management Education as a gathering point to pursue innovation to improve the world.

With the new building, MIT Sloan grows not just in size, but also in scope:

• We are growing our faculty and programs at thoughtful levels. The School’s global reach continues to expand, as we partner with top business schools and programs in Russia, Portugal, and throughout Asia to improve management practice and economic development around the world.

• The MIT Entrepreneurship Center brings the Institute’s brightest science and engineering minds to MIT Sloan to partner with the School’s aspiring entrepreneurs and brings critical, groundbreaking research to bear in the world through successful, innovation-driven enterprises. Student-led companies like sustainable sanitation firm Sanergy, winner of the 2011 MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition, seek innovative solutions to the world’s greatest problems.

• Our new sustainability certificate combines the experience of the School’s landmark System Dynamics group with the most forward-thinking approaches to sustainable business practices. I was pleased to award 19 students with sustainability certificates in June.

• The new, intensive Executive MBA program draws on the faculty and curriculum of the School’s Sloan Fellows Program in Innovation and Global Leadership to offer both new and time-tested knowledge to a cohort of committed executives from the world’s top companies.

Our responsibility is great, our opportunities are unbounded, and our history will never be finished. In the new building, we have the physical home we need to fulfill our mission to develop principled, innovative leaders who improve the world and generate ideas that advance management practice.

To those who were able to join us in May—thank you.

I especially thank the hundreds of alumni and friends who donated to—and continue to donate to—the construction of our new building, as well as the thousands of alumni who give unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund, gifts that allow the School’s continued reach and influence on management practice and innovation worldwide. None of our successes and new endeavors would be possible without your support.

If you were not able to visit us for Building the Future and Alumni Weekend 2011, you can learn more about the events at http://mitsloan.mit.edu/buildingthefuture/.

David Schmittlein
John C Head III Dean