New associate dean for external relations joins MIT Sloan

MIT SLOAN ALUMNI HAVE A NEW CONTACT IN CAMBRIDGE.

Kristina Gulick Schaefer joined MIT Sloan in January as associate dean for external relations. In her new role, Schaefer directs all of the School’s work and connections with alumni, including the planning of events like last spring’s Alumni Weekend 2011.

“We want to increase the engagement of MIT Sloan alumni back with the School,” Schaefer said. “I’d like to see it as a lifelong engagement, not just their time on campus as students. Having nearly 2,000 of our alumni and friends return last May shows how robust our community is. I know that connection can be even stronger.”

“The intellectual environment here is striking,” Schaefer said, noting her first meetings with alumni left her “incredibly impressed with their passion for the place.” She said, as well, that she is excited to work with the School’s alumni around the world.

With the School’s $142 million new building complete and open for business, alumni will see MIT Sloan fundraising efforts shift to emphasize support for faculty and students, Schaefer said.

Alumni can also expect to see new emphasis on volunteer opportunities at the School, as well as enhanced offerings to capitalize on the School’s career resources throughout their lives.

“I really am open and interested in hearing directly from alumni about what’s working and what’s not,” Schaefer said. “And what we could do better.”

In addition to spearheading MIT Sloan’s alumni relations work, Schaefer oversees fundraising efforts involving support from corporations, foundations, and other donors. She also serves as a key liaison to MIT Resource Development and the MIT Alumni Association.

Schaefer was previously the vice president for advancement at Simmons College in Boston and served as a key member of the Simmons President’s Council. Prior to her position at Simmons, she served as vice president for development and the director of foundation operations for the Children’s Memorial Foundation in Chicago. Schaefer also served as executive director of development at Rice University in Houston, as well as the campaign director for Rice’s James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. She began her career at the University of Vermont in Burlington before directing the annual fund at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.