“This place works.”

MIT Sloan community gathers to celebrate new building

MIT Sloan’s new building was designed to foster spontaneous interaction between faculty and students. In May, the School’s alumni and friends had the chance to try it out.

More than 500 people packed the ground floor and mezzanine of the building for the formal dedication, connecting old friends, colleagues, and classmates in celebration as part of MIT Sloan’s Building the Future series.

“This building is a testament to the strength and special nature of this community,” said Tara Thomas, MBA ’11, who addressed the crowd.

But only with the new building, including the Joan and William A. Porter 1967 Center for Management Education, is that community fully realized.

MIT President Susan Hockfield said the building is a perfect fit for the wider Kendall Square community and conveys “the sense that this is a place where people come to do important work.”

“We want Kendall Square, our neighborhood, to become a truly first-class place for people to live and work,” Hockfield said. “This building sets the standard for what that neighborhood could be.”

John C Head III Dean David Schmittlein said the building could not have been built without the work of donors, alumni, friends, and faculty. He praised the “magnetism” and “character” of the building and welcomed alumni from across six decades and 45 countries to the School’s new home.

Schmittlein said the building marks an important milestone in the School’s mission to develop principled, innovative leaders who improve the world and to generate ideas that advance management practice.

“In as much as this is a school that will never be finished, we are delighted to open a new chapter,” he said.

Dean Emeritus and Howard W. Johnson Professor of Management Richard Schmalensee, who oversaw the beginning of the building project, said the goal of the new building is to be “a place to work, not just a building to look at.”

“The team that tried to do all this succeeded wonderfully,” Schmalensee said. “This place works.”

1: Nobel laureate and MIT Sloan Professor Robert Merton arrives for the dedication, along with Dean Emeritus Richard Schmalensee.

2: Dean David Schmittlein talks with Alessandro Fracassi, MBA ’98, a member of the European, Middle Eastern, South Asian, African Executive Board.

3: MIT Provost L. Rafael Reif

4: MIT Sloan deans past and present: William Pounds, Lester Thurow, Glen Urban, Richard Schmalensee, and David Schmittlein

5: Tara Thomas, MBA ’11

6: MIT President Susan Hockfield

7: Dean Emeritus Lester Thurow and Patrick McGovern Jr., MIT SB ’59
“This building is a testament to the strength and special nature of this community.”

Tara Thomas, MBA ’11

Watch a video of the dedication of MIT Sloan’s new building at:
http://mitsloan.mit.edu/buildingthefuture/dedication
Exchange 62: Now and Next

Exchange 62: Now and Next, a colloquium linking ideas and innovation for what’s next in management, was one of the centerpiece events of the Building the Future weekend.

In keeping with MIT Sloan’s spirit of collaboration, Exchange 62: Now and Next featured cross-disciplinary exploration of the key challenges that organizations face today—and will face in years to come. With session topics that ranged from the wisdom of crowds to global sustainability, Exchange 62 encompassed a diverse and timely cross-section of management theory and practice.

1: Asian Executive Board member Chi-Won Yoon, SM ’86, Associate Professor Antoinette Schoar, and Bennett Golub, PhD ’82, at “Lessons from the Financial Crisis”

2: Unilever CEO Paul Polman, Dame Barbara Stocking, CEO of Oxfam GB, and Senior Lecturer Peter Senge

3: Professor Richard Locke at “Redefining Sustainability”

4: Professor Ed Roberts at “MIT’s Entrepreneurial Ecosystem”

5: Leon Liebman, SM ’67, asks a question at “Luncheon with the Laureates”

See videos of the Exchange 62 sessions at: http://mitsloan.mit.edu/buildingthefuture/exchange62