

# Philip Khoury named associate provost

Sasha Brown  
News Office

MIT Provost L. Rafael Reif today announced that Philip S. Khoury, the Kenan Sahin Dean of the School of Human, Arts and Social Sciences, will become associate provost of MIT, effective July 1.

Khoury succeeds Professor Alan Brody, who announced earlier this year his intention to step down as associate provost for the arts at the end of the academic year, when he will return to teaching and playwriting as a member of the music and theater arts faculty.

As associate provost, Khoury will oversee and enhance MIT's co-curricular and nonacademic arts programs and will work closely with the senior administration, including the school deans, to develop the financial resources and facilities required to advance the arts at MIT, Reif said in a letter to the MIT community.

In addition to his responsibilities for the arts, Khoury will work to strengthen major interdepartmental educational,

research and community-based initiatives, help to develop and implement a strategic plan for MIT's international initiatives, and coordinate MIT's efforts to promote and enhance deeper public discourse on questions of science, technology, society and policy, Reif said.

"I am delighted that Professor Khoury has agreed to take on these new responsibilities following his exceptional 15-year tenure as dean of humanities, arts and social sciences," Reif said. "Under his leadership as dean, the visibility and stature of MIT's humanities, arts and social sciences programs increased considerably. In conjunction with the school's 50th anniversary, the arts were added to the name of the school, reflecting their growing importance in its scholarly and educational programs."

The provost also noted that under Khoury's leadership, the "school's five doctoral programs — among the best in the nation — were further enhanced, two



Philip S. Khoury

new graduate programs were established — the master's programs in comparative media studies and in science writing, and the school's international education and research activities grew significantly, especially its East Asian studies faculty and programs."

A noted political and social historian of the modern Middle East, with special interests in comparative urban history and politics and in comparative nationalistic movements, Khoury joined the history faculty at MIT as an assistant professor in 1981. He became associate dean in 1987, full professor and acting dean in 1990, and dean of the school in 1991.

A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a past president of the Middle East Studies Association, he is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Historical Association and the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies. He currently serves as vice chairman of the

board of the American University of Beirut, chairman of the World Peace Foundation, and as a trustee of Trinity College and of the Toynebee Prize Foundation.

Khoury commented, "I have been enormously privileged to serve these many years as dean of SHASS, with its distinguished faculty, outstanding staff and superb undergraduate and graduate students. SHASS has been my home for 25 years and it will always be my first home at MIT. And I am excited about working closely with President Hockfield, Provost Reif and other senior officers to help realize a number of important opportunities for the arts and international research and education at the Institute, and to enhance activities at the intersections of our five schools."

Reif announced that he will begin the process of selecting a new dean of humanities, arts and social sciences soon. He invited comments or thoughts on the position and said letters may be sent to him confidentially at the Office of the Provost, Room 3-208, or via e-mail to [hasseansearch@mit.edu](mailto:hasseansearch@mit.edu).

## Sloan plans live public interview of Comcast CEO

Sarah H. Wright  
News Office

Kevin Maney, senior technology writer and columnist for USA Today, will talk business with Comcast CEO Brian Roberts in a live interview to be held on Wednesday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Wong Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

The Sloan School of Management organized and is hosting the face-to-face meeting between Maney, author of the critically acclaimed "The Maverick and His Machine: Thomas Watson Sr. and the Making of IBM" (2003), and Roberts, who is credited with transforming a minor Philadelphia cable company into a major media powerhouse.

Maney will interview Roberts on how he got where he is — including how his company expanded to include ownership of the Philadelphia 76ers NBA basketball team as well as the Philadelphia Flyers NHL hockey team — and how he imagines the future for Comcast and the rest of the global media industry.

Under Roberts' leadership, Comcast grew into a Fortune 100 company with 80,000 employees. Roberts is also chairman of the board of directors of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) and previously served as chairman of NCTA from 1995 to 1996, when the landmark deregulatory 1996 Telecommunications Act became law.

Roberts was a founding co-chair of Philadelphia 2000, the nonpartisan host committee for the 2000 Republican National Convention. An All-American in squash, he earned a gold medal with the U.S. squash team in 2005 and silver medals at the 1981 and 1985 and 1997 Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Maney is the author of the bestselling "Megamedia Shakeout: The Inside Story of the Leaders and the Losers in the Exploding Communications Industry" (1995).



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

### A clear shot

MIT hackers took their show on the road over spring break, nabbing this Civil War-era cannon from Caltech in California and bestowing it with a uniquely MIT signature mold of the MIT "brass rat." The cannon was in front of the Green Building through Campus Preview Weekend until 30 students and alumni from Caltech drove across the country to retrieve it on Monday, April 10.

## Scolnick Prize winner to talk at McGovern

The McGovern Institute will present the third annual Edward M. Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience to Michael Greenberg, a world leader in molecular neurobiology from Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School.

The Scolnick Prize provides an important focus for the international neuroscience community by calling attention to the best new approaches to understanding the brain. Greenberg will present a public lecture titled "Signaling Networks that Control Synapse Development and Cognitive Function" from 4 to 5 p.m. on April 25 at the McGovern Institute, located in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Complex at 43 Vassar St.

Greenberg directs the Program in Neurobiology at the Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School Department of Neurology. He has made seminal discoveries that have resulted in entirely new avenues of investigation in neural development, the neural response to injury and disease, and the search for new treatments for neurological disorders and brain injuries.

"Dr. Greenberg exemplifies the intersection of basic neuroscience research with areas of clinical importance, which clearly impact the effort to alleviate the human suffering brought on by brain diseases," said Robert Desimone, director of the McGovern Institute. "Many laboratories worldwide are pursuing new leads based on the discoveries Dr. Greenberg has made."

"I am honored to be selected," said Greenberg. "It is especially meaningful to me because much of my research on signaling mechanisms that control nervous system development was inspired early on by approaches that Dr. Scolnick developed for studying signaling pathways that regulate cell proliferation and cancer development."

The \$50,000 prize is named in honor of the former president of Merck Research Laboratories, who held the company's top research post for 17 years. The prize was established through a grant from The Merck Company Foundation to the McGovern Institute for Brain Research.

## Armstrong receives Bingham Medal

Robert Armstrong, Chevron Professor and head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, has been awarded the 2006 Bingham Medal.

The Bingham Medal is awarded by the Society of Rheology, which is devoted to the study of the science of deformation and flow of matter.

Armstrong, whose research interests include rheology as well as polymer molecular theory, polymer fluid mechanics, multiscale process modeling, transport phenomena and applied mathematics, will deliver a lecture and receive the prize at the society's annual meeting in Portland, Maine, in October.



Armstrong

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