



A community of students, faculty, and staff at MIT, dedicated to human flourishing, formed by the historic Christian faith.

2020 at a Glance

- January: **Nathan Barczi, PhD '07**, assumes the role of Executive Director and begins praying with MIT faculty. **Mia Chung-Yee** assumes the role of board chair.
- February-April: Planning with the board, and MIT faculty and staff
- April: 501(c)(3) status obtained
- May: "The Octet Collaborative" is officially named by the Board
- June: **Karl Johnson** joins our team as Chief Strategist!
- Summer: Launch of website and social media, plus 50+ Zoom calls with alumni, students, staff, faculty, & campus ministers
- July: **David Williamson '89, SM '90, PhD '93** joins the Board!
- August: **Ehi Nosakhare, PhD '18** joins the Board!
- September: Nathan Barczi joins the chaplaincy at MIT, and final preparations are made for the launch summit
- October: **200 alumni and friends** gather online for Human Flourishing at MIT!
- November: Summit follow-up: digesting discussions, feedback and survey results
- December: Looking ahead - preparing for new partnerships, programs, and a strategic planning process in 2021...

Dear Friend of The Octet Collaborative,

Back in January, before the pandemic sent us all indoors and online, I sat down for coffee with two MIT upperclassmen, writers for the Christian journal *Et Spiritus*. I listened as they described their experience as Christian students, surprised to hear that it had taken them most of their four years at the Institute to discover even one or two of the dozens of Christian faculty that inhabit its corridors. They would leave MIT abundantly gifted with knowledge and technical skill. But where would they find wisdom? Where would they learn to inhabit their vocation as those called to love God and neighbor with heart, soul, and strength - and not only with their minds?

Here's the good news: the resources are already there. God has richly equipped every corner of the MIT community. An unexpected benefit to launching The Octet Collaborative during a global pandemic has been the opportunity to hear stories over Zoom from literally hundreds of Christian faculty, staff, alumni, students, and campus ministers, faithfully seeking God's kingdom in the work He has called them to. The Octet Collaborative exists to connect and equip that community, to see it engage in "thinking Christianly," in whole-person discipleship within the academic vocation, and in sharing wisdom among and across the generations of those God has called to serve at MIT and around the world beyond graduation. We had the great privilege of bringing those generations together publicly once in our first year, when over 200 joined online for the launch summit, *Human Flourishing at MIT*. Many of you joined in that evening, contributing your own wisdom. Thank you!

In this update on our first year, we want to share what God has done, and invite you to pray and partner for what may come.

Yours gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "NATBZ".

Nathan Barczi, PhD '07
Executive Director

On October 10, over 200 members and friends of the MIT community attended the Octet Collaborative's launch summit, **Human Flourishing at MIT!**



Andy Crouch laid out a distinctively Christian vision of human flourishing, combining authority with a counter-cultural vulnerability. Prof. **Roz Picard** added her own story of pursuing holistic well-being as a Christian professor at MIT. And a panel of students, faculty and staff identified untapped resources for flourishing in their own spheres of influence, uncovering remarkable points of connection across **a multi-generational Christian community at MIT.**

The second hour saw the MIT community **co-create vision and strategy.** Seven discussion groups spent an energetic hour imagining what might be at MIT in the year 2030 - and generating concrete ideas for the first steps in 2021, providing The Octet Collaborative with a foundation of wisdom.

Thanks to a generous foundation, all gifts up to \$2,500 will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000, until the end of June 2021.

Total Budget: \$300,000
(July 2020-June 2021)

\$156,825 in gifts & pledges raised so far!









We thank our charter givers! The Octet Collaborative is supported by individuals like you who care deeply for human flourishing at MIT. We are humbled to recognize all who give \$1,000 or more before January 31, 2021 as our Charter Givers, so far consisting of the following:

- Ken & Joanne Barczi
- Paul Burke
- Young Chung & June Kwon-Chung
- Timothy & Janis Dietz
- Dan & Lois Frasier
- Ian & Frances Hutchinson
- Phil Jackson
- Karl & Julie Johnson
- Larry & Kay Lee Kim
- Travis & Katie Lee
- Mithran & Anita Mathew
- John & Hee-Jung Moon
- Robert & Emily Morrison
- Andy & Emily Stuntz
- James Taylor
- John Yee & Mia Chung-Yee
- An anonymous donor

What's next? In January 2021, the board will engage in a **strategic planning process** with key stakeholders. Please pray for God's wisdom to guide our deliberations as we prioritize and plan for service to His kingdom at MIT in 2021 and beyond!

Faculty Advisors

 Daniel Hastings Aeronautics/Astronautics	 Anne McCants History	 Rosalind Picard MIT Media Lab Affective Computing
 Glen Comiso Senior Director for Institute Affairs	 Ian Hutchinson Nuclear Science & Engineering	 Troy Van Voorhis Chemistry

The Octet Collaborative Board

- Mia Chung-Yee
- Nathan Barczi, PhD '07
- Kelly Madden
- Ehi Nosakhare, PhD '18
- Dave Thom
- David Williamson '89, SM '90, PhD '93