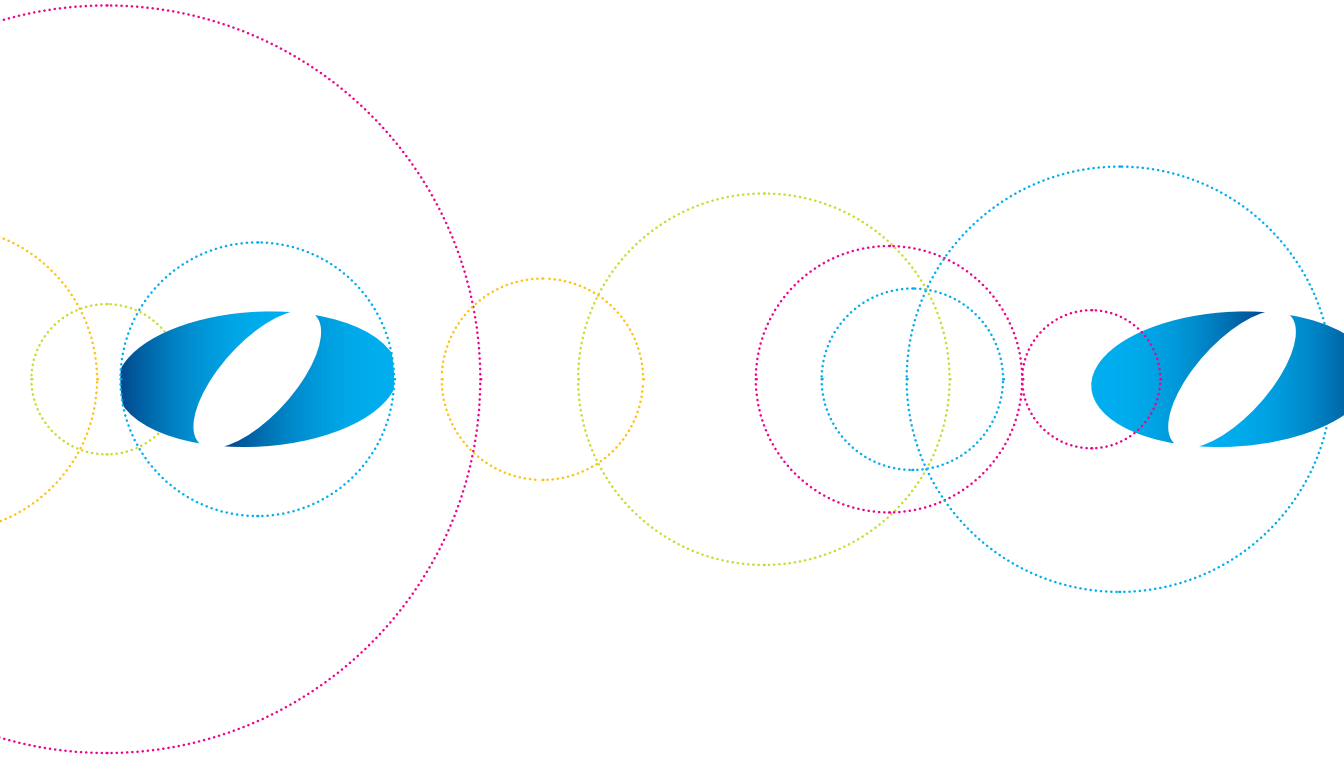


SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, 1:00 PM



INAUGURATION

OF **R. MAY LEE**

THIRD PRESIDENT

OF OLIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees 2026–2027

Jeannie H. Diefenderfer, Chair
Bruce Herring, Vice Chair
Al Bunshaft
Chee H. Chew P'26
Lee Edwards '07
Scott Harris
R. May Lee
Luke Morris '17
William B. Norden ^
Gill Pratt
Nate Smith '07
Chris Wallace '17

Founding Members

Lawrence W. Milas
William B. Norden ^

^ Deceased

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R. Douglas Kahn
Robert N. McBurney
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Venkatesh Narayanamurti
Jim D. Plummer
John W. Prados
Douglas G. Rauch
Richard T. Rocha
Nina Saberi
Howard H. Stevenson
Kenneth R. Stokes P'12
Beverly Wyse P'15

Past Presidents

Richard K. Miller, 1997–2020
Gilda A. Barabino, 2020–2025

In Memoriam: William B. Norden

Olin College remembers William B. Norden, a Founding Member, Board Chair (2006–2015) and friend of the College for nearly thirty years. A Brooklyn native and NYU-trained lawyer, Bill brought quiet expertise and deep humility to building the College and transforming Olin's founding vision into reality. He is remembered for his deep belief that every student deserves opportunity. His advice to President Lee upon her appointment remains a charge to us all: "Olin was founded to do great things. I hope you will take a risk and do something big."

PRESIDENT R. MAY LEE

R. May Lee became the third President of Olin College of Engineering on August 18, 2025, following her appointment by the Olin Board of Trustees.

Lee is a visionary leader whose career spans global higher education, corporate leadership and entrepreneurship. With experience ranging from Wall Street to the nonprofit sector, and deep expertise in strategy, innovation and education, Lee brings a unique breadth of experience and insight to Olin.

At the heart of Lee's vision is the belief that Olin's future is something we create together. Her inauguration, themed "**Co-Authoring the Living Blueprint**," reflects her conviction that a collaborative approach ensures an ambitious future grounded in the college's distinctive culture of innovation and possibility.

Lee came to Olin from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), the first and oldest technological research university in the United States, where she was the Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer for Institutional Impact. There, she played a pivotal role in defining and shaping RPI's priorities through the development and implementation of its long-term strategic plan, RPI Forward. She was also a professor of entrepreneurship at RPI's School of Architecture.

Prior to RPI, Lee held leadership roles in two pioneering institutions of higher education. At ShanghaiTech University, Lee was the founding Dean of the School of Entrepreneurship and Management, where she established the first interdisciplinary curriculum for science and engineering students, integrating social sciences, entrepreneurship and critical thinking. As Vice Chancellor at New York University, she spearheaded the development of NYU Shanghai, NYU's degree-granting campus in China. NYU Shanghai is the third degree-granting campus at NYU and the first Sino-US joint venture university to receive independent legal accreditation from China's Ministry of Education.

Lee's career includes senior executive positions on Wall Street at Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs; experience as an entrepreneur in the technology and digital marketing sectors; and leadership positions in nonprofit organizations.

Lee is a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Hong Kong School of Computing and Data Science, Vice-Chair of the Board at the Van Alen Institute, a member of Volkswagen's Global Sustainability Council and a Life Trustee with NYU School of Law.

Lee earned a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.



ACADEMIC PROCESSION

CHIEF MARSHAL

Joanne Pratt Professor of Biological Sciences

STUDENT MARSHALS

Alyssa Aranda '28

Cooper Penkava '27

ALUMNI MARSHALS

Ethan Chen '25

Jordan Spring '20 Fabrication Specialist and Instructor

FACULTY MARSHALS

Zachary del Rosario '14 Associate Professor of Engineering and Applied Statistics

Jean J. Huang Associate Professor of Biology

DELEGATE MARSHAL

Georgia Van de Zande Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

STAFF MARSHALS

Lauren Palmer '09 Associate Director of Partnership Development

Guilene Prepetit Director of Talent and Engagement; Deputy Title IX Coordinator

SENIOR LEADERSHIP MARSHAL

Andrew Coole Senior Director of Budget and Financial Planning

EMERITI MARSHAL

Richard K. Miller President Emeritus

TRUSTEE MARSHALS

Al Bunshaft Trustee

Gill Pratt Trustee and Former Faculty

MACEBEARER

Jesse Austin-Breneman Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeannie H. Diefenderfer

PRESIDENT OF OLIN COLLEGE

R. May Lee

THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY

MUSICAL PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL

Beacon Brass

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

WELCOME

Shayla Sawyer Armand

Provost

REMARKS

Ally Bell '24 Representing Olin alumni

Liam Carlin '28 Representing Olin students

Casimir Wierzynski

Engineering GM, Microsoft AI Acceleration Studio

Guest Speaker

Robert Martello

Professor of the History of Science and Technology

Representing Olin faculty and staff

PRESIDENTIAL INVESTITURE

Jeannie H. Diefenderfer

Chair, Olin Board of Trustees

Al Bunshaft

Trustee

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

R. May Lee

President of Olin College

CLOSING

Shayla Sawyer Armand

Provost

RECESSIONAL

Beacon Brass

Please silence all electronic devices before the ceremony begins.

Following the Inaugural Ceremony, guests are invited to the Oval for a Celebration in honor of President Lee.

DELEGATES FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Year preceding name of institution marks date of founding.

1636

Harvard University
Judith Block McLaughlin
Senior Lecturer Emerita

1764

Brown University
Hanna Rodriguez-Farrar
Alumna

1824

Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute
Rebecca W. Doerge
Provost

1839

Boston University
Andrew Marsh
BU Alumni Council

1847

Lasell University
Eric Turner
President

1852

Tufts University
Paul J. Tringale
Secretary of the Corporation

1859

The Cooper Union for the
Advancement of Science and Art
Steven McLaughlin
President

1861

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Georgia Van de Zande
Alumna

1869

Ursinus College
Gundolf Graml
President

1870

Wellesley College
Courtney C. Coile
Provost and Dean of the
College

1871

Smith College
Sarah Willie-LeBreton
President

1879

Curry College
Jay Gonzalez
President

1880

University of Southern
California
Carol Kim
Vice President, Enrollment
Management

1881

North Bennet Street School
Sarah B. Cunningham
President

1887

Pratt Institute
Frances Bronet
President

1896

Adelphi University
Michael Balboni
President

1898

Northeastern University
Kris Dorsey
Associate Professor,
Electrical and Computer
Engineering & Physical
Therapy, Movement and
Rehabilitation Sciences

1908

Franklin Cummings Tech
Fathima James
Associate Professor and
Program Chair of Computer
Information Technology

1919

Emmanuel College
Jaime Vidaurrazaga P'27
Assistant Professor of Theology
and Religious Studies Chair

1919

Babson College
Brian Duggan
Student Success Advisor and
Class Dean

1932

Bennington College
R. Danielle Egan
President

1948

Brandeis College
Linda Bui
Provost

1970

Montserrat College of Art
Brian Pellinen
President

CO-AUTHORING THE LIVING BLUEPRINT

Olin has never been a finished product. Built on an architecture of unconventionality, it is shaped over time by the people who teach and learn, create and venture here. This inauguration theme extends a warm invitation to everyone to play a role in the making and becoming of Olin. Together, we mark this pivotal moment with the irreverent, hands-on joy and culture of play that defines our community.

VOICES OF OLIN

AN IMMERSIVE INSTALLATION IN HONOR OF INAUGURATION

Every unfinished thing carries a story.

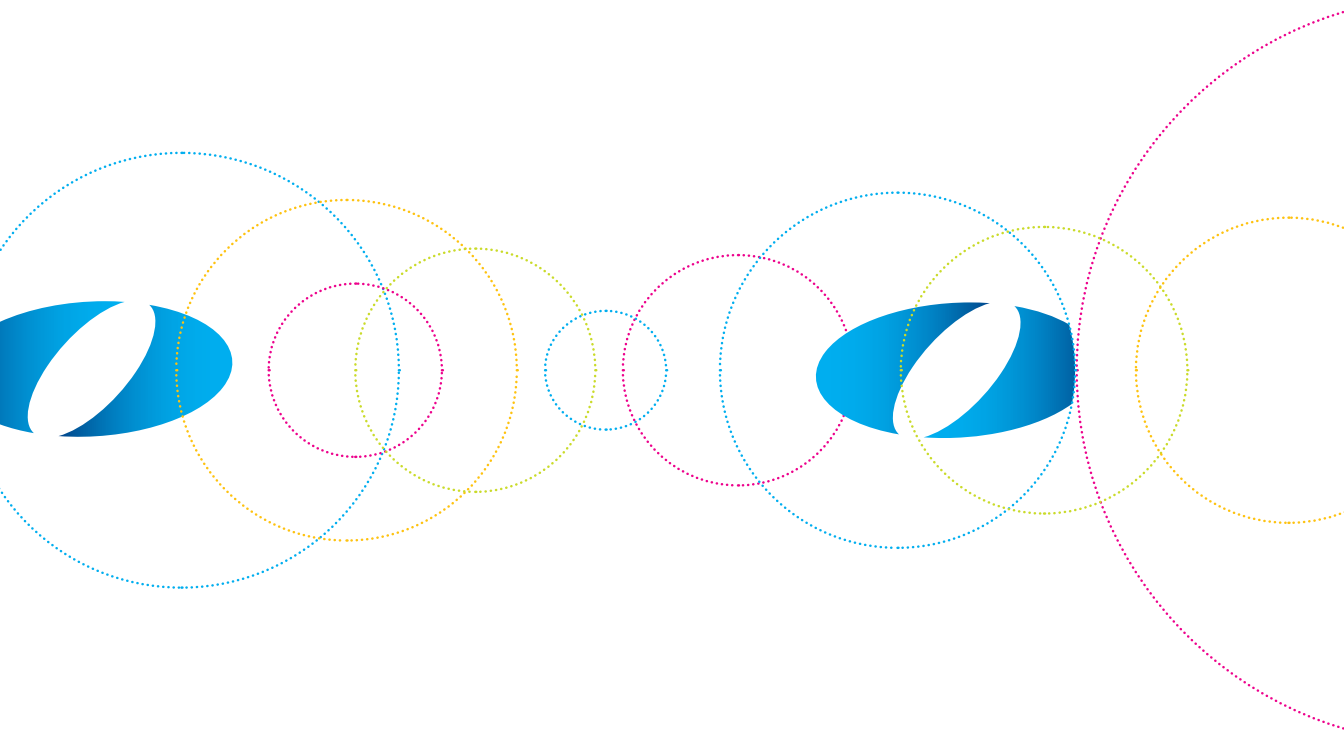
Olin is a place built on making, and no prototype ever feels finished. To celebrate President Lee's Inauguration, faculty, staff, alumni, students and the wider Olin community contributed unfinished prototypes, sketches, project presentations and objects that represent a meaningful part of their Olin experience.

Our community members shared meaningful artifacts along with their Olin stories: why they made it, what they learned, why it remains unfinished, or what they hope it becomes.

Using motion-tracking and spatial audio technology, visitors to the campus exhibition will "activate" and hear the stories coming from the artifacts, displayed on illuminated pedestals.

A dynamic team of creatives collaborated to bring this installation to life: guest artist Daniel Rosenberg-Munoz, student Sammy Socol '28, faculty Tim Sauder, alumna Gati Aher '23.

Voices of Olin will remain on display in Milas Hall through October 3, 2026.



Our deepest gratitude to the students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and event partners who built this day, and to every guest for joining us to mark this milestone in Olin's living history.

Follow the QR code for more information about Olin College and the Inauguration of President R. May Lee.