WIKIPEDIA

Leo Rafael Reif

Leo Rafael Reif (born August 21, 1950) is a Venezuelan-American electrical engineer, writer and academic administrator. He is the president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, succeeding Susan Hockfield on July 2, 2012.[1][2] On February 10, 2022, Reif announced he will resign at the end of 2022 after more than a decade leading MIT.[3] Reif previously served as the Institute's provost, as the head of MIT's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and as the director of the MIT Microsystems Technology Laboratories.[4] Reif sits on the boards of the World Economic Forum, the Carnegie Endowment, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Broad Institute, etc.[5][6][7][8]

Leo Rafael Reif
Reif during the WEF 2013
17th President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Incumbent
Assumed office   July 2, 2012

Preceded by	Susan Hockfield

Personal details	
Born	Leo Rafael Reif Groisman August 21, 1950 Maracaibo, Venezuela
Nationality	Venezuelan-American
Spouse(s)	Christine Chomiuk
Children	Jessica and Blake
Education	Universidad de Carabobo (B.S.) Stanford University (PhD)

Scientific career	
Fields	Electrical engineering

Contents

Background

Education

Research, teaching, and administration

Honors and awards

Corporate affiliations

Personal life

See also

References

External links

Background

Leo Rafael Reif was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, to Eastern European Jewish parents who immigrated to Venezuela in the late 1930s through Ecuador and Colombia. His father was a photographer, and the family spoke Yiddish and Spanish at home.[9]

Education

Reif received his undergraduate degree in electrical

engineering from the Universidad de Carabobo, Valencia, Venezuela in 1973. He then served for a year as an assistant professor at Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas. He went to the United States for graduate school, earning his doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1979.[10] He then spent a year as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Stanford.

Institutions	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Thesis	_Doping process in silicon epitaxy: Transfer function and physicochemical model_ (https://search.proquest.com/docview/302978153/) (1979)
Doctoral advisor	James D. Meindl

Research, teaching, and administration

Reif joined the MIT faculty in January 1980 as an assistant professor of electrical engineering. He was promoted to associate professor in 1983, earned tenure in 1985, and became a full professor in 1988. In 2004 he was named the Fariborz Maseeh Professor of Emerging Technology. In 2012, Reif was elected the president of MIT.[11]

Before his appointment as Provost in 2005, his research centered on three-dimensional integrated circuit technologies and on environmentally benign microelectronics fabrication.

Reif was director of MIT's Microsystems Technology Laboratories, then associate department head for Electrical Engineering in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), MIT's largest academic department, and then served as EECS department head in 2004-2005.

An early champion of MIT's engagement in micro- and nanotechnologies, Dr. Reif is the inventor or co-inventor on 13 patents, has edited or co-edited five books and has supervised 38 doctoral theses.

As MIT's provost, he spearheaded an effort to promote online learning for both on-campus students and learners around the world. The effort paved the way for edX, a massive open online course provider that MIT and Harvard University co-founded in 2012.[12] As of 2020, 24 million unique users have taken a class on edX.[13]

Reif was named co-chair of the administration's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee "2.0," part of a continuing effort to maintain U.S. leadership in the emerging technologies that will create high-quality manufacturing jobs and enhance America's global competitiveness, on September 26, 2013.[14][15]

To promote innovation in "tough-tech" science and engineering fields, in 2015 he presented an idea for an "innovation orchard," which would provide the space, mentorship, and bridge-funding for entrepreneurs to turn new science into workable products.[16] The idea became the basis for The Engine, an accelerator aimed at fostering scientific and engineering breakthroughs.[17]

In 2018, in response to the ubiquity of computing and the rise of artificial intelligence across disciplines, Reif announced the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing.[18] The College aims to prepare students to harness the power of AI while weighing its ethical and social implications.[19]

In 2019, in the wake of Jeffrey Epstein's indictment on child sex trafficking and subsequent suicide it came to light that Epstein had contributed over $800,000 to MIT, much of it beginning in 2013 and well after he was convicted of child sex trafficking the first time. In August 2019, Reif ordered an investigation into Epstein's connections with the university.[20][21][22]

In a September 12, 2019 letter to the MIT community on the institute's website, Reif admitted he signed a 2012 thank you letter to Epstein for a gift to professor Seth Lloyd. In the open letter to the community, Reif said, "I apparently signed this letter on August 16, 2012, about six weeks into my presidency. Although I do not recall it, it does bear my signature."[23] On September 18, he explained, "Many students have asked how I could have signed that acknowledgment letter without asking questions, and how I could fail to remember it. The answer is simple: I did not recognize the name, and I sign many standard thank-you letters every week. That includes several hundred letters every year thanking individuals for contributions to the Institute."[24]

In 2020, Reif announced that MIT will donate $850,000 to four nonprofits that support survivors of sexual abuse.[25]

In January 2021, Reif defended Gang Chen in an open letter following Chen's arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on wire fraud and tax violation charges.[26]

In February 2022, Reif announced his intention to step down as MIT president at the end of 2022, and return to the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science following a yearlong sabbatical. [27]

Honors and awards

Reif is a fellow of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers, an elected member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences,[28] and is a member of Tau Beta Pi and the Electrochemical Society. The Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC) awarded him the 2000 Aristotle Award for "his commitment to the educational experience of SRC students and the profound and continuing impact he has had on their professional careers." For his work in developing MITx, MIT's initiative in developing free online college courses available to learners anywhere with an Internet connection, which was launched in December 2011, he received the 2012 Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Award. In 2015, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation honored him with the Frank E. Taplin, Jr. Public Intellectual Award,[29] he was recognized as one of the Top 20 Most Influential, Outstanding, Creative and Talented Hispanic professionals working in the US Technology Industry by @CNET @CNET-ES @CBS Interactive.[30] and elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering. In November 2017, Reif was elected a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.[31]

Corporate affiliations

Since 2007, Reif has served on the Board of Directors of Schlumberger,[32] where he is on the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Science and Technology Committee[33] and currently owns approximately $1,000,000 in stock.[34] He is also a member of the Board of Conservation International, a nonprofit focused on sustainability and the environment.[35]

Reif served on the Board of Directors of Alcoa from 2015-2016[36] and its public spin-off Arconic

from 2016-2017.[32]

Personal life

The Reif administration at MIT played important role in the prosecution of Aaron Swartz, the founder of RSS and co-founder of Reddit, who was renowned for his anti-copyright (and "knowledge for all") activism on MIT campus.[37][38]

Reif and his wife, Christine (Chomiuk),[39] lived in Newton, Massachusetts prior to his appointment as MIT's 17th president, and for his first seven months; he now lives in the MIT Presidential residence, Gray House. They have a daughter, Jessica, and a son, Blake. Jessica is Dr. Reif's daughter from his first marriage.

See also

- Involvement in handling Aaron Swartz case.

References

1. Bradt, Steve (May 16, 2012). "L. Rafael Reif selected as MIT's 17th president" (http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2012/rafael-reif-elected-president-0516.html). *MIT News Office*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20120518210557/http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2012/rafael-reif-elected-president-0516.html) from the original on May 18, 2012. Retrieved May 16, 2012.

2. Krasny, Ros (May 17, 2012). "Venezuelan-born academic named president of MIT" (https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-mit-president-idUSBRE84G06J20120517). *Reuters*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150924164011/http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/17/us-usa-mit-president-idUSBRE84G06J20120517) from the original on September 24, 2015. Retrieved July 1, 2017.

3. "MIT president L. Rafael Reif to resign" (https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/02/10/metro/mit-president-reif-resign/). *Boston Globe*. Feb 10, 2022. Retrieved Feb 10, 2022.

4. "Rafael Reif biography on MIT website" (http://president.mit.edu/biography). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20120915074019/http://president.mit.edu/biography) from the original on 2012-09-15. Retrieved 2012-09-17.

5. "Board of Trustees" (https://www.weforum.org/about/leadership-and-governance), World Economic Forum

6. "Board of Trustees" (https://carnegieendowment.org/about/trustees), Carnegie Endowment

7. "Board of Directors" (https://www.cfr.org/board-directors), Council on Foreign Relations

8. "Board of Directors" (https://www.broadinstitute.org/people/board-directors), Broad Institute

9. "L. Rafael Reif selected as MIT's 17th president" (http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/201 2/rafael-reif-elected-president-0516.html). *MIT News Office*. May 16, 2012. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20120518210557/http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2012/ rafael-reif-elected-president-0516.html) from the original on May 18, 2012. Retrieved May 16, 2012.

10. Reif, Rafael Leo (1979). *Doping process in silicon epitaxy: Transfer function and physicochemical model* (https://search.proquest.com/docview/302978153/) (Ph.D.). Stanford University. OCLC 38652041 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/38652041) – via ProQuest.

11. "About President L. Rafael Reif | MIT Office of the President" (http://president.mit.ed u/biography). *president.mit.edu*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/201209150 74019/http://president.mit.edu/biography) from the original on 2012-09-15. Retrieved 2012-09-17.

12. Carmichael, Mary (May 2, 2012). "Harvard, MIT to partner in $60m initiative on free online classes" (https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2012/05/02/harvard-mit-partn er-million-initiative-offer-free-online-classes-all/cejIeF0GFEB705YzK6urnI/story.html) . *The Boston Globe*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20201125032704/http s://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2012/05/02/harvard-mit-partner-million-initiative-o ffer-free-online-classes-all/cejIeF0GFEB705YzK6urnI/story.html) from the original on November 25, 2020. Retrieved March 16, 2020.

13. "edX 2020 Impact Report" (https://www.edx.org/sites/default/files/2020-impact-repo rt.pdf) (PDF). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200423032536/https://www. edx.org/sites/default/files/2020-impact-report.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 2020-04-23. Retrieved 2020-03-16.

14. Rocheleau, Matt (September 27, 2013). "MIT President Reif picked by Obama to co-chair committee trying to boost US manufacturing" (http://www.boston.com/yourca mpus/news/mit/2013/09/mit_president_reif_picked_by_obama_to_co-chair_committ ee_trying_to_boost_us_manufacturing.html). *The Boston Globe*. Archived (https://w eb.archive.org/web/20130929090832/http://www.boston.com/yourcampus/news/mi t/2013/09/mit_president_reif_picked_by_obama_to_co-chair_committee_trying_to_b oost_us_manufacturing.html) from the original on September 29, 2013. Retrieved October 3, 2013.

15. "President Obama Launches Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee "2.0" " (https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2013/09 /26/president-obama-launches-advanced-manufacturing-partnership-steering-com). *The White House* (Press release). September 26, 2013. Archived (https://web.archiv e.org/web/20170125064027/https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office /2013/09/26/president-obama-launches-advanced-manufacturing-partnership-steeri ng-com) from the original on 2017-01-25. Retrieved 2015-06-02.

16. Reif, L. Rafael (May 22, 2015). "A Better Way to Deliver Innovation to the World" (ht tps://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-better-way-to-deliver-innovation-to-the-w orld/2015/05/22/35023680-fe28-11e4-8b6c-0dcce21e223d_story.html). *The Washington Post*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200619140435/https://w ww.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-better-way-to-deliver-innovation-to-the-world/2 015/05/22/35023680-fe28-11e4-8b6c-0dcce21e223d_story.html) from the original on June 19, 2020. Retrieved March 16, 2020.

17. Reif, Rafael (October 26, 2016). "New MIT Innovation Hub Takes on World's Biggest Challenges" (https://www0.bostonglobe.com/2016/10/26/reif/xNGbvZ3QWiP1sHFzW re3KN/story.html?p1=Article_Inline_Bottom). *The Boston Globe*. Archived (https://w eb.archive.org/web/20180429231211/http://www.bostonglobe.com/2016/10/26/reif/ xNGbvZ3QWiP1sHFzWre3KN/story.html?p1=Article_Inline_Bottom) from the original on April 29, 2018. Retrieved March 16, 2020.

18. Rosen, Andy (October 15, 2018). "MIT announces $1b outlay for study of artificial intelligence, computing" (https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/10/15/mit-anno unces-billion-outlay-for-study-artificial-intelligence-computing/8AhIrHXhTIpoKiFI90S vCM/story.html?event=event12). *The Boston Globe*.

19. Lohr, Steve (October 15, 2018). "M.I.T. Plans College for Artificial Intelligence, Backed by $1 Billion" (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/15/technology/mit-college -artificial-intelligence.html). *The New York Times*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/ web/20190207022135/https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/15/technology/mit-colleg e-artificial-intelligence.html) from the original on February 7, 2019. Retrieved March 16, 2020.

20. "Head of MIT Media Lab faces crisis that tears at lab he helped elevate" (https://ww w.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/08/23/mit/MmMvichvMG1bpIMq7HLGdL/story.html). 2019-08-23. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200114153747/https://www.b ostonglobe.com/metro/2019/08/23/mit/MmMvichvMG1bpIMq7HLGdL/story.html) from the original on 2020-01-14. Retrieved 2019-08-23.

21. Ronan Farrow (Sep. 6, 2019), "HOW AN ÉLITE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER CONCEALED ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH JEFFREY EPSTEIN" (https://www.newyorker.co m/news/news-desk/how-an-elite-university-research-center-concealed-its-relationsh ip-with-jeffrey-epstein), *The New Yorker* magazine.

22. Tiffany Hsu, David Yaffe-Bellany & Marc Tracy (Jan. 10, 2020), "Jeffrey Epstein Gave $850,000 to M.I.T., and Administrators Knew" (https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/1 0/business/mit-jeffrey-epstein-joi-ito.html), *The New York Times:* "The university investigated its history with Mr. Epstein after Joichi Ito, the face of its prominent Media Lab program, acknowledged receiving money from the convicted sex offender."

23. Staff Writer (2019-09-12). "Letter regarding preliminary fact-finding about MIT and Jeffrey Epstein" (http://news.mit.edu/2019/letter-preliminary-facts-0912). *MIT News*. MIT News Office. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20190912201220/http://ne ws.mit.edu/2019/letter-preliminary-facts-0912) from the original on 2019-09-12. Retrieved 2019-09-12.

24. Staff Writer (2019-09-18). "Remarks by President Reif at Institute faculty meeting" (http://news.mit.edu/2019/remarks-president-reif-institute-faculty-meeting-0918). *MIT News*. MIT News Office. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/2020030605403 0/http://news.mit.edu/2019/remarks-president-reif-institute-faculty-meeting-0918) from the original on 2020-03-06. Retrieved 2020-03-11.

25. Gurumurthy, Ananya (February 13, 2020). "MIT to donate $850,000 to nonprofits supporting sexual abuse survivors" (https://thetech.com/2020/02/13/mit-donates-to -four-nonprofits). *The Tech*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200214180550 /https://thetech.com/2020/02/13/mit-donates-to-four-nonprofits) from the original on February 14, 2020. Retrieved March 16, 2020.

26. Fernandes, Deirdre (January 22, 2021). "MIT president and faculty members defend professor arrested for China ties" (https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/01/23/metro/mit-president-faculty-members-defend-professor-arrested-china-ties/). *The Boston Globe*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20210124092957/https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/01/23/metro/mit-president-faculty-members-defend-professor-arrested-china-ties/) from the original on January 24, 2021. Retrieved January 24, 2021.

27. Bradt, Steve (February 10, 2022). "L. Rafael Reif to step down as MIT president" (https://news.mit.edu/2022/rafael-reif-to-step-down-mit-president-0210). *MIT News*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20220210155630/https://news.mit.edu/2022/rafael-reif-to-step-down-mit-president-0210) from the original on February 14, 2020. Retrieved February 10, 2022.

28. "Alphabetical Index of Active Members" (https://www.amacad.org/multimedia/pdfs/alphalist.pdf) (PDF). *Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences*. Fall 2016. p. 197. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20181009122926/https://www.amacad.org/multimedia/pdfs/alphalist.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 2018-10-09. Retrieved 2014-04-01.

29. "Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation | Woodrow Wilson Foundation Honors" (http://woodrow.org/about/honors/). *woodrow.org*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20151025103243/http://woodrow.org/about/honors/) from the original on 2015-10-25. Retrieved 2016-01-15.

30. Martínez, Laura & Sama, Gabriel (September 17, 2015). "CNET en Español: The 20 most influential Latinos in tech" (https://www.cnet.com/news/cnet-en-espanol-20-latinos-in-technology-2015/). *CNET*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180617042757/https://www.cnet.com/news/cnet-en-espanol-20-latinos-in-technology-2015/) from the original on June 17, 2018. Retrieved June 16, 2018.

31. Xiang, Bo (27 November 2017). "Bill Gates elected to Chinese Academy of Engineering" (http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-11/27/c_136783270.htm). Xinhua. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171217095117/http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-11/27/c_136783270.htm) from the original on 17 December 2017. Retrieved 10 June 2019.

32. Schlumberger. "Board of Directors" (https://www.slb.com/who-we-are/corporate-governance/board-of-directors). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20190902163644/https://www.slb.com/who-we-are/corporate-governance/board-of-directors) from the original on 2019-09-02. Retrieved 2019-10-06.,

33. Schlumberger Limited. "2014 Annual Report" (http://phx.corporate-ir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9MjcyMDcyfENoaWxkSUQ9LTF8VHlwZT0z&t=1)., p. 106, also available as an image (http://media.corporate-ir.net/media_files/IROL/97/97513/SLB_AR2014/images/slb-106.gif) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150402174031/http://media.corporate-ir.net/media_files/IROL/97/97513/SLB_AR2014/images/slb-106.gif) 2015-04-02 at the Wayback Machine.

34. Saul R. Laureles, Attorney-in-Fact. "SEC Form 4 for 05/03/2019" (https://investorcen ter.slb.com/static-files/7337dc3c-5ff1-4796-a58d-04e556920e2c). Archived (https:// web.archive.org/web/20191006122033/https://investorcenter.slb.com/static-files/73 37dc3c-5ff1-4796-a58d-04e556920e2c) from the original on 2019-10-06. Retrieved 2019-10-06. for 31,473 shares, valued at $31.88 per Google Finance. "Schlumberger Limited. (NYSE:SLB)" (https://www.google.com/finance?chdnp=1&ch dd=1&chds=1&chdv=1&chvs=maximized&chdeh=0&chfdeh=0&chdet=13989744 00000&chddm=391&chls=IntervalBasedLine&q=NYSE:SLB&&fct=big&ei=rvv1VKC YLMTargGC0IHgBA). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160420131749/http:// www.google.com/finance?chdnp=1&chdd=1&chds=1&chdv=1&chvs=maximized& chdeh=0&chfdeh=0&chdet=1398974400000&chddm=391&chls=IntervalBasedLin e&q=NYSE:SLB&&fct=big&ei=rvv1VKCYLMTargGC0IHgBA) from the original on 2016-04-20. Retrieved 2016-11-11. {{cite web}}: |author= has generic name (help)

35. "Conservation International Board of Directors" (https://www.conservation.org/abou t/board-of-directors). *Conservation International*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/ web/20190530092044/https://www.conservation.org/about/Pages/board-of-director s.aspx) from the original on 2019-05-30. Retrieved 2020-03-16.

36. "Alcoa Elects L. Rafael Reif to Board of Directors" (https://web.archive.org/web/2015 0302071833/http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20150 119000254en&newsYear=2015). *Alcoa*. Archived from the original (http://www.alco a.com/global/en/news/news_detail.asp?pageID=20150119000254en&newsYear=20 15) on 2015-03-02. Retrieved 2015-03-03.

37. Ohlheiser, Abby (2013-07-19). "MIT Delays the Release of Aaron Swartz's Secret Service File" (https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/07/mit-delays-r elease-aaron-swartzs-secret-service-file/313131/). *The Atlantic*. Archived (https://we b.archive.org/web/20210122184900/https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archiv e/2013/07/mit-delays-release-aaron-swartzs-secret-service-file/313131/) from the original on 2021-01-22. Retrieved 2021-01-18.

38. "MIT Steps In To Block A Reporter From Getting Aaron Swartz's Secret Service File" (https://www.businessinsider.in/mit-steps-in-to-block-a-reporter-from-getting-aaron- swartzs-secret-service-file/articleshow/21157168.cms). *Business Insider*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20210122082219/https://www.businessinsider.in/mit-s teps-in-to-block-a-reporter-from-getting-aaron-swartzs-secret-service-file/articlesho w/21157168.cms) from the original on 2021-01-22. Retrieved 2021-01-18.

39. "Biega Funeral Home: Obituaries" (http://www.biegafuneralhome.com/fh/print.cfm?t ype=obituary&o_id=1711753&fh_id=12370). *Biega Funeral Home*. October 2012. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150905221624/http://www.biegafuneralho me.com/fh/print.cfm?type=obituary&o_id=1711753&fh_id=12370) from the original on 2015-09-05. Retrieved 2015-06-02.

External links

- Board of Trustees (https://www.weforum.org/about/leadership-and-governance) at World Economic Forum
- Board of Trustees (https://carnegieendowment.org/about/trustees) at Carnegie Endowment
- Official MIT President's website (http://president.mit.edu/)

- "L. Rafael Reif selected as MIT's 17th President" (http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/201 2/rafael-reif-elected-president-0516.html). MIT News Office. May 16, 2012. Retrieved 2012-05-16.
- "L. Rafael Reif named Provost" (http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2005/provost.html). MIT News Office. July 12, 2005. Retrieved 2007-04-26.
- Rocheleau, Matt (September 27, 2013). "MIT President Reif picked by Obama to co-chair committee trying to boost US manufacturing" (http://www.boston.com/yourca mpus/news/mit/2013/09/mit_president_reif_picked_by_obama_to_co-chair_committ ee_trying_to_boost_us_manufacturing.html). Boston.com.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Leo_Rafael_Reif&oldid=1073371814"

This page was last edited on 22 February 2022, at 11:15 (UTC).