



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 22, 1970

To Members of the Faculty:

I am happy to announce the appointment of Professor Robert W. Mann of the Department of Mechanical Engineering as the Germeshausen Professor commencing with this academic year.

The Germeshausen Professorship, established in 1968 by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Germeshausen, is undesignated as to academic department, but is intended to support M. I. T. 's strong interests in combining humanitarian advances with technological progress.

Professor Mann is a leader in increasingly successful efforts to apply modern technology to helping the blind, deaf and physically handicapped. His appointment as Germeshausen Professor is appropriate recognition for his humanitarian work. Professor Mann was one of the principal developers of the Boston Arm, a cybernetic prosthesis for persons with above-elbow amputations, and, as founder of the M. I. T. Center for Sensory Aids Evaluation and Development and chairman of its Steering Committee from its inception, has had an important role in developing such aids as high-speed, electronic braille-embossing computer terminals; computer programs for braille translation; and mobility, recreational and vocational devices for the blind and deaf-blind.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Professor Mann received the S. B. in 1950, the S. M. in 1951 and the Sc. D. in 1957, all from M. I. T. He was a research engineer in the M. I. T. Dynamic Analysis and Control Laboratory from 1951 to 1953 when he was appointed Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He was appointed Associate Professor in 1958 and Professor in 1963.

Professor Mann's principal interest is teaching of engineering design. He was head of the Engineering Design Division, Department of Mechanical Engineering, from 1957 to 1966 and helped reorganize that division as the Systems and Design Division which he headed until 1967. He was founding chairman of the M. I. T. Engineering Project Laboratory. He has helped organize four National Conferences on Engineering Design Education and was a member of the national Commission on Engineering Education.

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Professor Mann is president of the Catholic Guild for All the Blind, Inc.; a member of the advisory council to the National Joint Braille Authority; and chairman of the Committee on Standards for the Production of Reading Materials for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. He is a member of the Committee on the Interplay of Engineering with Biology and Medicine of the National Academy of Engineering and chairman of its Subcommittee on Sensory Aids, and a member of the Committee on the Skeletal System of the National Research Council. He is a member of the M.I.T. Committee on Engineering and Living Systems and the Harvard-M.I.T. ad hoc Subcommittee on Health Care.

Professor Mann has been active in M.I.T. academic affairs. He is a former member of the Faculty Committee on Academic Policy, a former chairman of the Faculty Committee on Admissions and of the Committee on Community Service. He was founding chairman of the Undergraduate Student Activities Development Board and served on the Mechanical Engineering Curriculum Committee. He is a member of the Tuition Assistance Committee, the Steering Committee of the M.I.T. -Wellesley Upward Bound Program, and the M.I.T. Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. He was elected president of his senior class, was president of the undergraduate student government and is president of the Alumni Class of 1950.

Howard W. Johnson