

Dear Friends and Family,

I want to sincerely thank each of you for supporting the MITStrong team and the Officer Sean Collier Fund. Thanks to all of you our team raised >\$200,000, enough to endow the MITStrong's annual Collier Award as well as a Collier Student Fellowship. I was able to fulfill my dream to complete the Boston Marathon 2014 representing MIT and raised >\$7000 surpassing my personal goal. Thank you for your generosity and support to make this happen. I can't believe I already crossed the finish line and ran the marathon (humpf, it wasn't that hard). I ran a personal best (well, for my only official marathon) of 4hr 21min, and was happy, but if I want to qualify for Boston 2015 I need to shave off 21 min. HA! Who said anything about another marathon, ever? Not too likely (-;

Along the route, the crowds were truly amazing and so inspiring. People lined up many deep for 26.2 miles (even when I was running hours after the winners).

- **Hopkinton**=the Start: very exciting surrounded by my MITStrong team;
- **Ashland**=tens of thousands of runners, striding through quaint New England towns (far from home), can these legs take me 50K steps, yikes?;
- **Framingham**=6 mi (10 km) "this is pretty fantastic, oops slow down, I'm going too fast"; lots of cheering from the crowd "Go MIT, Go!" I'm psyched;
- **Natick**=this is a long drive from Boston/MIT, and I'm running???? Focus on the goal=finish. I see a colleague, Oli de Weck cheering, I'm smiling again;
- **Wellesley**=Half Marathon! Wellesley undergrads screaming and hundreds of high fives. I see colleagues John Ochsendorf and Anne Carney and I'm pumped. I'm going to see Gui soon, runnin' HAPPY. Mile 16-I see Gui, Laura and Rocky Sargent, kisses and hugs and a Honey Stinger GU replacement for energy (this is my fourth). Life is good-I'm forgetting about blisters and sore muscles, and the 10+ miles I have to still run.
- **Newton**=the dreaded 4 miles of hills to the top of Heartbreak Hill. "I got this, I think, I hope". These hills pale in comparison to the hills in Roatan, Honduras at Gui's hotel, villas (Las Verandas) and golf course (Pristine Bay) that I ran 3 weeks ago. I see friends Bronwyn and Roe Smith, Jennifer and Michael Kratochwill, and everyone is cheering for us. I hear music, I'm inspired; I see blind marathon runners with guides, I'm inspired; I see runners for Cancer charities, a runner with Multiple Sclerosis, and the Hoyt's Boston marathon team Mr. Hoyt pushing his son in his racing buggy, I'm inspired. I make it. Mile 21 (32 km), I've hit the wall, but I am going to finish, I just have to. Physically, I'm shot, but mentally, I'm determined. It's downhill to Boston, yeah! Many blisters, trying to continue to hydrate with Gatorade and eating my Honey Stinger GUs every five miles. I hear from the crowd that an American has won Boston 2014!
- **Brookline**=just past Boston College and <10 km to go. The students are great and I see many MITStrong signs and many people cheering. I think "maybe...I got this". My mind starts telling my legs, "keep going, you got this, do NOT stop". I'm closing in on Boston and I'm running the Boston Marathon, how cool is that! Ouch, I've lost my toenail, which I had super glued on, but a woman has a sign "pain today, pride tomorrow". I like that. I'm inspired by everyone and especially my MITStrong team who I've been high fiving along the way as I sneak up on them. It seems like I'm running very slowly, Chestnut Hill on to Beacon Street, but I'm happy.
- **Boston**=I'm in Boston, 25 miles from Hopkinton. The crowds get bigger and louder, the MIT cheers get louder and I see familiar faces, some MIT and Baker students past and present, Brad Holschuh and Anna Ayuso screaming for me in Kenmore Square. I'm delirious, but I smile. This is awesome. I see Allie Anderson and many more and I have just enough will power to make it, I tell my legs "go right on Hereford" (in training, I never knew that one block was an incline. It seems like a grand hill on my noodle legs now) "left on Boylston", and I see the finish line. Go, go, go!
- It was exhilarating. 4hr 21min and I've finished. I stop one step after the finish line and the volunteer asks if I need medical attention, "No" I reply. I'm one step past the finish line, so I'm done running. Now I'm greeted by MIT volunteers and I meet Gui, Laura and Rocky and I'm w-a-l-k-i-n-g s-l-o-w-l-y. You all made this possible and you're in my heart.

My sincere thanks and love to you all,
Dava

