

July 2013 Newsletter

[New Courses](#) | [Updated Courses](#) | [Highlights for High School](#)
[MITx News](#) | [Views from Supporters](#)

New Courses

- [4.105 Geometric Disciplines and Architecture Skills: Reciprocal Methodologies](#)
- [12.340 Global Warming Science](#)
- [18.703 Modern Algebra](#)
- [21F.321 Childhood and Youth in French and Francophone Cultures](#)
- [CMS.360 Introduction to Civic Media](#)

Updated Courses

- [5.72 Statistical Mechanics](#)
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Highlights for High School



ChemLab Boot Camp follows 14 MIT freshmen as they face the challenges of learning chemistry the MIT way.

Cool off this summer with a review of the [ChemLab Boot Camp](#) video series.

It's about [5.301 Chemistry Laboratory Techniques](#), a four-week laboratory "boot camp" for freshmen that the MIT Chemistry Department runs. Those who pass are guaranteed a job in an MIT research lab.

See how 14 students learn everything from column chromatography to protein assays, and watch as teams

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compete to grow the biggest crystal. Smell the stench as students synthesize their very own antibiotics, and hold your breath as they give presentations to the whole class.

> [See the ChemLab Boot Camp video series](#)

MITx: Meet the instructors behind 3.086x Innovation and Commercialization



Left: Eugene Fitzgerald (Photo: Eugene Fitzgerald),
Right: Andreas Wankerl (Photo: Andreas Wankerl)

A shared concern for the health of the United States' innovation ecosystem, and uncommon career paths, are what brought together the two instructors for the upcoming MITx course, [3.086x Innovation and Commercialization](#).

Although both Andreas Wankerl and Gene Fitzgerald earned their PhD's in the sciences from Cornell University, each decided to work in industry rather than pursuing an academic career. Wankerl earned his doctorate in Electrical Engineering but managed international sales in the semiconductor industry, while Fitzgerald, now an MIT Professor of Materials Science, began his career in AT&T Bell Labs. "We both had this instinctive desire to be closer to the market—closer to where innovation finds its real expression," explained Wankerl. "When I met Gene, he had just arrived at MIT to further advance his work from Bell Labs. I sold him a pretty significant piece of semiconductor equipment, and we struck up a conversation. What we quickly discovered was that not only did we have the same thesis advisor at Cornell, but we shared a lot of the same ideas."

Their meeting sparked a decade-long conversation about the true nature of innovation, which culminated in their teaching a course together and collaborating on a book, *Inside Real Innovation: How the Right Approach Can Move Ideas from R&D to Market – And Get the Economy Moving*. Their work has recently been cited by the White House as a key guide for shaping the national debate on how to innovate more effectively in the United States.

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- Lea, Independent Learner, USA

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