

# MIT HONORS CAREER OF PAULINE MORROW AUSTIN '38

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology paid tribute to the pioneering career of Pauline Morrow Austin '38 in December, unveiling a permanent display in Austin's honor at its Cambridge campus.

"Pauline Morrow Austin—Life and Legacy—A Centenary Celebration," opened Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016. The opening was hosted by MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

Austin, who earned a doctorate in physics from MIT, would have celebrated her 100th birthday in December. Wilson alumnae/i and college officials were on hand to celebrate the event.

Austin joined the Weather Radar Research Project at MIT at its inception in 1946 (she was the sole female member of the project at that time) and served as project director from 1956 until her retirement in 1979. Austin was the first woman to work in the field of weather radar research and MIT's project made seminal contributions to the development of radar technology and its use in mapping rainfall distributions and mid-sized weather patterns.

After graduating from Wilson with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Austin received a master's in physics from Smith College



Attending the reception honoring Pauline Morrow Austin '38 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are, from left: Amy Ensley, director of Wilson's Hankey Center; Ted Lamson; Marsha Haley Lamson '66; Wilson President Emerita Gwen Jensen; Margaret "Peg" Diffenderfer '70; Barb Werner '64; Catherine Riley; and John Ross, Wilson director of major gifts.

before getting her degree from MIT. In January 1942, while Austin was completing her doctorate during World War II, the *New York Times* named her one of nine top female scholars nationally aiding in the war effort. She was working on adapting radar to track planes.

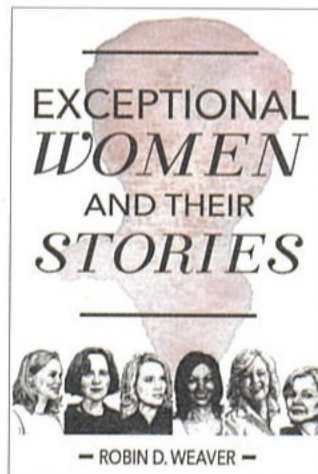
After the war, she became one of the first women identified as a meteorologist in the new era of radar technology.



## LITERARY NOTE

Robin Weaver '76 has interviewed many interesting women over the years: Linda Fairstein, mystery author and former chief of the Manhattan district attorney's office sex crimes unit; Peggy Noonan, political columnist and former speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan; and Dana Perino, former press secretary for President George W. Bush.

Weaver, who is currently president of the Women's National Republican Club in New York City, has published 25 of her interviews in a new book, *Exceptional Women And Their Stories*. The



interviews showcase not only each woman's professional achievements, but also her personal challenges and motivations, demonstrating "how these extraordinary women shaped their careers and destiny," according to Weaver.

*Exceptional Women And Their Stories* can be purchased online through [www.ondemandbooks.com](http://www.ondemandbooks.com).