Undergrad IDs super-sized stars

Elizabeth Thomson
News Office

An MIT undergraduate who says she’s been interested in astronomy for “as long as I can remember” is lead author of an upcoming paper announcing the discovery of three stars that have the largest diameters of any normal stars known, more than a billion miles across.

Emily Levesque, a junior in physics, presented the work at a recent American Astronomical Society meeting, where it caught the attention of many reporters and resulted in stories in a variety of media, from USA Today to CNN and space.com.

“Emily Levesque was part of an international team that studied 74 red supergiant stars in the Milky Way. Red supergiants, massive stars nearing the end of their lifetimes, are extremely cool and luminous—and very large.

“The aim of the project was to re-determine the effective temperature scale of these supergiants,” said Levesque. That’s because there has been significant disagreement between the theory of how large and cool these stars should be, and how large and cool astronomers actually observe them to be.

This research finally reconciles theory and observation. According to Philip Massey, an astronomer at Lowell Observatory and the project’s lead, “The problem in this case turned out not to be the theory, but the observations—the conversion between the observed qualities (brightness and spectral type) and the deduced properties (temperature and luminosity and/or size) needed improvement.”

With the new temperature scale in hand, “we calculated the radii of the red supergiants, and found that they were extremely large,” said Levesque, who got involved in the work through the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the Lowell Observatory.

Three of the stars have radii about 1,500 times that of the sun, or about seven astronomical units (AU). The previous record holder comes in a close fourth in size. For comparison, see SUPER-SIZED STARS.
European job-seeking made local

Job seekers came to Rockwell Cage from as far away as Illinois and Quebec last weekend for the chance to interview with representatives of 43 international firms. MIT's Career Fair, the only fair of its kind in the U.S.

More than 2,500 people attended the fair on Friday, Jan. 28 and interviewed with companies through Sunday, Jan. 30. The organizers, members of the MIT European Club, collected more than 3,100 resumes of candidates from MIT, Harvard and area colleges in advance, and arranged 385 interviews beforehand.

Now in its ninth year, the fair is one of the leading European-focused recruiting events in the United States. Club members initiated the fair in 1996 to facilitate the recruiting and interview of candidates for European branches of U.S. firms and for European companies.

This year the fair was endorsed by the Working Group on Support Staff Issues (WGSSI) was established in 1975 to address issues of concern to support staff at MIT. The WGSSI's mission is to "develop and deliver programs that educate administrative and support staff about recycling, reducing and reusing goods." In the first four years, the WKDR has come up with new and creative ways to meet its mission.

This year's theme of "creative collaboration" has the WKDR joining forces with other campus groups, including the Department of Facilities, Sodexo, the Real Estate Office and the Environmental Programs Office, and the City of Cambridge. Such collaboration has helped in the group's success.

"It felt we were very important to develop a collaborative effort," said Anne Wasserman, assistant to the director of the Microsystems Technology Laboratories and co-chair of the WRG, who credits the support of the WGSN sponsor, Laura Ara- kian, vice president for Human Resources, and Jamie Lewis, internal counselor and managing director for Environmental Programs and Risk Management, for helping the committee succeed.

One of the projects WKDR is most proud of is The Monthly Bdale, a newsletter launched last fall. With a distribution of 4,000 and growing, the e-mailed Bdale distiles myths and gives recycling tips, said editor and WRG co-chair, Amy Donovan.

The December 2004 issue provided tips on "Greening Your Holidays" with advice such as using email for invitations and recycled paper for holiday cards. "Many people say things like, 'Wow, I didn't know you could recycle batteries. Next time I will,'" said Donovan.

Artist and designer Mara Karapetian, a media specialist in the Microsystems Technology Laboratory, designs The Monthly Bdale and the downloadable paperless calendar, which also started last fall. Karapetian is conscious of keeping everything produced by WKDR both environmentally friendly and visually appealing.

"I eye candy is what it takes to get the word out and get us noticed, then that is okay with me," said Karapetian said with a laugh.

The WKDR also has more than 100 "recycling ambassadors" who assume a recycling leadership role in their departments. "We wanted to make involvement easy," said Wasserman.

This year, MIT dormitories are participating for the first time in the national RecycleMania contest that pits the institution's dorms against more than 45 of the nation's top university recycling programs to see who can recycle the most trash. The contest runs through April 9.

"The ultimate goal really is to promote recycling," said Lanou. "This contest just makes it fun for the participants."
Most Friday nights, the quiet Coffeehouse on the third floor of the Student Center undergoes a transformation. The first week back at school was no exception; the SaveTFP student group threw a karaoke night to start off the year on a musical note.

About 9 p.m. a few students began setting up for the weekly “Friday Nights @ the Coffeehouse” event, which quickly filled up with about 300 students. The three-hour event offered pizza, a new karaoke machine, a large screen with lyrics projected onto it, and monetary prizes for the big winners. From the music—most SaveTFP events are free—helped to draw a large crowd.

SaveTFP was founded approximately two years ago, at a time when MIT began a campaign to raise awareness of dangerous drinking among the student body. One or two students attending the initial discussions suggested that a student group be formed to attack the problem. The group’s web site says: “We are not an official student group, nor are we a part of any other campus organization or office. There are various groups at MIT with specific agendas—preserving dorm charm, promoting specific hobbies, providing support to students. Our goal is simple—preserving and enhancing the good things about MIT.”

The current group of eight students now plans and organizes stress-free, alcohol-free events on campus. Well, maybe not completely stress-free for the performers. “It was quite intimidating to sing, but also a lot of fun,” said freshman Debashish Sircar after his duet with freshman Jonathan Sue-Ho. The two sang Train’s “Drops of Jupiter”.

Katelyn Giovannucci, a sophomore in linguistics and philosophy, performed several numbers, including Madonna’s “Frozen.” “I didn’t really know much about SavetfP prior to the karaoke event, but some friends decided to go and I tagged along and had such a great time! I wish more people knew about fun stuff like this. It’s a great way to spend a Friday night,” said Giovannucci. “I wish more people knew about SaveTFP events, it’s free of admission and alcohol.

Campus karaoke night draws melodious crowd

Iraqi war veteran speaks out against the war

Natalia Brown
News Office

The war in Iraq is as once a war on Iraqis and a war on America’s working and lower classes, said Sgt. Kelly Dougherty, who spent 10 months in Iraq in 2003 as a member of the National Guard. She spoke to about 50 people on Feb. 1 in a talk sponsored by the MIT Greens. Third-year student Sasha Brown said the student group SaveTFP, which stands for Save This F***ing Place, seeks to distance itself from the MIT administration by making it clear that it is a group of independent students who like to have fun by throwing large annual, alcohol-free events, as well as comfortable Friday evenings at the Coffeshouse. The big events include the Halloween, Thanksgiving and Valentine’s Skates; Mr. and Miss MIT Talent Contest, Fall Festival, and Spring Weekend.

This year’s Valentine’s Skate is Friday, Feb. 11 from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Johnson Ice Rink. Like all SaveTFP events, it’s free of admission and alcohol.

January session brings remote students to campus for a month

Amy MacMillan
ESD Communications Assistant

They come from the front lines of Iraq, the Hellenic Air Force, and the hallowed halls of MIT itself. They’re worldly, but not worldly-weary.

This year’s System Design and Management class may be the most primed and prepared class yet, according to Pat Hale, director of the MIT Sloan Fellows Program. “They are very enthusiastic, have a clear sense of purpose for their education, and feel it’s the right degree for them,” he said.

Although the unique distance-learning degree program that facilitates the graduate program has been around since 1997, the curriculum is enhanced this year. The modifications made this year will bolster an already sturdy set of SDM courses.

“We are still the only primarily distance education program that combines a top-flight management school with a top-ranked engineering school,” Hale said. In addition to its distance education program, SDM also offers full and part-time on-campus options.

The new version of SDM is reflected in the size of the class (62), the students’ diversity, and the subjects they learn in the first few weeks of the rigorous January session. The number of women in the class tripled since last year, more than half of the class hold master’s degrees, and seven have Ph.Ds. About 80 percent of the cohort is self-supported, 40 percent are fully or partially company-sponsored. The average age is 33.

This year, several courses in the Sloan School of Management have been tailored to the needs of this MIT Interdisciplinary Fellows Program. The modifications made this year will bolster an already sturdy set of SDM courses.

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Balancing act is key to brain functions

Researchers at the Picower Center for Learning and Memory have uncovered an important new way that the brain performs complex functions such as pattern recognition. The study appeared in the Feb. 1 issue of Nature Neuroscience.

The work, led by Miriganka Sur, the Sherman Fairchild Professor of Neuroscience and head of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, has implications for understanding the cellular mechanisms underlying many higher level functions, including consciousness.

Within the visual cortex, brain cells work together in localized circuits on tasks such as pattern recognition. At a molecular level, this involves matching the correct positive, or excitatory, wires with the correct negative, or inhibitory, wires. An exquisite balance in the interplay between plus and minus inputs on individual neurons is essential to stabilize and shape circuits of thousands of cells.

Earlier work has shown that brain cells contain many individual processing modules that each collect a set number of excitatory and inhibitory inputs. When the two types of inputs are correctly connected together, powerful processing can occur at each module. What’s more, the modules have their own built-in intelligence that allows them to accommodate defects in the wiring or electrical storms in the circuitry. If any of the connections break, new ones automatically form to replace the old ones. If the positive, excitatory connections are overloaded, new negative, inhibitory connections quickly form to balance out the signaling, immediately restoring the capacity to transmit information.

Patterns of activity

The primary visual cortex of monkeys and cats contain regions where neurons are tuned to the vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines that give shape to images we see. These regions are dotted with “pinwheel centers” around which all orientations are represented. Areas far from the pinwheel centers contain neurons that are tuned to a specific line orientation, not all of them at once. Visual stimulation evokes different patterns of synaptic inputs at the pinwheel centers and the surrounding areas.

Yet in all regions, neurons are finely tuned to line orientation and edges. In this study, Sur and colleagues look at how processing networks in the brain transform the inputs they receive through visual stimuli to create outputs that can be used for perception and action.

“These ideas form the beginning of an important new way to understand how the brain creates new functions,” Sur said. “All higher functions of the brain, particularly complex functions such as pattern recognition or even consciousness, likely use such principles as a basic building block.”

In addition to Sur, authors include MIT postdoctoral fellows Jorge Marino, James Schummers and David C. Lyon, who collaborated with a group led by Klaus Obermayer at Berlin University of Technology.

Visualizing physics

The MIT Museum’s exhibition on TEAL (see page 1) also contains this image, which shows the field of a permanent magnet suspended above a ring of current. The magnet is oriented such that its north pole faces downwards, while the current in the ring flows counter-clockwise. The resulting magnetic field between the two objects causes the magnet to be repelled, feeding a force upwards that allows it to be levitated above the ring. The image shows selected fieldlines colored and rotated about the vertical axis. The first phase of the exhibition is on view through Feb. 13; the second phase, Feb. 16 to April 18; and the third phase April 20 through June 5.

SUPER-SIZED STARS

Emily Levesque, a junior in physics, observed red supergiant stars in the Milky Way as a member of an international team that used this telescope at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile last November.

Continued from Page 1

The well-known red supergiant star Betelgeuse in the constellation Orion has a radius of about three AU. Levesque has been involved in the research since last summer, when she traveled to Kitt Peak National Observatory with Massey, her advisor.

“We observed for five perfectly clear nights, quite an anomaly in astronomy,” Levesque recalls. “It was my first observing run and my first experience working with a large telescope. We operated the telescope ourselves and got fabulous data. Getting a chance to observe, reduce and analyze the data was really excellent!”

“I think the ‘untold story’ of all of the press coverage in the fact that Emily, as an undergraduate, took much of the data, reduced it, analyzed it, participated as a full colleague in figuring out what it all means, is first author on the Astrophysical Journal paper, and present the results at the AAS meeting in San Diego,” said Massey. Levesque’s supervisor on the work. “While I’ve worked with many exceptional undergraduates over the year, I think that Emily has clearly distinguished herself.”

Last November Levesque and Massey observed red supergiants in the Magellanic Clouds using a telescope at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile. “The second observing run was just as fun as the first, and the trip to Chile was great. We haven’t yet analyzed that data,” Levesque said.

Levesque’s parents introduced her to astronomy when she was a young child. “I’ve been hooked ever since,” she said. Coming to MIT, she said, “I planned from the start to be a physics major with an eye towards eventually doing astronomy. All the astronomy classes I’ve taken here have been very excellent.” She plans now to get a Ph.D. in astronomy and try for a tenure-track job at a research facility or university.

Other researchers involved in this work are from the Lowell Observatory, Cerro Tololo, the University of Arizona, and the Geneva Observatory. Support was from the NSF.
Hockfield calls for diversity
Sarah Wright

President Susan Hockfield expressed admiration for the longevity of MIT’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast and asserted MIT’s “special commitment to meeting the challenge of creating a more diverse and sup- portive community” in her comments and introduction of keynote speaker Gwen Ifill.

“In bringing the MIT community together each year, this breakfast asks us to renew our commitment to the values Dr. King articulated and that he exemplified in his own life and work. This morning reminds us that it is our collective responsibility to meet the need for a more just and humane society,” Hockfield said.

“America and the world have benefited enormously from MIT’s willingness, during and after the Second World War, to hire teachers and scholars from many nations and from groups that had been denied full membership in a restrictive academy. As we look to the future, we need to keep the lesson of that history in mind.

“But we cannot rest on our laurels and assume we’ve gotten it right once and for all. As we evaluate for possible membership in the MIT community, and their performance once they are here, we need constantly to ask, ‘Are we really looking at merit?’ We have to under- stand how to free our judgments from unconscious pre-conceptions.

“It is essential that MIT is a welcoming and supportive place for anyone, from any background, who has the talent and passion to make the most of what the Institute has to offer,” Hockfield said.

Hockfield also noted the MIT faculty’s commitment to taking a “leadership position among our peer institutions in the recruitment and in the academic success of under- represented minority faculty and graduate students.

“We cannot ignore any part of our population. We must recruit a diverse student body, opening MIT to anyone who can benefit from the tremendous opportunities avail- able here,” she said.

“I could change the world. I found barriers and dark cor-
ners were still there. But shining the light that Dr. King gave us can be tremendously satisfying,” she added.

Hill noted she never forgot the uniqueness of her role as an African-American woman and her positive opportu- nity as moderator for the vice-presidential debate in 2004.

“When I asked those men about the rising incidence of the HIV infection among African-American women, sadly, neither one of them had the ghost of an answer, but their silence spoke volumes to people at home. And imagine my shock and surprise last night to hear the President men- tion it in the State-of-the-Union speech. So someone was paying attention,” she said.

“Like every black professional, I keep a foot in at least two worlds, maybe three or four. One foot is in the world of work; most of my colleagues, bosses, and subordinates are white, and probably always will be. I don’t think I have to lose myself in order to function in this work, but there is no question that I suppress a part of myself in order to lose myself in order to function in this work, but there is no question that I suppress a part of myself in order to do that, and I think we all do that at different levels. But I laugh when people tell me, ‘I just want you to know, I’m colorblind.’ Why shouldn’t they notice my color? I’m proud of being what I am. It is essential. I just don’t want to be held back because of it,’ she said, to loud applause.

Hill told the attentive group that for her, King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” still provides an inspiration and a reminder of urgency. In closing, she read an excerpt from the 1963 letter, emphasizing the phrase, ‘Justice delayed is justice denied.'

Three receive MLK Leadership Awards
Sarah H. Wright

James L. Sherley, an associate professor in biologi- cal engineering; R. Erich Caulfield, a graduate stu- dent in electrical engineering and computer sciences; and James S. Banks (B.S. 1976) received Dr. Martin Luther King Leadership Awards at a presentation at the MIT Faculty Club on Feb. 2.

MIT Chancellor Philip L. Clay presented the Lead- ership Awards. The three winners, who were hon- ored for service to the MIT community and beyond, commented briefly on what King’s ideals have meant to them.

Lee Osgood, Jr., associate dean for undergraduate educa- tion, and Michael S. Feld, professor of phys- ics and director of the Spectroscopy Labora- tory, co-chairs of the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, notified the award winners by tele- phone in mid-January and recently by letter.

Sherley, who came to MIT six years ago, was nominated by students and colleagues who cited his enthusiastic commitment to education and science and his exemplary work as a scientist, teacher and laboratory head who has fostered an inclu- sive and supportive environment.

Sherley has been active in the Harvard Biomedical Science Careers Program, the Roxbury Preparatory School, the Undergraduate Biomedical Engineering Society, and the Hyde Park School. He formed a Biological Engineering Diversity Committee and is fre- quently sought out as a pre-need advisor.

Banks, an MIT alumni who majored in electrical engineer- ing, has been of particular service to MIT through his 15-year commitment to recruiting students from under-represented groups for employment at Hewlett- Packard and Agilent. His efforts have led to productive relation- ships among MIT stu- dents, alumni and their employers, and cre- ated opportunities for students through his support of the Office of Minority Educa- tion’s Second Summer Program. Banks also serves on the Industri- al Advisory Council for Minority Education.

Caulfield was cited for his thoughtful lead- ership and dedication to the MIT community in a letter of nomina- tion by Emily Snyder, staff to the Graduate Student Council (GSC). Caulfield was selected for his ability to forge positive relation- ships with groups and individuals from many back- grounds, and for his concern for the welfare of others. He has served as co-chair of the Black Graduate Students’ Association, committee chair of the Graduate Students Council Orientation, and GSC president. His involvement was a critical component in the formation of the GSC Cost of Living Advisory Board (COLUMAB).
NEWS YOU CAN USE

Configuring PalmOS mobile devices

People with properly configured mobile devices can connect to MIT's e-mail services when they're on the go. PalmOS devices with built-in wireless connections like the Tungsten C, or add-on wireless options like the Tungsten T3/5 or the Zire 72 allow access to e-mail on campus or wherever wireless connections exist. With cell phone/PDA devices like the Treo people can roam even further afield. IS&T is offering a clinic to help configure PalmOS mobile devices for MIT e-mail in the N42 Demo Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on five days: Thursday, Feb. 10; Monday, Feb. 14; Friday, Feb. 18; Thursday, Feb. 24; and Monday, Feb. 28.

On Feb. 28, IS&T is turning N42 into a "cellphone shopping mall." Representatives from MIT cell phone vendors who provide cell phone/PDAs that run on the PalmOS platform will be available to discuss anything related to cell phones. Circular and Sprint representatives will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless representatives will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

STUDENT POSITIONS

Positions for students with work-study eligibility, Cambridge Community Charter School seeks tutors (K-5). Accessible from the MBTA. Tuesday–Thursday from 3pm–4:40pm. Steven Stone at sstone@prospecthillacademy.org.

Prospect Hill Academy Charter School seeks tutors (K-5). Accessible from the MBTA. Tuesday–Thursday from 3pm–4:40pm. Steven Stone at sstone@prospecthillacademy.org.

A moment of reflection

This photo, taken near the nose of the Stata Center, shows the building reflecting itself.

For Sale

FOR SALE

Cherry wood w/4 chairs, 4 cushions, etch, $140/bst; Braided burgundy carpet, $30.

Blk wood entertainment plus vcr/cd holder, $140/bst; Braided burgundy carpet, $30.

Cherry wood w/4 chairs, 4 cushions, sits 8, one classified ad each issue. Ads can be resubmitted, but not two weeks in a row. Ads should be 30 words maximum; they will be edited.

Members of the MIT community may submit classified ads to Classifieds, Rm 11-400. Deadline is noon Wednesday the week before publication.

Women’s Studies prepares for celebration

The MIT Program in Women’s Studies will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a daylong symposium on Wednesday the week before publication. The symposium will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Room 10-250. It is free and open to the public. MIT President Susan Hockfield will give opening remarks.

The Women’s Studies Program has been at the heart of many faculty members’ intellectual lives, and now we have a chance to give back to the community some excitement and fascination with this huge and changing subject,” said Elizabeth Wood, a professor of history and director of the Women’s Studies Program. “In doing all of this, we are renewing our commitment to close examination, deep analysis and proactive input into social processes.”

Each of the three featured speakers is renowned in the general field of women’s studies and feminist scholarship. Ehrenreich is a social critic and essayist. Her book “Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America” (2002) was a national bestseller. She is a prolific journalist who writes a regular column for The Progressive and whose work has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic Monthly, Ms., Z magazine and salon.com. She received the Ph.D. in biology from Rockefeller University. Ehrenreich will speak on “Gender and Class—Can We Have a Conversation Without Guilt?” at 10 a.m.

Chandra Talpade Mohanty is professor of women’s studies and humanities at Syracuse University. Her work focuses on transnational feminist theory, cultural studies and anti-racist education. She edits a series of books, “Gender, Culture and Global Politics” and speaks widely on feminist issues. Mohanty will speak on “Feminists Confront Empire” at 1 p.m.

Patrick Williams writes the column “Diary of a Mad Law Professor” in The Nation. A native of Boston, she graduated from Wellesley and Harvard Law School. She is author of “Seeing a Colorblind Future: The Paradox of Race” (1998). She received a MacArthur “genius” grant in 2000. Williams is currently a professor at Columbia Law School. She will speak on “Gender, Race and Law in the Divided World” at 3 p.m.

The Women’s Studies Program is also celebrating this significant anniversary with a panel discussion, “Talking Women’s Studies into the Real World,” featuring program alumnae speakers. “Real World,” is open to the MIT community; it will be held on Friday, February 11th at 3 pm in Bldg. 10-340.

For reservations or more information on the 20th anniversary symposium, please email women-studies@mit.edu or call 617-253-8844.

Women’s Studies is an interdisciplinary undergraduate Program, providing an academic framework and broad-based community for scholarly inquiry focusing on women, gender and sexuality. Bath Perry, professor of literature, was the program’s founding director.

There are more than 40 faculty members who are affiliated with the Program, which offered 25 courses during the academic year 2003-2004, with approximately 300 students enrolled. Women’s Studies was approved as a major at MIT in 1985.

The Women’s Studies Program is also part of the Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies, which was established in 1993 jointly between MIT and six other institutions—Radcliffe College, Boston College, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Northeastern University, and Tufts University.
Four at four: new art shows open tomorrow

Gallery hoppers can sample a variety of visual art forms tomorrow, Feb. 10, at new exhibitions in four campus art venues—Compton Gallery, List Visual Arts Center, Wolk Gallery and the Media Test Wall.

Compton Gallery
“Constructing Stata: Photographs of Richard Sobol,” a collection of unpublished photographs that capture the construction process of the Frank Gehry-designed Stata Center, opens at the Compton Gallery (Room 10-150).

Richard Sobol observed and recorded the construction of the Stata Center for more than three years. “Like the hundreds of craftspeople who came to work each morn- ing to put together Frank Gehry’s design, my challenge was to stay focused on small moments and individual pro- cesses, while all around grand events were taking place,” said Sobol, a Boston-based artist whose photographs are featured in “Building Stata” (MIT Press, 2004).

Sobol will give a gallery talk Friday, Feb. 25 at 5 p.m., followed by a reception from 5:30-7 p.m. in Lobby 10. “Constructing Stata” will be on view through June 15. Gal- lery hours are weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sat- urdays from noon to 5 p.m.

List Visual Arts Center
Two shows open at the List Center Galleries (E15-109) with a reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. tomorrow.

“Pavel Braila” is the first solo exhibition in the U.S. for Braila, who was born in Chisinau, Moldova, in 1971, where he still resides. Much of his work documents con- temporary life in the Republic of Moldova, a small country located between Romania and Ukraine which has a long history of foreign domination. It is the only former Soviet- bloc country to democratically re-elect its former commu- nist leader.

This exhibition premieres “Baron’s Hill” (2004), a large- scale installation consisting of six 11’ x 7’ video projections and a collection of large-scale photographs that display the homes of the leaders of the Roma in the Moldovan city of Soroca. These homes, whose construction began in the early 1990s, are elaborate architectural fantasies often inspired by a postcard, a reproduction of an old painting, or an image from a film. The homes often lack residents; they are saved for big parties or special guests. This exhi- bition was organized by Jane Farver, director of the List Center.

“Shoes for Europe” (2002), a 10’ x 10’ projection of a film by Sofia Aksyonova, is a short text, document of the painstaking, grinding process of changing the Russian wheel gaug- es still used on Moldovan trains at the border between Moldova and Romania. “Shoes for Europe” has a “formal, hypnotic beauty that transforms this colossal task—per- formed on a dark snowy night—into something mythic and heroic,” said Farver.

Braila will present an artist’s talk at the List Center on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.

Kimsooja: Seven Wishes and Secrets,” an exhibition by the Korean-born, New York-based artist, includes her videos “Sewing into Walking: Kyoung Ju” (1994) and “Invisible Mirror” (2003), as well as works from her recent portfolio, “The Seven Wishes” (2004), which consists of large iris prints of the fabrics traditionally given to newly- weds in Korea.

In the video, “Sewing into Walking,” the artist wanders slowly through a landscape gathering the fabrics, creat- ing beauty in the conscious performance of daily rituals. The video was taped outside of Kyoung Ju, an ancient and spiritual city in Korea.

“ invisible Mirror” continues Kimsooja’s experiments with light, as the lush colors of fabrics dissolve into a sequence of colors.

The List Center shows run through April 10. Gallery hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The gallery is open until 8 p.m. on Fridays.

Media Test Wall
In conjunction with Kimsooja’s exhibition at the List Center, “A Needle Woman,” videos she created between 1999 and 2001 will be screened at the Media Test Wall in Building 56. These videos document Kimsooja dressed in simple gray clothing standing rigidly in the busy streets of Tokyo, Shanghai, Delhi, New York, Mexico City, Cairo, Lagos and London. With her back to the camera, the chaos of the streets swirls around her as people flow past. Some people stare, while others seem annoyed by her; their reactions reflect the culture of each city.

Wolk Gallery
“dECOi Architects” opens at the Wolk Gallery (Room 7-338). The exhibition is a showcase of 10 years of work by dECOi, a speculative architecture and design practice recognized for giving articulate expression to the formal and material opportunities offered by digital technologies. dECOi is based in London, Kuala Lumpur and Paris, where it was founded in 1991 as a research group with an international vocation. It encompasses a broad experi- mental field that covers design, installations, architectural projects and theoretical works. The Wolk exhibition focus- es on dECOi’s recent MIT research projects—Bankside Paramorph and the Miran Galerie fashion showroom.

An opening reception at the gallery on Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by a lecture by Mark Coaltherpe of dECOi Architects at 7 p.m. in Room 7-431. The exhibition will be on view through April 8. Regular gallery hours are weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The dECOi atelier, winner of the FEDAD International Digital Design Award 2005, specializes in speculative and experimen- tal architectural design. Above is a theoretical fashion showroom.

ARTS NEWS
Two MIT students have works included in the Photographic Resource Center’s 2005 Annual Stu- dents’ Exhibition. Aaron Wittlumper, a graduate stu- dent in architecture, and Andrea Silverman, a senior in civil and environmental engineering, are among the students from 13 area schools participating in the exhibition. It opens with a reception tomorrow (Thursday, Feb. 10) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The show will be on view through March 20 at the PRC gallery at 602 Commonwealth Ave., in Boston. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from noon to 5 p.m.
**MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS  FEBRUARY 9 - 13**

**WOMEN’S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM**  
Patricia Williams, Chandra Mohanty and Barbara Ehrenreich. Presented for the Program in Women’s Studies 20th Anniversary.

**THE SEVEN WISHES**  
The Iris fabric traditionally presented to Korean newlyweds, above, forms the basis for “The Seven Wishes.”

**Go Online! For complete events listings, see the MIT Events Calendar at: http://events.mit.edu.**

**EDITOR’S CHOICE**

**LEBANESE-SYRIAN RELATIONS**  
Professor Noam Chomsky lectures on “The United States in the Middle East: Confronting Syria.” 4:30-5:30pm.

**MIT CHAPEL CONCERT**  
Lexington, Sinfonietta Chamber Players. Music by H.H. A. Beach. 253-9890.

**SUNDAY**  
February 13  
The Clipper Ship Era Exhibition focused on the design, construction, speed and social experience of the clipper ship era. MIT Museum. Noon-5pm. 253-4444.

**FAQ**  
February 14  
Valentine’s Day Candles, flowers, and gifts exchanged in the name of St. Valentine—and Hallmark.

**SUNDAY**  
February 11  

**TUESDAY**  
February 15  

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