Hockfield inauguration
May 2-7, 2005

‘White Noise/White Light’ opens festivities

Academic procession demystified

Ceremonial music previewed

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PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY
Women share success stories

Nancy DuVergne Smith
MIT Alumni Association

When chemical engineer Elisabeth Drake ‘58 entered MIT 50 years ago, there were 15 women in her class, yet women’s leadership and community were already vital. Katherine Dexter McCormick, a 1904 graduate of MIT, has been named artist-in-residence in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. "It’s vital that women and girls assume your role about birth control, but I wonder if you have thought about how you are going to manage your career and your reproductive life?"

McCormick’s question broke the ice, and she proceeded to fund a women’s dormitory, which helped increase women’s enrollment and build community. McCormick’s leadership, drive and focus on balancing professional development and personal life exemplified themes that recurred throughout the day of panels and presentations. McCormick was recognized for her seminal work in medical and biological engineering, which has helped yield numerous discoveries. "I believe it’s important for students to be able to express themselves visually as well as technically," said Demaine.

"Being both an artist and a researcher, I’m eager to help bridge the communication gaps between the two groups, as both groups have much to gain by understanding one another," Demaine has been a visiting scientist in the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory since 2001.

Dresselhaus honored with Heinz Award

Institute Professor Mildred Dresselhaus has won the 11th Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment in recognition of her scholarship that has helped keep the United States on the cutting edge of nanostructures and other technologies.

Dresselhaus, an advocate for increased opportunities for women in the sciences for more than four decades, is among five distinguished Americans selected to receive the $250,000 awards, presented in five categories by the Heinz Family Foundation.

"She is a living career," said Donna Heinz Kerry, chairwoman of the Heinz Family Foundation. "A paid public debate over the capacity of women to thrive in a scientific environment, Dr. Dresselhaus’ esteem and achievements have been decisive and resounding answer. Her quiet leadership, serving as a generous mentor and role model to countless women over the years, has had a profound impact on the scientific opportunities that are available to women today. We are pleased to recognize her life work with the Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment."

Dresselhaus is one of the nation’s foremost experts in the multifaceted field of carbon science. Her investigations into superconductivity, the electronic properties of carbon, thermoelectricity and the new physics at the nanoscale have helped propel her career and her discoveries.

Dresselhaus is the fourth member of the MIT faculty to receive the award. The others are Institute Professor Robert Langer, Institute Professor Mario Molina and Professor Norbert Wiener. Since 1983, the Heinz Family Foundation of Pittsburgh has recognized individuals who have distinguished themselves with the combined significance of their work and their impact on the quality of life. The $250,000 awards, presented in five categories by the Heinz Family Foundation, are among the largest prizes in medicine, engineering and the sciences.

The Ray and Maria Stata Center has won a $50 million gift commitment to Albany Medical Center from Morris "Marty" Silberman, a New York City businessman and philanthropist who was born in Troy, N.Y., and educated in nearby Albany.

Stata Center earns Grand Award for ‘green’ engineering

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The Stata Center includes many environmentally friendly features. To complement these features, the site’s landscape design used a "biomimicry" concept that reinvents natural systems to find patterns, topography and vegetation into the built environment. McAllister and Associates designed the infrastructure systems that made this concept both feasible and functional. Stormwater runoff is naturally treated through a series of constructed wetlands, and waste from the stormwater is harvested for toilet flushing, which saves water and sewer costs.

Last year, Simmons Hall, the first major building in the Laboratory for Integrated, Mode system for ventilation, received an Honor Award from the ACEC.
Biomedical innovation center launched

In the wake of such major blows to the pharmaceutical industry as the recent FDA announcement that many popular pain medications pose serious health risks, MIT has announced it will bring representatives from business, government and academia together to work to transform the industry.

Starting this summer, the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation (CBI) will begin developing ways to more efficiently and safely move advances in the life sciences from the laboratory into actual public health use. The center will build on MIT’s strengths across the disciplines of science, engineering, and management, while also drawing upon expertise from Harvard Medical School:

“At MIT, we have a tradition of collaboration across disciplines to resolve important challenges. This is an industry under siege, and it is reacting enthusiastically to CBI,” said Richard Schmalensee, dean of the MIT Sloan School of Management. “We don’t necessarily promise to be an industry ally, but we offer the promise of neutral ground and unbiased expertise.”

Beginning with a two-day “All Stakeholder Summit” set for June 16-17, the center aims to create a “safe harbor” in which professionals across the biomedical spectrum—from medical researchers to federal regulators and payers, to experts in finance and management—will be able to better appreciate one another’s concerns and needs. Serious challenges creates by the recent recalls of widely utilized pharmaceutical products make it especially important to break through traditional “silo thinking,” said Dr. Frank Douglas, the executive vice president and chief scientific officer of Aventis SA, who will lead the new center.

“It is very clear to me that this industry faces serious issues,” said Douglas. “Plant and the Stata Center’s biofiltration installation. Entertainers from Acorn Event Productions perform for those who visited the Stata Center lobby on April 28 in one of many events held on campus in celebration of MIT’s Earth Day.

Campus events celebrate the earth

Colorfully dressed men on stilts, belly dancers, plants and a clothing swap were just some of the highlights of MIT’s own Earth Day, celebrated on April 28 in two locations on campus.

Though Earth Day is celebrated elsewhere on April 22, MIT’s Earth Day is celebrated just after spring weekend, which was the weekend of April 23 this year.

For the first time, there were two MIT celebrations, one at the Stata Center Student Street and another at Kresge Oval.

Rain hampered the outdoor activities, but the large tent on the Common attracted the crowd from the more than 100 students to the lawn to listen to jazz and Latin music, attend a bike repair workshop, swap used clothing and eat inexpensive vegetarian fare.

“We had more people last year,” said Elke Hodson who organized the celebration along with senior Jessica Lee. “It is a chance to have students, faculty and the Stata Center’s biofiltration installation.

No other center has the potential of CBI.”

“The CBI talks a lot of models really need to be updated, and CBI is where it can happen. We will bring together stakeholders with a common objective to find solutions that will transform the industry.”

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Many of the events held on campus in celebration of MIT’s Earth Day were focused on environmental sustainability initiatives in the Environmental Programs Office, led a “Walking Green Campus Tour” of earth-
Academic procession steeped in tradition

Ceremony centers on MIT charter

The inaugural ceremony on May 6 celebrates not only the beginning of Susan Hockfield’s tenure as MIT’s 16th president, but also marks a new phase for the Institute.

Hockfield will be welcomed by more than 60 delegates from the worldwide academic community who will have traveled to MIT from Japan, England, California, North Carolina, Minnesota and elsewhere both to celebrate the Institute’s new president and to participate in one of the main traditions of the ceremony.

This year’s inauguration is described as a “rite of passage that marks a formal induction to an office,” according to MIT’s official inauguration web site. The new president will take the academic and moral oath during the ceremony.

The 2.007 contest (originally the 2.70 competition) was founded in 1972. Since then, nearly every MIT graduate student, professor or group of students has participated in the competition. The main goal is to design and build a robot or machine that can be used to perform some task—often a sliver of time, but those seconds can affect the outcome of a competition.

While the contest has a long history, its origins can be traced to a small group of MIT students who were looking for a way to apply their knowledge of engineering and design to a real-world problem. They decided to design a robot that could lift weights and move objects around a playing area. The first competition took place on May 5, 1972.

The 2.007 contest officially became the MIT Steel Bridge competition in 1983, but it remained one of the Institute’s most popular events for decades. The competition has continued to evolve over the years, with teams competing in a variety of categories, including mechanical engineering, computer science and electrical engineering.

The 2.007 contest is open to all students at MIT, and the winning team is awarded a plaque and a monetary prize. The contest is also a popular event for alumni and friends of the Institute, who come to MIT to watch the action and support their favorite teams.

In addition to the 2.007 contest, there are other events and activities that take place during the inaugural ceremony, including a parade and a reception. The parade features a variety of floats, including those representing MIT’s schools and departments, as well as local community groups.

MIT alumni and friends are invited to attend the ceremony and participate in the festivities. There are special events and activities planned for the week leading up to the ceremony, including a special design and color designated by the chancellor of Cambridge University, who has been chosen to offer opening remarks. The ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. on May 6 in Kresge Auditorium.
Celebration begins with a joyful ‘Noise’

Sasha Brown
News Office

President Susan Hockfield and her family became the first at MIT to walk through the “White Noise/White Light” art installation, which opened May 2 before a crowd of more than 100 students, faculty and staff to officially signal the start of the inauguration week.

The installation, designed by J. Merijn Yoon, assistant professor of architecture at MIT and commissioned by the city of Athens, Greece, for the 2004 Olympics, consists of a grid of chest-high rods that light up and emit soft noises as people walk through them. It will be open throughout the week from dusk to 11 p.m.

Monday’s opening ceremony stayed true to the inaugural theme: “Uncommon | In common,” by providing a variety of “uncommon” desserts, including fried cheese cake, s’mores fondue, flavored creme brulee, build-your-own Neapolitans and assorted other miniature treats.

“I came for the food,” joked freshman Mike Yee, who was impressed by the variety and the creativity of the desserts. He said he was looking forward to hearing from the new president, adding that he had confidence that she would be a good leader for the Institute.

The evening also featured tap dancing by the MIT Dance/Theater Ensemble, directed by Associate Professor Tommy DeFranz. The group of three women entertained the crowd in fedoras, MIT T-shirts and black pants while tap dancing to instrumental jazz.

“When she took the podium, to thunderous applause, Hockfield thanked the community for all its support. “It has been one of my great joys to get to know the students of this remarkable institution.” She said one of the best features of MIT is the “creative blood that flows through everything we do.” And then she signaled for the official opening of the installation: “Let the ‘White Noise/White Light’ begin.”

Physics major Vasu Shrivagga said she had heard Hockfield speak before and found her to be both impressive and inspiring. Shrivagga, a senior, said she is sad to be leaving just as Hockfield begins her time here. “I wish I had more time to find out what will happen,” she said.

“Any unique institution requires a unique president,” said Lerman, who called the week “a celebration not just of our new president, but of MIT itself.”

Lerman noted that, “All of us at MIT are too often like fish in the ocean—we never stop to enjoy the water.” Indeed, the opening of the ceremony was designed to help people at MIT pause to notice the “things that make MIT uniquely uncommon,” he said.

Graduate Student Council President Barun Singh introduced Hockfield, whom he has worked with closely these past few months to help her understand the “student perspective.”

“Any unique institution requires a unique leader,” said Singh in his remarks. “She is certainly up to the challenge of inspiring this institute and leading us forward.”

Uncommon music composed to honor president

Mary Haller
Office of the Arts

The live music for Susan Hockfield’s inauguration combines multicultural, ancient and modern elements thanks to four diverse works commissioned for the event Friday, May 6, in Killian Court.

“Sahar Gong,” featuring MIT’s Gamelan Galak Tika and members of MIT’s Senegalese Drumming Ensemble, Ramban, will open the ceremony, which follows the inaugural procession.

Gamelan Galak Tika, founded in 1993 by Evan Ziporyn, Kenan Sabin Distin- guished Professor of Music and head of MIT’s Music and Theater Arts Section, is based on the small orchestra of mostly metallic percussion instruments—gongs, xylophones and hand drums—that is the primary source of all religious and concert music in Bali, Indonesia.

Ramban, an ensemble dedicated to the art of sabar, a vibrant drum and dance tradition of the Wolof people of Senegal, West Africa, is currently directed by Senegalese percussionist Lamine Touré, an MIT artist-in-residence.

Ziporyn and Touré collaborated for the first time in composing “Sahar Gong.” Their goal was to “find common ground, build a piece around that and make a joyful noise,” Ziporyn said.

The inaugural theme—Uncommon/In common—also inspired Ziporyn, he said. “I thought it would be nice to use it to represent all the non-Western performing traditions at MIT. “Sahar Gong” also represents the spirit of collaboration and the unusual results that come from putting diverse minds together,” he said.

Ziporyn and Galak Tika share rehearsal space in MIT’s World Music Center in Building N52.

Chorus From Fiditarod, Institute Professor John Harbison’s piece for union choral and brass quartet, will be performed by the MIT Chamber Chorus under the direction of Lecturer William Cutter, MIT’s Director of Choral Programs, just prior to the presentation of President Hockfield.

Harbison’s two-minute piece was inspired by Fiditarod’s dates of two millennia ago and composed especially for the inaugural ceremony. Fiditarod, renowned lyric poet of ancient Greece, praised victories achieved in the Pythian, Olympic and Nemean games with songs of joy and thanksgiving.

Harbison joined the MIT faculty in 1969 and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1987 in music for The Flight Into Egypt, a choral-instrumental ensemble.

Lecturer Elena Ruehr was also inspired by poetry in composing her piece, “In Praise of MIT.”

“Events like these give us all an opportunity to come together and take note of this wonderful institution,” said Lerman who called the week “a celebration not just of our new president, but of MIT itself.”

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Scored for brass and timpani, the three-minute piece is the composer’s second commission for an MIT inaugural ceremony; the first was for the inauguration of President Charles Vest in 1991. Child has composed award-winning music in many genres, and has been a member of MIT’s music faculty since 1986.

The ceremony will also feature the a cappella group The MIT Chorallettes singing the national anthem and the school song, “In Praise of MIT.”

In reviewing the musical lineup for inauguration day, Associate Provost for the Arts Alan Brody commented, “MIT musicians have always had a significant role to play in major MIT events and in campus life. Vice President Hockfield has embraced and

See MUSIC Page 6
Concerts showcase MIT's musical talents

Mary Hall
Office of the Arts

Gustav Mahler’s Sixth Symphony is not for the faint of heart. "Exhilarating, "athletic" and "devastating" are some of the adjectives that listeners and critics have used to describe this famous and powerful piece, to be performed tomorrow night by the MIT Symphony Orchestra. The event will take place in Kresge Auditorium.

Yet its nickname "the Tragic Symphony"—has never fully stuck, perhaps because the term is too limiting. "Mahler said that a symphony should encompass the world," writes Rothé, "giving a sense not just of the sublime and the victorious, but of our fear and the struggles." In fact, conductor Dante Anzolini, the piece is noteworthy not only for its drama and "tragic" nature, but because it happens to be one of the most finished works of art he—or anyone else—ever created.

What’s more significant for Anzolini, however, is that MITSO has undertaken this ambitious piece. Given the "great skills our students need in order to actually perform this incredible symphony," its selection "is a direct message that music is alive, well and very healthy at MIT," he said. "It can be used as a very powerful argument for the importance and relevance of music education in our schools and universities." Indeed, the Inaugural Concert will begin at 8 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. MITSO will repeat the Mahler 6 program on Saturday, May 7, by the MIT Concert Choir. The performance will feature four MIT student soloists in yet another revered and much-discussed piece of music, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s "Requiem." Elizabeth Hon (G), soprano; Elizabeth Smith (G), mezzo-soprano; Suddeep Agarwala (G), tenor; and Eduardo Montemayor ’07, bass, will perform under the direction of William CUTTER.

Considered one of Mozart’s most personal and impassioned works, the Requiem—his last composition—has long been shrouded in mystery. Commissioned by an anonymous Austrian nobleman, the work was incomplete when Mozart died; it is said that his widow hired one of Mozart’s students to finish it.

This piece has four vocal soloists, but it is the chorus, which is featured in nearly every movement, that is really the star of the show. The Concert Choir will also perform Bach’s "Canone No. 50" and Beethoven’s "Elegy." Admission is $5 at the door but members of the MIT community can reserve a free ticket by contacting Vanessa Gardner in the Concerts Office; call 617-253-2826 or e-mail vgardner@mit.edu.

The MIT Symphony Orchestra, shown last fall, will perform Mahler’s Sixth Symphony in the Inaugural Concert tomorrow night.

MUSIC

Continued from Page 5

supported all the arts as components of her inauguration week. "In addition to celebrating art, we need to celebrate order and balance that music brings into our lives," she said. "While we want to see a rich choice of foods—from the healthy and spicy to the sweet and decadent—and enjoy myriad activities from the artistic to the academic. It is planned as a day filled with "interesting talent that you won’t see every day," said Ted Johnson of the MIT Community Services Office and the Inaugural Block Party Committee.

More than 25 different MIT performing groups will be featured at the block party, the largest event of its kind ever held at MIT. Three stages will be set up for music and dance, and guests will get a chance to try origami, juggling and full-body screening as well as salsa, Indian classical dance, a cappella singing and much more.

The MIT Muses, Mariachi Internacional del Tecnológico and Happy the Clown are slated to perform. There will also be entertainment from MIT and American Idol participant Chris Vu and from the MIT Juggling Club, among others. Those who enjoy testing their skills will likely enjoy the "Field of Games." Conquer the climbing wall, run an obstacle course in a clear, plastic bubble or play chess with giant pieces. There will also be inflatable games, bungee basket ball and other unusual activities.

At least 2,000 people are expected to attend the party, according to Johnson, who added that he hopes the event brings students together with faculty and staff and their families, since the event is designed to appeal to all ages. In case of rain, the party will take place in Killian Court. For more information, visit: web.mit.edu/inauguration.

Students offer advice to president

Sasha Brown
News Office

After months of meetings, the Student Advisory Board to MIT’s 16th President released its final report to the community on April 27, offering the group’s needs and desires in almost every arena, from student life and academic activities to the future of the Institute.

Back in December, when the group of 21 students first started meeting with President Susan Hockfield, Graduate Student Council President Thomas Lerman and Undergraduate Association President Harel Williams, said he hoped that the group would help Hockfield understand the MIT culture. Last week, Singh said that goal has been met. "She and the other board members have been wonderful," he said. "She has been really receptive to students’ views and concerns."

Singh and others on the board solicited information from students through a number of open forums and via online feedback. The final 40-page report "represents a snapshot of the many voices of MIT experience, and what we might work toward for the future from the student perspective."

The group met with Hockfield four times over the course of three months and provided background reports for her on three main topics of concern: academic, research and professional development; community life and extracurriculars; and global connections and long-term and strategic planning.

In the final report, students encouraged the university to do a better job of considering the most promising students and strive for an atmosphere of well-considered balance. They also suggested MIT "rethink the role and content of core requirements" and pay "more attention to enhancing both the quality and quantity of the student workload."

Students expressed a desire to form better relationships with their professors and academic advisors, including more mentorship.

The report also touches on the general well-being of students, community resources and personal development. "MIT must be careful not to let organizational bureaucratic or professionalization diminish the powerful experiential learning opportunities that currently exist, and focus on sharpening and sharpening our innovative MIT Edge," the report states.

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Physicists serve up the ‘perfect’ liquid

Elizabeth Thomson

MIT Tech Talk

PHYSICS

Physicists working to re-create the matter that existed at the birth of the universe expected something like a gas and ended up with the “perfect” liquid, four teams of researchers reported at an April 18 meeting of the American Physical Society. One of the teams is led by MIT.

“These truly stunning findings have led us to conclude that we are seeing something completely new—an unexpected form of matter—which is opening new avenues of thought about the fundamental properties of matter and the conditions that existed just after the Big Bang,” said Raymond Orbach, director of the U.S. Department of Energy’s office of science, the primary supporter of the research. That fluid motion is nearly “perfect,” as defined by the equations of hydrodynamics.

Picture a stream of honey, then a stream of water. “Water flows much more easily than honey, and the new liquid we’ve created seems to flow much more easily than water,” said Wit Busza, leader of the MIT team and the Francis Friedman Professor of Physics. Other MIT faculty involved in the work are Professors Bela Wysolsz and Associate Professor Guenter Nadolski, both of the team.

Busza notes that the results don’t rule out that a gas-like form of matter existed at some point in the young universe, but the data do suggest “something different, and maybe even more interesting, at the lower energy densities created at RHIC (Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider).”

The research has also led to several other surprises. For example, “there is an elegance we’ve never seen before reflected in our theoretical understanding—yes, said Roland.

Birth of the universe

About ten millionths of a second after the Big Bang, physicists believe that the universe was composed of a gas of weakly interacting objects, quarks and gluons that would ultimately clump together to form atomic nuclei and matter as we know it.

So, over the last 25 years, scientists have been working to re-create that gas, or primordial plasma, by building ever-larger atom smashers. “The idea is to accelerate nuclei to nearly the speed of light, then have them crash head-on,” said Busza.

“Under those conditions the plasma is expected to form.” The current results were achieved at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Colliders located at the DOE’s Brookhaven National Laboratory.

RHIC accelerates gold nuclei in a circular tunnel some 2 kilometers in diameter. It creates four places the nuclei collide, and around those sites teams of scientists have built detectors to collect the data. The two primary instruments—STAR, PHENIX, and PHOBOS—vary in their approach to tracking and analyzing particles’ behavior.

The work reported at the APS meeting summarizes the first three years of results from all four devices. Papers from each team will also be presented simultaneously in an upcoming issue of the journal Nuclear Physics A.

“MIT is the lead institution for PHOBOS, a collaboration between the United States, Poland and Taiwan,” Busza noted.

Ten millionths of a second after the Big Bang, a “perfect” liquid is created. Although the larger RHIC detectors are best known for their Flip-It pancake flipper. His safety trocar (above) would prevent surgeons from accidentally puncturing internal organs during endoscopic surgery.

MIF scientists improve detection of explosives

MIT researchers have announced a scientific breakthrough that could greatly improve explosives detection for military and civilian security applications.

Scientists have developed a new polymer that greatly increases the sensitivity of chemical detection systems for explosives such as trinitrotoluene (TNT). In the April 14 issue of Nature, scientists described a polymer that undergoes lasing action at lower operating powers than previously observed, and they demonstrate that the stimulated light emission from the lasing material can increase the polymer’s sensitivity to TNT by a factor of 30.

“This amplification method is extremely general,” said Swager, who has previously developed a range of polymeric explosives detection systems. “I predict there will be many new recent, separate discoveries based on this principle.”

Swager and Bulovic’s invention is part of a larger program in sensitive technology at MIT’s Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies (ISN), a research center created to improving soldier survivability through nanotechnological innovations. New to explosives detection, scientists hope it could help protect soldiers from improvised explosive devices, protecting forces in Iraq and other areas facing coalition forces in Iraq. Enhancing the sensitivity of these detection systems could increase the distance at which explosives can be identified.

Swager’s previous work in explosives detection systems has been licensed from MIT and commercialized by Vertical Optics Inc., an Oklahoma-based company working with the ISN. Their Fido explosives detection system, which tracks the detection ability of a trained dog, is currently used by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps in Iraq and by the U.S. Air Force for cargo screening operations.

“TNT is one of the greatest threats facing coalition forces in Iraq. Enhancing the sensitivity of these detection systems could increase the distance at which explosives can be identified.”

Adjudct Professor Ernesto Blanco of mechanical engineering displayed some of his inventions in the department’s first-floor lounge earlier this week. Blanco, who came to MIT in 1980, has taught Elements of Mechanical Engineering (2.02) for 10 years. Since that time, seven patents have come out of the course, including one used in the push-button operated “disappearing seats” in the Cadillac SRX. Blanco has 200 patents, but is best known for his Flip-It pancake flipper. His safety trocar (above) would prevent surgeons from accidentally puncturing internal organs during endoscopic surgery.

Major building project in works

A special Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 6-120 to provide the MIT community with information about a major renovation project in Buildings 2, 4, 6, and 8 of the main group. This project will provide new and renewed space for the Departments of Physics, Materials Science and Engineering, and Spectroscopy as well as significant improvements in the general environment. The project is scheduled to begin in June and will last 18 months.

Michael M. J. Fischer, professor of anthropology and science and technology studies, is one of 16 new Carnegie Scholars. Carnegie Scholars are selected to work for one year to $100,000 over a two-year period to pursue research. This year all 16 of the new scholars will study themes focusing on Islam and the modern world. The title of Fischer’s Carnegie research project is, “Emergent Forms of Life, Deep Play and Ethical Plateaus in the Social and Technoscientific Infrastructures: Shaping Muslim Democratic Futures.”

Professor Klaus-Jürgen Bathe of mechanical engineering received the Jacob F. Den Hartog Outstanding Educator Award during a meeting of the department’s faculty on April 22. The citation reads: “For outstanding teaching, mentoring mechanical engineering which has served as an inspiration for students and has fostered the development of physical insight and engineering judgment. His dedication to his students and the department is unmatched and requires the winner to deliver a talk. Bathe will present the Den Hartog Memorial Lecture in the fall.

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PHOTO / NOMADICS

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PHOTO / VLAAD BULOCIC

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MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS MAY 4–8

Hidden Jewels

This painting by Zekiye Karaca will be presented in the “Hidden Jewels of Our Community Art Exhibit,” which features professional and amateur paintings, drawings, ceramics, photography and textiles by spouses and partners of MIT graduate students. The exhibit will be in the Busk Room on May 10, 2–6 p.m. and May 11, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

INAGURATION WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

LEARNING BY DESIGN 2.007

A retrospective exhibit on MIT’s famous robot design contest.

INAGURAL CEREMONY

President Susan Hockfield is handed the MIT charter.

UNCOMMON BLOCK PARTY

Food and music to celebrate MIT.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS MAY 9–15

MONDAY May 9

MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars

Talk by Robert Taitt of the University of New Hampshire. Noon. Room 54-915. 253-3715.

MIT Chamber Music Society Youth Concert

Mendelssohn’s Piano Quartet. 5 p.m. Killian Hall. 253-9800.

TRIVIA NIGHT

At the Thirsty Ear. Every Monday is Trivia Night. 21+. ID required. 9 p.m. The Thirsty Ear Pub.

TUESDAY May 10

Depression: Stagnation and Treatment Symposium

1–4 p.m. The Bartos Theater. 253-3091.

Wednesday May 11

Spring Pottery/ Ceramics Sale

3–4 p.m. Lobby 10. 253-6719.

Thursday May 12

Artist Talk: Jon Schnepp

Works in progress at the Institute. 7 p.m. Killian Hall. 253-9800.

Friday May 13

Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts Award

Exhibition through June 30, 24 hours. Weisinger Student Art Gallery. 253-7019.

Saturday May 14

MIT Ballroom End of School Dance

Evening of social dancing including ballroom and Latin dances, along with favorite tunes such as salsa, hustle and merengue. 8 p.m. Walker Memorial. Yana Avetisian. 686-0833.

Sunday May 15

“The Clipper Ship Era”

19th-century lithographs, rare plans, photos, clipper ship cards and exceptional models. Exhibition focuses on the design, construction, speed and social experience of the clipper ship era. Noon–5 p.m. MIT Museum. 253-4444.

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