Solar panels on top of the Hayden Memorial Library soak up the afternoon sun on Monday, Nov. 14, the day MIT celebrated the completion of its largest solar installation.

MIT President Susan Hockfield has announced that Barbara G. Stowe, vice president for resource development, will retire at the end of the academic year, after 11 years as vice president and nearly 25 years at MIT.

In making the announcement at the annual meeting of the Corporation Development Committee on Tuesday, Nov. 13, Hockfield said, “Barbara’s vision of MIT’s philanthropic universe has done so with a deep institutional and personal wisdom that has guided senior officers and the resource development staff in setting strategies and making the best possible case for the Institute. The extraordinary success of the Campaign for MIT is an example of how she helped us raise the bar and then exceed even that goal. Perhaps most importantly, she has kept us true to the underlying spirit of philanthropy — which is based on shared values and trust.”

Noting that Stowe had postponed her retirement plans for several months, Hockfield said, “Barbara very kindly agreed to stay on for a longer period than she had originally intended, to introduce me to fund raising at MIT, including visits with some of our most generous benefactors. I am extraordinarily grateful for her willingness to do so, and for her guidance in this and many other facets of this library,” Hockfield said. "The library roof was selected for the installation by the Department of Facilities for its southern exposure. The 12,000-watt system on the library’s roof is comprised of 42 panels, each measuring 2 feet by 5 feet and containing 72 photovoltaic cells. The system will generate around 15,000 kilowatt hours a year — roughly equivalent to the energy needed to power two homes for a year. The production of the electricity will result in zero greenhouse gas emissions and will supplement power provided by MIT’s co-generation plant on Vassar Street.

Solar panels are also installed at the MIT Museum (N52) and at the Student Center; those panels generate a combined total of 11,500 kilowatt hours. The MIT Department of Facilities and the Laboratory for Energy and the Environment (LFE) received the initial grants to launch 40 solar installations on campus as well as at schools, homes and businesses in Cambridge, Watertown, Arlington, Lexington and Waltham.

To learn more about the MIT Community Solar Power Initiative and view photos of solar power panel installations go to solarpower.mit.edu.
World AIDS Day event planned

In observance of World AIDS Day, the MIT Women’s Leadership Council is raising funds and awareness in Lobby 10 on Thursday, Dec. 1.

World AIDS Day is an international day of coordinated action against AIDS — a day for bringing messages of compassion, hope, solidarity and understanding about AIDS to every country in the world. The theme for this year’s event is “Stop AIDS, keep the promise.””

A centerpiece of the event with the league’s annual Chocolate Buffet and raffle fundraiser. Chocolate desserts donated by local bakeries, hotels, restaurants, caterers will be on sale. Proceeds will benefit the Boston Living Center, a nonprofit organization that provides support and services to the HIV/AIDS community of Greater Boston.

STOWE

Continued from Page 1

of MIT.”

Stowe joined MIT in 1981 as director of health sciences development, after several years of fund-raising work at research universities and health-care organizations. In 1986 she became assistant dean for resource development in the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

In 1988, she became director of foundation relations for the Institute, during which time she strengthened and enhanced the overall program of identifying, cultivating and raising funds from foundations — with a particular focus on matching MIT’s academic priorities with the strategic priorities of foundations. In 1991, she became director of foundation relations for all development efforts, with primary fund-raising responsibility for major gifts from alumni in Europe and the Middle East. In 1994, then-President Charles M. Vest appointed her vice president for resource development.

Vest commented, “Barbara Stowe has been incredibly effective as MIT’s vice president for resource development. Under her leadership, MIT conducted a highly successful $2 billion capital campaign and moved us into a new era in private support. She has combined a strategic and analytical approach to fund raising with keen instincts and a genuine desire to do good work for the benefit of others. She has realized the potential of MIT to receive major gifts from alumni and foundations in the international community, when many others doubted the potential for doing so. Finally, she was one of my closest and most trusted advisors, and I relied heavily on the wisdom, accuracy and candor of her advice.”

“A key element in the success of the campaign was her transformation of MIT’s private donor base from its traditional base of individuals to a foundation giving to an emphasis on gifts from alumni and friends. During that campaign, MIT received more dollars per alumni and more dollars per fund-raising effort than any other universities with $2 billion campaigns at that time. An honorary member of the MIT Alumni Association, Stowe is member of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Institute of Health, and a member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, and the Association of Development Officers of Urban Universities.

Holidays approach

Jeannie Hogman, pediatric clinic assistant in MIT Medical, shows off her handmade dolls at a crafts fair held in the atrium lobby of the Whitaker Building on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Blood drive

A blood drive will be held in the Sala de Puerto Rico on Monday, Nov. 21, from noon to 6 p.m. and on Tuesday, Nov. 22 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, visit web.mit.edu/blood-drive/.

Credit union directors

The MIT Federal Credit Union is seeking members interested in serving on the board of directors. Anyone interested in serving on the credit union’s board may contact Edward J. Hartnett III at x-2628 or at ehartnett@draper.com or by Dec. 23.

No Tech Talk

There will be no Tech Talk published on Nov. 23 due to Thanksgiving.

Faculty meeting scheduled

A regular meeting of the faculty will take place Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 8:30 p.m. in Room 32-141. The agenda includes:

• Vote on changes to the “Rules and Regulations of the Faculty,” Section 13.7.3.
• A report from the Special Committee to Review the Nominations Process and a proposal to change Section 1.51 of the “Rules and Regulations of the Faculty.”
• A progress report from the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons.
• A report from the Task Force on Medical Care for the MIT Community.
• Remarks from Professor Susan Cockfield.
• Topics arising and questions for the president, the provost and the chancellor.

Visitors to Lobby 10 will be able to see several panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt. There will also be tables of information about the Boston Living Center, Cambridge Cares About AIDS, the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness at MIT Medical, the Children’s Hospital AIDS Program, the Latin American Health Initiative, the ILGT Issues Group, Massachusetts Asian & Pacific Islanders for Health, the MIT African Students Association, the Names Project Boston and the SPARK Cotters.

The Women’s League, a social and service organization open to all women in the MIT community, initiated MIT’s annual observance of World AIDS Day in 1989 and has coordinated this event for the Institute every year since.

Volunteers are still needed to bake goods and to staff the buffet. If you would like to help, contact Sis deBourdeau at x-33658 or esde@mit.edu.

DIGITALTALK: WHERE IT’S AT

Podcasts at MIT

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a podcast is “a digital recording of a radio broadcast or similar program, made available on the Internet for downloading to a personal audio player.” EICT recently launched a Podcasts at MIT page (web.mit.edu/eict/podcasts/) to encourage members of the community to contribute to podcasts. Especially relevant are submissions from departments, labs and offices that have sponsored events such as lectures and forums. Individuals can add informal content directly via the EICT Podcast Wiki at wiki.mit.edu/eict/podcasts.

All submissions must be free of copyright infringement. EICT recommends that contributors look into getting a Creative Commons license, which enables copyright holders to grant some of their rights to the public while retaining others. For details, visit creativecommons.org/.

EICT plans to roll out an online podcast indexing service and is working on standards for tagging to make content easily accessible and searchable.

Theses in DSpace

The MIT Libraries have added more than 11,000 MIT theses to DSpace — doubling the content of the digital archive and providing worldwide exposure to the work of MIT scholars. The MIT Theses collection contains the theses of many well-known MIT alumni, including several Nobel Prize winners.

To find theses in DSpace, go to libraries.mit.edu/theses. Current MIT students, faculty and staff can print PDF files of theses (if required). Non-MIT users have access to a readable copy and the option of purchasing printable files. Theses in DSpace represent only a portion of the more than 100,000 theses in the collection. The full collection of paper theses published before 1980 can be found in the Institute archives. More theses will be added to DSpace as they are scanned and the service also offers an extensive list of local access numbers throughout the United States that you can use to make international calls when you are traveling. An international call will incur charges against your prepaid CellularLD account, as well as local minute charges against your cell phone plan.

To learn more about MobileSphere’s CellularLD service, including rates and how to sign up, go to web.mit.edu/its/tele/CellularLD.html.

Lower international rates

MIT staff and students can now take advantage of reduced international cell phone calling rates through an agreement with CellularLD, a new MIT service. This prepaid CellularLD service is intended for cell phone calling originated in the United States and placed to an international location.

Once you’ve registered for the service, you will be given a local Boston area access number and an extensive list of local access numbers throughout the United States that you can use to make international calls when you are traveling. An international call will incur charges against your prepaid CellularLD account, as well as local minute charges against your cell phone plan.

To learn more about MobileSphere’s CellularLD service, including rates and how to sign up, go to web.mit.edu/its/te/cellularld.html.

New Media Center

The New Media Center in Room 26-139 provides the MIT community with a range of tools for producing multimedia. The new “do-it-yourself” cluster includes Power Macintosh G5s loaded with multimedia software, as well as a new analog-to-digital video converter for digitization of VHS tapes. Many of the machines feature Athena-enabled logins and home directories, the entire cluster will offer this capability by the end of this year.

When it isn’t being used by a class, the center is open to the MIT community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The NMC has a keypad lock to allow access to students, faculty and staff. To get the code (the same as the Athena cluster code), type “tellie combo” at an Athena prompt. For more information, including a link to a schedule of reserved times, see web.mit.edu/nmc/.

Digitalk is compiled by Information Services and Technology.
Neuroscientists break code on sight

In the sci-fi movie “The Matrix,” a cable running from a computer into Neo’s brain writes in visual perceptions, and Neo’s brain becomes a permanent MIT facility.” In reality, scientists cannot interact directly with the brain because they do not understand enough about how it encodes and decodes information. Now, neuroscientists at the McGovern Institute at MIT have been able to decipher a part of the code involved in recognizing visual objects. Practically speaking, computer algorithms used in artificial vision systems might benefit from mimicking these newly uncovered codes.

In a fraction of a second, visual input about an object runs from the retina to IT neural patterns generated in response to each object -- say, a monkey's face -- to the retina. IT categorizes the object and sends that information to other brain regions. Recording the activity of hundreds of IT neurons produced a large database of IT neural patterns generated in response to each object under many different conditions. Then, the researchers used a computer algorithm, called a classifier, to associate each object – say, a monkey’s face -- with a particular pattern of neural signals, effectively decoding neural activity. Remarkably, the classifier found that just a split second’s worth of the neuron signal contained specific enough information to identify and categorize the object and send that information to other brain regions.

To explore how the IT cortex formats that output, the researchers trained monkeys to recognize different objects grouped into categories, such as faces, toys and vehicles. The images appeared in different sizes and positions in the visual field. Recording the activity of hundreds of IT neurons produced a large database of IT neural patterns generated in response to each object under many different conditions.

This work enhances our understanding of how the brain encodes visual information in a useful format for brain regions involved in action, planning and memory,” said DiCarlo, an assistant professor of neuroscience.

The Haughton-Mars Base provides an excellent analog to lunar and Mars exploration,” said de Weck. “This is primarily due to its remoteness, the time-varying nature of the transportation links and its thin supply line.” The MIT team also included former NASA astronaut and MIT Professor Jeffrey Hoffman and seven students.

The Haughton-Mars Project is an international, interdisciplinary field research project sponsored by NASA and the Canadian Space Agency, focused on the scientific study of the Haughton Crater -- a 40-kilometer-wide geological structure formed more than 38 million years ago by the impact of a large meteor. Chosen in part for its remoteness and similarity to Mars, the Haughton-Mars Base, near the North Pole, the six core structures (including the MIT tent) can be seen on the left.

At 75 degrees north latitude, Devon Island lies high above the Arctic Circle, a few hundred miles from the magnetic North Pole. A true polar desert, it is also the largest uninhabited island on Earth. But the reach of MIT extends even here.

This past summer, a research team from MIT’s Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics established a semi-permanent shelter at the NASA Haughton-Mars Base. Supported by a NASA grant on interplanetary supply chain management, the team went to Devon Island because the existing structure is in a remote and barren location, making it ideal for studying logistics strategies that could be used in planning exploration strategies to the moon and Mars. The principal investigators for the project are Professors Olivier de Weck and David Simchi-Levi.

In this aerial view of the Haughton-Mars Base, near the North Pole, the six core structures (including the MIT tent) can be seen on the left.

The team compiled a complete inventory of materials at the base, including such key items as food and fuel. It also experimented with modern logistic strategies to the moon and Mars. The principal investigators for the project are Professors Olivier de Weck and David Simchi-Levi.

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MIT Professor Tyler E. Jacks will share the 2005 Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research prize awarded by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Jacks, who is the director of the Center for Cancer Research and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigator, will share the $150,000 award with Scott W. Lowe of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the HHMI, and Jeff Wena of the University of Toronto and the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute.

Jacks was cited for advancing the understanding of the pathogenesis of cancer. Lowe, for elucidating how genes influence the response to chemotherapy; and Wena, for his work analyzing the impact of cell-cell communication on tumor development.

The prize, named after Paul A. Marks, president emeritus of Sloan-Kettering, recognizes significant contributions to the basic understanding and treatment of cancer by scientists no more than 45 years old at the time they are nominated. The winners were selected by a committee chaired by Jeffrey M. Friedman, a professor at Rockefeller University and an HHMI investigator.

"While still in relatively early stages of their careers, the three winners are leaders in their respective fields of research," said Friedman. "Each has made significant contributions to our understanding of the genes, signaling pathways and processes that regulate cell proliferation and lead to the formation of tumors, their spread and their response to treatment. The selection committee is confident that these three young scientists will continue to play key roles in cancer research in the future."
Courses in self-defense, kickboxing, massage and more make up Women’s Week, which ran from Nov. 5-10, far more comprehensive than ever before.

“I think it’s important to try to keep it relevant to 2005,” said senior Janet Zhou, one of the organizers.

Sponsored by MIT Medical, Student Life, MIT Society of Women Engineers, MIT Pan-Hellenic Society, MIT Leadership, the Association of Student Activities, Arcade (Assisting Refugees, Children and Disabled Events) and the Baker Foundation, the weeklong series of events was designed “to promote a model of femininity that incorporates and embraces the properties of intelligence, competence and ambition.”

Rather than focusing primarily on physical beauty, this year’s events focused on physical fitness, diversity and life skills — such as tax preparation and etiquette training. Zhou organized a four-hour leadership conference to kick off the week’s activities. The 100 participants broke into groups and formed improvement plans, with each addressing issues as mentoring and advising, political/social awareness in the classroom and creating more campus unity.

Later in the day, the group had lunch with 56 faculty members and administration officials. “It went really well,” said Zhou, who said she hopes that next year’s conference will be expanded to include graduate students. “It was very helpful to all who participated.”

Although the faculty and administrators who attended the conference included men and women, Zhou said the all-women format worked well for the student attendees — a bit of saber-rattling they have been doing ever since they woke up one morning and found Napster on their kids’ computers,” said Zhou.

“Direct downloads will give fans of endangered shows the chance to vote with their wallets while a show is still on the air. And when a program does go off the air, direct payments from fans might provide enough revenue to keep it in production as an online-only venture,” Askwith notes.

The math looks good, too, he writes. “If we assume that the average hour-long drama costs $1.5 million per episode and downloads will cost around $2 per viewer, shows would need only a few million viewers to turn a small profit. Would a few million viewers pay $2 a week to download an hour of television? It’s certainly not impossible,” he says.

Direct download TV might also resuscitate interest in long-running, complex series, Askwith writes. “While DVDs now give viewers the chance to catch up between seasons, an on-demand television will allow audiences to take an active role in programming the networks,” be writers. Fans will be able to contribute to an on-demand television budget, determining the financial health, longevity and vitality of shows.

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Direct download TV might also resuscitate interest in long-running, complex series, Askwith writes. “While DVDs now give viewers the chance to catch up between seasons, an on-demand television will allow anyone to catch up at any time, quickly and legally. This would be especially critical for plot-intensive shows like ‘Alphas,’ which has been forced to ‘reboot’ its plot several times in the series so that new viewers can get up to speed on the series’ premise.”

Askwith’s new age of television is a democratic one, with the “enticing possibility that on-demand television will allow audiences to take an active role in programming the networks.”

"The show created industry buzz when it was first shown in Cannes,” Jenkins writes. "It became the focus of a grassroots effort to get the series back into production; it became the focus of a grassroots effort to get the series back into production..."
Michael Kaiser, known as the "turnaround artist" who led the revitalization of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, gave a capacity crowd some insight into his business practices at a talk held Thursday, Nov. 3, in Room 35-1345.

"You can’t just address costs. You must address revenues," said Kaiser, who retired as president and CEO of the Kennedy Center in 2004. He said he learned that lesson in 1977, his first year as MIT Sloan School of Management student. Kaiser was the final fall speaker in the Institute’s Lead Series.

Introduced by William Pounds, former MIT Sloan dean (from 1966 to 1980), Kaiser opted for an interview format; students took turns with Pounds asking questions. Kaiser, who has spent the last 20 years of his career turning around arts organizations, said he was quite comfortable behind the microphone.

"The rapid change in today’s technologies, industries and organizations creates an unprecedented need, an opportunity, for high-quality, customized professional education," said Thomas L. Magnanti, dean of engineering. "PEE responds to this demand...by building a curriculum that can quickly bring entire groups of employees anywhere in the country up to speed in new or evolving areas of knowledge and help them apply what they learn to their work.

Geared toward engineers, scientists and managers in groups of 25 or more, custom programs are adapted to courses at MIT’s Professional Institute, part of PEP. These courses cover such areas as applied nanotechnology, biotechnology and pharmacueticals, data modeling and analysis, to name a few, and are customized to meet the company’s needs. If needed, the programs can also be developed around new topics and can combine management and technology fields. Courses last from a few days to several weeks and can be taught at the company, offsite or at MIT. Continuing education units are awarded to participants upon completion.

"The pace of development of new tools and methods is ever-accelerating, and industry employees need to be in a perpetual mode of learning — otherwise they become obsolete fast," said chemical engineering Professor Greg Stephenson, who taught bioinformatics last summer at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Connecticut. "Courses like this are one mechanism of keeping up with such developments."

MIT’s custom programs stand apart from similar programs at other universities because they are developed and taught by professors, rather than adjunct instructors or graduate students. Clients thus benefit from the expertise and in-depth teaching for which MIT is renowned.

"Part of the credibility of the [internal combustion engine] course was Dr. Hey-wood’s name," said Barbara Goodman, director of NCEE’s Center for Transportation Technologies and Systems. This month, PEP launched a new web site with a unified design and additional information on all PEP programs. For more information, visit mit.pep@mit.edu.

PEE is part of the MIT School of Engineering.
Artists’ dreamscape builds on MIT

Amanda Smyth
Office of the Arts

Three artists recently asked to dream up public art for the city of Cambridge chose MIT for their fantasy projects.

Former MIT art-in-residence Mary Sherman asked 19 international and local artists to imagine that money was no object and to envision ways to turn an empty space into art. The resulting exhibit, “Dimensions Variable, Site Fixed,” features models of what the artworks might be like. The exhibit opened this week at the Cambridge Arts Council Gallery.

The show is a dreamscape of creativity, aesthetic beauty and functionality — with some fascinating reconstructions of unbuildable possibilities.

One of the only guidelines was that the pieces had to make use of existing Cambridge landmarks and architectural sites. Three of the artists — Sherman (both the curator of the show and a contributing artist), Jin Soo Kim and Pan Ping Yu — had MIT leaves on their MIT buildings.

Sherman, art-in-residence at MIT from 2002 to 2003 in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, chose the MIT Chapel for her work. She proposed installing remote-controlled shooting stars above the chapel at night.

“ ‘This would allow us to play gods by rearranging the heavens and, by extension, our destinies,’ Sherman said. When viewers look into her model, a tall black Plexiglas box with a slit running down the side, they see a model of the chapel and small LED ‘stars’ at the top. When they push a button, one of the ‘stars’ (another tiny LED) ‘shoots down’ from the sky.

‘ Korean artist Jin Soo Kim took a more functional approach to her artwork. Her piece, ‘Here and There, Now and Then’ consists of wire cubbies outside MIT’s Simmons Hall dormitory.

‘ Student living space is very limited,’ said Kim. The cubbies, she said, would be a site of exchange. ‘Students could place in them things that they no longer wanted or needed — clothes, cups, ideas, books, clothing — and anyone who needed those things could come and take them. ‘It makes for a living, ever-changing sculpture and reduces landfill waste. This sculpture will become a point of connection for others,’ she said. ‘It is a way to simplify your life.’

‘ The cubbies would be lined with ancient Confucian writings to inspire students with philosophy from the past, Kim said, hence bringing the past to the present.

Taiwanese artist Pan Ping Yu imagined a meditation garden for MIT’s Staata Center. Pan proposed placing the Tree of Life inside the garden to help balance the elements of wind, fire, earth and water. The green of the tree in the garden, she said, would provide spirituality to all who enter.

Other pieces in the show include a sidewalk that opens up to a Bandstand for street musicians (Peter Lindeman) and a gold lame sweater that conceals Harvard University’s Science Center (Mary Elizabeth van der Cross).

The exhibit, which runs Dec. 29, is located at the CAC Gallery, 334 Broadway, Cambridge. For more information, contact Mary Sherman at (617) 444-4086.

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Folk performer offers musical view of America

Folk performer Jeff Warner will bring his repertoire of Revolutionary War songs, African-American banjo dit-ties, Irish-American concertina tunes and more to MIT on Monday, Nov. 21, in a free concert/demonstration.

Warner is the fifth performer in a series of folk singers and musicians brought to campus this fall in conjunction with a class called Folk Music of North America and the British Isles. The class is co-taught by George Ruckerti, lecturer in the music and theater arts section and Professor Roth Perry of the literature section.

Something of an American folk tradition himself, Warner points to the folk music of traditional American and European cultures. As a teenager, Warner had the opportunity to talk to people who knew many of the songs he now performs.

“Warner is a great folk musician and his concert/demonstration will be a mix of singing and playing folk music and talking about its collection and notation and the relation of ‘revival’ singers to ‘source’ singers,” Perry said.

According to Briony Keith, administrative assistant in the literature section, Warner will perform, teach and demonstrate in his presentation. “If people want to bring their instruments and play along, we would love it,’’ she said. “If it turns out to be a hootnanny, that would be fantastic.’’

Touring throughout the nation for the Smithsonian Institution’s National Associate Program, Warner incorporates hands-on accessible rhythm instruments like bones and spoons as he performs everything from the work songs sung aboard wooden ships to the ballads of old New Hampshire.

‘ Warner has worked to preserve the work of his parents, whom he accompanied on musical research trips when he was a child in the 1950s. He helped his mother produce her book, “Traditional American Folk Songs: From the Anne and Frank Warner Collection,’’ and created a two-volume collection of his parents’ recordings that features the actual voices of singers born between 1860 and 1900, recorded on early disc recorders.

‘ Warner’s 1985 recording “Two Little Boys: More Old Time Songs for Kids’ was received a Parents’ Choice Award.

“Warner is a man who can sing and play wonderfully and also can talk about the music knowledgeably from a number of different angles,’’ said Perry.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. in Killian Hall.

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FJE flexes jazz muscles

MIT’s Festival Jazz Ensemble (FJE) will flex its musical muscles in “Flexology,” an evening of diverse music for small and large jazz ensembles on Friday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

The program will feature “Flex 2000,” a piece by MIT lecturer and guest conductor Mark Harvey that blends complex structural design with improvisation. The title refers in part to the nature of the piece itself, which is never performed the same way twice, Harvey said. It also refers to the conductor’s flexibility in making choices, the flexibility demanded of the players — who must be conversant with many styles and open to many musical possibilities — and to what Harvey calls “a kind of post-modern consciousness.”

FJE will also perform Harvey’s “De-Evolution Blues,” a new work recently premiered by Harvey’s own Boston-based Aardvark Jazz Orchestra; Duke Ellington’s “The Shekherd,” with Harvey on trumpet; as well as Ellington’s “Ochupa,” Magali Soumain’s “Petite Promenade”; Charles Mingus’ “Haitian Fight Song,” and two nonets by Tad Dameron.

Admission costs $5 at the door. For more information, call (617) 253-6090.

Help make ‘Splash’

Volunteers are needed to help high school students write, rehearse and perform a theatrical production at MIT as part of “Splash,” a two-day (Nov. 19 and 20) program of workshops led by MIT alumnus Catherine Harasvi and Thomas B. Schuller (S.B. 2003) and Dan Zahrapol (S.B. 2004). “Splash” is organized by the MIT Educational Studies Program, a volunteer student group that Zahrapol helped to direct while he was at MIT. The high school students in the theater sub-program, who are led through a week of philosophy, engineering and technical theater, will then write a script, rehearse and perform a small audience of their peers on Sunday at 6 p.m. “Our goal is to get high school students excited about theater,” Harasvi said. “A concentrated program like this will let them quickly build a sense of community and will give them a sense of accomplishment.” Classes will take place on Saturday, but Harasvi stresses that help will be needed throughout the weekend. To participate, e-mail harasvi@alum.mit.edu or Zahrapol at danz@alum.mit.edu.

Hear composer Schuller

On Monday, Nov. 21, the MIT community will have a rare opportunity to see and hear Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, conductor, teacher and scholar Gunther Schuller — and wish him a happy birthday. Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend a free rehearsal of the MIT Wind Ensemble (MITWE) in preparation for the group’s Dec. 2 concert celebrating Schuller’s life, achievements and 80th birthday (Nov. 22). Schuller’s “Blue Dawn Into White Heat,” his 1955 arrangement of “Blue Moon,” and Scott Joplin ragtime works are among the pieces on tap for the rehearsal and concert. Schuller will also speak. “‘Schuller’ always has a lot to say ... about the music, and how we are playing it,” said MITWE conductor Frederick Harris. To attend, e-mail fharris@mit.edu.

Reviewer loves Habrosine

Institute Professor John Habrosine’s “Motte di Montale” (Collage New Music), received a rave review from Anthony Tommasi of the New York Times: “Habrosine’s music teems with astringent modernist harmonies, fractured counterpoint and merciful slabs of mood,” Tommasi wrote.
MIT TechTalk

Drawing on the past

Sculptor Theodore Rosza’s first major architectural commission was the bell tower for Eero Saarinen’s MIT Chapel. His preparatory sketches, on view through Dec. 16 in the Dean’s Gallery, show the many variations the artist developed before composing his final work. — three smooth vertical thrones rising from the arches of the base, a symbol of what the artist believed to the time to be the three major religions, Judaism, Catholicism and Protestantism.

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MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 16-20

“STAR WARS TRILogy” MUSICAL
Nov. 16-20, S12, 59 students, seniors and MIT faculty/staff, 66 MIT students. Most performances 8 p.m., 2 p.m. Nov. 20.

COMMUNICATIONS FORUM
Cell phone culture talk by James Katz of Rutgers and Jing Wang of MIT.

BLOOD DRIVE

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 21-27

MIT TechTalk

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