‘Academic year has begun in earnest’
Hockfield stresses knowledge, innovation and leadership in letter to community

President Susan Hockfield addressed the entire Institute community in a letter welcoming new and returning faculty, students and staff to MIT. Sent on Sept. 7, her greeting is printed below.

“To new faculty, students and staff, welcome! And to returning members of the community, welcome back. While we can hope for a few more glorious weeks of late-summer weather over the next month and a half, we’ve already felt that fall snap in the air, and our academic year has begun in earnest. At the start of the year, perhaps more than at other times, when I enter the Main Group at 77 Massachusetts Avenue I cast my eyes upward and am freshly inspired by the statement of MIT’s mission that rings the dome: “Established for advancement and development of science, its application to industry, the arts, agriculture, and commerce.”

As we continue to advance our founding mission through education and research, I hope that everyone in the MIT community will feel proud of our many successes in the last year, and inspired to carry that momentum forward into the coming year.

Welcoming new arrivals

“The strength of MIT depends on our exceptional faculty and students, and those arriving this fall will continue our tradition of excellence. Last week I had the good fortune to welcome the new members of our faculty. They bring to MIT remarkable accomplishments and represent a real way our ongoing commitment to attracting talent from diverse backgrounds. Of the 52 members of the faculty hired since last fall, 19 (36.5 percent) are women and 6 (11.5 percent) are members of underrepresented minority groups. One way to measure our progress is to recall that last fall, women constituted 18 percent of the faculty, and underrepresented minorities 4 percent. We also extend a special welcome to this year’s eight Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professors and Scholars, a greater number than in any previous year of this program.

“As the provost and I announced to the faculty last week, we will establish a new position of associate provost for faculty equity in the Provost’s Office to build on our momentum and accelerate our progress in enhancing the diversity of the faculty.

“The Class of 2010 is every bit as remarkable as its recent predecessors. Applications for the Class of 2010 increased 9 percent over the previous year, to an all-time high of 11,373, and 67 percent of those accepted chose to enroll—another record. Of the 1,005 exceptional students now enrolled as MIT freshmen, 44 percent were valedictorians, and 89 percent graduated in the top 5 percent, of their high school classes. They come from 49 states, two territories and the District of Columbia, and from 51 foreign countries. 46 percent of them are women, bringing our undergraduate population to 44 percent women.

“Over the summer, a number of leadership changes have brought new laces and new strengths to the Provost’s Office. At the beginning of July, Professor Philip S. Khoury left the deanship of the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences to serve as associate provost. At the beginning of August, Professor Alice P. Gast left MIT to assume the presidency of Lehigh University. Associate Provost Claude R. Canizares has succeeded Dr. Gast as vice president for research and associate provost, while Professor Larra J. Gibson took on a new role as associate provost.

“Professor Khoury will oversee MIT’s programs in the arts, work to strengthen MIT innovators make Tech Review’s top 35

Three MIT faculty and eight alumni are among the TR35, Technology Review magazine’s compilation of the 35 top innovators worldwide under the age of 35. “The TR35 is an amazing group of people. Their accomplishments are likely to shape their fields for decades to come,” said Jason Pontin, editor in chief of Technology Review.

The innovators will be featured in the September-October issue of the magazine; the story went online Sept. 8.

The MIT faculty to receive the award are Manolis Konstantinidis and Elizabeth Thomason.

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MIT innovators make Tech Review’s top 35

Ready, set, go: Class of 2010 leaps into action

Tish Scolnik is one of 1,000 freshmen making their debut on campus this fall. The Class of 2010 comes from varied backgrounds and from all over the United States and the world to study at MIT. They have officially been here since Aug. 30, when orientation began.

Scolnik, of Waccabuc, N.Y., was expecting her courses, which started Sept 6, to be a bit different than her first weeks, spent at the Freshman Leadership Program on Thompson Island in Boston Harbor and then at freshman orientation. “I have had a lot of fun these past weeks,” Scolnik said.

With a planned schedule that includes joining the MIT-EMS ambulance corps and running for class council, Scolnik was realistic about what her academic future holds. “I see at
Vernon Ingram, an MIT biology professor known as the "father of molecular medicine," died Aug. 17 from injuries suffered during a fall. Ingram was well known for his discoveries in the 1950s to the MIT of the 21st century. We will miss him a great deal," he told the National Academy of Sciences. Before joining the Experimental Study Group. We will miss him a great deal."

William R. Dickson, a retired senior vice president who supervised major building projects that tripled the size of MIT's campus, died Aug. 14 after suffering a heart attack. He was 82. Dickson worked at MIT for nearly 40 years, starting in Physical Plant and working his way up to senior vice president, a title he held for 16 years before retiring in 1998. As senior vice president, he was responsible for much of the Institute's infrastructure, including the MIT Student Center from 1992 to 1995.

Ingram died in 1998. As senior vice president, he was responsible for much of the Institute's infrastructure, including the Whitaker Building, Building 16 and the MIT Student Center from 1992 to 1995.

Ingram joined the MIT faculty in 1958 and was one of a distinguished group of professors who started a world-renowned center for the study of molecular and cell biology. He originally planned to stay at MIT for only one year, but "I liked it so much that I stayed," he told the National Academy of Sciences in 2002, the year he was elected to that society.

In 1961, Birckbeck College of Education at MIT awarded him the D.Sc. degree.

In a photo from 2002, Professor Vernon Ingram holds up cell cultures that he and senior technical associate Barbara Blanchard worked with during their research on the beta-amyloid plaques that attack the brains of Alzheimer's patients.

Ingram was best known for his discovery that the misshapen hemoglobin molecule that characterizes sickle cell anemia are caused by a single mutation. Ingram joined the MIT faculty in 1958 and was one of a distinguished group of professors who started a world-renowned center for the study of molecular and cell biology. He originally planned to stay at MIT for only one year, but "I liked it so much that I stayed," he told the National Academy of Sciences in 2002, the year he was elected to that society.

In 1961, Birckbeck College of Education at MIT awarded him the D.Sc. degree.

In a photo from 2002, Professor Vernon Ingram holds up cell cultures that he and senior technical associate Barbara Blanchard worked with during their research on the beta-amyloid plaques that attack the brains of Alzheimer's patients.
MIT community offers reflections on Sept. 11, 2001

Sasha Brown
News Office

On Monday, Sept. 11, the MIT Police Department honor guard conducted a remembrance honoring all those who were killed in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and a student group, Forum on American Progress, held a memorial vigil on the steps of the Student Center.

The guard stood at attention on the steps of the Stratton Student Center at 8:46 a.m. and 9:03 a.m., the moments when American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 struck the two World Trade Center towers in New York.

The U.S. district attorney’s office flew a halft-staff all day.

“9/11 was a very powerful event for the MIT community when it happened, and there is so much that we still have to learn from it,” McCrae said.

Recognizing and revisiting the pain of five years ago is part of the Forum on American Progress’s (FAP) overall mission, FAP president Ali Wyne said.

“While anniversaries of this nature are always sad, they offer important and, in many ways, unique opportunities for reflection,” he said. “At a time when short-term demands are numerous and urgent, important historical dates like September 11th can compel leaders and leaders alike to think beyond the immediate future.”

The FAP planned the vigil to provide an opportunity to ask many questions, Wyne said. “How can the United States prevent the recurrence of an attack on the scale of September 11th?” he asked.

“We should ask, ‘How can the United States restore the position of leadership that it once enjoyed? How can it defend its security and advance its interests in a manner that enhances the welfare of the global community?’

The anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is an important time for people to talk and learn, Wyne said.

TR35
Continued from Page 1

Kells, Marin Soljacic, and Alice Ting.

Kells is an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science who holds the Class of 1984 Distinguished Alumni Career Development Chair; Soljacic is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics; and Ting is the Pfizer-Laubach Career Development Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

Kells, 29, was cited for developing “algorithms and techniques for analyzing the entire genomes of different species, the better to understand those genomes,” according to Technology Review.

She is currently working on “fluorescently image the minute inner workings of cells in image-recorded cinematic detail,” according to Technology Review.

Ting, 31, was cited for her work on “cellular movies” that “reveal the minute inner workings of cells in image-rec- undent cinematic detail,” according to Technology Review.

The Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar at MIT will celebrate its 21st anniversary this fall with a single lecture featuring Augustus Richard Norton of Boston University, who will speak on “Requiem on the 2006 Israel-Lebanon War.”

Bustani seminars focus on Mideast issues of concern to major institutions and corporations such as Boston Consulting Group, Hewlett-Packard Labs, the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Caltech, and Applied Materials.

Bustani seminars focus on Mideast

The lecture will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Room E51-345 (Bowen Hall) and is open to the public. For further information on the Bustani Middle East Seminar, contact Laurie Schefter at x3-3142.

MIT provides first evidence for learning mechanism

Finally confirming a fact that remained unproven for more than 30 years, researchers at MIT’s Picower Insti- tute for Learning and Memory report in the Aug. 25 issue of Science that certain key connections among neurons get stronger when we learn.

“We show what everyone has always believed: LTP (long-term potentiation) is indeed induced in the hippo- campus when learning occurs,” said Mark F. Bear, Picow- er Professor of Neuroscience; “This is a big deal for neuroscientists because such evidence has been absent for the past 30 plus years we have known about LTP.”

The findings described in the Bear paper and in a second, separate paper in the same issue of Science “substan- tially advance the case for LTP as a neural mechanism for memory,” wrote Tim Bliss of the MRC National Insti- tute for Medical Research in the United Kingdom, Gra- ham Collingridge of the University of Bristol, and Serge Laroche of the Université Paris Sud in a commentary on the work.

LTP is an example of plasticity—the amazing ability of the brain to change in response to experience. LTP builds up synapses, or the connections between neurons, while its converse, long-term depression, or LTD, removes unused synapses.

Since LTP was discovered in the late 1980s, thousands of papers have been published based on the assumption that the phenomenon is an important learning and memo- ry mechanism in the hippocampus, the memory center of the brain.

Researchers had found that electrical stimulation of neurons, mimicking the electrical impulses that zap around the brain when it responds to sensory input, strengthens the connections among synapses. The assumption was that LTP occurs in the hippocampus as a consequence of learning, but there had never been conclu- sive evidence that learning was directly tied to LTP.

Using techniques pioneered by MIT’s Susumu Tonega- wa, director of the Picower Institute, neuroscientists began to pinpoint exactly which genes and proteins are involved in learning.

This created a “big thicket of correlations, but it never proved causal,” said Bear, who also holds an appoint- ment in MIT’s Department of Brain and Cognitive Sci- ences. “Our contribution was that we had learned enough about LTP and the traces it leaves in the brain to track changes in proteins.”

This work is supported by the Howard Hughes Medi- cal Institute and the National Institute for Mental Health.

For full text, visit web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2006/ltp.

MIT researchers have shown that certain key connections among neurons get stronger when we learn. From left are Mark F. Bear, Picower Professor of Neuroscience; postdoctorate associate Jonathan R. Whittlock; research scientist Arnold J. Heynen and research affiliate Marshall G. Shuler.

Award-winning Nigerian novelist, poet and...
Acoustic data may reveal hidden gas, oil supplies

Deborah Halber
News Office Correspondent

Just as doctors use ultrasound to image internal organs, and to detect cancer, the U.S. Deepdraft Technology Group at MIT Earth Resources Laboratory researchers are using an instrument to map out what’s going on tens of thousands of feet below the Earth’s surface.

With MIT’s High-Resolution Acoustic Profiling System (HiRePS), scientists can see underground structures that have not been visible before. HiRePS uses a combination of focused sound pulses and acoustic recordings to produce images of underground features.

The HiRePS instrument consists of a small package of sensors and transducers that are suspended on a long cable. The cable is lowered into the subsurface, and the sensors detect reflections and echoes from the surrounding rock. These echoes are then processed using computer algorithms to create a detailed image of the subsurface.

HiRePS can image features as small as 1 meter in size, and can penetrate as deep as 10 kilometers. It can image structures such as faults, salt domes, and gas hydrates, which are important for understanding the distribution of hydrocarbons in the subsurface.

The HiRePS instrument has been used in a variety of locations, including offshore oil fields, onshore gas fields, and in the study of geological structures such as salt domes and salt diapirs.

As HiRePS technology continues to improve, it is expected to become a valuable tool for the exploration and production of natural gas and oil in both onshore and offshore environments.
Sloan Kulper (S.B. 2003) and Audrey Roy (S.B. 2003) have designed a building in the shape of a cell for the Institute for Nanobiomedical Technology and Membrane Biology in Chengdu, China. This illustration shows the exterior in daytime. Protuberances in the facade provide meeting areas directly to interior laboratories.

Three at MIT conceive building in shape of cell

**Novel architecture planned for China**

Sarah H. Wright

An innovative cell-shaped building will house a new biomedical research institute in Chengdu, China, thanks to an unusual crossdisciplinary collaboration between Shuguang Zhang, a world-renowned bioengineer and scientist at MIT, his former student, architecture major Sloan Kulper, and computer science and electrical engineering major Audrey Roy.

Kulper (S.B. 2003) and Roy (S.B. 2005) designed the cell-shaped building for the Institute for Nanobiomedical Technology and Membrane Biology in Chengdu, China, the regional capital of Sichuan province in southwestern China. The proposed new facility will contain 170,000 square feet of laboratory, research and meeting spaces; it is slated for construction over the next three years. The building is intended to look like a cell from the outside and to include an assortment of forms inspired by molecular biology inside.

Shuguang Zhang, associate director of the Center for Biomedical Engineering, will serve as founding advisor of the new Nanobiomedical Institute, to be sited at Chengdu’s Sichuan University, where Zhang received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry.

Zhang met Kulper in 2002, when he took Kulper’s course, “Molecular Structure of Biological Materials: Structure, Function and Self-Assembly.” Kulper frequently discusses the striking similarities between architecture and biological structures, he said. “Nature has produced abundant magnificent, intricate and fine molecular

**MIT team describes unique ‘cloud forest’**

Trees that live in an odd desert forest in Oman have found an unusual way to water themselves by extracting moisture from low-lying clouds, MIT scientists report.

In an area that is characterized mostly by desert, the trees have preserved an ecological niche because they exploit a wisp of moisture-bearing fog that occurs about 18 cm wide.

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In an area that is characterized mostly by desert, the trees have preserved an ecological niche because they exploit a wisp of moisture-bearing fog that occurs about 18 cm wide.

**Research led by MIT professor Eltahir indicates that trees in a desert forest in Oman survive by extracting moisture from low-lying clouds.**

**West Coast native crab nabbed; circumstances fishy**

Sabo, educator at the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center, for verification.

After distributing photographs of the crab to several scientists, the researchers received confirmation of the species, Cancer magister, from several experts: Julie Barber, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; Thomas C. Shirley, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi; David Taphorn, Salem State College; and Richard Strathmann and Eugene Kozloff, the University of Washington’s Friday Harbor Laboratories.

The researchers said, to find a cloud forest in a region known for chronic dryness, “It is an unusual place,” Eltahir said.

“IT’s a very good example of a unique and fragile ecosystem,” where constant pressure from over-grazing can have consequences beyond defoliation. In fact, the forest illustrates how small changes can lead to major impact on far bigger systems, Eltahir said.

“The trees in wetter ecosystems would likely recover from small amounts of over-grazing, but in this forest, due to the nature of the interaction of the canopy structure with the clouds, the trees may not recover."

The tree’s leaves might not regenerate. The tree, once gone.

Grass, even if abundant, cannot collect enough moisture to keep a forest regrow.

**Three at MIT conceive building in shape of cell**

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Continued from Page 1

Strengthening MIT's resources and systems

We continue to develop the financial resources needed to sustain excellence. Private support plays a critical role, especially in allowing us to maintain financial policies that make MIT financially accessible to all students.

The MIT Poll Matching Grant established last spring. During the past year, we built on the extramural research success achieved during the Campaign for MIT. The Class of 2006 set a new customary with more than 59 percent of the class making gifts or pledges, vastly exceeding the previous record of 39 percent participation. Resource Development also issued the second annual report in the history of the Institute for both cash and new gifts and pledges. New gifts and pledges topped $300 million, a significant jump from the previous year.

The successful transition to a new payroll system at the beginning of July marked a significant milestone in our continuing implementation of state-of-the-art administrative systems. Large-scale system transitions always carry the potential for disruption, but feedback from the community has been very positive. One member of the Office of the Dean for Finance and Administration said, "So far as I can say, "I really LOVE the new time sheet system. Thank you so much for all the hard work put in by everyone involved to get this up and running. GREAT job!"

Staff throughout the Institute—not just in Information Services or the Financial Office, but throughout the Roll

Housing

Three BR apt. in 2 family house in Brookline. 1 bath, fireplace in LHR, sunroom, new kitchen, parking, $250/month all utilities incl. pets allowed. $1400/month. Call x8-7372 or e-mail bongkim@mit.edu.

Cambridge, 2 BR apt for rent, walk to Harvard Sq. 1.5 miles from MIT, large BRs, no smoking. Great street. $1440/month. No utilities, pets allow. $1500/month. Call Elgin at 770-9389.

Wakefield - 2 BR duplex, off street parking, with Md/2, close to commuter rail, no pets, no smoking. Large yard, nos pets, utilities incl., $1500/month. Call Elgin at 770-9389.

Morrocan English Colonial, 6 miles to Cambridge. Move in October. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, recently updated Corian kit, 1.5 baths, dining-room, and breakfast area. $2750/month all utilities incl. Pet OK. BURA $1440/month. Call 617-548-8450.

Condos near Harvard Sq for sale. 2 level town home/ open living space, custom cabinetry, 4 bedroo

Mezco Model: KV-27F13, 28"x20.25"x25". Call x8-7372 or e-mail bongkim@mit.edu.

VACATION

Cape Cod, Craigville Beach. 3 BR Cape fully furnished, sleeps 6, walk to beach, $800/week, 7 night minimum. Call 978-276-6158.

WANTED

Wanted: Volumes of the MIT Radiation Therapy Journal? MIT-affiliated editor w/ extensive experience. Call x8-7372 or e-mail bongkim@mit.edu.

VACATION

Cape Cod, Craigville Beach. 3 BR Cape fully furnished, sleeps 6, walk to beach, $800/week, 7 night minimum. Call 978-276-6158.

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WANTED

Do you need an assistant, help with research, data entry, typing notes or getting organized? I'm looking to help or be helped. Please mail to Joe Stringfellow. After 5pm work. E-mail prentis@mit.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Writing your thesis? Submitting a paper to a journal? MIT-distributed editors/ extensive experience can fn, grammar, improve style, and enhance the clarity of your document. Freely online, subscribe to newsletter quarterly.

MISCELLANEOUS

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At MIT, dorm décor has a museum quality

Lynn Heinemann
Office of the Arts

Approximately 400 original posters, prints and photographs by such famous artists as Nancy Spero, Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein are now on display at the List Visual Arts Center. And when the show is over, MIT students will take the works off the wall and walk out the door with them.

“This is definitely not a traditional museum show,” said Steven Moga, a graduate student in urban studies and planning, who came back to the gallery this year to choose another piece after “winning” the lithograph “Stumble’s Paradise” by David Storey last year. “I’ll never forget when I came out carrying this wonderful art and seeing all the other students doing the same, all of us with gleeful expressions.”

Nearly 1,000 students are expected to participate in the List Visual Arts Center’s Student Loan Art Program this year, competing, by lottery, for work by artists the likes of Berenice Abbott, Louise Bourgeois, John Miro, Nan June Paik and Cindy Sherman.

The program began in 1986, but more and more students are taking advantage of the opportunity to live with signed artwork for a year, according to John Rexne, registrar of MIT’s permanent collection. The number has nearly doubled in recent years, he said, and the collection has grown as well, with about 100 new works added in the last five years.

Until the artworks are snapped up by MIT students, all visitors to the List can view the eclectic collection at the annual salon-style Student Loan Art Exhibition through Sept. 17.

“I thought it would be cool to pick up Edgerton’s bullet through the apple,” said Jonathan Switals, a sophomore in electrical and computer engineering and computer science, who walked through the exhibition last week, lottery slip in hand. Switals said he also liked the idea of having an abstract piece in his room at New House “some-thing simple that makes you think a lot.”

William H. Ho, a graduate student in urban studies and planning and the Cen- ter for Real Estate Development, had his eye on Sarah Sze’s lithograph, “Near Site,” remarking on what he called its “chaos and disorder.” “I love the intimacy and detail and how it relates to city planning,” he said. “There’s something that’s seem-ing simplistic about it.”

Students who do not receive art through the lottery will have another opportunity to win one of the works for a year. Works that are not claimed by the last distribution day are available to students on a first-come, first-served basis, said David Freilach, administrative officer for the List Center. Students often start lining up in front of the gallery early in the morning in the hopes of acquiring an unclaimed work.

Each year, new pieces are added to the collection to expand the breadth of offerings. The 17 latest acquisitions, which will be available for lottery display in the gallery for graduate students.

For more information, call x3-4680 or visit http://www.mit.edu/www/collections/slap/index.html.

A glimpse of Bali

Young dancers from a children’s gamelan in Singaraja gather on stage in Stephanie Mitchell’s “Back to Bali” exhibition on view at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center through Oct. 20. Mitchell’s work documents the Gamelan Galak Tika’s first Bali tour.

Five new department heads, two chairs named at SHASS

Samuel Chamberlain

Five new heads in the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences have been named, effective July 1, 2006.

Professor James Poterba has been appointed to serve as head of the Department of Economics, succeeding Rosalind Williams. The Dibner Professor of the History of Engineering and Science, Williams will remain at MIT in 1996 and the MIT faculty as assistant professor that year. His research interests focus on the history of human relationships with machinery.

Professor Janet Sonenberg will succeed Harriet Rivo as head of the history faculty. McCann arrived at MIT as an assistant pro-fessor of history in 1991, after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. Her research focuses on the eco-nomic and social history of the later Med-}

ium Ages and early modern Europe, with particular interests in wealth and income inequalities as well as global trade networks and the emergence of European consumerism. She was the recipient of the Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award in 1996 and was named a MacVicar Fellow in 2004.

Professor Susan Silbey has been appointed to serve as head of the anthropo-

logy program, succeeding Jean Jackson. Silbey received the Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1978 and joined MIT in 2001 as professor of sociology and anthropolo-

gy. Her areas of research include the soci-

ology of science and socio-legal studies.

Professor Janet Sorenson will succeed Evan Ziporyn as head of the music and theater arts section. Sorenson received her B.M.E.A. from a University in New York province in 1978 and joined MIT in 1992 as asis-
tant professor of theater arts. Her areas of interest include actor training and play direction. She has developed an original acting methodology, put forth in her most recent book, “Dreamwork for Actors.”

Professor David Mindell has been appointed to serve as director of the Pro-

gram in Science, Technology and Society, succeeding Rosalind Williams. The Dib-

ner Professor of the History of Engi-

neering and Manufacturing, and professor of engineering systems, Mindell received the Ph.D. in the history of technology at MIT in 1996 and joined the MIT faculty as assistant professor that year. His research interests focus on the history of human relationships with machinery.

Chairs appointed

Deborah Fitzgerald, interim dean of SHASS, also announced two new appoint-

ments to chairs in SHASS:

Agustin Rayo, associate professor in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, has been appointed chair of the Interdisci-

plinary Career Development Professorship. Rayo received his Ph.D. from MIT in 2000 and joined the faculty in 2005. His areas of interest include philosophical logic, phi-

losophy of language and the philosophy of mathematics.

This professorship was established by the Ford Foundation to encourage research and scholarship in the areas repre-

sentated in SHASS.

Jonathan Rodden, associate professor in the Department of Political Science, has been appointed chair of the Interdis-

ciplinary International Professorship in Political Sci-

ence. Rodden received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 2000 and joined MIT imme-

diately as an assistant professor. His areas of interest include comparative political economics, the interna-

tional political economy, public finance and the European Union, and economic and political geography.

The Ford professorships were estab-

lished to provide leadership and scholar-

ship in the international aspects of such areas as political science, economics, his-


tory, management and urban studies.

Five new department heads, two chairs named at SHASS

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FRESHMEN

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least a couple of sleepless nights in my future," she said.

Still, Sc lineman said she would not have it any other way. The passion she saw in the students was a large part of what drew her to MIT, she said. “Even if their interests are not the same as mine, it was their passion that really impressed me.”

Freshman Zachary Bjornson is also planning a full plate at MIT. He is scheduled to take a full course load and also plans to enroll in an undergraduate research opportunity (UROP).

“I figured I might as well challenge myself since all the courses are pass/fail in freshman year,” Bjornson said.

No stranger to challenges, the San Francisco native built a lab in his basement because he wanted to advance his school’s science program at home. Stocked with a modified bioreactor and a $10,000 incubator he bought on eBay for $200, Bjornson’s home lab was a good place for him to run experiments. Still, it was not without mishaps. A centrifuge he constructed in his lab broke apart and a piece fell across the room and hit his mother.

“Nothing was seriously injured,” Bjornson said with a laugh. “While at MIT, he plans to continue his lab work. "I am really a hands-on learner," Bjornson said. "I have known my future was in science since the fifth grade. MIT seemed like an all-encompassing place."