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TechTalk

S E R V I N G T H E M I T C O M M U N I T Y

Recruiting, retaining women is vital to nation's future

John Hennessy
Susan Hockfield
Shirley Tilghman

The following opinion piece by President Susan Hockfield of MIT, President Shirley Tilghman of Princeton, and President John Hennessy of Stanford appeared in the Boston Globe on Feb. 12. The writers' intent is to focus public debate on the future and on positive steps that can be taken to bring more women, and more young people in general, into science and engineering.

Harvard President Lawrence Summers' recent comments about possible causes of the under-representation of women in science and engineering have generated extensive debate and discussion—much of which has had the untoward effect of shifting the focus of the debate to history rather than to the future.

The question we must ask as a society is not "Can women excel in math, science and engineering?"—Marie Curie exploded that myth a century ago—but "How can we encourage more women with exceptional abilities to pursue careers in these fields?" Extensive research on the abilities and representation of males and females in science and mathemat-

ics has identified the need to address important cultural and societal factors. Speculation that "innate differences" may be a significant cause of under-representation by women in science and engineering may rejuvenate old myths and reinforce negative stereotypes and biases.

Why is this so important? Our nation faces increasing competition from abroad in technological innovation, the most powerful driver of our economy, while the academic performance of our school-age students in math and science lags

behind many countries. Against this backdrop, it is imperative that we tap the talent and perspectives of both the male and female halves of our population. Until women can feel as much at home in math, science, and engineering as men, our nation will be considerably less than the sum of its parts. If we do not draw on the entire talent pool that is capable of making a contribution to science, the enterprise will inevitably be underperforming its potential.

As the representation of women increases in every other profession in this country, if their representation in science and engineering does not change, these fields will look increasingly anachronistic, less attractive, and will be less strong. The nation cannot afford to lose ground in these areas, which not only fuel the economy, but also play a key role in solving critical societal problems in human health and the environment.

Much has already been learned from research in the classroom and from recent experience on our campuses about how we can encourage top performance from our students. For example, recent research shows that different

See **REPRESENTATION**

Page 5



Susan Hockfield

Tsunami's salty impact on wells is big concern

Elizabeth Thomson
News Office

The Indian Ocean tsunami's impact on Sri Lanka's drinking water and soil is the focus of an expedition this week by an MIT professor and colleagues from Florida and the Colorado School of Mines.

Upon hearing that the water in Sri Lanka's drinking wells has become too salty to drink as a result of ocean water infiltrating freshwater aquifers, the three whipped together a proposal to the National Science Foundation to study the situation in real time. The NSF supports rapid response disaster teams that can be dispatched quickly to affected areas.

"We know anecdotally that wells have been affected, but how many? And how far inland? We're hoping to get data on these kinds of questions," said Charles Harvey, an associate professor in MIT's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The team, which left for Sri Lanka Feb. 11, has also heard that salty soil is affecting vegetation.

Harvey's colleagues on the trip are Tissa Illagasekera, principal investigator for the expedition, and Jayantha Obeyesekera of the South Florida Water District.

See **WATER**

Page 4

Women's studies celebrates 20th anniversary

Sarah Wright
News Office

Feminist scholars in the fields of history, anthropology, philosophy and law discussed class relations within academia, race relations within the women's movement, ways to confront imperialism and heterosexism, and tools for decoding the U.S. celebrity machine at a daylong symposium celebrating the 20th anniversary of the MIT Program in Women's Studies.

The event, "Challenges for Women's Studies: Power, Politics and Gender," drew a capacity crowd to Room 10-250 on Saturday, Feb. 12. Speakers included Chandra Talpade Mohanty, professor of women's studies at Syracuse University; "Nation" columnist and Columbia Law School professor Patricia Williams; and members of the MIT faculty.

President Susan Hockfield, visibly moved by the standing ovation she received on entering 10-250, added her own "voice to those celebrating two decades of educational and scholarly achievement" and praised women's stud-

ies as an interdisciplinary field that combines insight with analysis in a way that "informs those who set university policies, as well as the young women and men who strive to understand the world and make it a better place."

Noting that Marie Curie had long ago "exploded the myth that women could not do science," Hockfield emphasized the importance to society of drawing more young women into science and technology and of making MIT an even more supportive environment, while challenging its students to reach their highest potential.

Ruth Perry, founding director in 1984 of the Program in Women's Studies, commented that the challenge to the program is not producing "more women CEOs but steadfastly championing all women's right to full and dignified humanity."

The colonial academy

Higher education is "deeply classed in all its assumptions. Working-class students and women are thus 'deeply closeted' in the academy," said Sarah Deutsch, profes-

See **WOMEN'S STUDIES**

Page 5



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Professor Sally Haslanger gave an animated talk at the Program in Women's Studies symposium on Saturday, Feb. 12.

NEWS

ORDERING ON THE BORDER

The new taqueria on campus is drawing students by the hundreds with its cheap, fast fare.

Page 2

MIT MUSEUM GETS NEW DIRECTOR

British science communicator John Durant comes to the MIT Museum with ideas for change.

Page 3

NEWS

TOP HONORS

MIT ranks third in The Scientist's "Best Places to Work for Postdocs" annual survey.

Page 3

HELPING WITH HEPARIN

HST student David Berry wins the \$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for his medical research.

Page 4

ARTS

AWARD-WINNING NOVELIST/FILMMAKER VISITS

Filmmaker/novelist Ruth Ozeki will read from her new book "All Over Creation" on Feb. 28.

Page 7

MUSICAL CALDER AT MIT

The Los Angeles-based Calder Quartet brings its music to the MIT stage in a free performance.

Page 7

Anna's Taqueria receives warm welcome

Sasha Brown
News Office

Burritos stuffed full of beans, meats and rice drew more than 1,000 students to the first floor of the Student Center on Feb. 9. They started lining up around 4 p.m., a full hour before the scheduled opening of the first-ever campus Anna's Taqueria.

The much-anticipated opening of the popular Mexican fast-food stop—a favorite of many MIT students—has been delayed twice by snowstorms in the past two weeks. The line was especially long on Wednesday because Anna's was offering free food as part of its grand opening celebration.

"Everybody has been patiently waiting for us; this is a way to thank them," said Mike Kamio, owner of Anna's. Kamio estimated that he gave away about 1,200 burritos and 300 quesadillas on opening day.

A steady stream of students kept workers busy until 10:30 p.m. when the doors closed. "It was certainly a good reception," Kamio said with a laugh.

Sophomore Patrick Petitti waited in line two hours with a group of students that included freshman Laura D'Aoust. They were among the first to get burritos.

"We have just been really excited," said Petitti, who has been

biking into Harvard Square to get burritos from a different place for more than a year. "This is going to be a really nice change," he said.

The MIT location will be the third Somerville/Cambridge location for the growing chain, which also has two locations in Brookline—all owned by Kamio. Many MIT students have trekked regularly to the Porter Square location for years, said Rich Berlin, director of campus dining.

Last summer, an online survey of close to 1,000 students asked them to rank their top choices for a restaurant to replace Arrow Street Crepes in the Student Center, which closed in June 2004. Berlin estimated that at least 600 of those surveyed listed Anna's among their top choices.

"It is a good, inexpensive, filling choice for a college student," said Berlin, who estimated the weight of each stuffed burrito to be about a pound. A small burrito costs a little under \$4, a large around \$5. "They really offer a lot of food for the money," he said.

Anna's most popular food is the burrito, but the restaurant also offers quesadillas, chips, salsa and sides of guacamole and sour cream.

The space, with its many tables and earthy Mexican tiles is a light, inviting eatery. "It's a good social atmosphere," said Berlin. Students who want to stay can do so



PHOTO / DONNA COVENY

Employees at Anna's Taqueria, Enrique Olivera (left) and Nestor Olivera, were serving as fast as they could to keep up with the lunch demand on Anna's first full day of business.

comfortably, but those on the go can expect the same fast service that has made Anna's so popular.

On Feb. 10, the first full day of business, all the seats were full during the lunch rush, and the line snaked back past the Student Center lobby stairs.

Both Petitti and D'Aoust were back in line. "I do expect to gain

a little bit of weight," Petitti said with a laugh.

In line with Petitti and D'Aoust, Annika Larsson was weighing her ordering options and fending off peer pressure to super-size. "I was planning to get a small," she said. "But I may have to get a large today."

Junior Ana Matos was unable

to get out to the Student Center for opening night. "Somebody did bring me something though," she said, while waiting in line Thursday and anticipating a roasted pork burrito. "It is just really good food," she said with a smile.

Anna's Taqueria will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to midnight.

DIGITAL TALK: WHERE IT'S AT

Service Center fixes computer woes



IS&T's Hardware and Software Service Center in Building N42 handles computer repairs, consulting and troubleshooting.

With staff cross-training and a new simplified pricing structure, this single "front door" at 211 Massachusetts Ave. makes it easy for community members to get expert diagnosis and help. You don't need to know whether your computer problems are caused by a hardware malfunction, corrupted operating system, virus—or a combination of factors.

Call the Computing Help Desk at 253-1101 to talk to a consultant before bringing your computer to N42. Depending on the nature of the problem, a phone call may be able to save you the trip. If not, you can make an appointment for an in-person consultation or a drop off. There is no charge for the first 15 to 30 minutes you spend with a consultant. If the problem has not been resolved in that time, you can choose to leave your machine for repair. At this point, you will be charged \$60 an hour plus the cost of any parts. Most jobs are fixed in an hour, though some, such as data recovery, take lon-

ger. There is no charge for work on hardware under warranty.

For more information, see <http://web.mit.edu/ist/helpdesk>.

Guide details MIT's IT architecture

The Information Technology Architecture Group (ITAG) is responsible for defining, maintaining, improving and communicating MIT's IT architecture. Recently the group published the first version of MIT's "Enterprise Architecture Guide" (EAG) at <http://web.mit.edu/itag/eag>. The EAG documents MIT's architectural principles and goals, the current state of the enterprise architecture, a future-state vision, and the ITAG architectural consultation process.

Since the EAG is an evolving document, feedback from the community will help shape ITAG agendas and influence content in future versions of the EAG. Send comments to itag-eag@mit.edu.

Stellar enhanced for spring 2005

MIT's Stellar course management system has been enhanced for spring 2005. Instructors can now change the style of their class web sites at any time, and can choose from several new styles. These styles provide an updated look, as well as a fixed width for web pages, which

makes them easier to read.

All announcements to class members are now displayed on the public home page of a class web site. Another new feature is Really Simple Syndication (RSS), a format for sharing headlines and other web content. Class members who sign up for the RSS feed learn about new information on the class web site and receive alerts one week before homework due dates.

Finally, Stellar web sites used for nonacademic purposes, such as projects that span semesters, have the option to use a full-year calendar.

For details on these enhancements, see <http://stellar.mit.edu/userguide/guide-instruct/what-new.html>.

IS&T introduces MobileSphere cards

IS&T has negotiated significantly reduced rates on MobileSphere calling cards, which provides domestic and international coverage in 92 countries.

The MobileSphere plan is available for personal use by MIT faculty and staff or for MIT use where the Qwest MIT calling card may not be appropriate. For details, see <http://web.mit.edu/ist/services/telecommunications/mobilesphere.html>.

Digital talk is compiled by Information Services and Technology.

Sloan offers minor to undergraduates

In a major new initiative to enable MIT students to add basic business skills to their strong foundation in science and engineering, MIT Sloan School of Management will this fall begin to offer an undergraduate minor in management. The minor, which will initially be limited to 100 undergraduates chosen by lottery, is in response to employers seeking graduates who are better prepared for today's increasingly complex responsibilities.

"We kept hearing from recruiters that while MIT students are technologically adept, they need to know more about how to get things done within a business organization," said Sloan Professor Thomas Kochan, who chaired the MIT faculty committee on the management minor. "This new initiative will help our students hit the ground running as they graduate from MIT and move into technologically driven organizations."

"We see this as one of the major undergraduate educational innovations at MIT of this decade," said MIT President Susan Hockfield. "While our immediate goal is to meet an important need of students at MIT, we are setting a standard for other universities as well."

Kochan noted that while many universities offer management majors or individual business courses, the Sloan minor in management will serve as a coordinat-

ed curriculum aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and leadership potential of students majoring in science, engineering or other MIT concentrations.

For the minor, students will take four required courses—principles of microeconomics, corporate financial accounting, people and organizations, and marketing management—and two elective courses from a range of offerings. Students will be encouraged to participate in summer internships and to bring their experiences back to Sloan in a follow-up course titled Leadership and Organizational Change.

To help meet the new program's demand, MIT Sloan will be expanding its faculty by three new members.

"With this minor, MIT graduates will be more productive because they will better understand the economic, organizational and workforce setting in which they will pursue their scientific and technical work," said Richard Schmalensee, dean of the Sloan School.

"We applaud this new management minor at MIT," said Margaret Ashida, director of corporate recruiting for IBM. "Innovation, which is the engine of economic growth, requires top talent to be equipped with high-value IT skills and the business knowledge to apply them. This will make MIT students even more competitive."

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Durant appointed head of MIT Museum

Patti Richards
News Office

John Durant, a museum director and academic researcher with extensive experience at some of England's leading science museums, has been selected as the new director of the MIT Museum.



John Durant

Currently the head of At-Bristol, a science and natural history center in Bristol, England, Durant has focused much of his career on promoting public engagement with science and technology. He served as the world's first Professor of Public Understanding of Science while at Imperial College, London.

"John Durant's appointment represents a major development for the MIT Museum," said Alan Brody, associate

provost for the Arts. "John has a vision that will bring a vibrant new focus and energy to the museum and make it a centerpiece of a much larger program in the public engagement with science."

Durant will assume his new responsibilities on July 1. He will also have an appointment as adjunct professor in the MIT Program in Science, Technology and Society (STS).

"I am excited about working with my colleagues at the MIT Museum and in STS," said Durant. "Ideas and innovations produced out of MIT will have a huge impact on the way we and our children live in the 21st century, and I hope to explore some groundbreaking ways of making MIT research more accessible to the wider community."

Durant's appointment represents a significant step in the evolution of the MIT Museum, which was founded in 1971 with the mission of showcasing the creativity and achievements of MIT's faculty, students and staff to the broader community. The museum presents changing and ongoing exhibitions and public programs and is home to renowned collections in science and technology, holography, architecture and design, and the history of nautical engineering.

Durant's stated goals include "a radically re-conceived" museum that will help facilitate informed public debate about the place of scientific and technological innovation in the wider culture. "The MIT Museum should be a living place where the public not only enjoys exhibitions but also engages with scientists and technologists doing cutting-edge work in the here and now," Durant said.

He hopes to give the museum a higher public profile and a greater community presence in Cambridge and Boston; to create smaller, faster and more flexible ways of exhibiting; and to develop museum programming within the larger context of contemporary issues. And unlike most science museums that cater largely to families with young children, Durant aims to focus much of his efforts on programs that will appeal to audiences of all ages.

Durant's academic appointment within STS will provide opportunities for ongoing interactions with MIT faculty and research projects. "We anticipate that John's new museum and faculty appointments will help create a robust network of activities at MIT involving public engagement in science and technology," said Rosalind Williams, the Metcalfe Professor of Writing and Director of the STS Program.

Durant, a native of Norwich, England, received the M.A. in natural science in 1972 and the Ph.D. in history and philosophy of science in 1977 from Queens' College at the University of Cambridge.

From 1989 to 2000, he was director of science communications at the Science Museum in London, one of the oldest and largest museums of science and technology in the world. Appointed in 1989 by Imperial College, London, to the first professorship of Public Understanding of Science, he devoted the next 11 years to galvanizing the new field nationally and internationally, and also founded the first peer-reviewed international academic journal devoted to research in the public dimensions of science and technology.

Most recently, as chief executive officer of At-Bristol, he helped establish the independent, not-for-profit science

and natural history center as the largest science-based visitor attraction in the U.K. outside London. At-Bristol has won 12 national awards and was selected as England's "Family Attraction of the Year" in 2002.

As a member of the House of Lords Select Committee of Science and Technology from 1999-2000, Durant assisted in the drafting and editing of one of the most influential and widely cited policy documents on science and society in Europe. He has held several government consulting posts, and is a frequent lecturer and public speaker.

Durant is replacing previous museum director Jane Pickering, who left MIT in 2002 to become assistant director for public programs at the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University.

"Science and technology have never been more important for everyday life than they are today," said Philip S. Khoury, Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. "We are most fortunate to be able to attract Durant to our shores and we look forward to developing new programs designed to bridge the gap between science and the public."

Tearing down metaphoric walls to expand museum's programming

Patti Richards, senior communications officer in the News Office, asked incoming museum director John Durant to discuss his views on the role of the museum in the community.

Q. How would you describe the relationship between the MIT Museum and the larger Boston community?

A. The relationship between a university and its local community is vitally important. Ideas and innovations produced at MIT will have a huge impact on the way we live in the 21st century. We have a responsibility to explain current scientific developments and to engage interested citizens in informed debate about their wider social implications. I would like the museum to provide exhibitions and a new kind of public forum where scientists, students and citizens can meet to discuss some of the most important questions we face in common—locally, nationally and globally.

Q. How would this new public forum work?

A. We need to literally think out of the box. People talk a lot these days about "museums without walls," and it's time we made them happen. For example, we could bring scientists and citizens together, sometimes physically, by inviting scientists to come and talk about their work, and sometimes virtually, by connecting scientists and citizens remotely with the help of new communication technologies. People in Cambridge can be linked by webcam, webcast or video-conference with the scientists and scientific events, wherever these may happen to be.

Q. Will the MIT Museum launch programs to reach adults in addition to children?

A. MIT is an ideal base from which to engage older students and adults. Science museums in the U.K. have already launched such programs. AT-Bristol, the science center which I directed, ran highly successful public lecture programs, including live link events where audiences in Bristol interacted with a gorilla being trained in sign language in California.

Q. How do you compare the U.K. and the U.S. in terms of public engagement in science?

A. Both the U.K. and the United States are generally very interested in science, and both are also pretty positive about the role of science in society. But each culture has distinct sensitivities about particular areas of science. In recent years, many Brits have been reluctant to accept new genetic technologies in agriculture (so-called "GM foods"), whereas many Americans have been reluctant to accept human stem cell research. Also, at present, the British government seems more concerned about global climate change than does the American government.

Q. You will serve both as museum director and as a lecturer in the Program in Science, Technology and Society. How will you link the two roles?

A. I'll be teaching some courses in STS on public understanding of science, and I will encourage my students to apply what they learn by undertaking communications projects in the museum. The MIT Museum might serve as a kind of laboratory in which students can hone their skills as science communicators.

The Scientist ranks Institute third in postdoctoral workplaces survey

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

MIT was ranked third among U.S. academic institutions and 13th overall among U.S. universities, government and private research institutions in the annual survey, "Best Places to Work for Postdocs," published Feb. 14 by The Scientist. This is the magazine's third annual survey of work environments for postdoctoral associates and fellows.

A valuable training experience, access to research equipment and library resources, and a good mentoring relationship were the key ingredients of a great workplace, according to the 3,500 postdocs in the life sciences who completed surveys about programs in 123 U.S. institutions and 66 non-U.S. institutions.

"It is very gratifying to have MIT's rich and exciting research environment reflected in this honor. Postdoctoral scholars are such an integral part of our university. We are proud of their accomplishments and pleased to provide a productive and enjoyable work environment," said Alice P. Gast, the Robert T. Haslam Professor of Chemical Engineering, and vice president for research and associate provost at MIT. "We have benefited greatly from our work with the Postdoctoral Scholars Advisory Council in our ongoing efforts to address funding and other issues affecting their experiences here."

Survey respondents used an "agree/strongly disagree scale" to rank statements about their workplace and expe-

rience in quality of training, mentoring, communication, facilities and family and personal life. Financial matters, including funding, compensation, equity and health insurance, were also addressed.

Twelve of the top 15 U.S. institutions in the survey have an association or advisor for postdoctoral scholars that helps raise awareness of their needs. MIT, which has more than 800 postdoctoral scholars, established its Postdoctoral Scholars Advisory Council in 2003.

"This recognition speaks to the dedication of the Postdoctoral Scholars Advisory Council, administrators and staff who are working to improve the postdoc experience at MIT. Last year MIT was not even in the Top 15 in this survey," said Penny Beuning, a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Biology and a member of the council. "The postdoc council has made great progress in a short time to improve the conditions for postdocs at MIT, including establishing a mentoring program, improving benefits for postdoc fellows, and sponsoring several social events to help build community."

The editor of The Scientist, Richard Gallagher, noted that most respondents were unhappy with some aspects of their work environment and institutions. He said he hoped the survey results would also be a "challenge to all institutions to continuously improve working conditions for postdocs, arguably science's most valuable players."

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., were ranked first and second, respectively, by the postdocs who completed surveys.

Museum exhibit reacquaints world with Edgerton's photography

Thanks to an Associated Press (AP) story about the MIT Museum's ongoing exhibition of his photographs, the world is rediscovering the genius of Harold "Doc" Edgerton (1903-1991), who first came to MIT as a graduate student and remained for 60 years as professor.

"He revolutionized photography, helped the Allies win World War II, allowed Jacques Cousteau to see deep under the sea, and even hunted the Loch Ness monster," said the AP story, which was picked up by news outlets throughout the world, including CNN.com.

The article also touted the museum's other "more modern examples of innovation by scientists, designers, architects and historians" including the Kismet robot and the "Thinkapalooza" Metafield Maze, a virtual reality game in which participants use their bodies to direct the movement of an imaginary marble through a human-sized maze.

"Engineers and scientists sometimes chose projects that will get a lot of attention to science and technology that would otherwise be ignored," Deborah G. Douglas, curator of science and technology, told AP.

HST student wins \$30,000 Lemelson Prize

As a child, David Berry dreamed of becoming a superhero. And now he is a superhero of sorts, not the kind that leaps tall buildings, but the kind that saves lives.

The 27-year-old M.D./Ph.D. student received the \$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for his inventive research with a new protein and a common coagulant that may help both stroke and cancer patients.

"While innovation is common at MIT and in our lab, David's ability to produce such a wide variety of inventions with such tremendous clinical potential is rare," said Robert Langer, the Germeshausen Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at MIT and one of Berry's advisors, in his recommendation letter.

"He passionately seeks to push traditional understanding and conventional boundaries to create entities to treat disease or greatly improve the standard of care," said Langer.

According to the American Stroke Association, someone in America has a stroke every 45 seconds. The FDA has approved only one drug for the treatment of stroke victims, and that must be administered within three hours of the stroke.

"It's not always easy for people to tell they are having a stroke," said Berry, a graduate student

in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. "Right now, there is a very short window of time in which people can be treated effectively. I thought there had to be another alternative that could give victims and doctors more time and a better chance for recovery."

Working in the lab of Ram Sasisekharan, a professor of Biological Engineering and another of Berry's advisors, Berry and co-workers at MIT conceived the idea of a new protein, called dimeric FGF2, or dFGF2 for short. This protein synthetically induces the combined effects of heparin, a common anticoagulant, and a protein called fibroblast growth factor, or FGF2, which helps with the formation of new blood vessels.

If given within 24 hours of a stroke, dFGF2 can limit the amount of brain tissue damage. If given after 24 hours, it can substantially improve the patient's rate of functional recovery, which the current treatment does not do. Because dFGF2 can be given in small doses, it also reduces serious side effects, such as extreme weight loss.

"David's dFGF2 invention has already been patented and licensed and it is moving toward entering clinical trials," Langer said. "This is an incredible achievement for any student, much more so to have been com-

pleted within six months of entering a lab."

In addition to developing a new application to potentially treat strokes, Berry's studies of internalized heparin have also led to a promising new technique for treating cancer.

"Through my work with dFGF2 and my observations of how heparin interacts with other compounds, I started thinking about the potential impact it could have treating cancer," Berry said. "I discovered that by binding heparin to a polymer and delivering it to the body, I could attack the cancer cells but leave the surrounding healthy cells unharmed."

Due to the specific chemical makeup of his heparin-polymer conjugate, Berry found that most of it is absorbed by cancerous cells in the body, instead of by healthy cells.

"With this single invention, David made several innovations to create a new way to potentially treat a wide variety of cancers," Sasisekharan said in his recommendation letter.

"My ultimate career goal is to help improve the quality of people's lives," Berry said. "What I appreciate most about science and research is that, although you don't aid people on a day-to-day basis as physicians do, you have the potential to impact society as a whole."



PHOTO COURTESY/ LEMELSON-MIT

David Berry won the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for his inventiveness in the medical lab.

Some aspects of voting systems improved in 2004

Professor Charles Stewart, head of the Department of Political Science, and other researchers in the CalTech/MIT Voting Technology Project studied the 2004 Presidential Election on election day and afterward to see what changes and improvements had occurred since 2000.

The group found that in one area in particular, the "residual vote rate," the U.S. election system improved a good deal. Residual votes are votes that are not counted for any number of reasons. In his summary of the research, Stewart noted the following important points.

- 17 million more people voted in 2004 than in 2000, a 14 percent increase. Approximately 1 million of these "new votes" can be attributed to reforms in voting machines and administrative practices over the past four years.
- Of the 37 states (including the District of Columbia) that have reported total turnout in the 2004 presidential election, the aggregate residual vote rate was 1.1 percent in 2004. Among these same states, the residual vote rate was 1.9 percent in 2000.
- Florida and Georgia saw the biggest

decreases in the residual vote rate across the past four years, by 2.5 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively.

- Only five states—California, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa and Nebraska—saw increases in their residual vote rates from 2000 and 2004.
- The greatest improvements in residual vote rates occurred in counties that shared the following characteristics:
 - The whole state engaged in comprehensive election reform.
 - The county changed its voting machines, especially those that abandoned punch cards.
- Changing voting machines and changing election administration practices often went hand-in-hand. One-half to two-thirds of the reduction in residual vote rate over the past four years can be attributed to non-machine factors, including increased electoral competition in "battleground states" and statewide reform efforts.
- The residual vote rate declined more between 2000 and 2004 in counties that gave presidential candidate Al Gore a large percentage of the vote in 2000.

WATER

Continued from Page 1

Hydrologist Illagasekera asked Harvey to join the team because of the latter's work on arsenic in Bangladesh drinking water. Obeysekera was asked because Florida has many issues concerning the intrusion of salty ocean water into coastal freshwater supplies.

Harvey and colleagues also want to explore whether the salinization is a long-term problem, or whether the salty water will be flushed out in June during the Monsoon season.

Harvey further notes that because salt water is denser than fresh, the salty layer currently on top is unstable. "So conceivably that layer could sink deep into the ground, which is good because the people's wells are not that deep."

On the other hand, he said, the initial intrusion of salt water would cause chemical reactions in which the sodium from the salt leaves the water and sticks to sediments, switching places with other elements like calcium. As a result, once fresh water is restored by the monsoon or gravity, the sodium could chemically react again, leaving the sediments and desorbing back into the fresh water. "So you could have salty water again," Harvey said. "It wouldn't be as salty as at first, but there could still be a lingering problem."

Based on the data the researchers collect during this expedition, they hope to return to Sri Lanka again in May, this time with other experts. For example, Harvey expects the May team will include someone familiar with the effects of salinization on tropical plants.

Surprising difference between human and chimp genomes

Michelle Nhuch
Broad Institute

Researchers have learned that despite the 99 percent similarity between the DNA of humans and our closest relative, the chimpanzee, a significant difference occurs in the places along the genome where gene swapping occurs.

In the Feb. 10 online issue of the journal *Science*, researchers from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard report with colleagues that the locations of DNA swapping between chromosomes, known as recombination "hotspots," are nearly entirely different.

"We started trying to compare recombination in humans and chimpanzees a couple of years ago, in the hope that better understanding this fundamental mechanism might inform our approach to mapping genes for human diseases, but our progress was stymied because identifying hotspots was laborious and inefficient," said co-senior author Dr. David Altshuler, director of the Broad's program in Medical and Population Genetics and associate professor of genetics and of medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Recombination—or the swapping of genes between chromosomes—shapes the patterns of genetic variation in a species. It is the process in which DNA from an individual's father and mother is reshuffled to create new combinations of genes in the child—new combinations on which natural selection can act to shape the evolution of the species.

Scientists recently discovered that recombination does not occur at random across the human genome, but is localized to particular places in the genome called hotspots. Because these hotspots are important to the study of

genetic disease, the research team set out to compare recombination in the genomes of humans and chimpanzees. They expected the patterns to be very similar between the species, and that by comparing the DNA it would be possible to identify particular DNA sequences that might explain the localization of recombination to hotspots.

The research team analyzed data collected in Boston using the methods developed in Oxford, England, that make it possible to survey recombination at a genomic scale. They identified 18 hotspots in humans and three hotspots in chimps. To their surprise, none of the hotspots occurred in the same locations in human and chimp.

"The surprising conclusion seems to be that there is probably something other than the DNA sequence, or perhaps in addition to it, that is determining where these hotspots are located," said Altshuler. "Epigenetic factors—biological codes that are layered on top of the DNA—may turn out to be more different in closely related species than the DNA sequence itself."

In addition to the Broad researchers, the international research team consists of investigators from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Harvard Medical School (HMS), the University of Oxford, and the Biomedical Primate Research Centre in the Netherlands.

Authors on the study are Broad researchers Stacey Gabriel, Robert Onofrio, Daniel Richter, and Wendy Winkler (of Broad and MGH); Gavin McDonald and David Reich of Broad and HMS; Simon Myers and Gilean McVean from the University of Oxford; and Ronald Bontrop from the Biomedical Primate Research Centre in the Netherlands.

The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. It received institutional support from MGH.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Continued from Page 1

sor and chair of history at Duke University, in her comments to open the discussion, "Gender and Class: Conversations Without Guilt."

Deutsch likened the challenges facing women's studies in bringing out discussions of class prejudice within universities to the ones that once faced suffragists or trade unionists in the early 20th century.

"Cross-class coalitions among women are difficult to create; they're always contingent and don't necessarily last. But if we can't talk about class in this environment, how will we do it in the larger world?" Deutsch asked.

Sally Haslanger, associate professor of philosophy, and Rae Langton, professor of linguistics and philosophy, offered both theory and narrative as ways to illuminate class divisions and how they relate to gender.

Haslanger, animatedly seizing chalk and blackboard, drew a map to guide the audience through her theory, which posits that "markings of gender, race, ethnicity and so on situate the body within a larger structure of domination and submission. Class, symbolized by work, is where you're located," she said.

Langton acknowledged she was one of those "deeply closeted working-class women in the academy. I'm outing myself now," she said.

Langton went on to discuss "how who you are affects what it is that you value." For example, Langton's working-class family of "builders and miners" in Australia and India helped her become a philosopher, because they valued physical strength, not school. Her sister, who did want to participate in the men's work, "had a big fight."

The consumer-warrior citizen

The whole idea of citizenship has been gobbled up by militaristic, hypermasculine and hegemonic values, with dire, gendered results now under way in things like the "maid trade," declared Chandra Mohanty, in her talk, "Feminists Confront Empire." Mohanty, who is the Dean's Professor of Humanities at Syracuse, sees an "urgent challenge for feminists to name, analyze and confront the empire and work for its demise," she said.

She offered some steps on behalf of democracy and multigendered citizenship. These included analyzing the operation and effect of empire, connecting analysis to practice, "being present and visible as feminists, and believing there is another world and acting on it," she said.

The gender decoy

Patricia Williams cited examples from pop culture, the media and Bush administration policies to portray the challenges facing feminists and ordinary folk who don't want to "trade precious civil liberties for homeland security."

In her talk, "Race, Gender and Law in a Divided World," Williams discussed the role in Bush's America of well-known African-Americans, including Michael Jackson, Mohammed Ali, Will Smith, Oprah, Anita Hill and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, whom Williams called the "anti-Anita Hill."

Analysis of the political use of celebrity shows Rice is a "gender decoy, an elegant black female, a figurehead for a preemptive war," Williams declared. She also noted the painful irony that Rice, whose generation came of age with the 1963 bombing of a church in Birmingham, Alabama would become the "public face of a



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Professor Rae Langton of linguistics and philosophy spoke at the women's studies symposium about class divisions and gender.

chaotic force that now bombs mosques."

Speakers at the anniversary event also included Elizabeth Wood, director of the Program in Women's Studies and associate professor of history; Lisa Rofel, associate professor of anthropology at the Uni-

versity of California, Santa Cruz; Evelyn Hammonds, professor of the history of science and of African and African-American Studies at Harvard; and Rebecca Faery, director of First-Year Writing at MIT.

REPRESENTATION

Continued from Page 1

teaching methods can lead to comparable performance for males and females in high school mathematics. One of the most important and effective actions we can take is to ensure that women have teachers who believe in them and strong, positive mentors, male and female, at every stage of their educational journey—both to affirm and to develop their talents. Low expectations of women can be as destructive as overt discrimination and may help to explain the disproportionate rate of attrition that occurs among female students as they proceed through the academic pipeline.

Colleges and universities must develop a culture, as well as specific policies, that enable women with children to strike a sustainable balance between workplace and

home. Of course, achieving such a balance is a challenge in many highly demanding careers. As a society we must develop methods for assessing productivity and potential that take into account the long-term potential of an individual and encourage greater harmony between the cycle of work and the cycle of life—so that both women and men may better excel in the careers of their choice.

Although we have a very long way to travel in terms of recruiting, retaining, and promoting women faculty in scientific and engineering fields, we can also point to significant progress. According to the National Science Foundation, almost no doctoral degrees in engineering were awarded to women in 1966 (0.3 percent), in contrast to 16.9 percent in 2001. And in the biological and agricultural sciences, the number of doctorates earned by women rose from 12 percent to 43.5 percent between 1966 and 2001.

Our three campuses, and many others, are home to growing numbers of women who have demonstrated not only extraordinary innate ability, but the kinds of creativity, determination, perceptiveness and hard work that are prerequisites for success in science and engineering, as in many other fields.

These figures demonstrate the expanding presence of women in disciplines that have not, historically, been friendly to them. It is a matter of vital concern, not only to the academy but also to society at large, that the future holds even greater opportunities for them.

John Hennessy is a computer scientist, Susan Hockfield is a neuroscientist and Shirley Tilghman is a molecular geneticist.

Students put together program for Black history month

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

"Pulse: One Beat. One World," an African cultural show produced with MIT student leadership, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

The goal of the evening program is to celebrate African and African-American culture and to honor Black History Month through music, dance, poetry and song.

"Pulse" is hosted by the MIT African Students' Association, the MIT Black Students' Union, the MIT Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, and Harvard's Black Student Association. It is free and open to the public.

MIT freshman Alia Whitney-Johnson and a planning committee of eight MIT and two Harvard students organized the multi-media production that will feature speeches, poems, African drumming, hip-hop, jazz, expressive dance and choral and gospel singing.

Whitney-Johnson was inspired to take on a leadership role in "Pulse" by an "awakening" she had when she saw her first African cultural show at her high school, the North Carolina School of Science and Math. "I was one member of a whole audience who left with a new appreciation for how much of our culture is rooted in Africa. I saw that studying black history is studying my history," she said.

Whitney-Johnson's twofold goal was to produce good entertainment and to build community among the "vast number of cultural and minority organizations on campus," she said.

Participating groups and individuals share common goals of unity and fun as they prepare for Saturday night.

"The cultural show provides a great opportunity for our association to showcase different aspects of African culture to the MIT community. It offers the chance for us to strengthen the ties that we have with the rest of the black student community on campus," said Edward Mabonga, president of the African Students' Association and a junior in electrical engineering and computer science.

Nicholas A. Pearce, American Chemical Society scholar and a junior in chemical engineering, will deliver a speech in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the "Pulse" performance.

Pearce's hopes for the evening echoed Whitney-Johnson's.

"I hope that all participants will not only take away an increased appreciation of black culture, but also a double determination to make a positive impact on the world in which we live," he said.

Pearce said he has been "motivated and inspired to be an agent of positive change in our present and future world" by the work and writings of King and Pearce's own pastor, Bishop Dr. Arthur M. Brazier,



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Students rehearse a step dance in preparation for Saturday's African and African-American culture performance. Dancers are (left to right) junior Silvia Baptista, freshmen Yamilee Toussaint and Ashley Vaughn, sophomore Tracey Ragsdale, junior Teri Ijeoma and freshman Douglas Slaughter.

who also participated in the Civil Rights Movement. "Their cautious, yet audacious optimism and faith in the future inspire me

to take steps towards realizing that optimism," said Pearce.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Faculty meeting scheduled

A regular meeting of the faculty will be held today, Feb. 16, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 155 of the Stata Center. Agenda items are a vote on an S.B. in Biological Engineering, presented by Professor Linda Griffith; a proposal for an S.B. in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering, presented by Professor Kim Vandiver; and a discussion about the implementation of the new minor in Management, presented by Associate Dean Jeffrey Meldman.

Soldier Design Competition Finals

The MIT Soldier Design Competition will hold its final judging event on March 1 to award \$14,000 in prizes to teams from MIT and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Eighteen mostly undergraduate teams will present working prototypes of 11 non-weapon devices for use by infantry soldiers, marines, and emergency first-responders. Inventions will include a powered rope ascender, a hands-free casualty carriage system, and a portable power-generation system. The event, which is open to the public, will take place in Wong Auditorium from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Springing for cancer cure

Daffodil Days, sponsored by the MIT Women's League, is celebrated at MIT during the month of February to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Daffodil bouquets can be ordered in advance for \$7 each through department coordinators. Bouquets will be delivered on March 16. The last day to place an order is Friday, Feb. 25. Additional bouquets can be purchased in Lobby 10 and the lobby of Building 25, March 16-18.

This year, people may also contribute \$20 to send a Gift of Hope (a vase of daffodils) to a cancer patient at Mt. Auburn Hospital. These flowers may be ordered through department coordinators or through the MIT Women's League (253-3656) before Feb. 25.

MacVicar Day focuses on education commons

MacVicar Day 2005 will be held on March 4. The MacVicar Faculty Fellows will be announced in a formal lunch ceremony, and the public program at 3 p.m. in Room 6-120 will feature a discussion among members of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, "What should we achieve in a four-year MIT education?" The task force is undertaking a comprehensive review of the common educational experience of MIT undergraduates. A reception will follow the presentation at 4:30 p.m.

The MacVicar Faculty Fellows program was established in 1992 to honor the life and contributions of the late Margaret MacVicar, who was a professor of physical science and dean for undergraduate education at the time of her death in 1991.

Excellence Awards celebrated

MIT will celebrate its annual MIT Excellence Awards on Wednesday, March 2, at noon in Kresge Auditorium. Vice President for Human Resources Laura Avakian will host the event and President Susan Hockfield will give opening remarks. Thomas Magnanti, dean of engineering, will deliver a keynote address on the importance of recognizing people for their work and dedication. Light refreshments will be served before the ceremony at 11:30 a.m., and a luncheon reception in Kresge Lobby will follow the presentation. Artists-Behind-the-Desk rhythm and blues band, BJ Magoon and Driving Sideways, will play at the reception. All members of the MIT community are invited.

The Excellence Awards honor MIT staff for exceptional contributions to the Institute. From 90 nominations, 14 individuals and six teams were selected this year.

Pomiecko of Comparative Media Studies dies at 48

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

John Christopher Pomiecko, program administrator in Comparative Media Studies, avid film buff and duplicate bridge player, died Sunday, Feb. 6, following a car accident. He was 48.



Chris Pomiecko

Pomiecko, known as Chris, was a native of Claremont, N.H., and a resident of Dorchester, Mass. He came to MIT in 1984 and joined the Comparative Media Studies Program (CMS) as administrator in 1999.

He quickly made his mark among colleagues and students at CMS as a welcoming presence, effective organizer and steadfast supporter of the lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgendered community (LBGT). For incoming students, Pomiecko's was the face of MIT.

Anita Chan, a graduate student in the Program in Science, Technology and Society and former CMS student, said, "As a new graduate student four and a half years ago, I wondered if I would ever feel at home. Chris turned the campus into a family for me. His wit and his commitment to the students was a reminder to me of the wonderful, dynamic humanity of the campus."

Parmesh Shahani, a graduate student in CMS from India, recalled Pomiecko's kindness as his "first point of contact at MIT."

"He helped me transition to life in the U.S. He encour-

aged me tremendously when I told him about the LBGT film festival I wanted to organize at MIT. Some of my best moments at MIT have been spent in his office," Shahani said.

Pomiecko's colleagues noted his generosity, included sharing his interests and hobbies. He was known for enjoying restoring his Dorchester home and for the delight he took in gardening, tennis, swimming, cross-country skiing and photography. Bridge, his friends knew, was his passion. He held weekly games at his home and traveled to games around Boston and in New Hampshire.

Michele Oshima, director of student and artist-in-residence programs in the Office of the Arts, took up the game thanks to Pomiecko's persistence that she learn, she said. "He was the anchor of the LBGT bridge community, a circle of funny, intelligent, competitive players," she said.

"Chris made me laugh and put things into perspective. I will miss his sarcasm, wit and his generosity. He was right—all work and no play is unhealthy," Oshima said.

Milos Komarcevic (S.B. 2000) worked for Pomiecko in the Film Office and recalled his boss as a bright light in the day. Pomiecko was "refreshing, sensitive and welcoming to foreign students. He would bring out the best in everybody present," Komarcevic said.

An enthusiastic and devoted uncle to his two nieces, Sophia and Natalya Martins, Pomiecko recently combined his love for them and his love for movies in a Christmas Eve outing to see the film, "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."

Pomiecko attended Middlebury College and McGill University, graduating in 1980. He worked as a freelance journalist before moving to Boston.

He is survived by his mother, Hazel (Fortin) Pomiecko, of Claremont; his sister Catherine, brother-in-law George Martins, and nieces Sophia and Natalya, all of Natick, Mass.; and an uncle and aunt, Donald and Joan Fortin of Ft. Myers, Fla., and Eastman, N.H. His father, Victor Pomiecko, died in 1996.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Fiske Free Library, St. Mary's Elementary School or the Claremont Opera House, all of Claremont, or any other charity.

Rapoport awarded Scolnick Prize

Judith L. Rapoport, chief of the child psychiatry branch at the National Institute of Mental Health, is this year's winner of the McGovern Institute's Edward M. Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience, an annual award recognizing an outstanding discovery or significant advance in the field of neuroscience.

Rapoport was selected for her groundbreaking studies of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), and Childhood Onset Schizophrenia, according to Robert Desimone, director of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, which established the award in 2003.

Rapoport will receive \$50,000 with the award. She will present a public lecture at MIT, hosted by the McGovern Institute and followed by a gala awards dinner sometime this spring.

"Dr. Rapoport has contributed significantly to our current understanding of the human brain," said Desimone.

"Her groundbreaking research has benefited thousands around the globe, while fundamentally changing the way in which we view child psychiatry."

Rapoport pioneered the fields of neuroanatomy and neurochemistry ADHD studies, was the first to document that the symptoms of OCD in children and adolescents are similar to those seen in adults, and was the first to use structural magnetic resonance imaging to examine developmental changes in brain size and structure in children with schizophrenia.

She is known for her book, "The Boy Who Couldn't Stop Washing," which was on The New York Times Best-seller list for 10 weeks.

The Scolnick Prize provides an important focus for the international neuroscience community, building bridges that will promote future collaborations and an accelerated pace of neuroscience research. It honors Edward M. Scolnick, former president of Merck Research Laboratories.

Calatrava talks about his recent designs

Santiago Calatrava, the Spanish architect, engineer and artist, has been awarded the 2005 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts by the MIT Council for the Arts.

Calatrava's recent work includes a cathedral-like \$2 billion design for the World Trade Center Transportation Hub, the site where commuter trains and subway lines converge at the World Trade Center in New York.

He will present a public lecture, "Recent Work," on Tuesday, March 8, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 10-250. He will be a visiting artist at MIT from March 8-10.

"I am deeply grateful that MIT should recognize my work and the ability of art to inform and influence the exact sciences. MIT is performing a tremendous service by helping to bring art and science back together," Calatrava said.

Calatrava was a visiting professor of architecture at MIT, and his 1997 lectures at MIT, "Santiago Calatrava: Conversations with Students—The MIT Lectures," were published by Princeton Architectural Press in 2002.

—Sarah Wright

CLASSIFIED ADS

Members of the MIT community may submit one classified ad each issue. Ads can be resubmitted, but not two weeks in a row. Ads should be 30 words maximum; they will be edited. Submit by e-mail to ttads@mit.edu or mail to Classifieds, Rm 11-400. Deadline is noon Wednesday the week before publication.

FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-890 Built in auto antenna tuner, includes operating manual, good cond. Works great, I have tested it and had a QSO with Ireland, plus others. \$425. 781-893-3377. klcei@arri.net

HOUSING

Northwood Lake: 4 1/2 BR, 1 1/2 bath. Deck facing lake. 30 ft prvt. child safe beach. Avail.:

July 1-8 (\$700), Sept. 23-30 (\$500). Fran at [781-205-5000](tel:781-205-5000) (evenings).

Bedford: 2 BR in duplex. Closets, garage, enclosed patio area w/garden, hrdwd flrs, A/C, neighborhood of single family homes, walk to Bedford Center. \$1,550/mo. plus utils (1st, last, security deposit). 508-430-8680.

Everett: F to share 2nd floor furnished apt. of 2-family. Non-smoker, no pets, no kids. \$550/mo. Includes all utils except phone. W/D. March 1 for short-term (≤1yr). 617-253-2127 or jtaylor@mit.edu.

Wanted: Cambridge summer sublet. Yale faculty family with young child and well behaved, mature dog. 253-6674 or lbaily@mit.edu.

Arlington: \$490. Two rooms available in large house. jhang@mit.edu.

2/1 condo, 15 min walk MIT, hrdwd flrs, top floor

3 story brick bldg, porch deck, deeded parking, low monthly condo fee (heat, hotwater, gas incl), T Red Line, \$379,000 neg. 508-274-4443.

3 BR, fully equipped cottage for rent in Lyman, Maine. Quiet setting, beautiful sunsets. Steps to the water. Space still available in July. mturmer@mit.edu.

Summer sublet wanted: MIT administrative staff (F) looking for studio or 1 BR. Dates needed: June-Aug. Dates flexible. 617-699-6893.

South Boston: Compact student studio apt. Can be furnished. 2 blocks from beach. \$685, incl. utils. Great neighborhood. 617-268-0800.

VEHICLES

1991 Camry station wagon. 103.5K. Runs well. Inspection sticker good until end of Aug. 2005. Some rust. \$1,000/bst. Richard or Nadine

[Lindzen at 617-332-4342](mailto:Lindzen@mit.edu) or nlindzen@mit.edu.

2004 Dodge Stratus 2.4L. Well maintained, ex. cond. and garaged year round. 6.8K. CD player, elec. windows & locks, A/C, cloth seats. \$15,000/bst. Wanda at 253-2737.

STUDENT POSITIONS

The Amigos School seeks math tutors, pre-algebra and geometry. Spanish fluency a plus. Possible hours: M-F, 9am-3:30pm. Accessible via #1 bus. Travel time paid. Required: Federal Work Study eligibility. \$14/hr. Michal-Ann Golay at mgolay@cpsd.us.

Center For Family Connections seeks worker to input text, graphics onto website via content management system. Anticipated commitment: 30-50 hours. Salary neg. Brief resume of related experiences, some reference to Caitlin Fitzgerald at caitlin@kinnect.org.

Novelist Ruth Ozeki talks about her work in meat and potatoes

Ruth Ozeki first took on meat. Now it's potatoes.

In her first novel, "My Year of Meats," she exposed the dangers of the meat industry's use of growth hormone. Her latest book, "All Over Creation," tackles potato farming, genetic engineering and eco-terrorism.

The award-winning filmmaker and novelist will read from "All Over Creation" on Monday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in Room 6-120. The reading will be followed by a question-and-answer session and a book signing.

As artist in residence at MIT February 28 to March 3, Ozeki will visit classes, tour labs and share informal meals with faculty, staff and students.

Ozeki's work has been characterized by USA Today as "ardent and passionate...rare and provocative." Her first novel won numerous awards and has been translated into 10 languages and published in 14 countries.

"All Over Creation," called a "modern epic" by the



Ruth Ozeki

Boston Globe, is the story of a prodigal daughter's return to the family's Idaho potato farm. Once there, she must deal with her aging parents, old friends and lovers, and radical environmentalists who are protesting genetically engineered potatoes and corporate agriculture. The book won a 2004 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation, and the Willa Literary Award for Contemporary Fiction.

Born and raised in New Haven, Conn., by an American father and a Japanese mother, Ozeki studied English and Asian Studies at Smith College and traveled extensively in Asia. She received a Japanese Ministry of Education Fellowship to do graduate work in classical Japanese literature at Nara University. During her years in Japan, she worked in Kyoto's entertainment or "water" district as a bar hostess, studied flower arrangement, Noh drama and mask carving, founded a language school, and taught in the English department at Kyoto Sangyo University.

Ozeki returned to New York in 1985 and began her film career as an art director. After several years in television production, she started making her own films. "Body of Correspondence" (1994) won the New Visions Award at the San Francisco Film Festival and was aired on PBS. "Halving the Bones" (1995), an award-winning autobiographical film, tells the story of Ozeki's journey as she brings her grandmother's remains home from Japan.

A frequent speaker on college and university campuses, Ozeki currently divides her time between New York City, where she serves on the board of Women Make Movies, and British Columbia, where she writes, knits socks, and raises exotic chickens with her husband, artist Oliver Kellhammer.

Ozeki's residency is sponsored by the Alan W. Katzenstein Memorial Fund, established in 1998 in memory of alumnus Katzenstein by his wife Rhoda. The reading is co-sponsored by the Center for New Words.



PHOTO / WALLY SKALJ

The Calder Quartet, shown posing on a Los Angeles sidewalk, will perform at MIT on Feb. 25.

Visiting artists share their talent, experience

String quartet gives free concert

The Calder String Quartet, a young, highly accomplished Los Angeles-based ensemble, will perform Haydn's Quartet Op. 76, No. 1; Debussy's String Quartet; and Bartok's Quartet No. 1 in a free concert at Kresge Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m.

The quartet—Benjamin Jacobson, Eric Byers and Boston natives Jonathan Moerschel and Andrew Bulbrook—has created a sensation with its combination of traditional chamber music and the avant-garde. The group has been praised for its "splendor and substance" (Alan Rich, L.A. Weekly) and its "accomplished and touching performance" (Chris Pasles, Los Angeles Times). The quartet is the resident quartet of the graduate program at The Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles.

The Calder Quartet takes its name from the American sculptor and mobile artist, Alexander Calder, whose sculpture, "The Big Sail," a 40-foot-high painted steel stabile, graces MIT's McDermott Court. Calder's work inspired Jean-Paul Sartre to write: "His one aim is to create chords and cadences of unknown movements."

Baritone Milnes to conduct master classes

MIT choir members and vocal students will have the opportunity to work with one of the foremost operatic baritones of his generation, Sherrill Milnes, who will be artist

in residence at MIT from February 24-26.

On Friday, Feb. 25, a public video presentation about Milnes' career will be screened from noon to 1 p.m. That evening, Milnes will conduct an open master class with MIT students from 7 to 9 p.m. Both events are in Killian Hall.

Milnes studied at Drake University and Northwestern University before joining the Boris Goldovsky Opera Company in 1960. He made his major debuts in 1964, first with the New York City Opera and later the same year at the Teatro Nuovo in Milan and the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where he sang 654 performances over 35 years.

Hailed as one of the greatest Verdi baritones of the modern era, Milnes has performed roles as diverse as Judge Turpin in Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd" and Mozart's Don Giovanni. Milnes has also performed on more than 50 recordings and 10 videos. His autobiography, "American Aria: From Farm Boy to Opera Star" was published in 1998.

Director Max Hafler will speak about his craft

Actor/director Max Hafler will present a talk titled "Faustus: Adapting and Directing the Elizabethan Bad Boy, Christopher Marlowe" on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. in Room 14E-304. Hafler teaches in the theater program at the National University of Ireland, in Galway. His radio play, "Albion Tower," written in rap, verse and prose, won the U.K. Commission for Racial Equality's Radio Award.

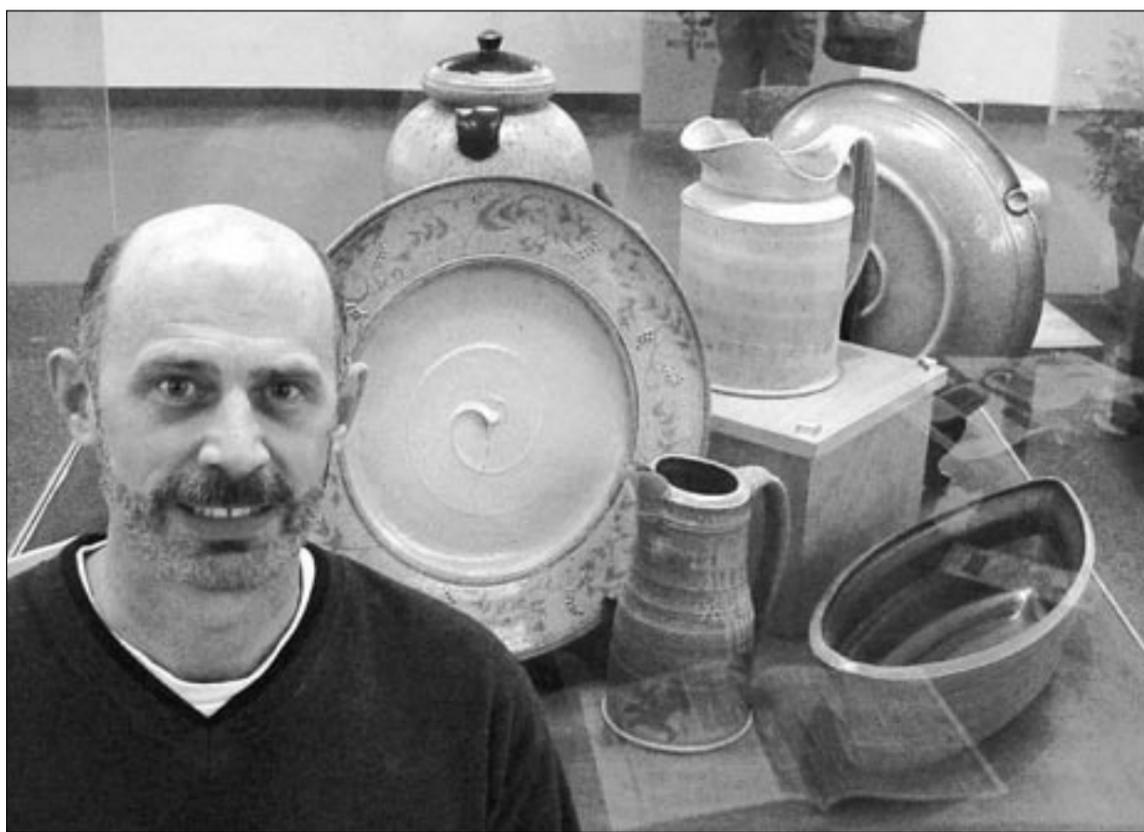


PHOTO / RENE CHEN

Finnegan's ware

Ceramic works by Darrell Finnegan, the newly appointed technical director at the Student Art Association's (SAA) ceramics studio, are on view through Feb. 28 in one of the SAA's new display cases on the fifth floor of the Student Center. An SAA instructor since 1997, Finnegan is a professional potter and graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art. His work has been displayed throughout New England.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 16 - 20



Daffodils

Daffodil Days are celebrated each February to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Bouquets can be ordered for \$7 through department coordinators through Feb. 25, or purchased on the spot in Lobby 10 and Building 25 from March 16 to 18.

WEDNESDAY February 16



\$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Press Conference
Announcement of 2005 winner. 10:30am. Student Center, 3rd Floor. 253-3352.



The Greatest Tools on Earth - MIT Slide Rule Collection
Celebrate the magical tool that helped engineers design everything from skyscrapers to space shuttles. Noon. MIT Museum. 253-4444.



Arts Colloquium
Poet/author Bill Corbett speaks on his work. 5pm. Room 14E-304. Reservations required. 253-9821 by Feb 11.



A New Chance for Israel-Palestine?
Talk by Naomi Chazan. 6pm. Bartos Auditorium. 253-3121.

THURSDAY February 17



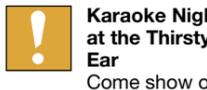
MIT Chapel Concert
Lexington Sinfonietta Chamber Players. Music by Mrs. H.H. A. Beach. Noon. MIT Chapel. 253-9800.



Election 2004: Did the Media Fail?
Panel discussion with PBS' Terence Smith, Boston Globe's Cathy Young and Reason magazine. 5pm. Bartos Theater. 253-3521.



IFILM Seminar
Discussion and showing of the film, "Jacques le Fataliste." 8pm. Room 4-237.



Karaoke Night at the Thirsty Ear
Come show off your talent. 21+, proper ID required. 8pm.

FRIDAY February 18



Tax Information Session for International Scholars
Information about federal and state tax filing and instructions for CINTAX. 10am. Stratton Student Center, 3rd Floor. 253-2851.



Focus on the Arts: Adèle Naudé Santos
MIT's new dean of the School of Architecture and Planning speaks about the future of the school. 11:30am. Room 10-340. 253-3656.



Iraqi Civilian Deaths: The Numbers and the Implications
Talk by Dr. Les Roberts, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University. Noon. Room E38-714. 253-3121.



Comedy Collage
Three-hour comedy showcase. \$3. 7:15pm. Kresge Auditorium. 225-7429.

SATURDAY February 19



"Gaijin" Photographs from Japan
by Bahadir and Melissa Kavlaki, administrative assistant II, Office of Environment, Health and Safety. 1-6pm. Room 7-238. 258-5590.



Varsity Men's and Women's Fencing New England Championship
8am. Johnson Athletic Center. 258-5265.



Chinese New Year Banquet
Entertainment and a full course meal. \$12. 6pm. Walker Memorial.



PULSE: One Beat...One World
Drumming, Jazz, Breakdancing, Hip-Hop, Step, Spoken Word, and more. 8pm. Kresge Auditorium.



Underwater Hockey
Scuba Club invites all to participate. 8:15pm. Z-Center pool.

SUNDAY February 20



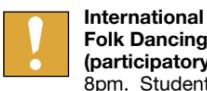
"Phase II: Visualizing Physics: Transforming Science Learning at MIT"
An insider's view of how MIT is redesigning the way it teaches physics. Noon-5pm. MIT Museum. 253-4444.



"Celebrate 350: Jewish Life in America"
Exhibit chronicling the history, accomplishments, and contributions of American Jews. W11-Small Dining Room Gallery. 253-2982.



Hands-on Physics Demonstrations
Try out the same experiments as MIT students taking "Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism." 2pm. MIT Museum.



International Folk Dancing (participatory)
8pm. Student Center, Lobdell Dining Hall. 253-FOLK.

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

Go Online! Office of the Arts website at: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/office>.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

"THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES"

MIT production of Eve Ensler's drama, benefits movement to stop violence against women and girls. \$10, \$8 MIT. Feb. 17-19.

Feb. 17

Kresge Little Theater
8 p.m.

FAUSTUS

Irish playwright Max Hafler discusses "Faustus: Adapting and Directing the Elizabethan Bad Boy, Christopher Marlowe." 253-9821.

Feb. 23

Room 14E-304
5 p.m.

LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

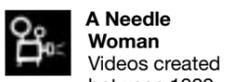
Performance event that explores aspects of African-American history in vignettes written and performed by MIT students. 253-4720.

Feb. 24

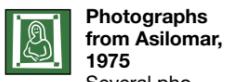
Sala de Puerto Rico
6 p.m.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 21 - 27

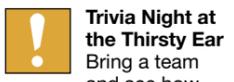
MONDAY February 21



A Needle Woman
Videos created between 1999 and 2001, document Kimssooja, dressed in simple gray clothing standing rigidly in the busy streets of Tokyo, Shanghai, Delhi, New York, Mexico City, Cairo, Lagos, and London. Media Test Wall, Whitaker Bldg 56. On view 24 hours. 253-4400.



Photographs from Asilomar, 1975
Several photographs from the International Conference on Recombinant DNA Molecules held in February 1975. All day. Across from 14N-118. 253-5136.



Trivia Night at the Thirsty Ear
Bring a team and see how smart you really are. 21+, proper ID required. 10pm.

TUESDAY February 22



Prospects for Peace in Israel/Palestine
Sari Nusseibeh, Arab University of Jerusalem and Henry Siegman, Council on Foreign Relations speak. Noon. Bartos Theater. 253-8306.



Engineers Week Programs
Come speak with MIT engineering professors, researchers, and students for Engineers Week. 2pm. MIT Museum. 253-4444.



"North American Border Controls in a Changing Economic and Security Context"
Peter Andreas, Brown University. 4:30pm. Building E38, 7th floor conference room. 258-7706.

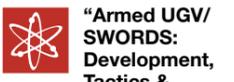


Lebanese-Syrian Relations
Adib Farha talk, "Lebanese-Syrian Relations: An Insider's Perspective." 7pm. Room 32-141.

WEDNESDAY February 23



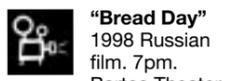
Curator's Talk by Jane Farver
Director Jane Farver will be giving a gallery tour of the exhibitions, "Pavel Braila" and "Kimssooja: Seven Wishes and Secrets." Noon. List Center.



"Armed UGV/SWORDS: Development, Tactics & Deployment"
Talk by Barbara J. Machak of ARDEC. Noon. Building E38, 6th floor conference room. 253-8092.

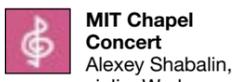


How Our Gypsies Sing
Talk by Petra Margita Gelbart on Romani cultures in the popular and scholarly imagination. 6:30pm. List Center.

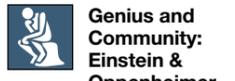


"Bread Day"
1998 Russian film. 7pm. Bartos Theater.

THURSDAY February 24



MIT Chapel Concert
Alexey Shabalin, violin. Works of J.S. Bach and Peter Child. Noon. MIT Chapel. 253-9800.

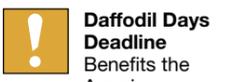


Genius and Community: Einstein & Oppenheimer
Special Dibner Institute lecture with Silvan S. Schweber. 3:30pm. Room E56-100. 253-8721.



Joya in Concert
Music of Bjork, Aretha Franklin, and Cyndi Lauper as well as jazz standards and originals. 7pm. Kresge Little Theater.

FRIDAY February 25



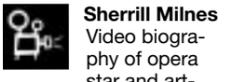
Daffodil Days Deadline
Benefits the American Cancer Society. Delivery March 16. \$7. Room 3-207.



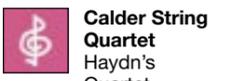
MIT Gardeners Spring Plant Sale
Spring plants. 1am-3pm. Lobby 10. 253-2269.



"Constructing Stata: Photographs by Richard M. Sobol"
Gallery talk. 5pm. Room 10-105. 253-4444.



Sherrill Milnes
Video biography of opera star and artist-in-residence. Noon. Killian Hall. 253-9800.

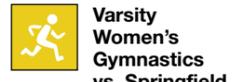


Calder String Quartet
Haydn's Quartet, Debussy's String Quartet, Bartok's No. 1. 8pm. Kresge Auditorium. 253-9800.

SATURDAY February 26



NEWMAC Men's Swimming and Diving Championship
8am. \$4. Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Pool. 258-5265.



Varsity Women's Gymnastics vs. Springfield College
4pm. Du Pont Gymnasium. 258-5265.



St. Simeon Celebration
Sponsored by the Graduate Student Council and the MIT Organization of Serbian Students. 5pm. RoomW20-306.

SUNDAY February 27



Gallery Talk by Hiroko Kikuchi
Museum Educator, Hiroko Kikuchi, will be giving a gallery tour of the exhibitions, "Pavel Braila" and "Kimssooja: Seven Wishes and Secrets." 2pm. List Center.



International Folk Dancing with live music (participation)
Live music provided by the International Music Club. 8pm. Lobdell Dining Hall (2nd floor). 253-FOLK.