$20M project entrusts MIT with future of computing

MIT has teamed up with Quanta Computer Inc. on a five-year, $20 million joint research project designed to change the way people interact with technology.

Project TParty, announced on Friday, April 8, will address the complexity of today’s computing landscape. Where-as people currently have to maintain a wide array of “smart” devices—from cell phones to computers to personal digital assistants—on their own, TParty is intended to move such work into the background, making such computing tasks as upgrades and backups more or less invisible to the user.

MIT President Susan Hockfield commented, “I am delighted that MIT and Quanta are collaborating in this ambitious initiative, which has tremendous implications for the future of personal computing. This partnership builds on MIT’s long tradition of technological innovation and creative interaction with industry to address issues that are increasingly important to all of us in the digital age.”

The work means creating the next generation of platforms for computing and communication. TParty will require reengineering an extension of the underlying technical infrastructure, the creation of new interfaces and the exploration of new ways of managing and accessing information.

The partnership pairs the huge brain trust of MIT with the practical skills of the world’s largest maker of laptop computers. “We strongly believe that the best value for our research partners is achieved when we work together,” said Professor Rodney Brooks, Director of the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), the MIT laboratory that will house TParty. “Together Quanta and CSAIL will establish a team and work toward a new world of self-organizing devices that will make our lives more pleasant and productive.”

Mr. Barry Lam, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Quanta, said at the signing ceremony in Taipei, Taiwan: “We are very pleased to team up with the renowned research institution, MIT, to embark on a new IT trendsetting endeavor.

Combining the exceptional research resources of MIT with our world-lead-ing innovative design and manufacturing engine of Quanta, we are excited about the prospects of bringing brand-new products and services to the world that will improve all of our lives and cultures.”

Lacing up for 24,795-Smoot race

Sarah H. Wright News Office

If you’re planning to attend the Boston Marathon on Monday, be sure to give a shout out to the many members of the MIT community participating in the race.

Thanks to “Simoot Smart,” MIT’s web site for members of the Institute community involved in the Marathon, you’ll know whose names to yell.

“Simoot Smart” went live on March 30 and within days, MIT runners, fans and family members had shared their enthusiasm for the 26.2-mile (or 24,795-Smoot) race from Hopkinton to Boston in which 20,000 people will compete.

“Simoot Smart,” named after the MIT measurement derived from an old fraternity prank, now contains dozens of stories from MIT marathoners, from first-timers to veterans, from students to alumni.

Some first-timers, like Michelle Tiu, a senior in management, were surprised to be running at all. Tiu’s original intent was to support her friends. She would run alongside them for five miles, no more.

But, true to the MIT spirit, she got race
Facilities offers construction update

As part of the continuing reconstruction of Massachusetts Avenue, Roads Corp. is working this week to remove 19 trees adjacent to the sidewalk, the Department of Facilities reported on April 11.

Many of the targeted trees have suffered damage from trucks, road salt and years of being overshadowed by larger trees, trees that are healthy enough will be transplanted, the department reported. When the new sidewalks are installed next fall, 100-pin oak trees will be planted along Massachusetts Avenue from Memorial Drive to Lafayette Square.

The project is not expected to affect MIT trees or roads. Meanwhile, Vassar Street traffic will be affected by utility work over the next three weeks, the department reported. Vehicles will be restricted to one lane at times during work hours, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., but a police officer will be on duty.

For more information on construction on or around campus, visit the Department of Facilities web site at web.mit.edu/evolving/updates.shtml.

Four earn place in Time

Three men and one woman with ties to MIT were among the 100 most influential people in the world last year, according to Time magazine.

“The Time 100: The 2004 Most Influential People in the World,” which will appear on newsstands on Tuesday, April 19, cites Kofi Annan (S.M. 1972), secretary general of the United Nations and Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2001; Eric Lander, professor of biology at MIT and founding director of the Broad Institute; Carly Fiorina (S.M. 1989), former chairman and chief executive officer of Hewlett-Packard; and Frank Gehry, the visionary architect who designed MIT’s Ray and Maria Stata Center for Computer, Information and Intelligence Sciences.

All four will be honored at a dinner party at the Time Warner Center in New York City on April 19.

The 2004 Time 100 profiles 84 men and 16 women who “shaped the world events,” according to the editors. Some, like George W. Bush, “camed to their status by means of a very public possession of power.” Others, like Fidel’s Aliaga Johnson, are “rarely heard from in public, but have a real influence on the great events of our time.” Still others on the list “affect our lives by their moral example,” such as Nelson Mandela, the Time editors note.

Kofi Annan, 67, one of 22 “Leaders and Revolutionaries” on the Time 100 list, became U.N. secretary general in 1997. The 2003 Nobel Committee described Annan’s U.N. leadership as “pre-eminent in bringing new life to the organization,” by emphasizing the U.N.’s obligations to protecting human rights; to meeting such new challenges as HIV/AIDS and international terrorism, and to efficient use of its resources. Among Annan’s peers in world influence, according to Time, are Bill Gates and Pope John Paul II.

Lander, 50, is founding director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and a popular professor of biology at MIT. A MacArthur “genius” award winner in 1987, he achieved world renown for his leadership role in the Human Genome Project, which completed sequencing of the human genome in 2003. Lander appears on the Time 100 list of “Scientists and Thinkers,” which includes U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Steven Pinker, former MIT professor of psychology. Tim Berners-Lee, CSAIL senior research scientist and inventor of the World Wide Web, was a 1999 Time honoree in this category.

Fiorina, 51, served as chairman and chief executive officer of Hewlett-Packard Co., from July 1999 to February 2005. A member of the MIT Corporation, Fiorina sits on the New York Stock Exchange and wields influence among such “Builders and Titans” as investment guru Warren Buffet, media mogul Rupert Murdoch and Apple CEO Steve Jobs, according to Time. Fiorina was the 2000 MIT commencement speaker.

Architect Gehry, 76, is the 1989 Pritzker Prize winner known worldwide for his adventurous, often controversial buildings such as the titanium-clad Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. He joins producer Jerry Bruckheimer, actor Sean Penn and Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling on the influential “Artists and Entertainers” list for 2004.
Astronomers led by an MIT professor have revised the scale used to assess the threat of asteroids and comets colliding with Earth to better communicate those risks with the public.

The overall goal is to provide easy-to-understand information to assuage concerns about a potential doomsday collision with our planet.

The Torino scale, a risk-assessment system similar to the Richter scale used for earthquakes, was adopted by a working group of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) in 1999 at a meeting in Torino, Italy. On the scale, zero means virtually no chance of collision, while 10 means certain global catastrophe.

"The idea was to create a simple system conveying clear, consistent information about near-Earth objects (NEOs)," or asteroids and comets that appear to be heading toward the planet, said Richard Binzel, a professor in MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences and the creator of the scale.

Some critics, however, said that the original Torino scale was actually scaring people, "the opposite of what was intended," said Binzel. Hence the revisions.

"For a newly discovered NEO, the revised scale still ranks the impact hazard from 0 to 10, and the calculations that determine the hazard level are still exactly the same," Binzel said. The difference is that the wording for each category now better describes the attention or response warranted for each.

For example, in the original scale NEOs of level 2-4 were described as "meriting concern." The revised scale describes objects with those rankings as "meriting attention by astronomers"—not necessarily the public.

Equally important in the revisions, says Binzel, is the emphasis on how continued tracking of an object is almost always likely to reduce the hazard assessment. "Once sufficient data are obtained," he said, "the general process of classifying NEO hazards is roughly analogous to forecasting hurricane track predictions. Predictions of a storm's path are updated as more and more tracking data are acquired."

According to Dr. Donald K. Yeomans, manager of NASA's Near Earth Object Program Office, "The revised Torino scale should go a long way toward assuring the public that while we cannot always immediately rule out Earth impacts for recently discovered near-Earth objects, any observations will almost certainly allow us to do so."

The highest Torino level ever given an asteroid was a 4 last December, with a 2 percent chance of hitting Earth in 2029. And after extended tracking of Chiron, a Kuiper Belt object, its orbit was classified to level 0, effectively no chance of collision, "the outcome correctly emphasized by astronomers being most likely," Binzel said.

"It is just a matter of the scale becoming more well known and understood. Just as there is little in no reason for public concern over a magnitude 3 earthquake, there is little cause for public attention for NEO level 3 objects," Binzel said.

The Torino scale was developed because astronomers are spotting more and more NEOs through projects like the Lincoln Near Earth Asteroid Research project at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory. "There is no increase in the number of asteroids out there or how frequently they encounter our planet," Binzel said, "but there is our awareness of them," Binzel noted.

Some critics have questioned whether they should keep potential NEO collisions secret or "be completely open with what we know when we know it," Binzel said. The IAU working group, of which Binzel is a member, resoundingly decided on the latter.

The revised wording of the scale was published last fall as a special section of "The Detection of Hazardous Comets and Asteroids." The IAU working group's revisions were undertaken through consultation with astronomers worldwide for near- ly a year before being published.

Binzel concludes that "the chance of something hitting the Earth in the near future is a major impact is very unlikely. But although unlikely, it is still not impossible. The only way to be certain of no asteroid impacts in the forecast is to keep looking."

For more information on the revised Torino scale go to: neo.gl.nasa.gov/torino_scale.html.
The dynamics of religion and its role in contemporary political and social life will be explored in an MIT lecture series beginning tomorrow, April 14.

The series, "Religion in the 21st Century: Understanding the Dynamics and Impact of Change," will offer four sessions and discussions on how the shifts among and within religions are affecting the way many of us work, vote, teach, and even define themselves and the world.

Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Philip S. Khoury said, "The series couldn’t be more timely, and the featured speakers are among the leading figures in the field of the impact on religion and culture of politics, society, and the media, domestically and globally."

"Religion in the 21st Century" opens on April 14 with “Women’s Rights and Islam.” A talk by Lama Abu-Odeh, associate professor of law at Georgetown University, Abu-Odeh has taught courses in criminal law, comparative family law and Islamic law. She has written widely on feminism and Islam and is the author of a forthcoming publication, "Modernizing Muslim Family Law: The Case of Egypt.”

The MIT Program in Human Rights and Justice sponsored the talk by Abu-Odeh.

"Around the world, there are now two competing forces for social change: one emanating from within religion and another emanating from within secular and liberal ideals. Both promise utopias but often deliver nightmares. The real issue is this: Are there elements within both forces who could somehow come together and collaborate toward a more human and just world order? Are the two worldviews so incompatible? This seminar series will shed some light on this question, which is crucial for the future of human rights," said Buhalishtrian Rajagopal, Ford International Associate Professor of Law and Development and Director, MIT Program in Human Rights and Justice.

On April 21, R. Scott Appleby, director of the Program in Religion and Culture, MIT, will discuss “The Rise of Fundamentalism in the 20th Century.”

Appleby, a professor of history, is the editor of "Spokesmen for the Despised: Fundamentalist Leaders of the Middle East" (1997) and co-editor of the volume "The Fundamentalism Project" (1992-1995).

Mark Juergensmeyer, director of Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, will analyze “The Meaning of Religious Terrorism” on April 28.


On May 5, Gustav Neibuhr, associate professor of religion and the media at Syracuse University, will deliver a talk, "Religion and the Media in the U.S."


All four "Religion in the 21st Century" sessions will be held at 7 p.m. in Building W1. The events are free and registration is required. For more information, contact: Patricia Weinmann at 617-253-8515 or by email, weinmann@mit.edu.

A talk by Lama Abu-Odeh, associate professor of law at Georgetown University, Abu-Odeh has taught courses in criminal law, comparative family law and Islamic law. She has written widely on feminism and Islam and is the author of a forthcoming publication, "Modernizing Muslim Family Law: The Case of Egypt."

The "Religion in the 21st Century" series was organized by the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT with co-sponsorship by the Program in Human Rights and Justice at MIT, the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and the Office of the Dean for Student Life.

"We wanted to highlight resources that people did not know," said Nees, who called it, "a cute approach to giving a lot of important information.

The idea came to them during the annual Pan-Hellenic October retreat. "We were talking about vision," said Kurnik, and it occurred to her that what was needed was a project that could help people on a larger scale.

One of the main goals for the booklet is that it will encourage women to look at MIT differently, "It is a good way to convince women to join communities here," said Kurnik, a humanities major.

"We wanted to create something that was a good place for women to be for," she said.

Close to 20 writers contributed to the project, offering tips they believed would prove useful during a student’s first months at MIT. For example, the book includes maps locating women’s restrooms and emergency phones. There are also directions to major shopping areas. Much of the information was hard earned after years of experience at the Institute. Some of it was even new to the writers.

"I am so excited to have the book now because now we will have all this information too," said Kurnik with a laugh.

Both Nees and Kurnik agreed that women often have a different MIT experience from many men. "Sometimes it feels like you have to prove yourself, both to yourself and to other people," said Nees, a chemical engineering major.

Both women said that the Institute has made efforts to improve on projects, offering tips they believed would prove useful during a student’s first months at MIT. For example, the book includes maps locating women’s restrooms and emergency phones. There are also directions to major shopping areas. Much of the information was hard earned after years of experience at the Institute. Some of it was even new to the writers.

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Both women said that the Institute has been moving in a positive direction in the past few years. Women now make up 43 percent of the undergraduate population according to the booklet, which offers a “First Year of Women at MIT” on the back.

The booklet, sponsored by Admissions, the Academic Resource Center, Student Life Programs and the Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (AFTER), will be updated each year, Nees said. "We especially want to get feedback. We will want suggestions. It would be nice to update it each year."
Adoption essays explore family ‘Matters’

Sarah H. Wright

A village of children is raising new families, and “Adoption Matters,” a book coedited by Sally Haslanger, professor of linguistics and philosophy, portrays the ways that families formed through adoption are altering how we define “family,” “mother” and “love.”

That village among us is a million strong—the current estimate of the number of adoptees in America—with 1.5 million under the age of 18. Most of those children live or have lived in new kinds of families—families created by birth mothers and adoptive parents; families with international and racial diversity; single-parent families; and families where there are two moms or two dads.

“Adoption Matters” (Cornell University Press), which came out this month, offers 13 essays that combine personal experience within these new families—the growing village—with a feminist and philosophical framework through which to engage with the implications of adoption for policy, culture and ideas about identity in the United States.

Haslanger’s own experience dramatically and movingly illustrates the book’s double purpose. Like most of the essayists, she is an adoptive mother and a philosopher. Haslanger and her husband, Steve Yablo, MIT professor of philosophy, are both who adopted two black children, Zina, 8, and Isaac, 10. Haslanger was present at Zina’s birth; Isaac joined their family when he was 4 weeks old.

Haslanger and Yablo were chosen to be the adoptive parents by the birth mother (in Isaac’s case) and by the birth parents (in Zina’s case). “Their birth families are tremendously supportive of us,” Haslanger said. The resulting large, extended family has maintained mutual contact, including visits to the birth parents’ homes, allings and grandparents (see excerpt).

Haslanger’s own experience is written in her own essay, “You Mixed?:” in how racial identity can be “disrupted and transformed.” How her identity has changed tremendously through the experience of parenting black children. “As I’ve emphasized, I am not marked as African descent. But as a parent of children who are not of my own race, I have a life is formed with their physical being and social reality, and by extension, the life of their extended families and their racial community. And their realities have in an important sense become mine,” Haslanger writes.

In conversation, she added that local community leaders, too. “Zina has never been the only transracially adopted child in a school classroom in Cambridge.” Haslanger said. The essays in “Adoption Matters” explore the “contrast and overlap between the family as a social association and the family viewed as a natural or biological entity,” the editors write in their introduction. Historically, “kith” has referred to the former and “kin,” to the latter, they note, and the largest adoption animation both in new ways.

Charlotte Witt, Haslanger’s co-editor, included an account of her daughter in family. Witt, professor of philosophy and humanities at the University of New Hampshire, explores the social and personal impact of narratives of family resemblance—“You have Murray’s eyes!” “Heath women should never drink!”—in her essay, “Family Ressemblances: Adoption, Personal Identity and Genetic Essentialism.”

In “Being Adopted and Being a Philoso- pher: Exploring Identity and the ‘Desire to Know’ Differently,” essayist Kimberly Leighton reports her experience as an adopted child who, as a young adult, sought—and located—her birth mother and now includes her along with her parents as “family.” Leighton teaches philosophy at Cornell.

Other essays trace directly the contrast between what’s considered “normal” for families according to legal and social policy and what is real life among contempor- ary kin and kin.

MIT technology wins Putnam

Sasha Brown

For the second year in a row, the MIT math team has finished first in the celebrated William Lowell Putnam intercollegiate mathematics competition.

Of the close to 4,000 college students from across the country and Canada who took the six-hour test, three of the top five students came from MIT. Two of the three were on the math team. With more than 100 student test-takers, MIT sent more students than any other of the 535 colleges and universities that competed.

“We knew we had a very strong team,” said co-coach Richard Stanley, the Norman Levinson Professor of Applied Mathematics. The three-person team, composed of senior math- ematics majors Brad Barton and Emanuel Stoica and senior mathematics major Daniel Kane, had two of the top five finishers. The third finisher was an undergraduate student, civil engineering major Vlad- dime Barzaw, who was not on the team. Both Kane and Barton have been part of the team in each of their years at MIT, Stanley said.

The annual 12-question test, first adminis- tered in 1938, is typically given on the first weekend of December and the second Sunday in January. The highest score was 109.

Though the problems are generally chosen based on each student’s background and level of difficulty, students usually opt to prepare on their own. The problems do require original thought or ideas. There is no formula learned in a class that they can plug in,” Stanley said.

The test is so difficult that many of the tests are returned to Putnam graders blank. Worth a total of 120 points, the median score on the exam was a 0 this year, said Stanley. The highest score was 109.

The winning team’s score is a compilation of the scores of the three members. The team members are generally chosen based on each student’s background and level of difficulty, students usually opt to prepare on their own. Stanley said. “There really is not much time to prepare,” he said.

The University of Mathematics will receive an award of $25,000, and each team member will receive $2,000. Also, the students who made it into the top five will each receive $2,500. We are quite pleased,” Stanley said.
found the carbon spike did not occur with the 580 glaciation. It was in fact separated continents to the same time span. "No one has been able to prove this," Condie notes. Moreover, the embryos in China were also linked to changes in the global carbon cycle within 200,000 years. The snowball Earth theory had predicted that sea ice would form the world, but no one has been able to prove it," Condie notes. The fact that we can date these carbon caps on widely separated continents to the same time span suggests that rapid deglaciation has a global scale," incidentally, the researchers also discovered that the deglaciation happened in 500,000 years, not the previously estimated 600 million. In addition to clarifying how and when the events in ancient worlds unfolded, this work bolsters the theory that atmospheric chemistry, climate, and biology are strongly linked. Such synergy between geol- ogy and biology that will help solidify the framework for the current debate about global climate change in the modern world.

Jacobs left MIT to become associate professor of computer science and engineering at UCSB in 1966, in part because of the lower cost of housing in San Diego, he said. While teaching at MIT, he co-authored with Professor John McCarthy "Principles of Communication Engineer- ing," a textbook in digital communications theory.

The recipient of numerous awards, Jacobs served on the Institute of Medicine's National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Outside of Dorchester, Mass. His main motivation has become a way of life. "I know that's what'll get me to the finish line," said Jacobs, who was training so much anyways, I got talked into running the WHOLE thing," Tiu said. "Soon the five miles became eight, which has gotten me through all this training, and I think that's what'll get me to the finish line."

For Marathon veterans like Steve Bratt, running for 33 years, "I'm enjoying being out there. It's a great feeling to see how much people are enjoying the race," said Bratt, who has been running for 33 years. "I'm enjoying being out there. It's a great feeling to see how much people are enjoying the race," said Bratt, who has been running for 33 years.

Many MIT runners took up a double challenge, completing the grueling race itself and raising funds for charitable causes such as cancer research. Anne Braddock, helping others has been the focus of her running career. "I'm enjoying being out there. It's a great feeling to see how much people are enjoying the race," said Bratt, who has been running for 33 years.

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Dramashop heads ‘Downtown’

Lynn Heinemann
Office of Arts

“Count 10 in Arabic and try to run...” That’s how playwright Tennessee Williams started his one-act play “The Demolition Downtown,” and that’s the starting point for Assistant Professor Jay Scherb’s direction of the upcoming Dramashop production.

Using two separate casts and staging the short play as a two-part drama, Scherb presents the work first in English and then in a mix of several languages. As the play is repeated with parts in Korean, Bengali, Omano, Russian, Spanish, Lithuanian and Cantoanese, what at first appears to be an “American problem” is revealed to be an international one.

Written in 1971, three years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., “The Demolition Downtown” reflects the harsh realities of a white-hot civil rights movement seen through the haze of American materialism. Military forces have taken over the government, a curfew has been imposed, and individuals of the upper middle class have disappeared after being invited to a municipal ashtray. Amid the chaos, two families live in denial, trying to survive at whatever cost.

“The play shows the end of America as we know it, with the systematic eradication of an entire class of society,” Scherb said. “But Scherb has taken the play further—using language to expand this American cautionary tale into global one. ‘Each actor built his own translation,’ said Scherb, and many consulted parents for language help.

“Part of MIT’s richness is the large percentage of students who are first-generation Americans,” Scherb said. “This production really brings that fact home.”

Scherb has also created a video component for the production with physics senior Nasruddin Abbas Nazerali. Using three live-feed video signals that distort the landscape, this “experiment in live cinema” uses depth of field, point of view and extended close-ups to heighten the impending catastrophe, Scherb said.

The two versions of Dramashop’s “The Demolition Downtown” have the same setting, but the foreign language adaptation takes place in the rubble of the first work’s conclusion. “Williams predicted a violent revolution and he predicted that upper-middle-class America would have to lose,” said Scherb.

The outcome may be bleak, but the play is “packed with Williams’ trademark wit and flaming humor, with one explosion after another,” Scherb said.

“The Demolition Downtown” plays April 21-23 and April 28-30 at 8 p.m. in Kresge Little Theater. Tickets are $8, $6 for MIT/Wellesley students; tickets to the Thursday, April 21, preview performance are free. For more information or reservations, call (617) 253-2008 or visit web.mit.edu/jscherb/www/.

Jazzy birthday planned for Pomeroy

Herb Pomeroy was just 33 and already a nationally known soloist, bandleader and teacher when he was asked to direct MIT’s jazz ensemble in 1957. “It was either us or the other fellow,” says long-time MIT student and clarinetist Mark Harvey, who will conduct the FJE from 1995-99; composer, arranger and trumpeter Everett Longstreth, who directed the MIT Concert Jazz Band for 32 years; and musician and film composer Jamshed Shariﬁ (S.H. 1983), who led the ensemble from 1985 to 1993.

The concert will feature the world premiere of “The Quiet Words of the Wise” by Shariﬁ and performances by the MIT Alumni Jazz Band, led by Pomeroy and Longstreth, who will also guest conduct the FJE.

With Louis Armstrong as inspiration, Pomeroy chose the trumpet as his instrument. By 1953, he had performed with Charlie Parker, toured with Stan Kenton and Lionel Hampton with Serge Chaloff. Since that time, Pomeroy has become known as a “musician’s musician,” a leader in big band jazz and an improviser of uncommon stature. He was also an advisor to the faculty of the Berklee College of Music for 41 years.

The show will also feature several guest artists from Senegal and from the Boston area, with drumming provided by Rambash MIT.

The name “rambash” (pronounced “rahm-bach”) is a vocal mnemonic for a signature sabar rhythm. Founded in 2001 by Luis Craig, Prokopoff’s widow and former associate dean of MIT’s School of Architecture, this collection contains approximately 2,680 scores from the 17th century onward with special emphasis on 20th century music.

The concert will feature Serge Prokopoff’s “Sonata opus 115 for violin solo” by sophomore Sophie Rapoport on violin; Ernst Krenek’s “Trio for Violin, Clarinet and Piano” by freshman Brian Kardon on violin, junior Daniel Steele on clarinet and senior Kai Fung on piano; Oedon Pastors “Yiskor” by graduate student Andrew McPherson, on piano; Oedoen Partos’ “Yiskor” by resident artist and master Senegalese drummer Lamine Toure choreographed ‘Mbappat: A Spectacle of Senegalese Drumming, Dance and Wrestling,’ to be performed Sunday, April 24.

The normally quiet, studious atmosphere of the Rosalind Denny Music Library on Friday, April 15, at noon, the library will host an improvisational performance by Assistant Professor Brian Robison of a work he’s calling “Music in Stacks.” Audience members will be invited to select scores from the shelves of the library.

Robison will then incorporate elements of the chosen music into a polyphonic mosaic of musical styles that could range from medieval choral to Mozart to Miles Davis, which he’ll perform on electric guitar and phrase sampler.

The following Friday, April 22, at noon, MIT undergraduate students will perform an extensive collection of Stephen Prokopoff’s work. Donated to the Music Library in 2001 by Luis Craig, Prokopoff’s widow and former associate dean of MIT’s School of Architecture, this collection contains approximately 2,680 scores from the 17th century onward with special emphasis on 20th century music.

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For more information on these concerts, call (617) 253-5636.
### MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 13–17

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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>“The Body” Works by artists and chemists who have designed new technologies to see, record and transform live movement. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. MIT Museum. 253-4444.</td>
<td>10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>“Crossstalk—Why E-Learning Doesn’t Work to Fail” Professor Shigeto Miyagawa’s Crossstalk seminar on educational change. 2 p.m. noon-11. 253-0115.</td>
<td>2 p.m. noon-11.</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>“Music in Stacks” Composition series can only be performed in a music library. Noon 14:00-10:00. 253-5686.</td>
<td>Noon 14:00-10:00.</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>MIT Press Economics “Loading Dock” Tons of books will be on sale at drastically reduced prices—up to 90 percent off the original retail. April 16 and 17. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Building E38. 253-5248.</td>
<td>April 16 and 17.</td>
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### MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 18–24

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>“Women’s Rights and Islam” First program in a four-part series on religion in the 21st century. 253-0108.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>“The Future of Warfare: The Classic Principles of Warfare Changed, or Do They Still Apply?” Talk by Jeffrey Wasser, Professor of Strategic Studies at US Naval War College. 253-9800.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>“Who Wants Democracy in the Arab World?” Talk by Dr. Farzad Taborschi of the Lebanese American University in Beirut. 4:30 p.m. Room E51-095. 253-8981.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>“Fierce Forever” Show features the best drag performers (pique and kings) from the Boston area, as well as MIT students, staff and faculty. 5 p.m. Sala de Puerto Rico. 253-9800.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>“Introduction to Children’s Bharat Tuku Pratibha will introduce us to the Buddhist concepts of compassion and cherishing. 7 p.m. Room 4-237. 253-3003.</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Varsity Sailing - “Collisions, Chance” The seventh event in Collision Collective’s popular series will display works by artists from MIT and beyond who use new technologies in their work. 2 p.m.–6 p.m. Statler Center Gallery. 452-2852.</td>
<td>2 p.m.–6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>“Mabbat: A Spectacle of Senegalese Drumming” Dance-and-Wrestling” An interactive performance by MIT and Assistant Professor Patria Tang, artistic directors. 3 p.m. Kresge Auditorium. 253-9800.</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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### EDITOR’S CHOICE

**“Women’s Rights and Islam”**

First program in a four-part series on religion in the 21st century. 253-0108.

**“Fierce Forever”**

Show features the best drag performers (pique and kings) from the Boston area, as well as MIT students, staff and faculty. 5 p.m. Sala de Puerto Rico. 253-9800.

**“Introduction to Children’s Bharat Tuku Pratibha”**

Pratibha will introduce us to the Buddhist concepts of compassion and cherishing. 7 p.m. Room 4-237. 253-3003.

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

Go Online! Office of the Arts website at: [http://web.mit.edu/arts/office](http://web.mit.edu/arts/office)