Dining cooks up delicious changes
Sasha Brown
news office

MIT's hungry masses have a lot more choices this year.
Renovations to Lobdell Food Court, the Building 4 Cafe and the soon-to-reopen Pritchett Grill have made the dining alternatives more varied and plentiful than ever before.
Patrons at Lobdell Food Court may now choose Japanese sushi and stir-fry from Shinkansen Japan, Middle-Eastern cuisine, including talatat, from Sepal of Watertown, and pasta casarese, salads and soups from an Italian specialty shop, Mangia Mangia.
"We wanted to vary our offerings, give people more choices in dining," said Richard Berlin III, director of campus dining.
By January, a burger and Philadelphia cheese steak

MISTI week sees ‘Future of the Car’
Sarah H. Wright
news office

The MIT International Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI) held a series of events last week to draw attention to its international student internship program.
The talks were in a weeklong series of festivities, which included foreign films, food and entertainment, a soccer tournament and a series of orientations for students interested in participating in the program, which helps students get internships in China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico and Singapore.
"Car of the Future" panels were John Heywood, the Sun Jae Professor of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Sloan Autolab; Daniel Roos, professor in the Engineering Systems Division; and Peter Percival, a series of works by MIT composers this weekend.

Reid takes new top post
Will spearhead diversity efforts
Denise Brehm
news office

Karl Reid

MIT Chancellor Phillip L. Clay announced today that alumnus Karl W. Reid (S.B. 1984, S.M.) will become assistant to the chancellor and associate dean for undergraduate education effective Oct. 1. As assistant to the chancellor and associate dean, Reid will be responsible for coordinating many of MIT’s endeavors to increase diversity in the undergraduate and graduate student populations. He also will have the title of director of the Office of Minority Education.
The chancellor made the announcement jointly with Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine, indicating that the OME will in the future work with many offices at MIT to support minority students not just in their early years, but throughout their undergraduate and graduate education.
Reid is currently executive director of special programs in the School of Engineering and director of the nationally renowned MITES program that brings minority and other high school students to MIT during the summer and encourages them to matriculate at MIT or other selective universities. He founded two enrichment programs for local middle and high school students at MIT, and he teaches a freshman seminar on race, identity and achievement.
"Karl’s leadership of MITES has been nothing short of excellent," said Clay. "He is superb at analysis, but what makes him extraordinary is his ability to connect with young people in a way that motivates and inspires them. He is also a wonderful colleague. As an alumnus, he brings deep knowledge about how to support students and has demonstrated experience in partnering with faculty in promoting student learning.
Redwine said, "I am delighted that Karl Reid, whom I have known and admired for years, has agreed to take on the leadership of the Office of Minority Education here at MIT. Karl is a gifted teacher and administrator with a wonderful track record of accomplishments in this area. I know that all of us in the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education look forward to working with him to provide the best possible programs for our students.
The creation of the expanded position follows the recommendations of a faculty advisory committee that conducted a review of the OME during the past year and also served as the search committee for the director. The committee recommended that the new director have strong connections to the MIT senior administration, as well as to students and alumni.
Reid will be guided and assisted by another faculty advisory committee to be appointed by Clay. He replaces Kim R. Beamon, who has served as interim director of the Office of Minority Education for the past year and who will resume her previous role as associate director.
Reid is currently completing his doctoral degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he said that his research on diversity draws heavily on perspectives gained at MIT. "We have known for years that a diversity of backgrounds, ideas and learning proclivities raises the quality of the intellectual enterprise for all stakeholders at MIT," Reid said. "It is thus imperative that every subpopulation achieves academic success at the highest levels so that everyone will benefit."
A letter from the president

To members of the MIT community:

Welcome back! I hope that all of you had a wonderful summer, including some sunny days spent with family and friends. Now that the summer has ended and the new semester has begun, I want to bring you up to date on some developments in the academic and administrative areas. We have plans for the year ahead, and I look forward to hearing from you as we go forward.

Welcome to the new semester and faculty

First, I extend my warmest welcome to the remarkable new undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, and staff who have joined our community this fall. The tone at this year’s orientation events was warm and upbeat, and all of us owe special thanks to the many enthusiastic students, staff, faculty and staff who helped make the evening spectacular introduction to MIT. This year’s fresh faces bring new talent, new ideas, and new energy to the global reach and academic strength of our community, with students joining us from 46 states and 64 countries, and entering with the highest academic rankings of any previous year. Of course, their talents stretch well beyond academics: They include many musicians and artists, athletes, actors, entrepreneurs and leaders of all kinds.

New faces

Over the summer we announced a number of changes in our academic and administrative leadership. As you may know, our provost, Bob Brown, is now president and provost at Princeton University, and a successor has been named by Professor Rafael Reif. Executive Vice President John Curry left at the end of the semester to pursue a new education practice at Huron Consulting Group; she is to be replaced by a former president of Bose Corp., has agreed to serve as interim executive vice president. And Allan Rockefeller announced his intention to retire as treasurer by the end of this academic year. He will be joined by the new financial officer that we will, like most universities, separate the functions of treasurer and chief investment officer. We are very excited about the opportunities that the innovation in current energy research is expected to provide for both of these positions. I am most grateful for the outstanding job that John, and Allan, for their years of leadership and service to MIT.

New places

Summer has also seen many physical changes around campus. Handled with care, the number of remarkable new buildings in a short time frame, we need to maintain momentum and focus on the sum that will provide much-needed new and renovated facilities for the entire campus.

The first occupants are now moving into the magnificent new complex that will house the MIT.nano program and will make significant contributions to the academic and research programs of the Institute. The program is expected to reach more than 150 graduate students and at least 15 graduate students and postdocs in the next five years, and is expected to contribute to the Institute’s research and development efforts.

Under the leadership of faculty co-chairs Bob Armstrong (chemical engineering) and Ernie Moniz (physics and engineering systems), the council has been very active over the last few weeks, completing an inventory of current energy-related research at MIT and facilitating faculty and student activity in this area. Planning is under way for a series of high-level colloquia on campus, and the new Energy Laboratory is organizing a December workshop to bring industry perspectives to bear on the council’s work.

I am confident that the Energy Research Council will maintain MIT’s strategic leadership in the areas of creative and effective responses to the great challenges of our era.

MIT’s response to Hurricane Katrina

As I have said elsewhere, the response of the MIT community to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina has been remarkable.

Institutionally, we are hosting 10 undergraduates from Harvard University as part of the Harvard Initiative for Leaders in Science, the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, and the Laboratory for Learning and Memory, with dedication festivities scheduled during the fall.

We have also begun work on the new and renovated facilities for the Department of Brain and Cognitive Science and Engineering and the Spectroscopy Laboratory in Buildings 4, 6 and 8. The project will add a 49,000-square-foot floor rising in the Building 6 courtyard and revitalizing the infrastructure for almost one-third of the Main Group.

This project, along with the new academic and research facilities at the new complex that will house the MIT.nano program and the new Energy Laboratory, will make research administration both more effective and more efficient. I anticipate that such initiatives to come.

A look ahead

What do I see as I look to the year ahead?

One of the most important, the impact of MIT’s role in the world cannot be overstated. Hurricane Katrina’s destruction has highlighted a growing momentum in the use of fossil fuels and high energy consumption in urban infrastructure and other domains. The response will be an increased emphasis on alternative energy sources and technologies that can contribute to the diversification of the energy market. The impact of climate change and energy efficiency are among the most pressing global challenges.

With the recent passage of the Climate Change Act 2008, we are presented with an opportunity to contribute our research and expertise to the global effort to address this critical issue.

I am hopeful that we can make real progress on the issues that are central to the future of our planet and work towards a sustainable future together.

In addition to highlighting the importance of our work, the need to communicate our research and findings effectively is essential.

I am confident that the Energy Research Council will continue to lead the way in the areas of creative and effective responses to the great challenges of our era.

—MIT President Susan Hockfield
Expert outlines energy problems for MIT crowd

Denise Brehm
News Office

The future of energy over the next three decades looks rosy for those whose greatest fear is running out of oil, but dismal for those who worry about the negative environmental impact of continued reliance on fossil fuels, according to Steve Koonin, chief scientist for BP, who described the energy industry for a packed crowd in Kresge Auditorium on Sept. 22.

In his talk on energy trends and technologies, hosted by MIT’s Energy Research Council, Koonin said that 85 percent of the world’s energy currently comes from fossil fuels, so a change that hasn’t changed much over the past decade. Based on the continued availability of fossil fuels and the economic challenges of developing alternatives, he said he doesn’t expect that percentage to change soon.

“Well, one does something dramatically different, it’s fossil fuels for the next few decades,” said Koonin, an MIT alumnus (Ph.D. in physics, 1975) who was a faculty member and provost at Caltech before moving to BP last year. Koonin is responsible for BP’s long-term technology plans.

He said the world’s known oil reserves will last at least 40 years, and probably 20 beyond that, but he believes that advanced solar and fusion technologies will likely provide much of our energy a bit further down the road when the cost of developing and developing such fossil fuels as oil and coal outstrips what society is willing to pay. Right now, we lack the political and social will to invest the necessary capital to develop new-energy sources, he said.

“Local pollution in many ways is a solved problem,” said Koonin. “The technologies exist, it’s just a matter of how much you want to spend to clean things up. More problematic is climate change.”

“We are emitting about twice the amount of CO2 that the atmosphere can integrate. So we must drop our carbon use to one-quarter what it is today in the next 50 years just to stabilize,” he said. “Modest reductions only delay growth; a 10 percent reduction buys about seven years.” The United States is still responsible for the largest percentage of CO2 emissions relative to gross domestic product; France, which uses nuclear power to produce electricity, has the lowest emissions per GDP. By 2020, the developing world will surpass the industrialized world in CO2 emissions, Koonin said.

Some of the follow-up questions from the audience challenged Koonin to look beyond the quantitative and descriptive premises of his speech. While Koonin steered clear of the political realm, one audience member asked if BP’s interests were being served in getting the message behind him.

“I have a lot of money to spend,” said Koonin. “If you asked me if I want to get the message across, I would say yes. But you want a plan to pay for it, I’ll fund it.”

Another audience member asked if a price of carbon was realistic, considering the capital costs of investing in new technologies. “Yes,” Koonin said. “It’s an economically plausible idea that we can utilize. I’ll fund it.”

“But there must be a way for people at MIT to actually do that,” responded the questioner.

“Yes,” Koonin said.

Train fan on board for MIT

This is the third in a series of profiles of members of the freshman class.

Sasha Brown
News Office

Freshman Anthony Rizos of Lake Elsinore City, Ariz., discovered his life’s dream at the age of 9 when he stepped aboard a train.

“I found my calling atop wooden ties and steel rails,” Rizos said in his blog on MIT’s website.

After his first train trip in 1996 along the West Coast with his mother, the enterprising elementary school pupil started his own web site dedicated to Amtrak train service. “I fell in love,” said Rizos, who has logged more than 40,000 miles on Amtrak since that first trip.

“Train spotting is about the experience on board a train. There is a romantic aspect to it,” he said.

Rizos has assembled a personal database of train trips, photographs and a discussion feature for train enthusiasts to share their experiences and knowledge.

With a lifelong interest in computers, being younger than his fellow students and having higher SAT scores, Rizos had recommended him for placement in the information technology department at MIT.

“Since then, Rizos has worked remotely in the information technology department of Amtrak, which is based in Washington, D.C. “I work in the middle of nowhere, you have to make your own opportunities,” Rizos said, with a laugh.

The early success was not unusual. At 18 months, he taught himself to read street signs from his car seat. At 4, he learned how to use a computer. By the time he entered kindergarten, his teachers and his father had recommended him for placement in a gifted program for third-graders.

Being younger than his fellow students was not easy, said Rizos, who graduated from high school at 14.

“Get help at his high school. It was unusual in my school for someone to apply to MIT, so my teachers had trouble helping,” he said.

Rizos applied for early admission and waited, hoping that he would be accepted. “I just knew it would be a good environment for me,” he said.

With his Amtrak job secure, Rizos decided to wait to come to MIT. “I was so much younger all through high school,” he said. “It was very difficult.”

Armed with two years of full-time work experience and knowledge to share, Rizos was ready to embark on his new life this fall. “This is the first time in my life I will be with peers I can talk to,” he said. “I have been ready for this for years.”

Train fan on board for MIT

Freshman Anthony Rizos stands on the tracks by MIT’s new brain and cognitive sciences complex earlier this month. Rizos turned his love of trains into a job at Amtrak.

The first faculty meeting of the academic year included an opportunity for questions and comments, a new feature — suggested by the officers of the faculty — that will become a regular agenda item.

There was a new venue too. The meeting was held in Classroom 141 in the Stata Center, and almost every seat was filled.

President L. Rafael Reif said it was the first standing-room-only faculty meeting he had ever seen.

MIT President Susan Hockfield and Reif gave overviews of the new academic year.

Hockfield lauded the 990 members of the incoming freshman class, saying, “They have done more than any previous class, and close to 40 percent graduated first from their high schools… They entered with an enthusiasm and excitement about being at MIT that is absolutely infectious.”

She said she is concerned about the poor outlook for federal research funding, which has been decreasing steadily relative to gross domestic product. Hockfield said she attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., at least once a month to meet with leaders of Congress and various agencies that fund research, and has found that “while there is tremendous interest in and understanding of basic research, and federal funding of research plays in maintaining America’s innovation economy, there is not much optimism that things are going to get better any time soon.” However, she said MIT “will do better than most in an era of narrowed research funding.”

Commenting that “communication is a little bit more difficult here” than it could be, Hockfield said she wants to find ways to make it “easier for people around the community to know what is going on.”

The new session at the first faculty meeting in which Hockfield, Reif and Chair of the Faculty Lorna Gibson, along with the leaders of Congress and various agencies that fund research, and federal funding of research plays in maintaining America’s innovation economy, there is not much optimism that things are going to get better any time soon.” The new session at the first faculty meeting in which Hockfield, Reif and Chair of the Faculty Lorna Gibson, along with the leaders of Congress and various agencies that fund research, and federal funding of research plays in maintaining America’s innovation economy, there is not much optimism that things are going to get better any time soon.”

Chair of the Faculty Lorna Gibson, Malwati S. Saboglu Professor of Oceanic Sciences and Environment Science and Engineering, said improving communication between the administration and leadership is a goal of the Faculty Policy Committee.

Reif, in his first address to the faculty as provost, said he has been thinking about “where MIT is going as an academic institution” in part because “the world watches what MIT does.”

Some major themes he brought up were the need to improve undergraduate education; incorporating international experiences more into the first year life; and working for more progress in...
Post-hurricanes, MIT gets to work

Sasha Brown
News Office

The students in the Experimental Study Group seminar “New Orleans — Slacking or Focused Again” are looking just what it means to miss New Orleans. Together, they are exploring the background of the city devastated by Hurrican Katrina.

Five members of TATS.CRU, the first and only graffiti art crew to gain props in their community, New York’s beleagured Bronx, and also from corporate America, jointly delivered a talk on “The Journey From Subways to Urban Media Murals,” in the Stata Center’s Kirsch Auditorium, on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

BIO, Nicer, BG183, HOw and NoSM — the young men used only their “tags” — represented the 10-member CRU. As they spoke, they displayed images from 25 years of urban artwork, ranging from rolling subway cars writing to creative murals to outdoor ads for Coca Cola and Champion.

“We’re the link from the corporate world to the street. But if you’d told us 20 years ago that we’d be using a computer to print our work, or we’d be a company that employs six artists, whoa,” said Nicer, one of CRU’s founding members along with BIO and BG183.

TATS.CRU grew “back in the day,” meaning 1980, when Ronald Reagan was president and rap music meant Grandmaster Flash, they said.

“Subway cars were the world’s largest comic book. When I saw those ‘rolling canvases,’ I thought, ‘That’s what I want to do. I want to be what people see in New York — now it’s a felony — but it was so powerful, so compelling, to see those murals, that I was inspired to go to the Bronx. Millions of eyes could see your art and say, ‘Tats’umurals.’ It’s about sharing your art with the rest of the world,” said BIO.

In the MIT Workplace Center, asserted that “it’s all about jobs” must be the tireless mantra of efforts to rebuild the families, communities and economy of the region devastated by Hurricane Katrina, according to a professor in the Sloan School of Management.

In his essay, “Jobs for All: The Key to Rebuilding After Katrina,” Kochan wrote, “The key principle should be that all adults able and willing to work access to training and a guaranteed job in the clean-up and rebuilding, and beyond.”

He recommended that Congress and President Bush leverage the federal government’s economic and social reconstruction fund. The federal emergency fund would provide incentives for private-sector firms to work with labor and community groups and apply to rebuiding efforts their combined “best practices in job training, employment and labor markets, health care and family social service delivery,” he wrote.

For the complete text of Kochan’s article, visit www.americanprogress.org.

Jobs are key to rebuilding, professor says

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

Artists describe their ‘Journey From Subways’

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

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New web site explores local hurricane risk

Andrea Cohen
MIT Sea Grant

The early lessons of Katrina are that preparation and readiness about hurricanen are invaluable defensive tools in fighting (or fleeing) natural disasters. MIT Sea Grant’s newly launched hurricane web site provides information about planning and risk, as well as news about hurricane-related research being conducted by MIT experts such as Professor Kerry Emanuel of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

While the below-sea-level phenomenon of New Orleans is not mirrored in New England, other Gulf Coast conditions are similar. And with hurricanes increasing in power and more people living in coastal areas, our vulnerability also increases. What to do?

One option is to think about risks when choosing where to live. A link from the hurricane site lists users access online hazard maps that indicate the flood hazard areas and paths of past hurricanes.

Better preparation also comes through research. MIT Sea Grant, working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Institute for Sea Grant, has been exploring how hydrodynamics deployed in the ocean might gather real-time data to predict how a hurricane will develop. Mitchel Glickman, associate professor in MIT’s Center for Computational Engineering, has been exploring how hydrodynamics deployed in the ocean might gather real-time data to predict how a hurricane will develop. Mitchel Glickman, associate professor in MIT’s Center for Computational Engineering, has been exploring how hydrodynamics deployed in the ocean might gather real-time data to predict how a hurricane will develop. Mitchel Glickman, associate professor in MIT’s Center for Computational Engineering, has been exploring how hydrodynamics deployed in the ocean might gather real-time data to predict how a hurricane will develop. Mitchel Glickman, associate professor in MIT’s Center for Computational Engineering, has been exploring how hydrodynamics deployed in the ocean might gather real-time data to predict how a hurricane will develop. Mitchel Glickman, associate professor in MIT’s Center for Computational Engineering, has been exploring how hydrodynamics deployed in the ocean might gather real-time data to predict how a hurricane will develop. Mitchel Glickman, associate professor in MIT’s Center for Computational Engineering, has been exploring how hydrodynamics deployed in the ocean might gather real-time data to predict how a hurricane will develop.
Historian relates Chinese imperial saga of Central Eurasia, which challenges the Eurocentric view of 18th century Asia.

Perdue opens his book in a way that dispenses with Eurocentrism and the “railroad track” view altogether. He focuses with cinematic clarity on three great powers—the Manchu Qing, the Muscovite Russians and the Mongolian Zunghars—who fought for control of Eurasia from the 17th to the mid-18th century.

The book is full of maps, and Perdue uses them to show how science and technology were used for imperial purposes. A “radically simplified map of the northwest frontier” shows only blank space beyond the Great Wall … the most troublesome area of conflict between the empire and Mongolian tribes … The atlas gives no hint that diverse peoples moved through the space it depicts, or that there were contested claims to the area, Perdue writes.

Later, he notes that the “imperial gaze” approach was common to the Qing maps of Central Asia and the British maps of India.

The message of cartography was that this is an imperial space to be governed by us. Both the Manchu and British conquerors shared the drive to create a comprehensive, abstracted vision of an interconnected empire, even though it did not fit the features of the local terrain,” Perdue writes.

Sections on state formation, the economic basis of empire, fixing frontiers and the legacies of the Qing provide structure and narrative to the book.

In the final section, Perdue moves his topic into the present with chapters on “Geopolitics and Emperor Worship,” “Empires, Nations and People” and “Reframing the Qing in the World.”

Noting that his book “demonstrates the difficulty of offering public forums at MIT that raise awareness of issues to conducting research aimed at solving problems overseas.”

The fair is co-sponsored by the Technology and Culture Forum at x3-0108 or visit web.mit.edu/idf or web.mit.edu/idf/.

All events are free and open to the public.

Paul Joukov, professor of economics, has been selected by the Association of Yale Alumni to receive the Yale Medal for 2006. Joukov was honored for his many contributions to the Yale community, foremost among them his tenure as chairman of the University Council and his associated roles on the honorary degree selection committee and the symposium committee for the Yale Corporation.

Moe Win, associate professor of aeronautics and astronautics, is a co-recipient of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 2006 Eric E. Summer Award for his contributions to ultra-wide band communications science and technology.

HST celebrates 35 years of innovation

Thirty-five years ago, two of the world's greatest universities got together to build a community of scientists and clinicians that would work together to harness the power of science and engineering for the benefit of human health.

It was a weekend of Sept. 23-25, that community turned out in force to celebrate the anniversary of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. HST brings great minds from MIT, Harvard and the Massachusetts General Hospital and research centers together to educate students and conduct research at the intersection of biology, physics, engineering and medicine.

Peter Perdue, now a professor at Harvard, Pro- vost Steven Hyman and Dean of the Harvard Medical School, Joseph Martin.

“HST has been a training ground for the finest young people in their fields,” Hochfield said. “When you read the list of HST graduates and the people who are here at this celebration, it reads like a Who’s Who in modern biomedical sci- ence. This program has had an impact on this nation and the world unlike any other.”

Events included a full-day alumni sym- posium, an evening gala and an exhibi- tion of HST’s graduate-level educational programs and many interdisciplinary research centers, including the Harvard-MIT Bioengineering Center; the Center for Biomedical Sciences and the Hospital Informatics Program at HST; the Clinical Research Center; the Martinsos Center for Biomedical Imaging and the Wellman Center for Photomedicine.

The longest-standing collaboration between MIT and Harvard, HST was founded in 1970 by people who anticipated the impact that science and engineering could have on medicine and human health. Led by Dr. Irving M. Lon- don, who was honored at the celebration, a group of dedicated faculty decided to create a curriculum that would integrate a range of sciences basic to the study of medicine, engineering and medicine and that would offer students the opportuni- ty to immerse themselves in the culture of the laboratory and the culture of the clinic.

HST today has one of the largest bio- medical physician scientist training pro- grams in the country, with more than 400 students and more than 1,100 alumni occupied in leadership positions in medical academia, industry and government.

MIT students and other members of the MIT community interested in inter- national development will gather on Friday, the fourth annual International Development Forum and Fair Thursday, Sept. 29, and Friday, Sept. 30.

The fair, which will take place Friday from 1-3 p.m. in Loeb 31 and will rep- resentatives from more than 40 MIT aca- demic programs and student groups who are doing development work, as well as student groups representing par- ticular countries or cultures. Each group will have a table with a display where attendees can learn about the group, get to know the people involved and discover opportunities for participating.

Some of the groups at the IDF focus on a particular need in developing countries such as water, food, transportation or edu- cation. Others focus on human rights, economic analysis or the dynam- ics of globalization. Their work is varied too, from offering public forums at MIT that raise awareness of issues to conducting research aimed at solving problems overseas.”

The fair is co-sponsored by the Techno- logy and Culture Forum at x3-0108 or visit web.mit.edu/idf or web.mit.edu/idf/.

All events are free and open to the pub- lic.

International Development Forum set


A new book by MIT historian Peter Perdue shows how the Qing empire of China conquered and controlled Central Asia during the 18th century, shedding light not only on the intricate machinery of empire-building 300 years ago, but also on the challenges of building a empire in today Beijing as unrest and regional inequities recur.

Perdue, who is the T.T. and Wei Fong Chiao Professor of Asian Civilizations, began working on “China Marches West: The Conquest of Central Asia more than 20 years ago. Published by Harvard University Press earlier this year, Perdue’s book was named an Outstanding New Book by Foreign Affairs in the spring.

Foreign Affairs reviewer Lucien Pyde describes Perdue’s book as “major work” that effectively challenges the conventional casting of Central Asia as a crossroads of European powers and rejects a linear view of history.

Perdue opens his book in a way that dispenses with Eurocentrism and the “railroad track” view altogether. He focuses with cinematic clarity on three great pow- ers—the Manchu Qing, the Muscovite Russians and the Mongolian Zunghars—who fought for control of Eurasia from the 17th to the mid-18th century.

By the end of this epic confrontation, an early version of the “Great game,” only two powers remained: The Qing and the Russians faced each other along an extended border … This binary division of Eurasia lasted until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991,” he writes.

In “China Marches West,” Perdue explores how the Qing were able to domi- nate Central Asia for so long. He shows how the Qing faced problems similar to other colonial empires, employing both repression and investment to control their vast, multiregional, multi-climatic realm.

Modern Beijing confronts problems similar to the Qing, with a similar tools. As Perdue notes in his preface, the “imperial legacy of conquest still lingers heavy over the future of the Chinese nation-state.”

Perdue, 55, began work on “China Marches” when he was in Beijing writing his first book, “Exhausting the Earth: State and Peasant in Hunan, 1500-1850 A.D.” Hunan is the birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong, who founded the People’s Republic of China in 1949 and ruled absolutely until his death in 1976.

“After normalization in 1979, I had access to very rich archival material in Beijing on the Qing period, including state and military supplies, such as grain, during the Qing period. There were also wonderful documents in the Russian archives—liter- ally transcribed conversations between Mongolian and Russian officials in which they passed along political news about China. This was exciting. I quickly saw I could do a survey or dig in and get the whole story,” Perdue said.

The whole story is a 750-page volume that illustrates the Qing imperial saga with photographs from the 1930s and fine-art paintings. It includes maps, portraits, armies setting out from palaces and fighting on the open grasslands.

The text sustains the cinematic approach of Perdue’s opening scene, bringing to life intricate military cam- paigns, religious conflicts and the role of medicine (the Qing developed inoculations against smallpox) and science.

Historian relates Chinese imperial saga

Sarah H. Wright

NEWS OFFICE

A new book by MIT historian Peter Perdue shows how the Qing empire of China conquered and controlled Central Asia during the 18th century, shedding light not only on the intricate machinery of empire-building 300 years ago, but also on the challenges of building a empire in today Beijing as unrest and regional inequities recur.

Perdue, who is the T.T. and Wei Fong Chiao Professor of Asian Civilizations, began working on “China Marches West: The Conquest of Central Asia more than 20 years ago. Published by Harvard University Press earlier this year, Perdue’s book was named an Outstanding New Book by Foreign Affairs in the spring.

Foreign Affairs reviewer Lucien Pyde describes Perdue’s book as “major work” that effectively challenges the conventional casting of Central Asia as a crossroads of European powers and rejects a linear view of history.

Perdue opens his book in a way that dispenses with Eurocentrism and the “railroad track” view altogether. He focuses with cinematic clarity on three great pow- ers—the Manchu Qing, the Muscovite Russians and the Mongolian Zunghars—who fought for control of Eurasia from the 17th to the mid-18th century.

By the end of this epic confrontation, an early version of the “Great game,” only two powers remained: The Qing and the Russians faced each other along an extended border … This binary division of Eurasia lasted until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991,” he writes.

In “China Marches West,” Perdue explores how the Qing were able to domi- nate Central Asia for so long. He shows how the Qing faced problems similar to other colonial empires, employing both repression and investment to control their vast, multiregional, multi-climatic realm.

Modern Beijing confronts problems similar to the Qing, with a similar tools. As Perdue notes in his preface, the “imperial legacy of conquest still lingers heavy over the future of the Chinese nation-state.”

Perdue, 55, began work on “China Marches” when he was in Beijing writing his first book, “Exhausting the Earth: State and Peasant in Hunan, 1500-1850 A.D.” Hunan is the birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong, who founded the People’s Republic of China in 1949 and ruled absolutely until his death in 1976.

“After normalization in 1979, I had access to very rich archival material in Beijing on the Qing period, including state and military supplies, such as grain, during the Qing period. There were also wonderful documents in the Russian archives—liter- ally transcribed conversations between Mongolian and Russian officials in which they passed along political news about China. This was exciting. I quickly saw I could do a survey or dig in and get the whole story,” Perdue said.

The whole story is a 750-page volume that illustrates the Qing imperial saga with photographs from the 1930s and fine-art paintings. It includes maps, portraits, armies setting out from palaces and fighting on the open grasslands.

The text sustains the cinematic approach of Perdue’s opening scene, bringing to life intricate military cam- paigns, religious conflicts and the role of medicine (the Qing developed inoculations against smallpox) and science.

History relates Chinese imperial saga
DINING

Continued from Page 1

grill and an Indian offering will open at Lobdell. Also in January, a Thai and noodle bowl restaurant will take the vacant Alpino Bagels in the student center.

Off the Infinite Corridor, the Building 4 Cafe has been a very popular choice among students, faculty and staff, and the Building 4 Cafe is designed to build on that tradition. Though the food will be slightly different, the cafe will have similar seating as the ones served in Steam.

For Students, working on Building 4 after hours will be a bit more of a problem because of building security issues he will encounter throughout his career. “We had to work within the exist- ing space, we preserved the integrity,” he said.

Senecke and Francis’s design opened up the ceiling and unblocked the window. The pair introduced hot counter tops, black, white, red, yellow and a better lighting. Although they were able to make all this possible, they would have liked, Senecke said he thought the changes significantly improve the space. “We really want the place to change.”

On East Campus, the Pritchett Grill will reopen in mid-October as Pritchett Dining. The new dining hall will feature a grill, hot entrees, casual dining and a salad bar. Pritchett Dining will have two dining areas, one with couches and more of a lounge feel, and a television and a pool table.

Finally, there will be a cafe opening in the new brain and cognitive sciences complex, said Berlin.

“Use nice for people to be able to take a break and get together over a meal,” said Berlin. “We want to provide for that.”

Nicholas Senecke
architecture graduate student

We are trying to improve student life and culture.

Grad student wins Hatsopoulos prize

Jay Chepeta
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Mechanical engineering graduate student Chulmin Joo is the first recipient of the Hatsopoulos $50,000 Innovation and Thesis Award. The award is named for George Hatsopoulos, an MIT alumnus and entrepreneur whose doctoral thesis provided the basis for what is now a $2 billion high-tech firm. Hatsopoulos, who created the award this past February, announced the winner in July along with mechanical engineering depart- ment head Rohan Abeyaratne.

The prize is designed to recognize original research that leads to a patentable invention or innovation. Joo won for his original research that improves the method by which clinicians can view cells and tissues using a confocal scanning laser microscope. Joo’s innovation titled “Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Reflectometry for Highly Sensitive and Selective Detection of Biological and Chemical Species” — is the next big thing will continue into the next century,” said Hatsopoulos, commenting on many pro- poses reviewed for this first-time honor.

More than 50 years ago, during his doctoral studies at MIT, Hatsopoulos hit upon the concept of transforming heat energy into electrical energy. The idea ultimately formed the basis for his company, Thermos Energy Corp. This is in resourcefulness but, like any student, graduate student, Hatsopoulos per- suaded the School of Engineer- ing to invest seed money in a new idea. Shortly thereafter, an angel investor put up $50,000 to transform the subject of a doctoral thesis into a bricks- and-mortar enterprise.

Fifty years later, Chulmin Joo, a South Korean doctoral student who researches Hatsopoulos’s invention, is the first recipient of the $50,000 Innovation and Thesis Award.

Continued from Page 3

The meeting also included an update on the Energy Research Council (ERC), announced by Hockfield in the spring. Co- chair Ernest J. Moniz reported the council is on a fast track toward fulfilling its mission — recommending by February 2006 how MIT can change its image “from brown to green” and have a significant local and global impact on energy and the environment.

Through meetings with 50 faculty members and groups of students, the council is developing a picture of MIT energy-related research and an American’s “last oil is going on,” said Moniz, co-director of the Laboratory of Nuclear Science.

“We are developing a list of prom- ising science and engineering research areas that match global needs and MIT capabilities.”

The council is planning to get indus- try input through an Industrial Liaison Program—organized workshop on Dec. 6 chaired by software executive and MIT benefactor Kenan Sahin. A series of semi- nars and colloquia are also planned (the first colloquium took place Sept. 22 to an overflow audience).

Singapore-MIT Alliance

Professor Anthony A. Patera, co-director of the Singapore-MIT Alliance (SMA) gave the faculty an update on the newest incarnation of the program. “SMA 2.0” The National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University of Sin- gapore (NTU) and MIT are working together since 1998 to achieve seamless instruction across 12 time zones.

In SMA 2.0, launched this academic year, master’s students apply separately to both MIT and to one of the two Sin- gaporean partner universities; if accepted to both the program, they choose one. If accepted to only one, they are eligible for an SMA fellowship that covers their tuition at both institutions.

In completing the regular degree requirements at both universities — including at least one semester in resi- dence at MIT and an additional semester taking MIT courses delivered by interac- tive videoconferencing — these students earn two master’s degrees, one from MIT and one from NUS or NTU.

Continued from Page 6

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**ARTS NEWS**

**‘Hope’ is a hippo**

Jennifer Alzor, who received her degree from the Visual Arts Program in 2003, and her artistic partner, Guillermo Callo, constitute Acconci Studio, presenting works in the 51st Annual Venice Biennale’s “A Little Further” exhibition. “Hope,” their life-sized clay hippopotamus with a person sitting on top reading and occasionally blowing a whistle, is installed in the Arseneale district of warehouses and shipyards. The Biennale continues through Nov. 5.

**A musical ‘Adventure’**

“Ensemblance,” a composition by Professor Peter Child of the music and theater arts section, will be featured in “Cybersonic Adventures,” Boston Musica Viva’s Oct. 7 concert. The concert is billed as “a visit to the crossroads of live performance and prerecorded work.” The 8 p.m. concert will be held at the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University (685 Commonwealth Ave.). Tickets cost $22, $18 for seniors/WGBH members, $12 for students. Vocal Band Aid, a benefit concert for the CAVS artist’s presentations, is hosting the event; the concert will also feature works by some of the band’s current and former members. For more information, call x3-9800.

**Lynn Heimann**

Office of the Arts

Some of Boston’s finest classical musicians will be at MIT this weekend performing works by some of MIT’s finest composers. But the real star will be the flute. "Flutings and Floatinga," a concert this Sunday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in Killian Hall, will feature See-El Eun-Hershman-Tcherepnin, one of Boston’s most active and prominent flute soloists. Hershman-Tcherepnin, a founding member and flutist of Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, will be joined by Lynn Chang, violin; Anne Black, viola; Joshua Gordon, cello; Robert Schulz, percussion; and Yukiko Urano, piano. The program will feature MIT Professor Peter Child’s 1975 duo for flute and percussion, lecturer Elena Ruché’s "Law of Floating Objects" for flute and electronics (2000), Assistant Professor Brian Robison’s "Cat’s Cradle" for piccolo and percussion (1995), lecturer Fred Harris’ "A Tern’s Flight" for solo flute (1999), Institute Professor John Harbison’s "Six American Painters" for flute, violin, viola and cello (2002). MIT composers have varying affinities for the flute. Baraff and King are members of the band Integration by Parts, which is hosting the event; the concert will also feature works by the groups M*D*A*C*T, Violinists for Peace, Simhar Jones and Downtown Crossing.

Tickets ($25) are available in person through the Sonnyville Theater box office, (617) 625-4888 or, for an additional fee, through Ticketsmaster (www.ticketsmaster.com). For more information, call (617) 251-8410 or e-mail info@vocalbandaid.org or see www.vocalbandaid.org.

**Lecturer performs in NYC**

Visual arts program lecturer Pia Lindman (m.s. 1999) participated in New York City’s "What Comes After: Cities, Art and Recovery," an international summit focusing on arts and culture after catastrophe, organized by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. The summit took place Sept. 8-11.

For her "The New York Times Performance," Lindman re-enacted gestures of grieving collected from the pages of The New York Times. Lindman will also perform a solo presentation on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 6:30 p.m. in Room N52-390.

**CAVS artist’s presentations begin next week**

Vito Acconci’s Instant House is a self-erecting architectural unit consisting of flags, wood, cables and pulleys. Acconci will speak at MIT next week.

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Acconci, who began as a poet in the early 1960s, started in the mid-1970s producing audio and video installations that turned exhibition spaces into community meeting places. More recently, he has been creating large-scale architectural objects that function as meeting places. Acconci’s latest projects explore the differences between public and private space and seek to invent a new kind of architectural fluidity that is private and public. Acconci, the Robert R. Taylor Professor of Music at MIT, will appear throughout the Americas, Europe and the Far East. He performed the West Coast premiere of Institute Professor John Harbison’s Viola Concerto with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra; the Chicago premiere with the Chicago Symphony; and the Boston premiere with the New England Conservatory Honors Orchestra.

Violinist Thompson celebrates Mozart

"Enthusiastic" and "technically trace, these kinds of linear issues. that's how I hit on the combination of the flute; he wrote his piece to fill a programming need of a composer friend. "A music theory section, will be featured in "Cybersonic Adventures," Boston Musica Viva’s Oct. 7 concert. The concert is billed as “a visit to the crossroads of live performance and prerecorded work.” The 8 p.m. concert will be held at the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University (685 Commonwealth Ave.). Tickets cost $22, $18 for seniors/WGBH members, $12 for students. Vocal Band Aid, a benefit concert for the CAVS artist’s presentations, is hosting the event; the concert will also feature works by some of the band’s current and former members. For more information, call x3-9800.

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Born and raised in the Bronx, Thompson earned his doctorate degree at the Juilliard School. At MIT, he also teaches chamber music and performance studies. He is also a member of the orchestra at the New England Conservatory of Music and violinist in the Boston Chamber Music Society.

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Virtual fish

Iquarium is an interactive virtual aquarium designed by three MIT students to illustrate the hydrodynamics of swimming fish. On display at the Hart Nautical Gallery, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

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


MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS  SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 2

WEDNESDAY September 28


“Land of the Settlers” Lecture by journalist Chaim Yaish talks about his controversial documentary, 2-3 p.m., Room E38-619, 253-8306.

THURSDAY September 29

Islamic Information Table Free information about Islam and students on hand to answer any questions, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., W20. Thursdays through Dec. 8.

“Innovation Everywhere” Talk by Ray Kurzweil, chairman and CEO, Kurzweil Technologies, Inc., 3:30–5 p.m., W16, 253-0188.

AD. Little Lecture in Chemical Physics Talk by Lou Bous of Columbia University, 4 p.m., Room 6-120, 253-1803.

Depression Screening Day Talk by health educator Zan Barry, 4–7 p.m., Freshman Room, 253-3846.

FRIDAY September 30

MIT Chemical Oceanography Seminar Talk by Marco Cusumano, 3–4 p.m., Room E34-430.

Derby Days 2005 Casino Night High-class casino night featuring blackjack, poker, roulette, live music, and food. 7–p.m., Johnson Athletic Center.

SATURDAY October 1

MIT Chemical Oceanography Seminar Talk by Marco Cusumano, 3–4 p.m., Room E34-430.

Derby Days 2005 Competition BBQ at Kresge, followed by computer games at Kresge Oval. Noon.

MITHAS Concert HeARTBeat (Indian classical ensemble). Presented by MITHAS (MIT Heritage of South Asia) in cooperation with Sangam. $50, $35 and $25; 7:30 p.m., Kresge Auditorium, 258-7971.

SUNDAY October 2

“Tu era mi colonia” Video and photography installation by Luis Berrios-Negrón (G), first prize winner of the 2006 Schindler Prize in the Visual Arts. 24 hours. Weiner Student Art Gallery 253-7019.


“iquarium” A virtual fluid flow display. 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Hart Nautical Gallery, 253-0542.

“MIT Flutings & Floatings”; Flute Music by MIT Composers Sue-Ellen Hershman- Tcherepnin, flute and guest musicians perform Peter Child’s Duo for flute and percussion. 7:30 p.m. Killian Court, 253-9800.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS  OCTOBER 3-9

MONDAY October 3

“Architecture and Revolution in Cuba: 1959-1960” Exhibit focusing on a few of Cuba’s state building projects from the first decade of the Revolution. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Takeda 7–338, 258-9106.

“Bringing Down the House,” including other MIT blackjacks, whisk and Semyon Dukach discuss their new book.

TUESDAY October 4

CAVS Artist’s Presentation: Accorion Studio founder Vito Accorion talks about his Accorion Studio and their work about their art. 6:30 p.m. Room N62-390, 452-2484.

8th Annual Page Hadsell Project on Glass Art Talk by Larry Ball, 7 p.m. Wong Auditorium, 253-5309.

“Le Grand Voyage” Film and discussion with director Ismail Faruqi. 7 p.m. Room 26-100, 253-4771.

Chicks Make Flicks: Maria Agui Carter Discussion follows screening of “The Devil’s Music,” a historical documentary about the early censorship of jazz music. 7:30 p.m., Room 6-203, 253-8844.

WEDNESDAY October 5

“Tu eres mi colonia” Talk by Vito Accorion and photography installation by Luis Berrios-Negrón, 9 a.m. Weiner Student Art Gallery, 253-7019.

“Scientific Settings: Photos of MIT Architects” Photographs by Scott Wolos, MIT Class of 1984, taken during the early 1980’s, 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Room 10-150, 253-4444.

EAPS Victor Star Memorial Lecture Talk by Friedrich Schott of the University of Kiel (Germany) talks about “Topical-Subtopical Interactions in the Oceans,” 4:30–5:30 p.m. Wong Auditorium, 253-2281.

THURSDAY October 6

MIT Chapel Leopard Lecture Talk by Chi-Sung Hung, 7–9 p.m. Simmons Hall, 324-6430.

Mind & Body Relaxation Techniques Discussion by Hsuan and friends. 7–9 p.m., Simmons Hall, 324-6085.

FRIDAY October 7

“Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears” Film. 6 p.m. Room 3-133, 258-8438.

Benjamin Music Series Lecture: Morton Feldman. 7:30 p.m. Kresge Auditorium, 253-9803.

SATURDAY October 8

Introduction to Self Defense Ju-Jitsu class covering basic self-defense skills: pin-locks, submission holds, throws, strikes, weapons, ground-defense and weapons-defense. 3-5 p.m. DuPont Wrestling Room, 258-5265.

SUNDAY October 9

Varsity Sailing Metro Series Five 9 a.m. River. 258-3265.

“War of the Worlds” LSC Fall ‘05 Film Series. 7 p.m. Room 26-100, 253-3791.

International Folk Dance 6–11 p.m. Lobel Dining Hall, 253-FOLK.

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