



It's a taxing time for air travelers

Elizabeth Thomson
News Office

Airline passengers are giving an ever-increasing portion of their travel dollars to Uncle Sam, according to data released by MIT's Global Airline Industry Program and Daniel Webster College.

Airline ticket prices overall have actually dropped over the past several years, the researchers emphasize. However, many of the taxes and fees passengers pay, which fund a significant portion of the costs of U.S. air-traffic control and airport systems, are not linked to the base price of the tickets and have remained about the same.

As a result, the effective tax rate on airline tickets is steadily increasing, and will increase more under the Bush administration's recently released federal budget proposal, researchers report.

Which raises the question: Who should pay for the increases? The airlines or U.S. taxpayers?

"The Bush administration's proposed increase in the security fee added after September 11, 2001, has generated strong reactions from the airline industry," said MIT Professor Amedeo Odoni, the project's director. "The increased fees will place further strain on the airlines at a time when several of them are struggling. On the other hand, it is difficult to argue

that taxpayers at large should subsidize the security costs of airline customers."

Odoni believes that his team's 2004 study and its recent update can add a more factual note to the ticket tax debate. "This study provides an objective basis for Congress to examine the issue and make informed decisions on airfare taxes."

The study team's initial results were published in the July 2004 Journal of Air Transport Management. The U.S. General Accounting Office cited the study in U.S. Senate briefings and in a report submitted to Congress.

After the administration's proposed hike in security fees, passengers would, on average, pay 19 percent in taxes and fees

on top of the ticket price, the researchers found in their update of last year's study. In 2004, passengers paid 16.1 percent in taxes on top of the price of a domestic ticket. This is up from 15.5 percent in 2002 and 10.9 percent in 1993.

Professor Joakim Karlsson of Daniel Webster College explains the significance of the study's results: "The airlines have lost the ability to raise airfares, even to just keep pace with inflation. The average round-trip ticket has dropped 40 percent in real terms since 1993. Meanwhile, average ticket taxes and fees have stayed relatively

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Author talks on Walker

Sasha Brown
News Office

"Alice Walker: A Life" was a labor of love for long-time journalist and biographer Evelyn White, who came to MIT on March 10 to discuss her process and the book itself with Associate Writing Professor Helen Lee.

White's visit was part of the Committee on Campus Race Relation's week of events and programs highlighting issues of race and diversity.

White said she first came to know of author Alice Walker in 1985 when

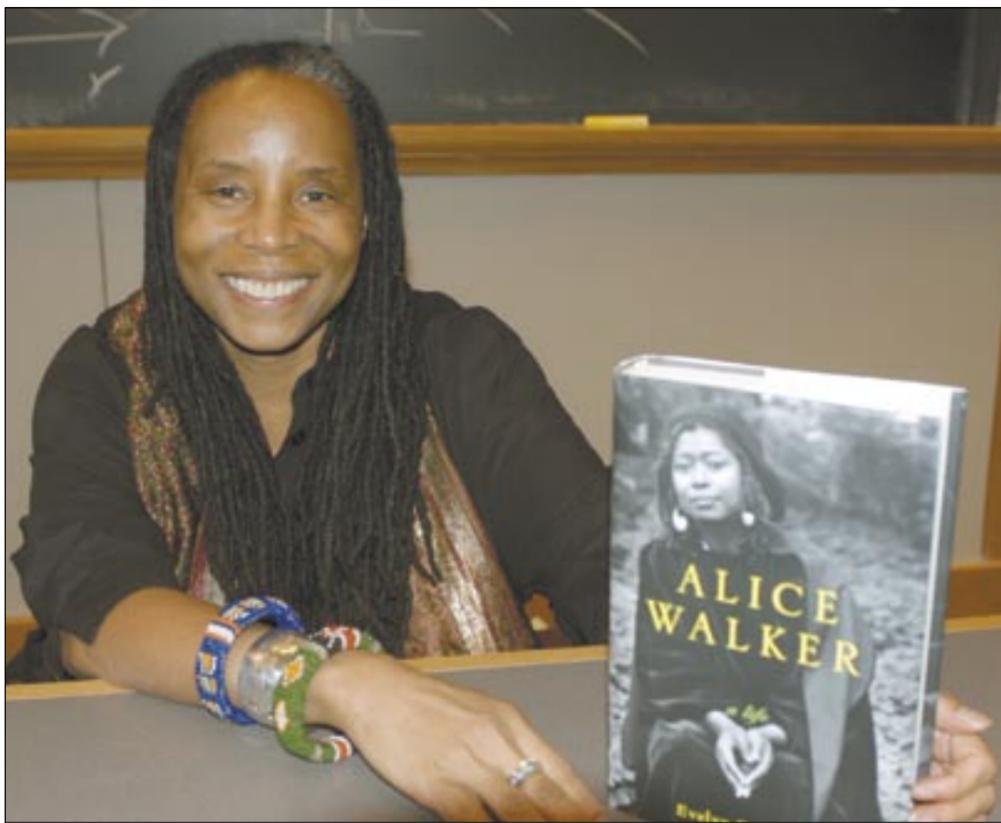


PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

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Evelyn White gave a talk March 10 on the authorized biography she wrote on Alice Walker.

Campus makes grade with grad students, survey finds

Sasha Brown
News Office

Two-thirds of graduate students are satisfied with the resources available on campus and the great majority are pleased with their advisors, according to the 2004 Graduate Student Life Survey.

The survey, sponsored by the Provost's Office, the Graduate Student Office and the Graduate Student Council, represents the views of close to 3,000 graduate students, a response rate greater than 50 percent.

"We wanted to base our decisions on real data," said GSC President Barun Singh, who helped present the findings to about 150 students, administrators and faculty members on Feb. 21 in a town-hall-style meeting.

"While we have room to improve, 85 percent of students are happy with their advisors," said Singh. Still, about a third of the respondents wished for more contact with their advisors, according to the survey. Students ranked their advisors third, above even their parents in terms of whom they turn to when they are in need. "It is an important relationship," said Singh.

Seventy-five percent of students reported satisfaction with the resources available on campus, asking for improvements only in both dining and parking. Yet, not all students are aware of the wide variety of services available to them, said Singh. For example, only 4 percent of students reported using the Ombuds Office in the Office of the President, a service designed to aid in conflict resolution. Those who had used it found it to be enormously helpful, but many did not even know what it was. "There needs to be greater focus on

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Buddhists help rebuild Sri Lanka

Denise Brehm
and
Sasha Brown
News Office

Sri Lankan families left homeless by the tsunami could find themselves living in an enclave of MIT-designed housing if the efforts of MIT's Buddhist chaplain and a researcher in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning are successful.

And there's every reason to believe they will be.

Immediately after the Dec. 26 tsunami hit, the chaplain, Tenzin L.S. Priyadarshi,

formed an alliance between MIT's Buddhist community and the Prajnopaya Foundation, which is working with the Sri Bodhiraja Foundation in Sri Lanka to collect funds for rebuilding permanent housing near the Sri Lankan seashores. Priyadarshi and the Prajnopaya Foundation, along with the Committee of World Religions for Tsunami Efforts in Taipei, Taiwan, raised more than \$130,000 by Jan. 15. On Feb. 27, the alliance dedicated 25 new homes, each built for about \$1,200. They hope to build 1,000 homes altogether.

"Many people are still thinking about how to relocate the victims and how to build camps for the victims. But because

of the Buddhist monks' involvement in this project, some new homes have already been built and are housing families," said Priyadarshi, who is a Buddhist monk from India. He explained that the Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka wield a great deal of influence with the Sri Lankan government, making it possible for them to work quickly.

The houses built by the alliance are being assigned to families on an as-needed basis, with the first homes going to single mothers who lost their husbands in the

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MIT composer, flutist team up to create a new musical composition.

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Traditional Korean instruments get modern use.

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Architects honor Simmons Hall

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

Simmons Hall has received the 2004 Harleston Parker Medal. Administered by the Boston Society of Architects, the Parker has been awarded since 1923 to the "most beautiful piece of architecture building, monument or structure" in the Boston area.

New York-based architect Stephen Holl designed Simmons, the striking 10-story MIT residence hall on Vassar Street that opened in September 2002. Holl's building is home to 350 undergraduates, faculty housemasters, visiting scholars and graduate assistants, and includes a computer

cluster, a fitness center, music practice room, game room and street-level dining room with open-air seating.

In an article about the Parker Medal, Boston Globe architecture critic Robert Campbell described Simmons as a "daring, serious, memorable building."

The Parker Medal jury of 10 included practitioners from architecture, development, campus planning, journalism and urban planning.

In their statement, the jurists declared their expectation that "appreciation will only grow and mature over time" for Simmons, and that the building provided an "exemplary paradigm in its daring and high aspiration" and a "gesture toward greatness consistent with MIT's philoso-

phy of reaching out to the brightest."

Acknowledging the dramatic appearance of Simmons Hall in contrast to its surroundings, the panel also wrote, "MIT is an institution that supports innovation and change and, therefore, regardless of how far off the ordinary the project may appear to the outside world, it (Simmons) successfully fulfills its client's mission, physically, culturally, socially and intellectually."

Simmons is the second MIT project to win the prestigious award. The Rotch Library received a Parker Medal in 1993. Other Parker winners include the New England Holocaust Memorial (1997), the Davis Art and Cultural Center at Wellesley College (2000) and the renovation of the Boston Public Library (2001).

Global reading on view at CAVS

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

The Center for Advanced Visual Studies is offering a trip around the global art world in the form of an exhibition of contemporary international art magazines on view in the CAVS reception area.

Known collectively as the Traveling Magazine Table, the browser-friendly exhibition offers visitors a chance to dip into rare, eccentric and even glossy 'zines, some with ads, some with attitude, all available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the CAVS office in N52-390.

Currently, the Table exhibit includes the hefty Cabinet: A Quarterly of Arts and Culture (Brooklyn, in English); Fuse (Toronto, in English); fisura (New York, in English and Spanish); Framework (Finland, in English); Shanghai Parachute (Shanghai, in English and French); Pass (Hungary, in Hungarian), Agitation (Berlin, in German) and the book-shaped Creating Spaces of Freedom: Culture in Defiance (London and The Hague, in English) among many others.

By far the most unusual publication is Transgum, a single sheet of 100 percent pink chewing gum printed with one word, "Transgum." You have to see it to believe it.

Launched by the founders of Nomads + Residents, a sort of global kin-group of artists and itinerant speakers and performers, the Table has already traveled from its starting place in New York City to Lithuania, back to Art in General in New York and to MIT.

Like the art world itself, the Table changes constantly. Each host site sends out an open call for art magazines, and CAVS has received "almost daily contributions," according to Larissa Harris, associate director of CAVS, and Meg Rotzel, administrative assistant at CAVS, who opens the mail and shelves or stacks new Table items.



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Associate director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies Larissa Harris checks out 24/7, one of the travel magazines in the spring exhibition CAVS has on display.

Willmore announces changes at News Office

Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation Kathryn Willmore has named Kathryn O'Neill news manager at the MIT News Office. O'Neill will manage the publishing process for all the publications of that office, including Tech Talk, the News Office website and press releases. In taking over the role of editor of Tech Talk, O'Neill succeeds Denise Brehm, who had been serving as interim editor since July 2004.

O'Neill, who has more than 15 years' experience as a writer and editor, was the assistant Sunday editor of the Boston Herald for many years. "It's absolutely an honor to have this opportunity to put my skills to use for MIT," O'Neill said. "Just walking around campus and reading the notice boards is energizing. I look forward to getting to know the people who make this great place tick."

O'Neill welcomes story ideas and feedback from the MIT community at 617-258-



Kathryn O'Neill



Denise Brehm



Sasha Brown

for MIT, and handle requests on the use of the Institute's name. She will also write news releases and articles, with a special focus on science and engineering news. She can be reached at 617-253-2704 or brehm@mit.edu.

The News Office is also pleased to welcome Sasha Brown to the staff as a reporter and writer covering campus life issues. Brown, who has a master's degree in print journalism from Boston University, was previously a reporter at the Daily News Transcript/Daily News Tribune, where she covered education issues. Brown can be reached at 617-258-9276 or sashabro@mit.edu.

5401 or kathryno@mit.edu.

Willmore also announced that Brehm has been promoted to senior communications officer and science writer. In this capacity she will have major responsibility for coordinating the Institute's response to media inquiries on critical issues, serve as a regular spokesperson

DIGITALK

IMAP for e-mail



IS&T now recommends Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) for accessing e-mail. All of MIT's supported e-mail clients, including Microsoft Outlook, Eudora, Apple Mail and Evolution, support IMAP.

IMAP resolves a number of problems common to Post Office Protocol (POP), including duplicate messages. It also offers access to e-mail from any web browser and from multiple machines; easier spam-screening; and optimized handling of large volumes of e-mail over slow connections.

If you're a Windows Eudora user, plan to upgrade to Eudora 6.2.1 or switch to another e-mail client, such as Outlook, by May 2, 2005. At that time, details of a security vulnerability in Eudora 6.2 and earlier, including 5.2.1, will be made public. (You can upgrade or switch even if you aren't ready to use IMAP.)

To facilitate the migration from POP to IMAP, IS&T's Software Release Team has launched release efforts for Eudora 6.2.1 and Apple Mail. The Eudora installer, due for release in April, will migrate current Eudora POP users to IMAP unless they opt out during the installation.

For more about IMAP at MIT, do a web search on "imap" from the MIT home page. If you have questions about the migration to IMAP, send mail to swrt@mit.edu.

Search the Libraries

The MIT Libraries have collaborated with Google to give MIT students and faculty greater access to materials retrieved through Google Scholar searches. Google Scholar helps locate scholarly literature—such as peer-reviewed papers, theses, books and preprints—on the Web. Generally, users can't access the full text of these publications without a subscription.

Through a test project with Google, the Libraries can provide the MIT community with access to most of the 20,000-plus journals and other serials to which the MIT Libraries subscribe. Google Scholar now automatically recognizes connections originating from the MIT campus and shows an "MIT Access" link to the full-text articles found in these publications.

In addition, by going to http://scholar.google.com/scholar_preferences, MIT users can choose MIT as their preference (certificates required). This allows Google Scholar to identify the computer as part of the MIT community, even from off campus. For more information about using Google Scholar at MIT, see <http://libraries.mit.edu/help/google-scholar/>.

InterCall now available

MIT now offers InterCall, a commercial conference-call service. For details on set-up and pricing, search on "intercall" from the MIT home page. You can contact the MIT InterCall representative, Matt Ganster, at 781-329-5873 or mganster@intercall.com.

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Elzbieta Ettinger, writing professor, novelist, dies at 80

Elzbieta Ettinger, a novelist, biographer and professor of writing who helped build the MIT Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, died of heart failure in her home in Cambridge, Mass., on Saturday, March 12. She was 80 years old.

A native of Warsaw, Poland, Ettinger survived the Holocaust, escaping the Warsaw ghetto shortly before its liquidation; she then worked for the Polish resistance while maintaining a false identity as a Catholic Pole (she was also known by her wartime pseudonym, Elzbieta Chodakowska). Her experiences during the Second World War were chronicled in her first novel, "Kindergarten" (1968), described by the New York Times Book Review as a work "one reads with frozen attention."

A self-described rebel who believed in the promise of socialism as an antidote to social and economic inequality, Ettinger refused to be silent about the totalitarian nature of



Elzbieta Ettinger

the Soviet-influenced Polish government, and faced repeated interrogations and professional black-listing during the early 1960s. She described post-war life in Poland in her second novel, "Quicksand" (1989).

Ettinger earned a Ph.D. in American literature from Warsaw University in 1966; she moved to Cambridge the following year and served as a Senior Fellow at the Radcliffe (now Bunting) Institute until 1974. She was known for her passionate and incisive lectures on modern Russian litera-

ture, as well as her outspoken critiques of the materialism, anti-intellectualism and racial prejudice that she perceived as dominant aspects of American culture.

From 1975 to 1996, Ettinger served as professor of writing at MIT, where she was named Thomas Meloy Professor of Rhetoric and Literature. A demanding and forceful teacher, she helped build the Institute's Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies and was instrumental in bringing such writers as I. B. Singer, Bernard Malamud, and Elizabeth Bishop to the MIT community.

Ettinger's biography, "Rosa Luxemburg, A Life" (1987), was translated into several languages. It portrays the personality—the heart and mind—of a brilliant revolutionary who was murdered by her comrades. Love and politics are intimately interwoven throughout Ettinger's narrative.

Ettinger's controversial 1994 book, "Hannah Arendt-Martin Heidegger," interpreted the lengthy romantic relationship between the Jewish philosopher and her Nazi-affiliated mentor. In this work, described in the New York Times as "absorbing and cruelly fascinating," Ettinger was "unsparing in her exposure of both Heidegger's mendacity and Arendt's propensity for self-deception" about Heidegger, wrote the reviewer. Shortly afterward, the Heidegger estate published the full text of the Heidegger-Arendt correspondence.

Ettinger was at work on a full-length biography of Hannah Arendt at the time of her death. She is survived by her daughter, Maia Ettinger, of San Francisco.

A memorial service will be held at the MIT Faculty Club on Sunday, April 10, at 11 a.m. For further information, please call the MIT Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies at (617) 253-7894.

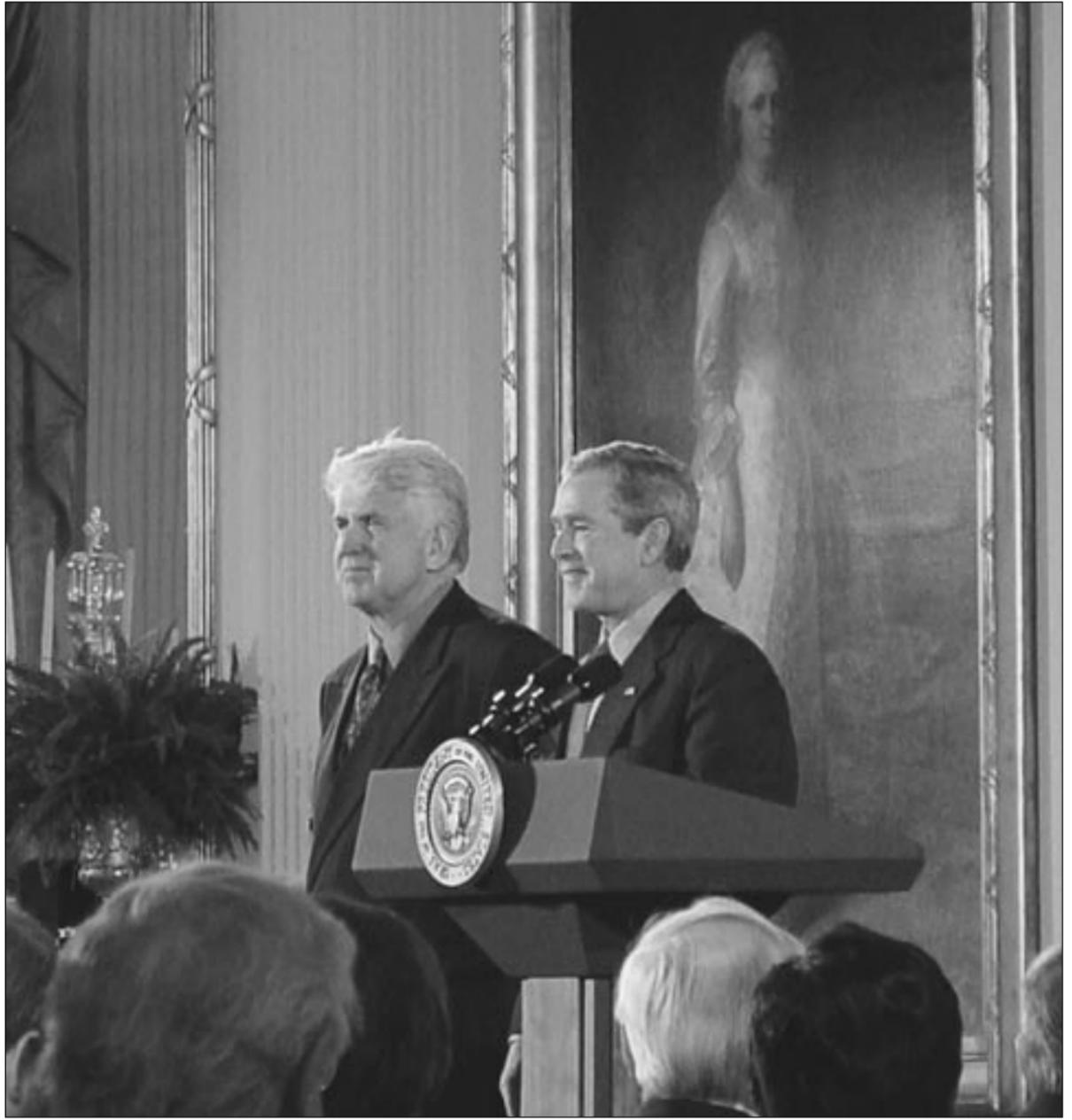


PHOTO / MARJORIE WEISSKOHL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

President George W. Bush presents alumnus Robert Metcalfe with the National Medal of Technology on March 14.

White House recognizes Ethernet inventor Metcalfe

Ethernet inventor Robert M. Metcalfe, an MIT alumnus, accepted the National Medal of Technology, the nation's highest honor for technical innovation, at a White House ceremony on March 14.

President George W. Bush honored Metcalfe for his leadership in the invention, standardization and commercialization of Ethernet.

"I love my country, the United States of America," said Metcalfe. "Now it's official: My country loves me back."

"Ethernet was invented in a memo I wrote at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center on May 22, 1973," Metcalfe explained. He shares four patents on Ethernet, the local-area networking (LAN) standard. "Ethernet is plumbing for the Internet, which is in turn plumbing for the World Wide Web, which is plumbing for Google."

In 1979, he founded 3Com Corp. and took it public in 1984. "By 1981, there were people buying Ethernet whom I had not met," Metcalfe recalls. "By 1986, there were people inventing Ethernet whom I had not met. It has proliferated and evolved way beyond what Dave Boggs

and I were thinking while building the first Ethernets in the mid-1970s." According to IDC, a global market intelligence firm that specializes in information technology, more than 200 million new Ethernet ports were shipped in 2004.

Metcalfe earned double S.B.s in electrical engineering and management from MIT in 1969. He went on to obtain a Ph.D. at Harvard, taught at Stanford and was elected in 1997 to the National Academy of Engineering. During the 1990s, he wrote a popular weekly Internet column in InfoWorld reaching more than 500,000 information technologists. Today, he is a high-tech venture capitalist at Polaris Venture Partners in Waltham, Mass. He serves on the boards of several Polaris-backed startups, including Ember, Narad, Paratek and SiCortex. He has been a member of the MIT Corporation since 1992 and was elected to a life membership in 2003.

As an MIT student, Metcalfe helped build the hardware that linked MIT to the ARPANET. "Everything I needed to know about Ethernet I learned at MIT," said Metcalfe.

Community joins family in mourning death of grad student

Denise Brehm
News Office

Friends of Zhenxiu Mao gathered yesterday afternoon to talk about their memories of his life and share their sorrow with Mao's parents, who traveled from China after learning of their son's death.

Mao, a first-year graduate student in mathematics, was found dead in his Cambridge apartment on Feb. 28. He was 23 years old. A reception and short service were held in his memory on March 15, planned by the Chinese Students and Scholars Association.

The smell of chrysanthemums filled the room in W11 as each guest placed a single flower in a vase near Mao's photograph and peered at a few of the remnants of his short life: his CDs, including Nirvana and The Eagles, a stuffed MIT beaver toy, his

bookbag, a mathematics textbook.

"Zhenxiu, dear son, how come you left your parents who loved you so much and left your just-wed wife to go to an unknown world? We miss you so. We really don't want to let you go," Mao's father, Peijing Mao, read from his notes in Chinese as Yuhua Hu, graduate student in chemical engineering and president of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, translated into English for those students, faculty members and staff present who did not understand Chinese.



Zhenxiu Mao

"We know you are an ordinary person, but you achieved extraordinary success in your short life," said Mao's father, touching on his son's generosity and dedication to his family. Mao had saved money from his MIT stipend to buy his father a digital camera and had plans to help pay for the education of his niece and nephew.

"He was a wonderful and talented student," said Professor Michael Sipser, head of the Department of Mathematics where Mao had been studying since last fall after earning his B.A. and M.S. from Yale University. Sipser said that all the

students in the department are exceptional and described Mao as "the best of the best."

"I am a parent, too, and I really cannot imagine the pain you must be going through," Sipser said to the Maos.

To honor their son, the Maos plan to use the money that Mao earned in mathematics prizes, along with money collected for the family by the Chinese Students and Scholars Association at MIT, to establish the Zhenxiu Fund at his high school for students who wish to study mathematics.

Mao's father and mother, Shui Liu, arrived Saturday from their home in Ningbo, in the Zhejiang province in China. Friends from Yale University also attended the memorial service at MIT.

Mao is survived by his wife, Jingqi Sun, his parents, and his brother, Zhenyi Mao, all of China.

Comparisons of Iraq to post-war Japan fail, historian asserts

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

Those who forget the past may be doomed to repeat it, but those who try to rebuild Iraq based on past models are doomed to frustration, according to historians specializing in conditions in Japan and in Europe following the Second World War.

The two historians, John Dower, Ford International Professor of History, and Charles Maier, professor of history at Harvard University, presented "Comparative Insights: Marshall Plan, Japan and Iraq," in an event sponsored by the Center for International Studies (CIS) and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) and held on March 7 in Building 3-270.

Dower is the author of "Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II," which won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize, and "War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War," which won the 1986 National Critics' Circle Award. Dower showed the stark contrast between conditions during the U.S. occupation of post-war Japan (1945-1952) and conditions in contemporary Iraq in his 45-minute talk.

Dower emphasized the human suffering in all wars and characterized Iraq as a "place of terrible tragedy and heartbreak." But otherwise there is "no viable comparison," he said, between the two years following Japan's defeat and the two years since President Bush declared his Iraq mission "accomplished."

The occupation and eventual reconstruction of post-war Japan were successful thanks to 10 significant conditions not present in Iraq, Dower said. These were:

1) Legitimacy of occupation. A formal war was followed by a decisive defeat and unconditional surrender. U.S. allies also saw the occupation as legitimate. Serious planning for the occupation of Japan began in 1942.

2) Consistency. Japan had an intact government. Emperor Hirohito declared war, surrendered and continued as head of state until 1971.

3) Cohesion. While politically diverse, Japan was socially cohesive, without Iraq's religious, ethnic and cultural conflicts.

4) Security. Japan, an island, faced no domestic security issues. "The hardships were staggering," Dower said. "But there was no terror."

5) Civil institutions. Japan had a "deep

tradition of democracy and civil society," Dower said. All the structures essential for reform were in place. Not so in Iraq, he noted.

6) Exhaustion. Japan was at war from 1931 to 1945, leaving 3 million dead, 10-15 million people homeless, rampant unemployment, malnutrition and disease. Defeat brought "liberation from death. Suddenly, the air raids stopped. They could start over," Dower said. "It was a psychological relief."

7) Clear goals for the occupation. "The Americans wanted demilitarization and democratization. They were clear about what this would involve—changing the civil code, land reform, etc.," he said.

8) Privacy. "Japan fell out of the public eye in 1945, as attention turned to the Cold War in Europe. They got breathing space. General MacArthur and his staff did not get involved in U.S. electoral politics."

9) External enemies. After 1947, the United States used the threat of Communism to persuade the Japanese government to support an extended occupation. Today, even after the end of the Cold War, 40,000 troops remain stationed there.

10) Economic conditions and policies. The Japanese economy was crushed after the war. Economic sabotage by Japanese took some toll, but there was no profiteering by Americans. Liberal economic policies inspired by the New Deal gave the Japanese government a larger role in the economy. This is not the "sweeping privatization" expected in Iraq.

Dower also noted the positive effect of the war for Japan in producing high numbers of engineers and skilled workers. "Post-war Japan possessed extraordinary human resources, people who would now work in a nonmilitary direction. Aircraft builders now built rapid railways; battleship builders made supertankers; tank-builders made heavy construction equipment; and electronics experts went to work for SONY," Dower said.

The March 7 panel was the third in the series "The Politics of Reconstructing Iraq," sponsored by CIS and DUSP. Yosef Jabareen, lecturer in DUSP, and Bish Sanjal, professor of urban planning, served as moderator and respondent.

Upcoming sessions include "Constructing a New Liberal Iraq" (April 4); "Consolidating Iraqi Democracy" (April 11), "The Arab Discourse" (April 25) and "Constructing a 'New Middle East'" (May 2).

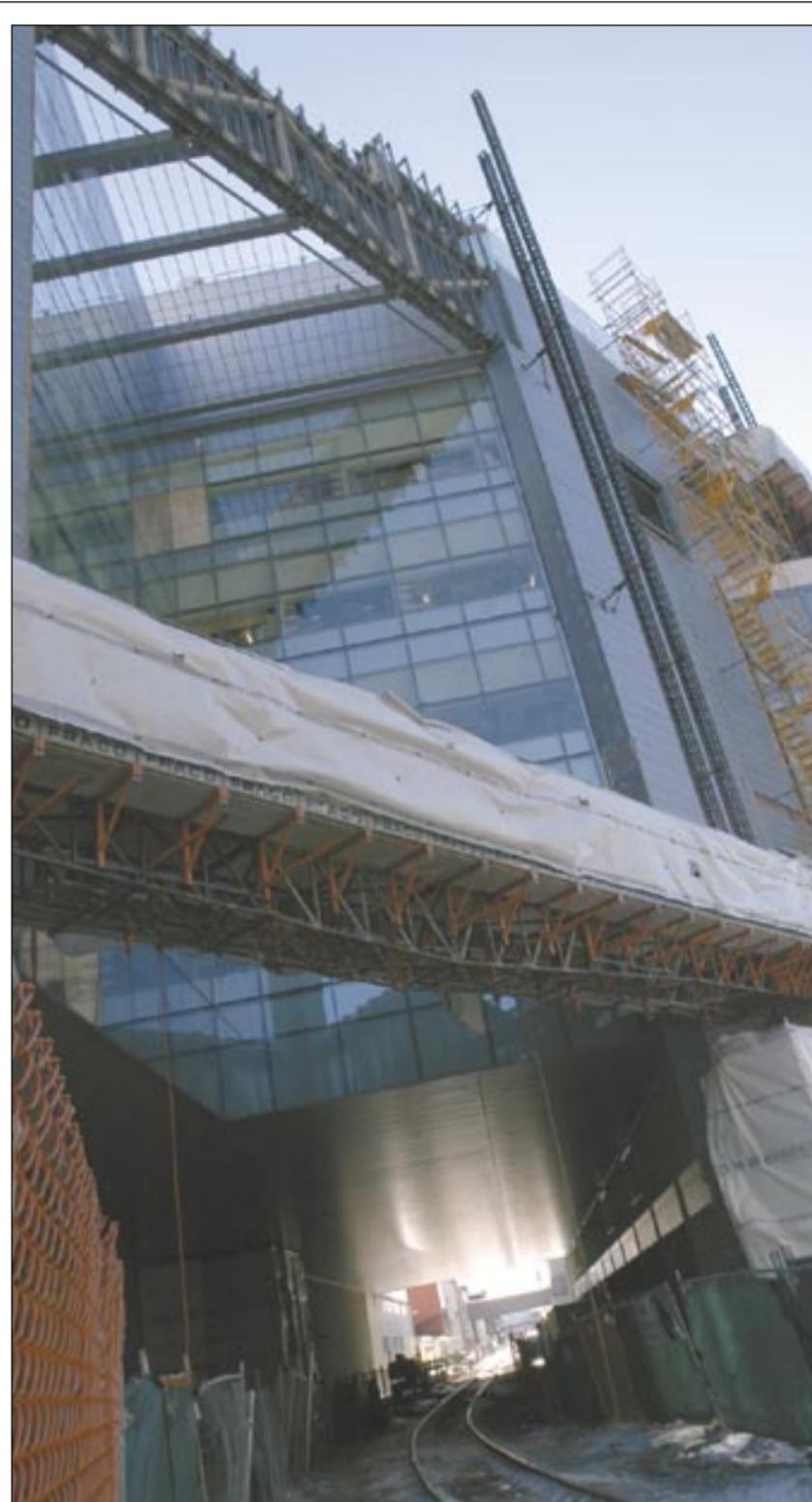


PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Light at the end of the tunnel

Construction on the new facilities for brain and cognitive sciences creates a tunnel over the tracks by Kendall Square.

WALKER

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the film version of Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "The Color Purple," was released. Walker was the first African-American to win the prize for fiction.

Despite her success, Walker came under fire from critics who said her book, and later the movie version of the novel, perpetuated a negative stereotype of men. White said she admired Walker's vision and ability to stay strong through the maelstrom.

"I was very interested in what it was about her work that drew criticism from so many corners," said White.

Over time, she became convinced that the best way to defend Walker was to remind people of her roots growing up as the daughter of a sharecropper in Jim Crow South. "People had forgotten," White said.

White got to know the author after Walker wrote her a letter to say she'd enjoyed a review White wrote of one of her books. "We became collegial allies," White said.

Initially, Walker did not like the idea of a biography, but one year after White first approached her, Walker offered her carte blanche into her past.

As the book, scheduled to take four years, crept past deadline, it was Walker who kept White sane, she said. At first

daunted by the prospect of containing such a life on the pages of a novel, White found her direction driving home one night. She was inspired to write the book as though she were introducing Walker to playwright and "Raisin in the Sun" author Lorraine Hansberry, who died in 1965.

Through Walker's files, countless interviews with Walker herself, her family members, friends and associates, White painstakingly brought the book together. And then, "finally one day in 2003, the voice said, 'she knows enough.'" With that, the process was complete. It had taken White 10 years.

For White, the opportunity to write about someone who opened so many doors and broke so many barriers has been amazing.

"There is no doubt about it, I admire Alice Walker," she said. "Alice has been a visionary, and it takes people a while to catch up with her."

The White talk was one of 10 events that took place during the first CCRR Week from March 5-12. Other events included "Black Boy," a one-man performance based on Richard Wright's 1945 autobiography and "Yo Soy Latina!" a play exploring life as a Latina in the United States.

There were also lectures, discussions and film screenings all centered on issues related to race and ethnicity.

SRI LANKA

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disaster.

Priyadarshi and Carlo Ratti, a research scientist in urban studies, are forming a team of MIT students and faculty to create a design model for building small homes (about 400 square feet) with indoor plumbing that can be built using local materials, mostly wood, which is better able to withstand ocean storms than the concrete block buildings that were there before.

"Building a cluster of these houses based on an MIT model would be a way for MIT to reach out and show compassion to the victims and to house people in a socially conscious way," said Priyadarshi.

The Prajnopaya Foundation was founded by the Dalai Lama and has no paid employees. All donations go directly to building the homes.

Another aspect of the MIT project is Ratti's work with the MIT SENSEable City Laboratory to create an electronic disaster alert system for Sri Lanka. A joint research proposal developed by MIT and the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka calls for an early warning system that could be set up through cellular service to allow for early evacuation.

For more information, contact Ratti at ratti@media.mit.edu or (617) 253-7926 or Priyadarshi at tenzin@mit.edu or visit www.prajnopaya.org.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Faculty meeting scheduled today

A regular meeting of the faculty will be held today, March 16, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 155 of the Stata Center. Agenda items are: a vote on establishing an S.B. in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering, presented by Professor Kim Vandiver; a presentation about graduate student advising by Hector Hernandez, Krishnan Sriram and Barun Singh; and a presentation on a faculty housing program by Provost Robert Brown and Associate Provost Claude Canizares.

Awards Convocation deadline extended

The deadline for nominations for MIT's 2005 Awards Convocation has been extended to Friday, March 25. These awards will be announced at the annual Institute Awards Convocation on May 10.

For information on the more than 30 awards that will be presented and to find out how to submit nominations go to <http://web.mit.edu/awards> or call Fran Miles at (617) 253-7546.

Researchers identify target for cancer drugs

David Cameron
Whitehead Institute

Researchers at the Whitehead Institute and MIT have discovered a missing piece to the puzzle of how certain cancers work.

For nearly a decade, scientists have been trying to fully understand a particular communication pathway inside of cells that contributes to many malignant brain and prostate cancers. While scientists have identified elements of this pathway, other key components have remained a mystery.

The new finding may present drug makers with a significant new cancer target.

"We believe that we have identified a component that researchers have been looking for since 1996," says Whitehead Associate Member David Sabatini, who is also an

assistant professor of biology at MIT.

At the heart of this new research is a protein called Akt, an important player in the regulation of cell division and survival. Abnormally high activation of Akt has long been implicated in a variety of cancers. If Akt travels to the cell membrane, it is switched on and promotes cell division, often contributing to tumor growth. However, as long as it stays within the cell cytoplasm, it remains relatively inactive. That's because the tumor-suppressor protein PTEN keeps Akt in check by destroying lipids in the cell membrane that normally draw Akt to the surface. In a sense, PTEN keeps a leash on Akt and thus suppresses cell division.

But when PTEN is mutated and unable to function, Akt breaks free. It makes its way to the cell membrane where other

proteins activate it, thereby enabling Akt to contribute to tumor growth. "When a cell loses PTEN through, say, a mutation, Akt goes gangbusters," says Sabatini.

The exact means by which Akt switches on when it reaches the cell membrane has only been partially understood. As a result, researchers have lacked a clear idea about how to prevent the process. However, in the Feb. 18 issue of *Science*, researchers from the Sabatini lab report discovering an important missing piece of the activation process.

This missing component, a molecule called mTOR, is a protein that influences a cell's ability to expand in size. mTOR has been widely studied as the target for the immunosuppressant drug rapamycin (in fact, mTOR is an acronym for "mammalian target of rapamycin"). In July 2004, Dos

Sarbassov, a scientist in Sabatini's lab, discovered a new protein that mTOR interacts with called rictor, but he wasn't yet sure of what these two proteins do together. In this latest paper, Sarbassov reports that when mTOR and rictor bind and form a complex, they help activate Akt by adding a phosphate group to a sequence of its amino acids (a process called "phosphorylation").

According to Sarbassov, "If we find a molecule that can block the mTOR/rictor complex, then we may be able to prevent Akt from becoming active and contributing to tumor formation."

This work was supported by the NIH, the Pew Charitable Trust, the Rita Allen Foundation, the Anna Fuller Fund, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

TICKETS

Continued from Page 1

constant at \$45 per ticket."

Karlsson adds: "With the total cost of taxes changing only slightly, the relative share of each ticket that goes to taxes and fees has been steadily increasing."

The federal government and airports currently add four types of taxes and fees to the basic cost of each domestic airline ticket. The administration's new proposal increases the security fee associated with passenger and baggage screening by up to \$6.

The MIT/Daniel Webster College ticket tax project estimates taxes and fees by analyzing a representative sample of actual tickets sold. "The airline industry usually computes taxes by picking a single 'typical' ticket. That choice usually results in a much higher estimate of the tax impact, and we usually see the airline industry report the tax as 26 percent," Karlsson said.

Shiro Yamanaka, an MIT graduate student in Transportation and Operations Research, is the third member of the study team. MIT's Global Airline Industry Program is funded primarily through a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Partial support for this study was also provided by a gift to the program from Amadeus, S.A.S.

For more information go to <http://web.mit.edu/TicketTax/>.



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

New approaches to an old problem

Members of Professor Herbert Einstein's class, 1.013 Civil Engineering Design, use models to test their theories for how the Rapa Nui people of Easter Island moved the giant stone heads, known as moai, into position on the island 1,500 years ago.

Climate change poorly understood, MIT survey finds

Nancy Stauffer

Laboratory for Energy and the Environment

Climate change and the threat of global warming are poorly understood by the U.S. public, and taking action to reduce their impact is not a high priority, according to a recent MIT survey.

These results suggest that change in U.S. climate policy will not be led by public opinion. Elected officials will have to provide leadership—a task they will find difficult because achieving significant reduction of the greenhouse gases linked to climate change may involve economic costs well above what the average consumer is willing to pay.

For more than a decade, Howard J. Herzog and his colleagues at MIT's Laboratory for Energy and the Environment (LFEE) have been studying one approach to climate-change mitigation. In carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture and storage (CCS), the CO₂ emissions from large sources that contribute to global warming are captured and injected into geologic formations for long-term storage.

CCS has technologic and economic promise, but public acceptance could be a problem. As a result, the researchers wanted to find out what people thought about CCS in particular and about climate change and environmental issues in general.

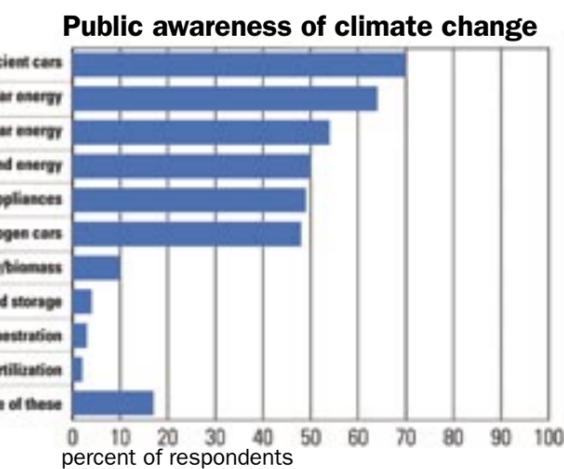
So LFEE Principal Research Engineer Herzog, graduate student Thomas E. Curry, Professor David M. Reiner of the

University of Cambridge and Stephen Ansolabehere, the Elting R. Morison Professor in MIT's Department of Political Science, developed a survey that included 17 questions about the environment, global warming and climate-change-mitigation technologies. They collaborated with Knowledge Networks, a company that specializes in Internet-based public opinion surveys.

The 1,200 respondents proved to be relatively unaware not only of CCS but also of other energy-related responses to climate change that were listed in the survey. The researchers were not surprised that CCS fell under the radar for the general public. It was more surprising that many of the respondents also had not recently heard or read about hydrogen cars, wind energy or nuclear energy.

Most striking: Fully 17 percent of the people had heard or read about none of the listed items during the past year.

Other questions demonstrated the public's lack of understanding. For example, when asked what concern CCS would address, well over half of the respondents said they were not sure. Of those that made a choice, 23 percent said (correctly)



GRAPHIC COURTESY / LABORATORY FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

This chart displays responses to the following question: 'Have you heard of or read about any of the following in the past year? Check all that apply.'

that CCS could reduce global warming, but 29 percent said (incorrectly) that it could reduce smog.

The survey further found that the environment and climate change are not high-priority issues for the public. The environment came out 13th on a list of 22 possibilities for "the most important issues facing the U.S. today." And on a list of 10 specific environmental problems, "global warming" came up sixth, well behind water pol-

lution and toxic waste.

What do the survey results mean for public outreach on climate change issues? Researchers concluded that education is critical. Programs should start with the fundamentals, helping people to understand the links between burning fossil fuels, greenhouse gas emissions and the potential for climate change. Perhaps most important, researchers said discussions must include the relative costs of the various technology options, as cost differentials can profoundly influence people's preferences.

In continuing their work on CCS, the MIT researchers plan to administer the same survey in two or three years to measure the evolution of public awareness. In the meantime, they are working with their Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS) partners to analyze similar surveys taken in Japan, the United Kingdom, and Sweden.

This research was supported by the AGS and the Carbon Sequestration Initiative.

For more information, please go to <http://lfec.mit.edu/publications/newsletter/ee200412.pdf#page=7>.

Girls get intro to engineering

Sasha Brown
News Office

Rachel Pytel decided to become an engineer in seventh grade because of an enrichment program called "Expanding Your Horizons."

More than a decade later, the third-year materials engineering graduate student is hoping to provide the same inspiration for girls across the country as an instructor in the Women's Initiative, a growing MIT group dedicated to exposing young women to careers in engineering.

For Pytel, who grew up in upstate New York with two musician parents, engineering was not an obvious choice. She was selected for the program because of her excellence in school. Over the course of the one-day seminar, Pytel was able to learn about engineering and conduct experiments, including one in which the 12-year-old bounced balls frozen with liquid nitrogen.

"I thought it was the coolest thing," said Pytel. "It made me want to be a scientist."

In January, Pytel joined Anna Michel, an ocean engineering Ph.D. candidate, in South Carolina, and the two women went to dozens of high schools and middle schools across the state, teaching hour-long engineering courses to 12 to 60 girls at a time, designed to spark their interest in engineering.

Their trip was part of the 7-year-old campus group's annual program that sends women engineers to schools across the country during the month of January. First sponsored by Microsoft, the program was initially only open to members of Eta Kappa Nu, the electrical and computer engineering honor society, but in 2002, the group opened up to other departments. The group is now sponsored by a variety of organizations, including Texas Instruments.

"We are currently looking for funding," said Alexandra Chau, graduate student in mechanical engineering and co-

director of the Women's Initiative who feels that the group really does make a difference.

"I felt really lucky because my parents were very encouraging for me to be scientific," said Chau. "It is amazing how the girls, who did not always have those kinds of backgrounds, really respond to us."

Both Michel and Pytel were also surprised by the stereotypes many girls held about engineering. "One student thought it was a dirty job that only men should do," said Michel with a laugh.

In fact, many of the girls did believe that engineering was a job that involved a lot of heavy labor and getting dirty. Both Pytel and Michel worked to combat that image by introducing the girls to the wide variety of engineering jobs available through photos, discussion and hands-on demonstrations.

Pytel and Michel told the girls about the exciting things their engineering friends are doing: designing toys for Mattel, experiencing weightlessness at NASA and helping to save the environment. "We showed them women who are doing really amazing, interesting things," said Pytel.

Since most of the girls were already strong in math and science to begin with, they just needed a nudge in the right direction, said Pytel. So many other professions are well represented in the media, but engineers "only have Dilbert," Pytel said. Without parents or family members who are in engineering, these girls might not be exposed to the profession, said Pytel. "They just don't know about it."

In addition to the more practical information, the girls were also invited to participate in a mini-experiment, breaking into groups to build clay boats. "They were really receptive," said Pytel. "They really seemed to enjoy it."

Additionally, Pytel and Michel provided the girls with a road map of courses they should take if they choose to pursue an engineering career. "We gave them stuff to think about," said Pytel. "And we broke down some of the stereotypes."

AWARDS AND HONORS

Five MIT faculty members have won Sloan Research Fellowships, The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation announced this month: **Denis Auroux**, associate professor of mathematics, **Victor Chernozhukov**, assistant professor of economics, **Nergis Mavalvala**, assistant professor of physics, **Jason Starr**, assistant professor of mathematics and **Alice Ting**, assistant professor of chemistry. They are among 116 young scientists, mathematicians and economists to receive the prestigious fellowship, which provides grants of \$45,000 for a two-year period. The fellowships were created by Alfred P. Sloan Jr. in 1955 to provide funds to outstanding researchers early in their academic careers.

Professor **David Bartel** of biology, a member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, has received the National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology. Each year a medal and a prize of \$25,000 goes to a young scientist for a recent notable discovery in molecular biology. Bartel was chosen for his discoveries on the repertoire of catalytic RNA and the analysis of micro RNA genes and their targets. The award is supported by Pfizer and has been presented since 1962. This year's awards will be presented May 2 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Professor **Rodney Brooks** of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science has been selected to hold the Matsushita Electric Professorship for a five-year term. He was recognized for his "outstanding achievements and leadership in the field of robotics." The Matsushita Professorship is funded through a grant from the Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Brooks is director of MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab.

Catherine Higgins, a junior in aeronautics and astronautics, has received the National Italian American Foundation's Eleanor and Anthony DeFrancis Scholarship. Scholarship winners are selected based on academic merit and have an average GPA of 3.95. The NAIF program gives out more than 100 scholarships, ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000.

James Poterba, the Mitsui Professor of Economics and associate head of the Department of Economics, has received a certificate of excellence in TIAA-CREF's ninth annual Paul A. Samuelson Award competition for outstanding scholarly writing on lifelong financial security. Poterba was recognized with Amy Finkelstein of Harvard for their paper, "Adverse Selection in Insurance Markets: Policyholder Evidence From the U.K. Annuity Market." The award is named for Nobel laureate and MIT Professor Paul Samuelson.

MIT senior **Reid W. Barton** has received the AMS-MAA-SIAM Frank and Brennie Morgan Prize for Outstanding Research in Mathematics by an Undergraduate Student. The award is presented jointly by the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Barton received the award in recognition of outstanding research in a paper titled "Packing Densities of Patterns."

Gautam Mukunda, a Ph.D. candidate in international relations in the Department of Political Science, is among 30 recipients of this year's Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. The fellowship honors immigrants and children of immigrants. Gautam was born in Washington, D.C., to Indian parents. Fellows receive up to a \$20,000 stipend plus half tuition for as many as two years of graduate study at any U.S. institute of higher learning.

SURVEY

Continued from Page 1

publicity for such services," said Singh.

The online survey, filled with detailed questions geared toward assessing general satisfaction level, was administered last fall. Additional focus groups were also convened during that time.

The questions ran the gamut, from assessing the advisor/advisee relationship to gauging how many of the Institute's resources—things like the gym, dining halls, MIT Medical and MIT Health—were actually being used.

Graduate students expressed an interest in seeing greater emphasis placed on peer-to-peer counseling and advising, said Singh. Some departments are stronger than others in that area, he said. "We really need to help students help one another."

According to Lydia Snover, assistant to the provost for institutional research, the data will be especially helpful in program reviews. Every department will receive its own data to analyze, said Snover, who was pleased by the large number of respondents. "It went quite well," she said.

The results from the 2004 survey will also be combined with the results from a similar survey administered in 2001. "These sorts of surveys are given out every three to four years to measure the effect of changes," said Snover, who was pleased by the high level of satisfaction with the athletic facilities as compared to past surveys. "A lot of money has been put into those changes," she said.

Surveys like this help to inform the Institute where attention is needed, said Snover. "The data is really used quite a bit in many different areas of the Institute," said Snover.



Bright spot for latke team

Physics Professor Walter Lewin, above, uses the scientific method to prove that the latke is superior to the hamentashen because it can produce light. At left, the audience enjoys the third annual clash of the Jewish delicacies, the Latke-Hamentashen Debate, held Monday, March 14, in Room 10-250.



PHOTOS / LAURA WULF

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

24' Thompson Fisherman 230hp I/O Merc. Includes trailer. Navigation and communication equipment includes a Garmin GPS, Loran, VHF radio, power hailer. Fish finder. Video sounder for SCUBA diving. \$15,000/bst. 718-910-3086.

9 Horsepower snowblower, used 3 seasons, newly overhauled engine. 29" cut. \$250. 617-851-3367.

Austrian China, Vienna, old. Service orig. for 12 now 10, 3 covered dishes, 4 platters, diff. sizes,

sauceboat, cups, breakfast, lunch, dinner plates, many extras. \$250. Gisela at 508-839-9738.

Men's Jacket. Brown leather looks, below hip length, size large. Fleece lining throughout, made in Italy by T. Shearling Sportswear, new. \$55. Rosalie at 781-391-1307.

VEHICLES

2002 Nissan Frontier SE, V6, 4WD, automatic. Crew cap, running boards, roof rack, bed liner, bed extended rack. Power windows, locks, mirrors. Factory alloy wheels, full warranty, 44K. \$16,000/bst. Wayne at 617-253-2593.

1992 Plym. Grd Voy. LE Minivan, FWD, 7 pass., white, no rust, airbag, PS, PW, PL, ABS, f/r H/AC, NS orig. owner. 167K with serv. rec., new AT, tires, rad., muf. \$1,495. 617-253-6601 or welsch@mit.edu.

HOUSING

Inman Square: 6 rm, 2 BR apt, laundry in basement. Great location in Somerville just outside of Inman Square Cambridge. \$1,400/mo. 781-665-8102.

Ocean front summer cabin, Mount Desert Island, ME: 2BD/1BA w/living/kitchen area; picture windows, deck overlooking water; stairway to beach. Mins from Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor. \$1,000/week June-Sept. Steve at 253-5757 or chorover@mit.edu.

Arlington Heights: share 2 BR apt, 1st floor of house, LR, DR, kitchen, bath, spare room, storage, near public trans., off-street parking, W/D, dishwasher. No pets, no smoking. Avail. 5/1/05. \$625/mo. + utilities. 781-316-2346 or dheggstad@ll.mit.edu.

Arlington: room available in house. On MBTA 77 Bus line. Non-smoking 28-45 years profes-

sional male/female. \$490/mo. + \$500 deposit. Monthly utils: oil (winter) \$70, power \$50, internet \$15. No pets. Avail. immediately. jhang@mit.edu.

Somerville: 4 Rm/1 BR w/study, Hdwd floors, newly renovated. Offstreet pkg. No smokers/no pets. #85 bus to Kendal Sq./nr. Redline. \$950 first & seq. dep. 617-625-3908.

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

WANTED

Looking for a nanny for 10-15 hrs/week for toddler and newborn, near Harvard Square. Flexible schedule. Experience and references - essential. Non-smokers. michalakavia@yahoo.com

ESG student, staffer make beautiful music

Jean Chemnick
Office of the Arts

"It's like an electrical current... if the river becomes wider, it can flow slower, but the same amount of water is flowing through." Ole Nielsen, a Ph.D. candidate in electrical engineering at MIT, was not lecturing a class of undergraduates on the principles of physics. He was explaining the feel of the final movement of "Four Autumn Sketches," a new piece by composer and MIT staff member Graham Ramsay that Nielsen will premiere at his flute recital on Friday, March 18, at 5 p.m. in Killian Hall.

Nielsen has played the flute since he was an 8-year-old back in Norway. Since entering the Experimental Study Group (ESG) as a freshman, he has performed in a recital every year as a requirement for the Emerson Scholarship, which covers the cost of his flute lessons.

Nielsen and Ramsay's collaboration has been two years in the making. Ramsay, who works for ESG as an administrator and teacher, attended one of Nielsen's annual recitals and was impressed. After the concert, he told Nielsen, "It would be interesting to write for you." They discovered they shared an admiration for French composer Henri Dutilleux and good scotch.

In writing "Four Autumn Sketches," Ramsay said he used the same approach he uses in his work as a commercial photographer, listening and getting input from his



PHOTO COURTESY/OFFICE OF THE ARTS, MIT

Flutist Ole Nielsen works with composer Graham Ramsay on Ramsay's new piece, "Four Autumn Sketches," which will premiere Friday, March 18, in Killian Hall. Nielsen has been a member of the Experimental Study Group since he was a freshman. Ramsay is an ESG administrator and teacher.

clients. As he finished each section, he handed it to Nielsen for feedback. As a clarinetist, Ramsay had some experience with woodwinds, but he relied on Nielsen to ensure that his piece truly worked

for the flute. Too many composers write music that doesn't work for the instrument, said Ramsay, so it doesn't get performed. He wanted his piece to have a life after this first performance.

"Writing for a particular performer is much more gratifying," Ramsay said. The piece can be written with specific talents in mind. "Ole has splendid tone, and a wide range of colors avail-

able to him." In addition, he said, a performer's involvement in the writing process encourages him or her to invest more in the piece.

"Four Autumn Sketches" makes use of Nielsen's versatility. While the four movements were all inspired by Ramsay's impressions of New England in the fall, they are each, he said, quite different.

The first movement, "Court-yard, Boston Public Library," is the most lighthearted. Ramsay said its four sections, which are by turns quick, graceful, sprightly and broad, show different perspectives from inside the courtyard. The second movement, "Ghosts of Blanchard, Maine," is inspired by Ramsay's ancestral home in a now-extinct township, where the original stone walls remain, and it is "very, very grey" even in October, Ramsay said. Nielsen said that only the flute part is serially based, making the piece "less harmonically settling" and more "ghostlike."

By contrast, the sun is shiny in the third movement. Inspired by Concord's famous Walden Pond, it is tonal, harmonic and "stays pretty," Nielsen said.

Nielsen calls the fourth and final movement, "Rock River," a "wild" movement that invokes rapids: The music maintains a driving pace throughout, even while growing calmer in the middle.

The program will also include works by Bach and Robert Muczynski.

For more information, call 617-253-9800.

▶ ARTS NEWS

"The Man in My Head," a new musical by Associate Professor **Thomas DeFrantz** (book) and Michael Wartofsky (music and lyrics), will receive its first New York City reading by Broadway performer Darius De Haas at 113 Second Ave., on March 20-21 at 7 p.m. The one-man musical, written specifically for De Haas, chronicles the affairs of a 20-something gay African-American man finding his way through the urban minefield of relationships in New York City, circa 2005. Admission is free but advance reservations are required by calling 212-992-9322.

Beth Coleman, assistant professor in the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies will present an artist talk with Howard Goldkrand titled, "Electroretro Now: Recent Work in the Investigation of Invisible Information," at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) on Wednesday, March 30. Coleman began collaborating with Goldkrand in 1995 with the SoundLab Cultural Alchemy project, a nomadic multimedia event. Their work takes on multiple forms and genres, including sound, media sculpture, software, installation, site mappings and text. Their SMFA talk will take place from 6-8 p.m. in Building B B311 (Visual & Critical Studies Lecture Hall).

The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO), conducted by James Levine, will present the world premiere of "Darkbloom, Overture for an Imagined Opera" by Institute Professor **John Harbison** at Symphony Hall March 24-26. "Darkbloom," Harbison says, "effectively conjures up the mood of this overture...[serving] as an emblem or anagram for the complex tragic-comic spirit of the story and its author."

Concerts are on Thursday, March 24, at 8 p.m.; Friday, March 25, at 1:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 25, at 8 p.m. There will be an open rehearsal of this program on Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m., with a prerehearsal talk at 6:30 p.m. in Symphony Hall. Tickets range from \$27-\$105 with rehearsal tickets priced at \$16. For more information, call (617) 266-1200 or (888) 266-1200 or visit www.bso.org.

Concert to showcase Korean instruments

Lynn Heinemann
Office of the Arts

The distinctive sounds of traditional Korean instruments will be used to create innovative new music at an Artists Behind the Desk concert at The List Visual Arts Center this Friday, March 18, at 5:15 p.m.

The concert is being held in conjunction with "Kimsooja: Seven Wishes and Scenes," a current exhibition by Korean-born artist Kimsooja that focuses on large Iris prints of fabrics traditionally given to Korean newlyweds.

Percussionist Curt Newton, who recently began playing improvised themes on traditional Korean instruments with cellist Jeff Song, saw an opportunity for a different kind of union.

"I wondered if some pertinent connection might be made around Korean-American themes," said Newton, a department liaison for MIT's OpenCourseWare program. In a marriage between art forms, Newton and Song will present the concert on Korean instruments—the chang-go (an hourglass-shaped drum) and kayagum (a 12-string zither)—at the List Center galleries in Building E15.

"Our stuff is not traditional Korean music in the least," says Newton, nor is it even a Korean/Western fusion. "It's improvised music inspired by and drawing upon a huge range of influences that happens to be played on traditional Korean instruments," he says. Those influences include jazz, rock, folk, avant-garde and 20th century classical music. "Because of this choice of instruments, the way the instruments work and sound together, on a surface level it sounds Korean to the casual listener," says Newton, "but that's not what we're about ultimately."

As a Boston-based drummer and percussionist Newton has been playing uncompromising original music since 1986. A versatile ensemble player and soloist, he integrates innovative sounds and extended techniques with the jazz and rock drum set traditions. Musician and composer Song is becoming well known for his contributions to the world of contemporary improvised music and to the growing body of creative music by Asian Americans. Originally from the Midwest,



PHOTO / CURT NEWTON

Percussionist Curt Newton (left) and cellist Jeff Song use the chang-go and kayagum, traditional Korean instruments, to create 'music inspired by and drawing upon a huge range of influences.' They will perform on campus on Friday, March 18.

Song has been active in the jazz, folk, rock, funk, new music and contemporary improvisation scenes in the Boston and New York areas since 1982.

The evening will include a discussion of Kimsooja's exhibition by List Visual Arts Center Curator Bill Arning and will conclude with a question-and-answer session about Kimsooja's work and Korean music.

Gallery talks and film

A number of public talks and a film night will round out the activities accompanying Kimsooja's exhibition and "Pavel Braila," an exhibition documenting contemporary life in the Republic of Moldova (located between Romania and Ukraine).

List Visual Arts Center Director Jane Farver and Arning conduct a Curators' Talk today (Wednesday, March 16) at noon; Arning will lead a Gallery Talk

on Friday, March 18, at 6 p.m., and List Center Education/Outreach Coordinator Hiroko Kikuchi will hold a Gallery Talk on Sunday, March 27, at 2 p.m.

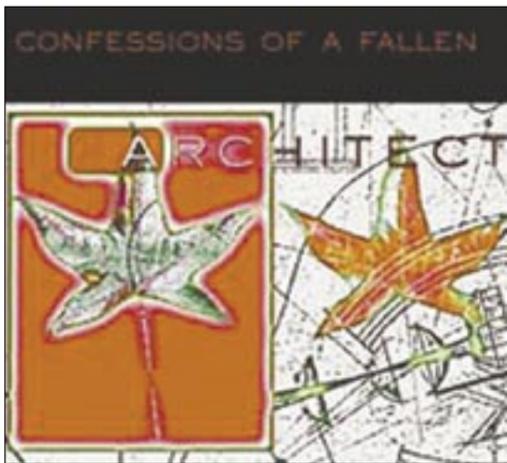
Kimsooja returns to the galleries to talk about her exhibition on Wednesday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m.

In conjunction with the "Pavel Braila" exhibition, the List Center will host a film night presenting "Building Heaven, Remembering Earth: Confessions of a Fallen Architect" on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. in Bartos Theater. Directed by Oliver Hockenhull, this Canadian film presents a crosscultural, panhistorical reflection on the philosophy of architecture. The List Center's film nights are organized by John Gianvito, a Boston-based filmmaker, teacher and curator.

Both exhibitions are on view at the List Center through April 10.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 16-20

 Science/ Technology	 Performance	 Architecture/ Planning	 Humanities
 Music	 Exhibit	 Reading	 Special Interest
 Business/ Money	 Film	 Sports	 Featured Event



'Building Heaven, Remembering Earth'

'Building Heaven, Remembering Earth: Confessions of a Fallen Architect' will be shown at the Bartos Theater, March 23, 7 p.m. as part of the List Visual Arts Center Film Night. Oliver Huckenhull's film concerns spiritual and intellectual aspirations expressed in the language of architecture.

WEDNESDAY
March 16

 **Object Lessons: Better, Faster, More-Computer Memory**
Curator of Science and Technology Deborah Douglas tells the story of Jay Forrester's critical computer memory invention from the 1950s. Noon. MIT Museum. 253-4444.

 **Artists Behind the Desk**
Readings by Kevin McLellan of Facilities and Eric Schwartz of the Lean Aerospace Initiative. Noon. Killian Hall. 253-9821.

 **Arts Colloquium**
Jay Scheib, assistant professor of Theater Arts, speaks about his works. 5-7 p.m. Room 14E-304. Reservations required by March 11. 253-9821.

 **Advanced Music Performance Student**
Recital
Sherman (Xiaoming) Jia '06 on the violin. 5 p.m. Killian Hall. 253-9800.

THURSDAY
March 17

 **Saint Patrick's Day**
Wear green to avoid getting pinched on this day celebrating all things Irish.

 **MIT Chapel Concert**
"Art and Popular Song in Renaissance England" with Richard Maloney on the lute and Maria Georgakarakou singing. Noon. MIT Chapel. 253-9800.

 **Varsity Men's Lacrosse vs. Wentworth**
4 p.m. Jack Barry Field. 258-5265.

 **"Want To Be a High Tech Entrepreneur?"**
Talk by Dr. Yang Zhao, CEO of Memsic Inc. and Dennis C. Liu, CFO, both of whom gave up financial stability for the chance to achieve the American dream. 5:30 p.m. Room 4-163.

 **"Othello"**
Shakespeare Ensemble production directed by Kortney Adams. March 17-19. \$8, \$6 students. 8 p.m. Sala de Puerto Rico. 253-2903.

FRIDAY
March 18

 **Developing Countries' Contribution to the Climate Change**
Leena Srivastava, executive director of The Energy and Resources Institute, talks about India. 2 p.m. Room 6-120. 452-3199.

 **Advanced Music Performance Student**
Recital
Ole Nielsen on the flute. 5 p.m. Killian Hall. 253-9800.

 **Gallery Talk**
Curator Bill Arning discusses the current exhibitions. Musicians Jeff Song and Curt Newton's reveal their contemporary version of traditional Korean instruments. 6 p.m. List Visual Arts Center. 253-4680.

 **Norouz Celebration**
Traditional Norouz (Persian New Year) dinner. 6 p.m. Walker Memorial.

SATURDAY
March 19

 **Retreat Based on Mind Training Teachings**
Buddhist retreat based on "The Freedom from the Four Attachments." 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. MIT Chapel. 324-6030.

 **Easter Breakfast**
Breakfast followed by an egg hunt. Sponsored by Westgate Community Association. 10 a.m. Westgate Lounge. 577-5880.

 **"Pavel Braila"**
Pavel Braila's first solo exhibition in the U.S. is a large scale installation which consists of six 11' x 7' video projections and a selection of large-scale photographs. Noon-6 p.m. List Center. 253-4680.

 **Spring Fling Dance**
Evening of ballroom and latin dancing. Beginner lesson at 7:30 p.m. 8 p.m. Morss Hall. 686-0823.

SUNDAY
March 20

 **"Young Inventors at MIT"**
Objects displayed chronicle the past decade of the Lemelson-Student Prize winners, including James McLurkin's SwarmBots (2003), Amy Smith's phase-change incubator (2000), and Saul Griffith's device for creating low-cost eyeglasses (2004). Noon-5 p.m. 253-4444.

 **Capturing the Light: From Camera Obscura to Holography**
MIT holographer Betsy Connors gives a brief history of how light is captured to make photographs, film, and video and holograms. Noon. MIT Museum. 253-4444.

 **International Folk Dancing (participatory)**
8 p.m. Lobdell Dining Hall. 253-FOLK.

 **Margam: An Evening of Bharatanatyam**
A recital of traditional Indian classical dance. \$5 MIT/\$7 Non-MIT. 6-9 p.m. Kresge Little Theater.

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

"MONK'S MOOD"
Mar. 17
"A performance meditation on the Life and Music of Thelonious Monk" by choreographer/tap dancer Thomas Defrantz. Mar. 17-19.
Kresge Little Theater
8 p.m.

WOMEN AND THE MEDIA CONFERENCE
Mar. 18
Keynotes by Global Exchange founder Medea Benjamin and authors Daisy Hernandez and Jill Nelson. 876-5310.
Stata Center
various times

WHO SPONSORS WHAT
Mar. 22
"Who Sponsors What: Dynasties, Rulers and Sciences in Islamic Societies." Talk by Sonja Brentjes. 253-6989.
Room E56-100
Noon-2 p.m.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 21-27

MONDAY
March 21

 **Spring Break Begins**

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

 **"The Traveling Magazine Table"**
An assortment of rarely circulated local and international magazines published by nonprofit and alternative spaces, groups and artists' collectives. M, T, W 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Room N52-390. 452-2484.

 **"Robert Rauschenberg: XXXIV Drawings for Dante's Inferno"**
Exhibition features 34 illustrations. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Room E52-466.

TUESDAY
March 22

 **The Clipper Ship Era**
Through exquisite 19th-century lithographs, rare plans, photos, clipper ship cards, and exceptional models, this exhibition focuses on the design, construction, speed, and social experience of the clipper ship era. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. MIT Museum.

 **Astrophysics Colloquium**
Sponsored by teaching and the Center for Space Research. 4 p.m. Room 37-252.

 **Imobile Breakdancing Practice**
Weekly breakdancing practice open to all. 7:30 p.m. McCormick Residence, Dance room.

WEDNESDAY
March 23

 **List Visual Arts Center Film Night**
"Building Heaven, Remembering Earth: Confessions of a Fallen Architect." Presented in conjunction with "Pavel Braila" exhibition. 7 p.m. Bartos Theater. 253-4680.

 **Israeli Folk Dancing (Participatory)**
Teaching followed by teaching and requests. 8-11 p.m. Lobby 13. 484-3267.

 **"Constructing Stata"**
See entry on March 25

THURSDAY
March 24

 **"deCOi Architects"**
A showcase of 10 years of speculative architectural design concentrating on most recent research projects conducted at MIT, such as the parametrically generated Bankside Penthouse and the Miran Galerie fashion showroom. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Room 7-338. 253-2825.



FRIDAY
March 25

 **"Constructing Stata: Photographs of Richard Sobol"**
A collection of unpublished photographs captures the construction process that brought MIT and the world the Frank Gehry-designed Stata Center (or Building 32). 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Room 10-150. 253-4444.

 **Scrapbooking Workshop**
Workshop with Teri Chung. Noon-1:30 p.m. Room 10-340. 253-0219.

 **Boston Open 2005**
USA Badminton Sanctioned National Ranking Tournament. Boston Open is one of the largest badminton tournament in the United States. 1-9 p.m. Rockwell Cage.

 **MIT Anime Club Weekly Showing**
The MIT Anime Club shows the best of both recent and classic Japanese animation. 7 p.m. Room 6-120.

SATURDAY
March 26

 **Varsity Sailing—Women's Emily Wick Trophy**
9:30 a.m. Charles River. 258-5265.

 **Varsity Baseball vs. Clark (Doubleheader)**
Noon. Briggs Field. 258-5265.

 **Visualizing Physics: Hands-on Physics Demonstrations**
Try the same experiments as MIT students taking "Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism" (Course 8.02), featured in MIT Museum's current display, "Visualizing Physics: Transforming Science Learning at MIT." 2-4 p.m. MIT Museum. 253-4444.

SUNDAY
March 27

 **Hart Nautical Gallery**
"Iquarium"—A virtual fluid flow display, "Deep Frontiers: Ocean Engineering at MIT." Latest advances in underwater research. "Ship Models: The Evolution of Ship Design." Hart Nautical Gallery. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 253-5942.

 **Gallery Talk**
Talk by Hiroko Kikuchi, List Visual Arts Center Education/ Outreach Coordinator. 2 p.m. List Visual Arts Center. 253-4680.

 **Gala MITHAS Concert**
Anup Jalota, vocalist; Zakir Hussain, tabla. Presented by MITHAS (MIT Heritage of South Asia). \$100, \$50, \$35. 4 p.m. Kresge Auditorium. 258-7971.