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TechTalk

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

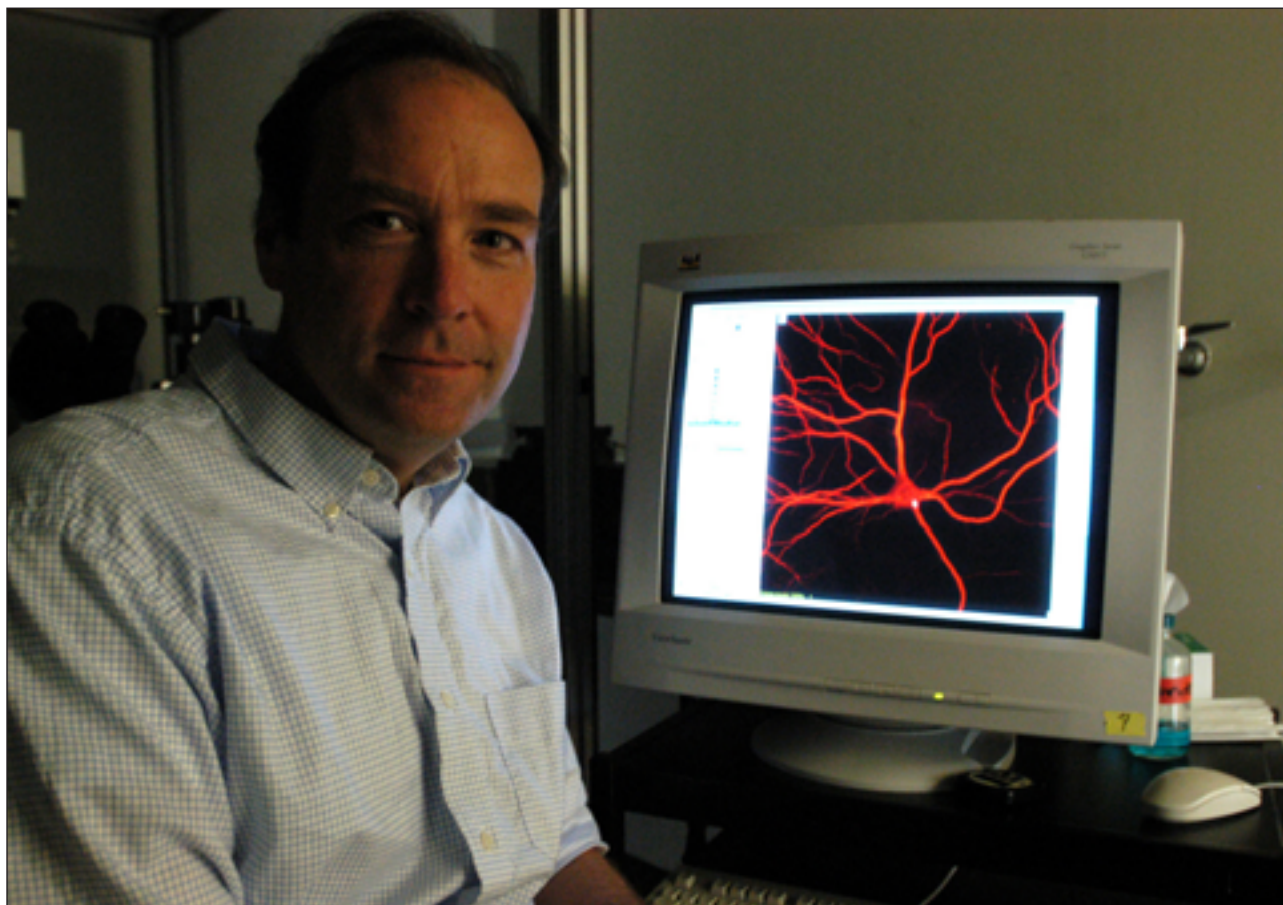


PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Mark Bear (above, with an image of a neuron on his computer monitor) has done research that implicates a single mutated gene and protein in the many symptoms of fragile X syndrome.

Work offers hope for treating retardation

By blocking a single brain chemical, many of the psychiatric and neurological disabilities associated with a primary cause of mental retardation could be treated, according to MIT neuroscientist Mark Bear in the July issue of Trends in Neuroscience.

The findings of Bear, the Picower Professor of Neuroscience at the Picower Center for Learning and Memory at MIT, and his colleagues from the University of Texas and Emory University School of Medicine have given hope to parents Katie Clapp and Mike Tranfaglia of West Newbury, Mass.

"This research offers the possibility of what I've only dared to dream but have been working toward for 10 years—a specific treatment that will help my son and hundreds of thousands of other children and adults with frag-

See **FRAGILE X**

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Whales safer with new buoy

Andrea Cohen
MIT Sea Grant

How can trombones help keep whales safe at sea? With a little MIT ingenuity.

Lines attached to conventional fishing buoys can snag a whale's pectoral fin, tail fluke or mouth, leading to injury or death. MIT Sea Grant's Cliff Goudey was sure there had to be a simple way to prevent such entanglements. "I was trying to come up with something having the right shape so I could test some ideas," he said. "I played the trumpet when I was in high school and realized that the shape of a brass instrument bell was what I was looking for, and a trombone would provide the ideal size."

He bought two trombone replacement bells—tenor and alto shapes were good candidates—and he used

See **BUOY**

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Tech Talk rescheduled

The next issue of Tech Talk originally scheduled for May 26 will instead be published a week later (Wednesday, June 2). That issue will include listings of year-end student awards; the June 9 issue with coverage of Commencement will be the last issue published until late August. For MIT news throughout the summer, go to the News Office web site at <http://web.mit.edu/news.html>.



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Roving on court

Nathan Ball, a junior in mechanical engineering, pats the Mars rover replica he helped build in subject 2.993 (Introduction to Robotics). Students in the experimental course tested their rovers—Spirit and Opportunity—on

Killian Court on Thursday, May 13. Next fall the course will be offered as subject 2.12, taught once again by Harry Asada, the Ford Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

NEWS

A BRACING WIN

The Active Joint Brace team wins the \$50K competition with its business plan for a medical device.

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WINGED MVPs

Fledgling hawks get webcam focus, courtesy of a new media production service, MVP&DT.

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RESEARCH

OPINION PIECES DEBUT

Tech Talk launches a new feature, Viewpoints, with a discussion of criteria for the next MIT president.

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CUTTING-EDGE ARCHITECTURE

Architect Robert Venturi voices his views on Frank Gehry's designs at the annual Max Wasserman Forum.

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ARTS

SHAPING HOMES AND BODIES

List Center exhibitions of two eastern European artists probe social and housing codes.

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ARTIST IN THE NEWS

Krzysztof Wodiczko is profiled on WGBH-TV today and will show work at MassMoCA next month.

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'Hawkcams' is one offering of new service

A new service, MIT Video Productions and Digital Technologies, has launched with two high-profile projects: a multimedia presentation at the Stata Center dedication and MIT Hawkcams.

MIT Video Productions and Digital Technologies (MVP&DT), part of Academic Media Production Services, is the result of a recent merger between MIT Video Productions and the Streaming Media Operations Group.

"This consolidation allows us to control and streamline the capture and delivery process from the camera lens to the desktop," said Larry Gallagher, director of MVP&DT. "In the past we would acquire [images] in an analog tape format and convert to digital for delivery, but now we can record direct to digital for subsequent streaming, and we can originate live webcasts from practically anywhere at the Institute."

At the recent Stata Center dedication, MVP&DT's multimedia production staff collaborated with the computer graphics group in the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory to create a presentation to kick off the ceremony. Time-lapse images that compressed the six-year construction process into a few seconds shared the screen with historic images of Building 20, first impressions of staff and students,

and wide-screen aerial shots of the nearly completed building.

"Our greatest visual assets in creating pieces are often provided by the researchers," said MVP&DT multimedia specialist Doug Bolin. "Professor Seth Teller and student Matt Wilkerson provided us with unlimited access to the millions of images that they captured since the demolition of Building 20 in 1998."

MVP&DT's most popular program of late is the MIT Hawkcams, a sort of "reality TV" offering. Since mid-April, the group has been broadcasting the maturation process of two baby red tail hawks in a nest on campus on MIT cable channel 11; since late April, the birds have also been shown on a live webcast 12 hours a day.

"We simply capitalized on our good fortune regarding the parents' choice of nest location. Our existing infrastructure allows us to share this without the significant commitment of resources that a project like this would normally require," said David Mycuc, associate director of MVP&DT.

"The webcast has attracted thousands of viewers from MIT and across the country, averaging 200 hits per day with a peak of well over 1,000 when the project was spotlighted on the MIT home page. We've received e-mail ranging from a simple thanks to a request that



IMAGE COURTESY / MVP&DT

The CSAIL computer graphics group and MVP&DT used time-lapse images and video compositing in a presentation at the opening celebration of the Stata Center.

we publish a log of when and what each of the chicks eat."

The parents and chicks have been named by some at MIT and their lives have been followed with great interest since the parent hawks first brought in twigs to

build the nest. The fledglings are expected to take flight sometime early next week.

MVP&DT provides production support and content delivery to many clients around MIT, including distance education initiatives such

as the Singapore-MIT Alliance, the System Design and Management program, OpenCourseWare and MITWorld. For more information, call 253-7603, see <http://web.mit.edu/amps/services> or e-mail mitvideo@mit.edu.

Active Joint Brace team wins MIT \$50K competition

The Active Joint Brace team was selected as winner at Wednesday's 15th annual MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition. Hyperscore and LiquidPiston were selected as runners-up.

Active Joint Brace is an electro-mechanical orthotic device that increases functional independence by working in tandem with existing muscles. The portable, low-cost, noninvasive device is aimed at the 10 million Americans with disabilities who have difficulty lifting light objects and need help with daily activities.

As winner of the Robert P. Goldberg Grand Prize, the Active Joint Brace team receives \$30,000; the runners-up receive \$10,000 each. This is the sixth year in a row that a medically oriented team has won the \$50K contest.

Active Joint Brace team members from MIT are Kailas Narendran, a research specialist in the Department of Mechanical Engineering; Raja Surapanani, a junior in management; and graduate students Mira Sahney of the Leaders for Manufacturing program, Hocking Cheng of the Harvard/MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology and the Sloan School's Biomedical Enterprise Program, John McBean of mechanical engineering, and Shashi Kant of the System Design and Management program. Non-MIT team members are Joe Jackson, a student at Harvard, and Adam Rizika (S.M. 1999) of Kendall Partners in Cambridge.

Hyperscore is software that allows the user to compose music by drawing lines and shapes of

various colors across a computer screen, unlocking musical creativity without years of training. The software will be targeted for children, educators and professional musicians.

LiquidPiston is a combustion engine that doubles fuel efficiency and reduces nitrogen oxide emissions by 90 percent. Its first market will be the auxiliary power unit market, which supplies long-haul trucks with power during rest stops. The team

includes Vik Sahney, brother of Active Joint Brace team member Mira Sahney and also an LFM graduate student.

"We found these plans to be extraordinary—among the best we've ever seen," said Joe Hadzima, a lecturer at the Sloan School of Management, managing director of Main Street Partners LLC and a \$50K judge since the contest's inception. "In judging, it was difficult to select a winner, a tribute to the fact that the MIT

\$50K has become a very serious generator of ideas and plans."

Seven finalists were chosen from 127 entrants with 425 team members participating. Judges, including noted venture capitalists and entrepreneurs, selected the winning teams based on their potential of becoming "tomorrow's leading firms."

The other finalists this year were Active Spectrum, Advanced Diamond Solutions, LumArray and MicroLaser.

"The MIT \$50K's value is in the learning process. Participants learn how to take an idea, build a team around it, formulate a strategic vision, and develop and articulate it in the form of a business plan," said Marcus Lopez, lead organizer and a junior in mechanical engineering. "They then pitch and secure interest for their plan, often turning it into a real business. It's the process of becoming an entrepreneur, which is far more valuable than winning the prize money."

Each finalist team presented its plan to an audience of venture capitalists and business leaders at the final awards in Kresge Auditorium. The event reached a global audience through a live Internet broadcast. Along with the winners, many of the finalists and other entrants are planning to launch their businesses. The ceremony's keynote speaker was Vinod Khosla, founder of Sun Microsystems.

The \$50K competition brings together MIT students with complementary strengths in management, engineering and science. Organizers each year share best practices with competitions around the world through their Global Startup Workshop. This year people came from more than 35 countries.

The competition has launched more than 80 companies worth more than \$4 billion. They include Akamai Technologies and firms acquired by Microsoft, Motorola, Broadcom and others.

For team rosters and other information, go to <http://50k.mit.edu>.



PHOTO / JUSTIN KNIGHT

Active Joint Brace was selected as the winner of the MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition. Team members, from left, are: Kailas Narendran, Joe Jackson, Mira Sahney, Hocking Cheng, Raja Surapanani and John McBean. Not pictured: Shashi Kant and Adam Rizika.

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What specific qualities should we be looking for in MIT's 16th president?

MIT Tech Talk is inaugurating an occasional feature called "Viewpoints," in which two differing though not necessarily opposite views on the same issue will be published side by side. By doing this, we hope to encourage intellectual debate, discussion and community give-and-take in the forum of MIT's newspaper.

Viewpoints topics will cover areas of broad interest to the MIT community. Future topics will be announced in Tech Talk in advance, and all members of the MIT community are invited to submit essays on that topic. Editors will select two essays for side-by-side publication.

Viewpoints will be published approximately once a month depending on space and the volume of submissions. Tech Talk welcomes suggestions for future topics.

For more information and submission guidelines, contact Alice Waugh at awaugh@mit.edu or 258-5401.

Background is not as important as character

Mary Frances Wagley

I am not a member of the presidential search committee but was asked to contribute some observations. These are personal and are based mainly on the seven MIT presidents I have known since entering the Institute in 1944: Karl Compton, Jim Killian, Jay Stratton, Howard Johnson, Jerry Wiesner, Paul Gray and Chuck Vest. Of these, two were outsiders and five had previous connections to MIT; they were a mix of engineers, scientists and humanists. I conclude that external backgrounds and circumstances are not as important as character and personality.

Above all I want our next president to be a person of principle, of high ideals, with a generous spirit and absolute trustworthiness. I would add to this a quick mind, a sense of humor, and the ability to see promise in a wide variety of people and the skill to match that promise with appropriate positions and responsibilities. More particularly, I believe our 16th president must share the Institute's core values, which I take to be a commitment to excellence, to diversity and to a meritocracy.

Excellence—MIT seeks excellence in the triad of teaching, research and community, and also in architecture, communications, innovation, influence in national affairs and relationships with universities everywhere. Achieving excellence takes striving and, as Paul Gray often expressed it in his forceful and direct way, "Get it right!"

Diversity—MIT has made remarkable progress towards diversity and inclusion since my days as a "coed." But much remains to be done with respect to the graduate student population and the faculty. Our next president must continue the progress and also keep us ever vigilant as external circumstances can threaten our ability to enroll a particular cohort (at present that cohort is international students).

Meritocracy—MIT has stood resolutely for merit-based admissions and need-based financial aid. This resolve was severely tested in the early 1990s by a Justice Department suit brought against the Ivies and MIT in the so-called overlap case. With Chuck Vest's principled leadership, the Institute stood firm and we were vindicated. MIT won national respect for upholding our values. I have never been more proud of my alma mater. Our 16th president must hold these values, too, and be prepared to defend them.

Finally, I want our next leader to have the capacity to inspire. That was important to me as a student. President Compton called the Institute community together in the Great Court on the occasion of the Allied victory in Europe. We students hoped for a two or at least a one-day holiday. President Compton celebrated the victory but reminded us that we were still fighting in the Pacific. He admonished us that as students of science and engineering, we were important to the war effort and to the postwar tasks of reconstruction and rebuilding. He dismissed us to return immediately to our classrooms, labs and libraries to get on with our important work.

My classmates and I were inspired and energized. To inspire others, a leader must be inspired—must have sound judgment, be grounded in principles, have a capacious heart, and the ability to communicate.

We are seeking an exceptional person. MIT deserves no less.

Mary Frances Wagley (S.B. 1947) of Baltimore, a retired educator, is a life member emeritus of the MIT Corporation. She served on the last two presidential search committees at MIT, which ultimately selected Paul Gray and Charles M. Vest.

Retirees group marks 10 years

The Association of MIT Retirees celebrated 10 years of activities and gatherings with a luncheon at Endicott House on May 1.

"The establishment of the Retirees Association in 1994 marked an important step in the broadening of [the MIT] community, recognizing the continuing engagement of many retirees with the Institute and the friends they have made here," President Charles M. Vest and Rebecca Vest wrote in a letter to the group. "The Association's progress in the decade since then has been remarkable."

The late Dotty Bowe, former associate director of financial aid, and late Walter Milne, former assistant to the chairman and the president, founded the Retirees Association to help retirees stay engaged with the Institute and to participate in cultural, educational and social gatherings.

This year, the group hosted several lunches, two financial seminars, an overnight trip to West Point and Hyde Park and a trip to Tanglewood.

The 750-member organization, headed by Jane Griffin, former executive assistant to the vice president for finance and treasurer, publishes a quarterly newsletter and partners with the MIT Women's League and the Harvard Retirees Association to offer retirees additional activities and trips. Upcoming events include a seminar presented by Dawn Metcalf, social worker in MIT Medical, on the "Eight Dimensions of Living Well As We Age" on June 8, a summer overnight trip to Tanglewood, and a trip to Amish Country in October.

For membership and event information, visit the Association of MIT Retirees in Room 50-005, call 253-7910 or e-mail retirees.assoc@mit.edu.



It's time for a president who has MIT roots

Dan Geer Jr.

It is necessary, though not sufficient, that the next president of MIT be an alumnus or alumna of the MIT undergraduate program.

As someone who left home for the first time to come to MIT and then never left, the 35 intervening years have shown that, as with everything else, what's right for MIT is a matter of cycles, and the wheel of wisdom for this cycle has come to rest on the sector marked "promote from within."

MIT is unique and rather hard to grasp through on-the-job training, which is a way of saying that unless you went here, you will likely begin with little knowledge, which is a dangerous thing. Those parts of MIT that have most needed an appreciation of their unusualness are now most eloquently committed to the need for an alumnus/alumna president.

There are and have been cycles of every sort. From time to time, Admissions has longed for MIT to be like Harvard and therefore competed against it, but every time, the cycle has eventually heard the faculty's cry to "give us back our nerds!" From time to time, Institute authorities have worried over students as if they are delicate ("They must never feel rejection"), only to cycle back to respecting them as strong ("Half of you are below average, but only here").

The cycle of this presidency has been an outlier in length and magnitude. It is time to have a president who has actually done an MIT problem set. It is time to have a president who has had to decide, on short notice and nothing but gut, where s/he would live. It is time to have a president who can have faith in MIT undergrads because s/he has been where they are. It is time to have a president who knows more people in Cambridge than in Washington. It is time to have a president who has been on the Great Dome at midnight.

It is time to have a president who knows that academic excellence is not the only thing that matters; yet that president also must intuitively know that broadening happens within intramurals, within the self-government of those in independent living groups, within the array of eclectic hobbies, and within those of faith, so that s/he governs more by benign neglect than by the laying-on of an administered coherence.

It is time for a president who is completely unjealous of his or her faculty and unjealous of whether his or her office, or even the institution itself, commands the ultimate first loyalty of its alumni and alumnae. That unjealous streak must extend to being satisfied when an alumnus or alumna views his or her particular experience as being within a subset of MIT rather than somehow with MIT as a whole. Attempts to remove all other allegiances are befitting of a jealous god, but not the president of this unique treasure. The president who grew in this soil will know this in a way that cannot be taught.

It is time.

Dan Geer Jr. (S.B. 1972) remains active at MIT as chair of the Association of Independent Living Groups, president of FSILG Cooperative, Inc., and president of Theta Delta Chi's Theta Deuteron House Corp.

Discounts now available on cell phones, pagers

The MIT community may now take advantage of quantity discount pricing on cell phone service and equipment. Information Services and Technology (IS&T) and Procurement have selected Nextel and Verizon as preferred cell phone vendors, based on recommendations of the MIT Cell Phone and Pager Project Team.

The new contracts provide MIT customers with special rates for cell phones. The special rates apply to Institute contracts and personal contracts for employees and students. MIT-affiliated institutions and their employees are also eligible for the discounts. The new rate plan discounts also can be applied to existing Nextel and Verizon contracts, both Institute and personal.

For pager services, IS&T and Pro-

urement have negotiated a reduced-pricing contract with Arch Wireless.

For more information about the new cell phone services, go to <http://web.mit.edu/ist/services/telecommunication/cellphones.html>. For questions on using cell phones and pagers, go to <http://itinfo.mit.edu/answer?id=6831>.

Policies and guidelines linked to the cell phone home page can help departments, labs and centers make cost-effective decisions about equipment and service plans that will be charged to an Institute account. There is also information about converting current Institute contracts with non-preferred vendors.

Anyone with questions about the cell phone program may contact Mary Bacci in Procurement at 253-5499, or mamato@mit.edu.

Architects trade views on Stata Center design

Denise Brehm
News Office

William Welles Bosworth's neoclassical buildings have anchored MIT since 1916, providing a majestic approach to the Institute first from the Charles River via Killian Court and later from Massachusetts Avenue (via the Rogers Building and Lobby 7). Now with the new Stata Center, the campus has an impressive new entrance at the corner of Vassar and Main streets.

Architects and administrators discussed the Institute's new post-modern portal at the annual Max Wasserman Forum on Contemporary Art on May 8, which dealt with "The University as Patron of Cutting-Edge Architecture."

Before architects Frank Gehry and Robert Venturi stepped into the ring, President Charles M. Vest recalled his first drive down Vassar Street, which he called "a traumatic experience."

"I couldn't put together what I saw on Vassar Street with what I knew to be true about this great institution," said Vest, who added that during one of his early visits he stayed on the top floor of the Marriott Hotel. As he looked out over the campus, the rectangular buildings pinned by the two flagpoles reminded him of a naval base, he said.

Still, he didn't expect campus construction to play such a major

role in his presidency. The impetus for that came in 1998 with the Report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning, which recommended a new focus on community and campus life. Since then, MIT has constructed 25 percent of the buildings now on campus. The plum is Gehry's Stata Center.

Gehry, who said he was raised on Talmudic discussions with his grandfather, compared that discussion process with design—"a constant inquiry that hones your thinking until sooner or later you come up with an essence. In the Talmud, that is conveyed with the Golden Rule. I believe I'm doing that with my buildings. I want to be a good neighbor by respecting the work of the architects around me, some of which I like and some I don't like," he said.

Each piece of the "collage of parts" that makes up the Stata Center has a precedent in Cambridge, Gehry said. He described it as "pieces of buildings collaged on one building, helping to break down the scale and humanize it."

The interior is "unfinished and open-ended, so the rugged individuals who inhabit it will intervene and bring their stuff in. Over time, this building will become theirs. I think the building is strong enough to handle it," he said.

Before offering a more traditional architectural perspective, Venturi asked the audience to for-

give him if he sounded "grouchy about his good friend Frank." Then he launched into a series of not-so-flattering comments about Gehry's work.

"I would think it's important that an institution should employ 'cutting edge' as a product and not as an image. Campus as community is not a stage set. 'Cutting edge' should be determined by viable action and not as architectural form. Research needs a setting where dramatic change happens and is not itself dramatic change—not 'form follows function,' but 'forms accommodate function.' It is important to create identity, but the iconic quality should not dominate," said Venturi.

"We do this all the time," interjected Gehry, referring to his interactions with Venturi. "When he rags on me, his son finds out and makes him call me to apologize. Today," he turned to Venturi, "you sound like you're fitting well into the resurgence of fundamentalism"—causing Venturi to put his face in his hands and laugh.

"When I go to Bilbao—which, by the way, respected the budget, listened to the clients and paid for itself in its first eight months of existence—little old ladies come up and touch me," Gehry said to laughter. "If I make 10 more buildings like [the Stata Center], it's not going to destroy the fabric of America, and it might be positive.



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Two of the hallmark design elements of the Stata Center: a polished surface and, in its reflection, an irregularly shaped exterior wall.

"What I treasure most about designing is the relationship with the client. I'm gonna miss that. I'll have post-partum blues," Gehry said.

Steven Holl, who designed Sim-

mons Hall, was unable to appear on the panel because of illness. Professor William J. Mitchell, architectural advisor to President Charles M. Vest, moderated the forum.

Tonegawa's Fenway first pitch, 'secret waves' aid Boston Red Sox

Alice C. Waugh
News Office

Susumu Tonegawa is a Nobel Prize-winning neuroscientist, but his greatest achievement may be his ability to help the Red Sox win baseball games through the influence of brain waves.

Tonegawa, the Whitehead Professor of Biology and Neuroscience and director of the Picower Center for Learning and Memory, was the second MIT faculty member to throw the ceremonial first pitch at a Red Sox game this season. His moment on the Fenway Park mound came on May 7 as part of an ongoing tribute by the team to the Boston area's scientific and medical communities. Professor Ron Rivest did the honors on April 16 (see MIT Tech Talk, May 5).

Tonegawa admits to being "a pretty avid Red Sox fan. In fact when people ask me whether I am a baseball fan, I tell them 'No, I am not a baseball fan, I am a Red Sox fan!'—the implication being I don't care so much what happens in baseball other than in relation to the Red Sox."

His affection for the Red Sox began in the late

1970s when he was doing research at Harvard, and he roots for the team while watching televised games at home. "I am rather serious when I say to my wife, Mayumi, 'The Red Sox won today because I sent energizing waves to them in front of the TV set,'" he said (not very seriously) last week.

Tonegawa practiced pitching on MIT's baseball field. "However, when I actually stood at the Fenway mound, my immediate reaction was, 'Wow, it's pretty far [to home plate]! Is [the distance] really right?'"

About 25 people from Tonegawa's lab as well as his wife and two children were in the stands near the field for his first pitch. The lab group showed support by holding up signs with letters that spelled out "SUSUMU." He in turn displayed his support of them with his jersey—a modified Red Sox uniform shirt with the words "Picower Center at MIT" stitched on the back.

"I thoroughly enjoyed this once in a lifetime occasion," Tonegawa said. "But the greatest thing that happened that evening was that the Red Sox came from behind and [won] in the bottom of the ninth inning. Do you know why this was possible? Because I sent my secret waves from the top of the grandstand!"



PHOTO / ALEX RIVEST

Professor Susumu Tonegawa winds up to throw the ceremonial first pitch at Fenway Park.

10 new science journalism Fellows chosen

Ten journalists from the United States, Japan, Argentina and the Czech Republic have been selected to spend the 2004-05 academic year on campus as the 22nd class of Knight Science Journalism Fellows.

The incoming Knight Fellows, who will be taking classes, attending seminars and conducting interviews at MIT through the year, are part of the Program on Science, Technology and Society (STS). The new group, all working journalists who will be taking a sabbatical year to study here, comprises:

Brian Bergstein, who has been covering electronic technology for the Associated Press.

Ingfei Chen, a free-lancer who has written most recently for The New York Times, Discover and Science magazine's web-based "Science of Aging Knowledge Environment."

Judy Fahys, the environment reporter of the Salt Lake Tribune.

Justin Gillis, biotechnology reporter for The Washington Post and a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1989.

Taro Mitamura, a television science reporter for NHK, the Japan Broadcasting Corp.

Colin Nickerson, a longtime foreign correspondent for the Boston Globe who is making a transition to full-time science coverage.

Valeria Roman, science and medical reporter for Clarin, the largest daily newspaper in Argentina.

Jeff Tollefson, science reporter at the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper.

Martin Uhlir, science reporter for Lidove Noviny, one of the biggest daily newspapers in the Czech Republic.

Sylvia Pagan Westphal, reporter for New Scientist magazine. She has a Ph.D. in genetics from Harvard and was previously a science reporter for The Los Angeles Times.

The new Knight Fellows were chosen by a committee that included Professor Deborah Fitzgerald of STS; Judy Foreman, a nationally syndicated health columnist and former Knight Fellow; Dan Haney, medical writer for the Associated Press; and Boyce Rensberger, director of the Knight Science Journalism Fellows program.

Brown reaches half-century teaching mark

Alice C. Waugh
News Office

Professor Gene Brown isn't an MIT alumnus, but he's celebrating an unusual Institute milestone nonetheless—teaching the same class for 50 years.

In addition to teaching general biochemistry every year since his arrival at MIT in 1954, Brown has filled many other roles, including dean of science from 1985-91 and, before that, head of the Department of Biology from 1977-85 and associate head from 1967-77. He's taught other courses and mentored 27 Ph.D. students as well.

Brown, 78, discontinued his research program when he became dean of science, but he has taught continuously and still enjoys it. The biology department recognized his long service recently with a reception and a dinner at the Faculty Club in his honor.

"I think biochemistry is a beautiful subject to teach. I really enjoy laying it out to students so they can understand it," Brown said with a hint of an Ozarks accent (he was born in southern Missouri). "I tell you, these students at MIT are very smart—they're basically smarter than I am, but I have it over them because I'm wiser and I know more than they do," he said with a chuckle.

Brown pioneered the practice of open-note exams ("we teach them to think logically," he said), and he's something of an educational pioneer in his own right. He was the first in his family to attend high school and was the only student in his graduating class of 17 to go to college.

When Brown arrived at MIT right out of graduate school, there were one or two women biology majors; today, 60 percent of biology majors are women. Students of both genders have changed in other ways as well. Decades ago, "students were more willing to focus on one particular thing. Now they have more diverse interests, which I think overall is good. They have other activities, so they don't spend as much time on one subject," Brown said.

Another milestone during Brown's tenure was the opening of the Koch Biology Building in 1994. Much of the planning for that facility happened while Brown was



PHOTO / DONNA COVENEY

Professor Gene Brown, who has taught general biochemistry at MIT for 50 years, says simply of teaching: "It's what I like to do."

dean of science. Faculty members and the architects "listened to one another, and we got a building that functions exceedingly well," he said, lauding features that foster interaction such as the open stairwells and two tea rooms.

Brown has no plans to stop teaching any time soon. "It's what I like to do. As long as the students and the department feel I'm being useful, I'll stick around, I guess," he said.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Associate Professor of Biology **Angelika Amon** delivered MIT's annual Sigma Xi lecture on May 5. Amon, an investigator in both the Center for Cancer Research and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, spoke about her work in "Understanding Chromosome Segregation," research that has revealed how normal cells apportion genetic material during cell division and how cancer cells can lose regulation of chromosome segregation during this process.

Amon, who joined the faculty in 1999, has received a Presidential Young Investigator Award and the NSF's Alan T. Waterman Award for the country's most outstanding scientist or engineer under 35. Sigma Xi was established in 1886 as a counterpart to Phi Beta Kappa in the fields of science and engineering.

The MIT chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, each year honors a junior faculty member whose research shows exceptional promise to contribute to human understanding and well-being. Recent awardees have been Linda Griffith, Dava Newman, Seth Lloyd and Franz-Josef Ulm.



Jonathan Farley

March 19 was officially "Dr. **Jonathan David Farley Day**" in the City of Cambridge, as decreed by Mayor Michael Sullivan and the city council. On that day, Harvard University's Harvard Foundation presented Farley, visiting associate professor of applied mathematics at MIT, with its Distinguished Scientist of the Year award for outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of mathematics.

Farley's most recent accomplishments include the solution to a problem posed by Professor Richard Stanley of MIT in 1981, and a problem dating to 1971 posed by mathematician Richard Rado. His previous work included the solution to a problem posed by algebraist George Grätzer in 1964. His work applying lattice theory to counterterrorism

was recently profiled in The Chronicle of Higher Education and Science News Online.

Farley, who earned degrees from Harvard and Oxford universities, was a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in England in 2001-02, one of only four Americans to win the award that year.

Two MIT faculty members have received awards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Institute Professor **Mildred S. Dresselhaus** of physics and electrical engineering is the recipient of the IEEE Founders Medal "for leadership across many fields of science and engineering through research and education, and for exceptional and unique contributions to the profession."

Professor **Barbara H. Liskov**, the Ford Professor of Engineering and associate head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, has been named the IEEE John von Neumann Medal recipient "for fundamental contributions to programming languages, programming methodology and distributed systems." Past winners from MIT include Dresselhaus, who won in 2003; the late Jerome B. Wiesner; and Corporation member Raymond S. Stata (S.B. 1957).

Howard Brenner, the Willard Henry Dow Professor of Chemical Engineering, received an honorary doctor of science degree at Clarkson University's 111th Commencement on May 9. The degree was awarded for "his outstanding intellectual achievements during a distinguished half-century career as a chemical engineering academic, and for his boldness in questioning the most basic assumptions of continuum fluid mechanics."

Five MIT faculty members have received Sloan Research Fellowships from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The awards (\$40,000 for a two-year period each) went to 166 young scientists and economists based on nominations by department chairs and other senior scholars. MIT's newest Sloan Fellows are assistant professors **Timothy F. Jamison** of chemistry, **Michael J. Collins** of electrical engineering and computer science, **Jeffrey Vialovsky** of mathematics, and **Hong Liu** and **Iain W. Stewart** of physics.



Nancy Rose

scientists conducting research relating to the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies and prevention. The three from MIT are **Sokol A. Haxhinasto**, a postdoctoral fellow working in Assistant Professor Luk Van Parijs' lab on synergy between self-antigen and the oncogene c-MYC in lymphomagenesis; **Pardis Sabeti** (S.B. 1997), a Harvard Medical School student and MIT Corporation member is a visiting scientist in Professor Eric Lander's Broad Institute lab on detecting rapidly evolving immunologic variants in the human genome from haplotype structure; and research affiliate **Alice Tsang Shaw**, working in Professor Tyler Jacks' lab on Ras signaling in embryogenesis and oncogenesis.

Sabeti and **Sheila Tandon**, a graduate student in electrical engineering and computer science, have each received a \$20,000 grant from the L'Oréal USA for Women in Science Fellowship Program, launched in 2003 to help promising young women scientists at the beginning of their careers. The program is an extension of the L'Oréal Group's global Women in Science initiative, which recognizes the contributions by women scientists and encourages more women to adopt science as a career. Tandon earned her bachelor's degree from Cooper Union and is working on novel optical devices at MIT on a Presidential Fellowship.

Nancy L. Rose, professor of economics, has won a Guggenheim Fellowship. The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation appointed 185 U.S. and Canadian Fellows from more than 3,200 artists, scholars and scientists who applied. Her Guggenheim project is entitled "Regulatory Reform and Restructuring."

Three MIT researchers have received three-year fellowships from the Damon Runyan Cancer Research Foundation. Recipients are young

Obituaries

Oscar Palmer, 65, a dorm housekeeper, died on Feb. 12. He had been working at MIT since 1985.

Joseph Perry Jr., a Lincoln Laboratory utility worker, died on March 27 at age 55. He joined Lincoln Lab in 1986 and had been on long-term disability since 1998. Survivors include his wife,

Beverly, two daughters, Michelle P. Perry and Melissa M. Perry; and two grandchildren.

Anne L. Richard, an administrative secretary, died on Jan. 16. She worked at MIT for 31 years.

Robert A. Sargent of Methuen, a custodian at Lincoln since 1987, died April

21 at age 52. He is survived by his father, George E. Sargent of Methuen; a son, Robert Sargent of Nashua, N.H.; a daughter, Alison Sargent of Reading; two sisters, Alice Szczepkowski of Windham, N.H., and Virginia Sargent of Rhode Island; two brothers, Thomas Sargent of St. Lucy, Fla., and Joseph Sargent of Woburn.

Jacques B. Thompson, a former technical staff member, died on March 4 at age 83. He retired in 1986 after working at MIT for 10 years.

Sandra G. Wilkes, a senior data entry operator in the Controller's Accounting Office, died on Dec. 23 at age 60. She had been working at MIT since 1970.

FRAGILE X

Continued from Page 1

ile X," said Clapp. "It offers the hope that a single medication could combat my son's seizures, panic, hyperactivity, and perhaps even enable him to live independently one day."

Clapp and Tranfaglia are founders of FRAXA Research Foundation, a Newburyport, Mass.-based nonprofit organization devoted to finding a cure to fragile X. The couple has a 14-year-old son with fragile X syndrome and a 12-year-old daughter who is a carrier. FRAXA is one of the organizations funding Bear's research.

Fragile X syndrome is the leading known inherited cause of mental retardation. The condition, tied to a mutated gene on the X chromosome, has effects ranging from mild learning disabilities to severe autism. Fragile X syndrome's neurological and psychological symptoms include anxiety and obsessive-compulsive behavior, a heightened sensitivity to touch and in some cases, a tendency toward epileptic seizures. Other physical symptoms include a high arched palate, lazy eye, large ears, a long face, poor muscle tone, loose bowel movements and flat feet. There are significant social and health care costs associated with treatment, special education and lost income for those who are affected.

Scientists are focusing on the molecular changes in the brain and body that result from the single mutated gene and fragile X retardation protein (FMRP), its resulting lost protein.

FMRP's job is to help messenger RNA translate the genetic code for new proteins that are continually synthesized in the synapses between brain cells. The proteins are the building blocks that shape the synapses that allow brain cells to communicate. Without FMRP, proteins are misregulated and cells can't "talk to" each other normally.

"One reason for the sudden interest is that FMRP has proven to be a fascinating molecule; it has captured the attention of neurobiologists interested in the synaptic control of protein synthesis that, in turn, changes synaptic structure and function," wrote Bear, who is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

There is growing evidence that there is a connection between the loss of FMRP and one of the brain's chief network managers—the metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGluRs). There are three groups of mGluRs with eight subtypes, all interacting with glutamate in different ways. MGLuRs are implicated in a variety of diseases such as epilepsy, Parkinson's and Huntington's disease. They also may play a role in pain, schizophrenia and anxiety. The key mGluRs implicated in the new theory are mGluR1 and mGluR5.

Bear's work provides evidence that a drug blocking mGluR5 might effectively treat fragile X symptoms in adults. If it turns out that the syndrome appears in children whose brains developed with

too much mGluR signaling, then early intervention with an mGluR-inhibiting drug may prevent some of the symptoms from appearing at all.

"Even the most skeptical would agree it is astonishing that a single compound could target such disparate symptoms of Fragile X syndrome as epilepsy, anxiety, hypersensitivity to touch and loose bowels," Bear said.

Building new connections

Glutamate, the main neurotransmitter in the brain, helps neurons communicate. MGLuRs respond to glutamate by activating proteins inside brain cells and fine-tuning the signals sent between cells to maintain balance in neuronal activity. Activation of glutamate receptors is responsible for two key brain processes called long-term potentiation (LTP) and long-term depression (LTD), which many believe are the basis for learning and memory. LTP helps build new connections among brain cells and LTD helps destroy unneeded connections.

Bear says that the lack of FMRP seems to lead to overactive signaling of mGluR5, which in turn leads to too much LTD, which can slow the maturation of synapses by tipping the balance from synapse gain to synapse loss during a critical period of brain development.

Overactive signaling by mGluR5 could contribute to many of the symptoms of fragile X.

The receptor is found in many different parts of the nervous system, where it has different functional roles. Inhibiting mGluR5 in the brain reduces anxiety and susceptibility to seizures; in the gut, inhibiting the receptors reduces bowel motility; in the skin, it produces analgesia.

A chemical called 2-methyl-6-(phenylethynyl)pyridine inhibits mGluR5 receptors and is being used on mice to test the new theory. Bear is a founder and chairman of the scientific advisory board of Sention, a pharmaceutical development company in Providence, R.I. Sention has licensed the rights to develop a drug based on this new research, and hopes to be able to test this class of compounds in humans once critical preclinical research is successfully completed.

"We are evaluating opportunities to develop a new drug for treatment of humans with fragile X syndrome. We anticipate this process could take anywhere from 18 to 24 months before we are ready to apply to the FDA for permission to begin clinical testing in humans," Sention CEO Randall Carpenter said.

In addition to Bear, authors of the Trends in Neuroscience paper are Kimberly M. Huber of the Center for Basic Neuroscience at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and Stephen T. Warren of Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

This work is supported by the FRAXA Research Foundation and the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.



PHOTO COURTESY / MIT SEAT GRANT

Maine fisherman Mattie Thompson field-tests Clifford Goudey's whale-free buoy on his boat F/V Shearwater.

BUOY

Continued from Page 1

them as molds, creating tapered, flexible stems out of polyurethane rubber that attach to the bottom of conventional foam buoys. By providing the long gradual transition from the thin, flexible buoy line to the wider, rigid buoy, the new Whale-Free Buoys have a remarkable ability to be shed by objects that would snag an ordinary buoy. The invention was awarded a U.S. patent.

The innovative buoy and the results of its at-sea evaluations were presented to the organization charged with protecting the northern right whale—the

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team. This group identifies and mandates gear modifications to reduce the risks of entanglement for this endangered whale.

According to Goudey, the new buoy offers advantages over the currently required weak links ("breakaways") in the buoy lines because it releases under much less load, and the buoy is retained. "The buoy resists being snagged on keels, rudders, and tow lines—frequent events that often cause the loss of lobstermen's gear," he said.

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. TechTalk ads are posted on the Internet. 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

Baby grand piano. Beautiful black Samick, Imperial German Scale, model SG 155, rich sound, very gd cond, \$2,500/bst. Ken, 617-277-3414.

Full size kitchen table w/5 chairs, perfect cond, \$150/bst. Cuckoo clock, \$50/bst. HP computer w/printer, \$50. Don, 978-957-2774 (after 5pm) or dsousa@haystack.mit.edu.

Moving sale. Bedrm sets, living rm set w/queen sleep sofa, dining rm set, bunk beds, rugs, more. Tony, 253-3922.

1988 Rockwood pop-up tent trailer. Stove, sink, electric, sleeps 6, clean, needs some work. \$500/bst. Rich, 978-758-8564.

Whirlpool laundry washer, \$150. Sealy firm queen mattress, \$70 (\$100 w/box spring). Wooden desk, 59" x 29.5" x 28", \$60. All exc cond. ypark@mit.edu or 617-547-0896.

Window air conditioner. Westinghouse, 5,000 BTUs, 3 yrs old, orig box, \$60. janine@mit.edu or 253-3096.

Yamaha baby grand piano. Model GH1, 5' 3", satin ebony finish, exc cond, \$5,500. mcabral@mit.edu.

4 GM car mats, front/rear, light blue, gd cond, \$8. Ron, 452-2327.

17' Fiberglass bowrider. 1978 Angler inshore solid fishing boat, 70HP Evinrude outboard, 1998 galvanized trailer, runs grt, exc cond, \$1,800. Diane, 781-395-0161 or 781-439-5727.

2002 Coachman Cascade travel trailer. Slide out, screen house, like new, never towed, worth over \$14,000, must sell, moving out of state. \$12,900/bst. Tony, 253-3922.

2 padded bar stools, \$15. Dining table w/4 chairs, cherry wood, \$175/bst. Drop leaf table, \$10. Padded adjustable task stool, black, \$10. Black entertainment ctr, \$10. Twin bed/frame, \$30. 2 Tiffany-style lamps, \$10. lmorales@mit.edu.

Thule trailer hitch-mounted bicycle rack for 2 bikes. Less than 1 yr old, lost car with hitch, \$50. goeke@space.mit.edu or 253-1910.

Round butcher block table. 54", 2" thick, lemon yellow metal pedestal, w/4 Bertoia white wire chairs, \$750. 617-547-5357.

Clayton Marcus furniture, blue/white plaid, love seat, wing chair and ottoman, blue sleep sofa, queen size. \$800. Tom, 253-6717 or 617-799-5887.

VEHICLES

1986 VW Vanagon Westfalia. Clean California car, driven from San Francisco, still has CA plates, can't find East Coast Vanagons in this cond. \$7,000/bst. eba2@mit.edu.

1987 Audi 4000CS. ~120K miles, 4cyl, 5-sp, gd cond, economical and reliable, \$895. kwilson@haystack.mit.edu or 978-464-2458.

1995 Acura Integra LS. Loaded, gd cond, 110K miles, auto, A/C, moon roof, blue book value of \$3,900. \$3,450/bst. 781-444-3153.

1996 Volkswagen Jetta GLS. Vry gd cond, 81K miles, auto, \$4,000/bst. 577-5665, 617-642-3081, ttamar@mit.edu or <http://web.mit.edu/basak/www/favorite.htm>.

HOUSING

Somerville: 14 Walnut Rd, 1BR apt, lr, dr, study, brand new bathrm/kitchen, electric heat w/4 zones, grt loc, nr T, walk to grocery/food. Avail 6/1, \$1,100/mo + utils. Rosemary or Michael Murphy, 781-944-0996 or murphy.rosemary@comcast.net.

Cambridge: Lrg studio/1BR, 10min walk to MIT/Kendall, fully furn, enclosed yard, laundry. Avail 6/1, \$1,125/mo. johnnatale@verizon.net.

Cambridge/Somerville line: Pet friendly, bright, 15 min to Harvard/Porter, nr public trans, stores, fenced back yard, w/d in bsmnt, porch, study, storage. Avail as 2BR for \$1,700/mo or 3BR for \$2,000/mo. connaire@mit.edu.

Somerville: 1BR w/ lr, mod kitchen/bathrm, porch, mins to buses/Davis, \$1,000/mo. 617-666-5805, dekow@psfc.mit.edu or <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/gdekow>.

Cambridge: Furn rms across from Kendall Cinema, nr T, w/d, full kitchen privs, shared bath. \$650/mo, \$250/wk incl utils, prkg extra. J. Blair, 258-2843 or 617-576-5125.

Belmont: Lrg, furn rm in lovely house. Off-strt prkg, central A/C, some kitchen privs, lrg garden, short or long term. Rent neg. France/English lessons also avail. 617-484-6833.

ROOMMATES

Porter Square: Seeking quiet, considerate female roommate for sunny 2BR, 4th floor apt, 2mins to shopping/T. Have friendly kitties, sorry no more allowed. Avail now or 6/1. \$575 incl all except phone. Jan, 617-661-3450 or jano@mit.edu (wkdays only for email).

VACATION

Mount Desert Island, Maine: Furn oceanfront cabin on forested bluff nr Acadia NP and Bar Harbor. 2BR, 1b, lrg lr/kitchen, lrg windows overlook ocean, beaches, hiking, biking, fishing, swimming. \$1,000/wk. Wks avail in June/Aug/Sept. Steve, 253-5757 or chorover@mit.edu.

White Mountains, NH: Waterville Estates, panoramic views from mntntop, 3BR, 2b, twnhs, on-site amenities, fitness ctr, biking, hiking, golf. No pets/smoking. Avail June-August, \$700/wk, \$1,300/2wks, \$2,400/4wks. Chuck, snowood_view@comcast.net.

Falls at Ogunquit, ME: Vacation resort, 1BR suite, kitchen, lr, sleeps 4, 2 min walk from beach, avail 7/30-8/6, \$1,100. Dan, 781-933-3015 (eves).

Martha's Vineyard: Indian Hill, West Tisbury, secluded 3BR hse, access to beach, deck, outdr/indr showers, wkly, monthly, June-Sept,

no pets, \$1,000-\$1,750/wk. 617-332-3417 or sbromber@mit.edu.

Brewster, Cape Cod: Fun cottage, quiet, prvt 50' beach on freshwater lake, nr conservation land, sleeps 6, separate studio gd for older children/guests. Avail late June and July, \$1,000/wk. Andy, 617-876-6257.

Old Orchard Beach: Lrg twn hse, 1.5b, sleeps 6, 3-min walk to beach, w/d, linens, cable TV, DVD. Some wks still avail in July/Aug. \$1,300/wk. Dave, 978-979-1279.

Orleans: Hub of Cape Cod, B&B suite in authentically restored 1852 Greek revival farmhse, nr Pleasant Bay Beach/boat landing, prvt bath and entrance. \$500 or \$700/wk. Ellie, 253-4698 or bonsaint@mit.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking to share wonderful nanny to my newborn beginning June. Any age child OK, \$9/hr each family. Hrs, schedule, start date flexible. Deb Chasman, 452-3020 or 617-492-2590.

WANTED

ISO functional LCD video projector for laptops at presentations, for educational use at MIT. Donation or reasonable price. tleng@mit.edu.

STUDENT JOBS

Positions for students with work-study eligibility.

The Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences IT Dept at Harvard is hiring students for user assistance positions. Comfort using Windows/Macs/Unix and troubleshooting required. Hrs flexible, \$12/hr. Contact Lesley Lam, 617-384-9761.

Lab seeks student to support the technical assistant. Responsibilities include inventory, stocking, organizing, disposal and cleaning. Apply only if interested in continuing through the school yr. 8-15 hrs/wk, \$10-\$12/hr. Contact Kristin MacCully, maccully@mit.edu.

European artists round out List season

The List Visual Arts Center is now presenting the works of two European artists: Slovenian-born artist, architect and sculptor Marjetica Potrc and video artist Artur Zmijewski, who is based in Warsaw, Poland.

"Marjetica Potrc: Urgent Architecture" is the first U.S. museum survey of Potrc's work since she won the Guggenheim Museum's 2000 Hugo Boss Prize. Her installations are recreations of her "anthropological urbanism," in which she explores and critiques government public housing versus the more personal housing solutions that the poor devise for themselves.

Potrc has particular interest in informal or unplanned cities, such as those in São Paulo, Brazil; Caracas, Venezuela; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Given the often desperate lack of resources in these communities, Potrc has designed "self-sustaining" housing units that can provide water, sewer and electrical service to the occupants. Rather than designing purely practical residences, she injects her designs with glowing colors as a way of celebrating life and the beauty she sees in shared needs. "We all seek the same things—shelter, food, water and beauty," she said.

Potrc has constructed a massive installation of housing units based on what she had seen of gated communities and temporary shelters that have become permanent in Caracas, the West Bank and West Palm Beach. Using available materials such as concrete blocks, barbed wire, wood and aluminum, Potrc's installation is a monolithic testimony to the power of art and architecture in shaping and reimagining the human environment.

"Such (designs) bring about a long-needed dialogue between the formal and informal city, which obviously benefits everyone," Potrc said. "The timing is good, too. Every three days, more than a million people move to urban areas, and many of them live in shantytowns."

The exhibition also includes the premiere of a series of drawings of Boston's Big Dig Project as well as Potrc's "Power Tools Series 2001-3." The latter features "Hippo Water Roller," a rolling container

for water that substitutes for the heavy and clumsy vessels women place on their heads in many developing parts of the world. Also included are a selection from "Animal Sightings Series" (2001)—digital prints of coyotes, bears and raccoons caught roaming cities and visiting houses.

Organized by List Visual Arts Center Director Jane Farver, "Artur Zmijewski: Selected Works 1998-2003" is the first U.S. solo exhibition by this Warsaw-based artist. His works challenge social codes that prohibit displaying "defective" human beings and notions that the disabled can succeed only if they achieve at the same standards as the physically fit.

In his videos, Zmijewski creates situations to shape relationships between so-called "normal" individuals and those with physical defects, then records what happens.

In "Singing Lesson I" and "Singing Lesson II," deaf children learn to sing. "Eye for an Eye" depicts a fit young woman helping a man wash his disabled body, and two men—one with two healthy legs and one missing a limb—climbing stairs and walking together. In "Out for a Walk," paraplegics are assisted by able-bodied men in trying to walk.

Gallery talks/films

Boston filmmaker, teacher and curator John Gianvito has organized two films to be shown in conjunction with the Potrc exhibition. Both films will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in Bartos Theater.

Thursday, May 20—"God's Children" (Japan/Philippines, 2001), directed by Hiroshi Shinomiya, documents the residents of Payatas, one of the largest garbage dumps in the world outside Manila.

Thursday, May 27—"Dark Days" (United States, 2000), directed by Marc Singer, is an award-winning documentary about people living in forgotten and abandoned Manhattan subway tunnels.

Bill Arning, curator at the List Center, will lead a special gallery talk for Potrc's exhibit with Joe MacDonald, assistant professor of architecture at Harvard and principal at Urban A+O Design Studio, on Friday, May 21 at 6 p.m. Arning will also conduct gallery talks at noon on May 19



IMAGE / HIROSHI SHINOMIYA

The List Visual Arts Center will screen "God's Children" by director Hiroshi Shinomiya tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in Bartos Theater.

and June 11.

Hiroko Kikuchi, the List Center's education and outreach coordinator, will discuss the shows on May 23, June 13, June 27 and July 11 at 2 p.m. On Wednesday,

May 26, Farver will discuss Zmijewski's work at noon.

Both shows are on view through July 11. For more information, call 253-4680 or see <http://web.mit.edu/lvac/www>.

▶ ARTS NEWS

Wodiczko to appear on 'Art Close Up'

Krzysztof Wodiczko, director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies and professor in the Visual Arts Program, will be profiled on WGBH-TV's "Art Close Up" this week. The program will feature an interview with Wodiczko and scenes of his work, which aims to empower the disenfranchised. The program airs today (May 19) at 8 p.m. on channel 2; Friday, May 21 at 4 p.m. on channel 44; and Sunday, May 23 at noon on channel 44.

Wodiczko is also one of the artists represented in "The Interventionists: Art in the Social Sphere," a group show that opens on May 31 at MassMoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) in North

Adams. This exhibition, which explores the work of contemporary artists dedicated to social change, provides insight into the changed role of political art since the late 1980s. The show will be on view through mid-March 2005.

VAP student wins residency

Visual Arts Program graduate student Carrie Bodle received a Boston Cyberarts artist-in-residency position for the summer at the Collaborative User Experience (CUE) Research Group at the IBM Research/Cambridge, part of the IBM Watson Research Center. The NEA-funded residency program offers artists a chance to expand their uses of technical resources with researchers who use the

same resources in different contexts. The work created during Bodle's residency will be shown at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park next spring.

Theatre Cooperative to perform alum's play

Theatre Cooperative is presenting the world premiere of "What Time is It?" by alumnus Vladimir Zelevinsky (S.B. 1994, S.M.). Zelevinsky, who is playwright-in-residence with the company, was commissioned to write the play, a fantasy focusing on the Nuremberg town timekeeper who uses the town clock to change the world around him. The show is at Theater Cooperative at 277 Broadway in Somerville through May 29. For more information, call (617) 625-1300.



IMAGE COURTESY / CORYN KEMPSTER

'Motion Studies'


"Brushing," a still from a series of videos collectively called "Motion Studies" is one of the winning works by architecture graduate student Coryn Kempster, who took top honors for the 2004 Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts Award. Student winners of other arts awards (including two other Schnitzer awardees) will be

announced in the next issue of Tech Talk on June 2. Works by Schnitzer award-winners are on view at the Wiesner Student Art Gallery on the second floor of the Stratton Student Center through June 27. A reception with the artists will be held Friday, May 21 from 4-6 p.m.


MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS MAY 19 - 23

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

WEDNESDAY
May 19

 **Sloan CIO Symposium: Enabling the Agile**
Enterprise
Prof. Erik Brynjolfsson. Sponsored by Center for eBusiness. \$35-50. 11:45am-7:30pm. Kresge Auditorium. 978-460-0265.


 **Gallery Talk**
List Visual Arts Center curator Bill Arning discusses "Artur Zmijewski: Selected Works 1998-2003" and "Marjetica Potrc: Urgent Architecture" (May 6-July 11). Noon. List Visual Arts Center. 253-4680

 **Object Lessons: A Submarine LNG Tanker**
Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tankers are among the most complex ships in the merchant shipping world. In 1977, General Dynamics sponsored studies to build LNG submarine tankers to cross Arctic seas. Kurt Hasselbalch uses two concept models to discuss this concept. Compton Gallery. Noon-1pm. 253-4444.

THURSDAY
May 20

 **MIT CIO Summit: IT for Strategic Agility**
Prof. Erik Brynjolfsson; Peter Weill; Rick Dalzell, Amazon. Sponsored by Center for eBusiness. 8am-3:30pm. MIT Faculty Club. 452-3220.

 **"Glimpses of the East: Shanghai to Shimla"**
Artwork by Neeti Gupta and Moneta Ho, graduate students in humanities, arts and social sciences. Through May 20, 8:30am-11pm. Rotch Architecture Library.

 **"Firefly Dreams"**
Film about the differing experiences of two generations of Japanese. 5-7:30pm. Room 3-270. 252-1483.

 **"God's Children"**
A documentary about the residents of one of the largest garbage dumps in the world, just outside Manila, Philippines. In conjunction with "Marjetica Potrc: Urgent Architecture" at the List Visual Arts Center. 6:30pm. Bartos Theater. 253-4680.

FRIDAY
May 21

 **Gardeners' Annual Plant Swap**
Sponsored by MIT Gardeners Group. Noon-1:30pm. Student Center Plaza. 253-2269.


 **Building Political Will, Changing Public Policy: Is Flexible Work in our Future?**
Kathleen Christensen. Sponsored by MIT Workplace Center. 3:30-5pm. Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge. 253-7996.

 **Gallery Talk**
List Visual Arts Center Curator Bill Arning and Joe MacDonald, assistant professor of architecture, Harvard Design School/principal in Urban A+O design studio, discuss "Marjetica Potrc: Urgent Architecture." 6pm. List Visual Arts Center. 253-4680.

 **Anime Club Weekly Showing**
Sponsored by MIT Anime Club. 7pm-midnight. Room 4-370.

SATURDAY
May 22

 **Varsity Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Last Chance Qualifier**
Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation. 10am. Steinbrenner Stadium. 258-5265.

 **International Folk Dancing (participatory)**
Teaching and beginners' dances from 8-9pm. A mixture of all skill levels from 9-11pm. MIT and Wellesley students free; \$1 suggested donation for all others. MIT Folk Dance Club. Sala de Puerto Rico. 253-FOLK.



"Singing Lesson 1" by Artur Zmijewski. See May 23 and 26 listings.

SUNDAY
May 23

 **Gallery Talk**
List Visual Arts Center Education and Outreach Coordinator Hiroko Kikuchi discusses "Artur Zmijewski: Selected Works 1998-2003." 2pm. List Visual Arts Center. 253-4680.

 **International Folk Dancing (participatory)**
Teaching and beginners' dances from 8-9pm. A mixture of all skill levels from 9-11pm. MIT and Wellesley students free; \$1 suggested donation for all others. MIT Folk Dance Club. Sala de Puerto Rico. 253-FOLK.



A still from John Williams' "Firefly Dreams." See May 20 listing.

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

ARTISTS BEHIND THE DESK CONCERT

Mezzo soprano Shiba Nemat-Nasser, an administrative assistant at Sloan, performs. 253-1694

May 19

Killian Hall
Noon

SCHNITZER PRIZE RECEPTION

Featuring the student winners of the 2004 Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts. 253-7019.

May 21

Wiesner Student Art Gallery
4 - 6 p.m.

CARNATIC VIOLIN DUET


A violin duet of A. Kanyakumari and her gifted student Embar S. Kannan. \$10-18. 258-7971.

May 30


Wong Auditorium
4 p.m.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS MAY 24 - 30


MONDAY
May 24

 **Isshinryu Karate Workout**
Sponsored by Isshinryu Karate-do at MIT. 7-8:30pm. Rockwell Cage Half-Court.

TUESDAY
May 25


 **"Romeo and Juliet" Auditions**
Summer workshop production produced by MAGARISStage in association with MIT Artists Behind the Desk. Please prepare one 2-minute Shakesperian monologue. It doesn't have to be memorized, but it should be prepared. Actors will be seen on a "first-come-first-seen" basis. May 25-27, 6-9pm, sign-ups begin at 5:30pm. Room 8-205.

 **Origami Paper Folding**
Sponsored by Origami. 7-9pm. Room 4-144.


 **Evening Holography Studio for Adults**
Class for those interested in the scientific and historic aspects of holography. Sponsored by Museum Programs. \$50. 7-9pm. MIT Museum. 253-5927.


WEDNESDAY
May 26

 **Curator's Talk**
List Visual Arts Center Director Jane Farver discusses "Artur Zmijewski: Selected Works 1998-2003" (on display through July 11). Noon. List Visual Arts Center. 253-4680.

 **Swing Dancing**
Sponsored by Lindy Hop Society, GSC Funding Board. 8:45-11:30pm. Student Center 2nd floor.

THURSDAY
May 27

 **Vascular Biology and Pregnancy**
Sponsored by Clinical Research Center. 1:30-4:30pm. Room 34-101. 253-6560.

 **TPP Croquet Challenge**
Sponsored by Technology and Policy Student Society. 4-5pm. Outside Green Building. 617-225-9857.

 **"Dark Days"**
Film about the inhabitants of abandoned subway tunnels under Manhattan. Sponsored by List Visual Arts Center. 6:30pm. Bartos Theatre. 253-4680.

FRIDAY
May 28


 **Senior One Week Wonder**
One-week wonders are staged readings of plays rehearsed and performed in a single week. Directed by senior Dan Liston. 8pm. Kresge Little Theater. 253-2908.

 **Anime Club Weekly Showing**
Sponsored by MIT Anime Club. 7pm-midnight. Room 4-370.

SATURDAY
May 29

 **AID Boston Community Service Hour**
Sponsored by AID-Boston. 11am-1pm. E-mail kullal@mit.edu for location.

SUNDAY
May 30

 **Institute Archives and Special Collections**
Object of the Month
"Technique" No. 1 (1885), MIT's first yearbook. Through May 31. Hallway across from 14N-118. 253-5136.



A still from "Dark Days." See May 27 listing.