• Professor Emeritus David Epstein’s final appearance (Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony) as conductor of the MIT Symphony Orchestra was recognized in The Boston Globe and the performance received a glowing Globe review. “A fine and fond farewell to a beloved maestro,” concluded reviewer Susan Larson.

• The public debut of Media Lab graduate student Teresa Marrin’s “Conductor’s Jacket” by Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart at Tech Night at Pops, which attracted local, national and even international coverage (including Associated Press, The New York Times (picked up by The International Herald Tribune) and local TV stations).

• The resignation of List Visual Arts Center Director Katy Kline.

Other people and programs receiving press attention included Associate Provost for the Arts and playwright Alan Brody (for his play The Housewives of Mannheim); Institute Professor and composer John Harbison; Center for Advanced Visual Studies alum Chris Janney (for a collaboration with dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov), Associate Professor and composer Evan Ziporyn; sophomore Charlie Korsmo (co-starring in the film Can’t Hardly Wait); Affiliated Artist Jean Rifé; the Musical Theatre Guild’s production of Blood Brothers and the List Visual Arts Center (received numerous positive reviews of their exhibitions, chosen to organize installation at next Venice Biennale).

More information about the Office of the Arts can be found on the World Wide Web at the following URL: http://web.mit.edu/arts/

Mary L. Haller

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS
This year was a busy and exciting one for the Council for the Arts at MIT. Among the highlights: the Silver Anniversary Annual Meeting; the creation of the Arts Scholars Program; the appointment of a new chairman and vice-chair; the Arts Holiday: London excursion in May; and a bumper crop of new members, resulting in a grand total of 100 (including ex officio members).

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES
Annual Meeting (Dorothea Endicott, chair). The Council for the Arts celebrated its 25th Anniversary in grand style on October 23 and 24, 1997 with a gala dinner-dance in the Koch Gallery at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Council member Kitty Carlisle Hart delighted the dinner attendees (over 170 people strong) with her one woman show My Life on the Wicked Stage. Another Annual Meeting highlight was the dedication of the Endicott World Music Center, donated by Bradford ’49 and Dorothea Endicott and devoted to the study of World Music.

At the Friday morning business meeting Martin Rosen ’62 was officially welcomed as the new Chairman of the Council, and John Kunstadter was thanked for his dedicated service as past Chairman. Alan Brody announced the Council’s “Special Project”: the formation of a program for students, loosely based on MIT’s Burchard Scholars in the Humanities, to be called Council for the Arts at MIT Arts Scholars (see Special Programs below).

The Eugene McDermott Award and the Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize were presented, respectively, to Toni Dove, New York based media artist, and Professor Stephen Benton, head of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies and E. Rudge Allen Professor of Media Arts and Sciences (see Special Programs below).

Communications (Pepi Weis, chair). The Communications committee produced three issues of the Council newsletter, Council Currents, this year, to great success. Currents is written by Council members, for Council members.

Development (Daniel Vershbow ’45, chair). Seventy-five Council members provided unrestricted contributions averaging $3,430. Fifteen non-member donors contributed unrestricted gifts averaging $595. The total raised was $266,200. In addition to unrestricted gifts, 14 Council members gave a total of $391,523 to other MIT arts projects.
Grants Program (Bradford M. Endicott ‘49, chair). Under the leadership of Chairman Bradford M. Endicott ‘49, $65,000 in the form of 38 grants were awarded to projects such as a bagpipe recital held in honor of Scottish poet Robert Burns’ birthday; funds for the development of an oral history videotape on the life and work of the late Lawrence B. Anderson ’30 (former head of Architecture and member of the Council for the Arts); and the recording of Professor David Epstein’s farewell concert as conductor of the MIT Symphony Orchestra.

Membership (Bernard G. Palitz ’47, chair). At the writing of this report (7/98), Council membership stands at 95, plus five ex officio members. Eight individuals accepted appointment to the Council upon the invitation of President Vest: Marilyn Breslow, Patricia Lamson Chute, Michael Rechtin ’70, Brit D’Arbeloff ’61, Beth Marcus ’86, Darryl Pomnicter ’68, Anne Street ’69, and Stanley Proctor ’43. With deep sadness this report must note the passing of Robert Rudy ’37, a beloved member of the Council, and longtime supporter of the Theater Arts Section.

Special Events Committee (Catherine N. Stratton, chair). The Special Events committee kicked off its career with a spectacular event, the Arts Holiday: London, a jam-packed four and a half days (28 May - 1 June 1998) full of theater, architecture, visual arts, delicious food and good fellowship. Approximately 40 Council members and guests attended. Kimberly Shilland, the curator of Architectural Collections at the MIT Museum, provided fascinating architectural tours of London, and proved once again that MIT has connections with everything (in this case, the architectural style of the Victorian era). Clive Norris (Sloan Fellow 1992), the head of the MIT Club of Great Britain, gave us a charming welcome at the opening cocktail reception, at which a number of London-area MIT alumni joined the Council members.

List Visual Arts Center (LVAC) Advisory Committee (Kitty Glantz, chair) The List Visual Arts Center enjoyed great critical acclaim with the exhibition entitled Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism and Self-Representation, curated by art historian Whitney Chadwick, Katy Kline and Helaine Posner. The exhibition will go on to travel around the country after it closes on June 28, 1998. The LVAC announced major personnel changes near the end of the fiscal year - Curator Helaine Posner left at the end of May 1998 and Director Katy Kline announced her resignation in late June. Posner has gone on to the International Center of Photography in New York, while Kline will be the director of the Bowdoin College Museum in Brunswick, ME.

MIT Museum Advisory Board (Harvey I. Steinberg ’54, chair). A new director was chosen for the Museum this year. Jane Pickering, former curator for the Royal College of Surgeons in the United Kingdom, will take up the reins in September.

Artist-in-Residence Committee (Stephen Memishian ’70, chair). Organized along the lines of the MIT Museum and LVAC Boards described above. This committee works with MIT Office of the Arts Director of Special Programs Maureen Costello and a panel of arts professionals, Council Members and artists to bring artists to the MIT campus to work throughout the Institute.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
A very exciting program was established this year: the Council for the Arts at MIT Arts Scholars Program. The Arts Scholars will be a group of 25-30 undergraduates who will meet each month for a program on the arts (a lecture, a visit to a performance with a backstage tour, or the opportunity for the student artists themselves to share their work with their peers, etc.) and dinner. Council members and MIT arts faculty will also attend the monthly meetings. The goal of the program is to create a community of student artists, from all of the arts disciplines taught at MIT, who otherwise would have little opportunity to meet each other. The students are chosen by a committee made up of one faculty member and one Council member with expertise in each of the branches of the arts taught at MIT, namely music, architecture, writing, visual arts, media arts and theater. The first meeting of the committee as a whole took place on May 15, resulting in all 23 applicants being accepted as the inaugural class of Council Scholars.

Since 1980, the Council has underwritten MIT’s enrollment in the University Membership Program offered by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. This program provides free admission and discount benefits to all MIT undergraduate and graduate students, as well as ten membership cards for the daily use of MIT faculty and staff.

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The free-ticket program with the Boston Symphony Orchestra continued this year. MIT students can obtain, with their student ID, free admittance to Open Rehearsals, Thursday evening and Friday afternoon concerts on a day-of-show, stand-by basis. The success of this unique program continues unabated.

The successful Student Performing Arts Excursions Series continued, with each event enjoying full attendance, an average of 50 students per event. The Council provided tickets to see the Huntington Theatre production of Game of Love and Chance and ART’s production of Brecht’s In the Jungle of Cities; World Music’s presentation of the Balé Folclórico de Bahia; Boston Baroque’s presentations of L’Allegro/Messiah and Classical Masters (works of Mozart and Bach); Alan Brody’s Housewives of Mannheim; a recital by cellist Carlos Prieto ‘58 at the Boston Conservatory; a performance by Luis Alfaro presented by the Theater Offensive; the Mark Morris and Alvin Ailey dance troupes; and Pilgrim Theatre’s Guys Dreamin’.

The Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize was presented by Alan Brody to Professor Stephen Benton at the Annual Meeting luncheon on Friday October 24. At the gala Annual Meeting ball, the Eugene McDermott Award was presented by Dorothea Endicott (McDermott Award Committee chair) and Glorianna Davenport (Ms. Dove’s nominator) to Toni Dove, media artist, who will be returning to MIT in the fall of 1998 to work with students in the Media Lab.

At the Institute Awards Convocation on May 13, Associate Provost for the Arts Alan Brody presented the Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards to Elaine Chew (G) and Kevin Simmons ’98. The Louis Sudler Prize was presented to Stephen Tistaert ’98 for his achievement as a musician.

More information about the Council for the Arts can be found at the following URL: http://web.mit.edu/arts/camit.all.html

Susan R. Cohen

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special Programs created a distinguished Advisory Board for the Artist-in-Residence Program. Artists-in-residence continued to gain national prominence. Felice Frankel, artist-in-residence at the Edgerton Center in the School of Engineering, received national recognition for her book and touring exhibition of science photographs, both entitled On the Surface of Things. Kinetic sculptor Arthur Ganson was selected to design the prestigious Lemelson Prize for Invention and Innovation.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

In the Artist-in-Residence Program’s seventh year, an Advisory Board was created to both strengthen the mission of the program and to consider how to expand as an endowment is raised. The Board is chaired by Steve Memishian G’70, and distinguished membership includes MIT faculty members such as Paul Joskow, Economics; former director of the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe Florence Ladd; and ceramic artist Jim Melchert, who created the mural in MIT’s Biology Building. Substantial time was devoted to the cultivation of the Board, which met three times in its first year.

A contribution was made to the Artist-in-Residence Program Endowment in memory of Alan Katzenstein ‘42.

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Office of the Arts joined the Latin American Politics and Performance Consortium along with the David Rockefeller Center at Harvard, the New York University Tisch School of the Performing Arts, and Dartmouth College. A symposium entitled The Paucartambo Project: Andean Popular Religiosity in Representation was presented at NYU by Professor Brenda Coto-Escalera, Theater Section; Professor Nicolás Wey-Gómez, Foreign Languages and Literatures; and visiting artists Miguel Rubio, artistic director of Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani and documentary film producer Miguel Villafañe.

The Theater Section Residency Committee developed a three year plan for visiting artists.