

Office of the Arts

Council for the Arts

The highlights of 2003–2004 were the council’s gala excursion to Venice for the Biennale in September, and the addition of two new responsibilities to the council programs—administration of the Wiesner Student Art Gallery and the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts.

Council Standing Committees

Annual Meeting (Patricia Chute, chair). The 31st Annual Meeting of the Council for the Arts at MIT took place on October 23 and 24, 2003. The meeting began on Thursday morning with a tour of the Compton Gallery photography exhibition *Knowing Where to Stand*, led by the artist, MIT architecture professor Anne Whiston Spirn. Following the tour, Bill Arning, curator of the List Visual Arts Center, led a walking tour of the highlights of the MIT permanent collection, taking the group from Lobby 10 through Killian Court and on to the Zesiger Center.

After a buffet lunch at the MIT Museum, the group was whisked away to the Stata Center. Due to inclement weather, senior project manager Nancy Joyce brought the group to the fifth floor of an adjacent building, where she gave her presentation on the progress of the remarkable building.

Next on the agenda was a special pumpkin patch glass sale for the council members, located in the Bush Room. After a well-deserved break, the council members gathered at Gray House for cocktails, followed by dinner at the Faculty Club. The 2003 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts was presented to composer Libby Larsen. Three MIT students performed some of her vocal work as a tribute to Ms. Larsen.

Friday morning began with the business meeting in Killian Hall, where chair Dorothea Endicott officially stepped down, and Stephen Memishian ’70 officially assumed the role of council chair. Dr. Vest addressed the assembled, and Alan Brody presented his annual State of the Arts address.

Lunch was held at the University Park Hotel. The Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize was not presented this year. The Annual Meeting concluded following a tour of the Michael Joo exhibition at the List Visual Arts Center.

Arts Scholars Committee (Brit d’Arbeloff, chair). The day-to-day operation of the Arts Scholars Program is overseen by the coordinator of student programs (in the Office of Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs). A committee made up of council members and MIT faculty meets once a year to discuss the program and review applications to the program.

Communications (Pepi Weis, chair). The Communications Committee produced two issues of the council newsletter, *Council Currents*, this year, and a deluxe Venice edition

is in the works as of this writing. *Council Currents* is written by council members, for council members.

Development. The council is still seeking a new chair for the Development Committee. The council has raised a total of \$324,630 from its members, and \$5,190 from nonmember donors, bringing the total to \$329,820. The FY04 budget was set at \$321,000, and although final figures are not yet available, the entire budgeted amount was not spent, leaving an income of at least \$8,820.

Grants Program (Martin N. Rosen '62, chair). Bradford Endicott '49 stepped down this year after over 15 years of service as chair. A total of \$79,565 was awarded this year, in the form of 33 grants and 37 Director's Grants (\$500 and under). Some of the highlights this year were *White Light/White Noise*, an installation created by architecture assistant professor Meejin Yoon; the work will be installed at the foot of the Acropolis in Athens during the Olympics. Coryn Kempster's parody of the little red book of Chairman Mao, told in photographs and entitled *Let a Hundred Starbucks Blossom*, was another high point, as was the opportunity to fund the first request from the student-created Freshman Arts Orientation Program. A highlight of the Director's Grants was the creation of a sand mandala by Buddhist monks in Simmons Hall, and an installation inspired by dreams entitled *Somnabulations*.

Membership (Bernard G. Palitz '47, chair). As of this writing (July 16, 2004), council membership stands at 109, with 6 ex officio members and 103 regular members.

The following new members have joined the council since our last Report to the President: Peter Athens '52, Patrick Wang '98, David Solo '82, and Bruce Sunstein '65. Longtime council member Luis Ferré '24 passed away on October 21, 2003, and Vernon Alden, Alan May, and Deborah Hoover resigned.

Special Events Committee. From September 2 to 7, about 40 council members, spouses, and guests enjoyed a spectacular trip to Venice. The trip was organized to coincide with the 2003 Biennale, since the commissioner of the American Pavilion was Kathleen Goncharov of MIT's List Visual Arts Center. Steve Memishian '70 was a prime mover in the planning and execution of the trip. Highlights included a trip to many glass factories on Murano, led by Peter Houk of the MIT Glass Lab; watching the pageantry and excitement of the *Regata Storica* from the balcony of a palazzo on the Grand Canal; a cocktail reception at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection; and an after-hours tour of St Mark's cathedral in the Piazza San Marco.

In May, Memishian and his wife, Carol, hosted an event at their home in Greenwich, CT, featuring their two collections: scrimshaw and hotrods. Many council members attended, along with other MIT alumni, and a splendid time was had by all.

Affiliated Committees

List Visual Arts Center Advisory Board (Jennifer Frutchy, chair). The List Visual Arts Center continues to provide the MIT community and the entire Boston area with the highest caliber contemporary art exhibitions. The List staff also oversees the Percent for

Art program, in which a percentage of the budget for any new building or renovation on campus is put towards purchase or commissioning of a work of art.

MIT Museum Advisory Board (Harvey I. Steinberg '54, chair). The search committee for a new museum director continues. Mary Leen, acting director, has maintained the high level of quality in both exhibitions and educational and community-outreach programs. David Ellis, former head of the Boston Museum of Science, was named vice-chair of the Advisory Board, and is also serving as a special consultant.

Special Programs

The Council for the Arts is now providing an annual allocation of \$7,500 to the Artists Behind the Desk Program, led by a group of MIT staff who organize concerts, readings, performances, and a visual arts exhibition by staff members. Barbara Hughey '89 will serve as the council's representative at the ABD meetings.

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 day passes for the use of MIT faculty and staff.

The council also sponsors a student membership program with the Photographic Resource Center (PRC) at Boston University. The PRC provides a range of programs, including exhibitions by national and international photographers and educational programs. MIT undergraduates and graduate students have unlimited free access to the PRC galleries and library and admission to lectures, workshops, and other special events at the discounted member price. They will also be able to enter their work into the Juried Members' exhibition.

The free-ticket program with the Boston Symphony Orchestra continued this year. Through it, MIT students can obtain, with their student ID, free admission to some 24 concerts per year. Similar programs have been established with other Boston-area orchestras, such as the contemporary music ensembles Collage New Music and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

The successful Student Performing Arts Excursions Series continued, with hundreds of MIT students signing up to attend the operas *Nixon in China* and *Rigoletto*, world-music performances by the Yamato Drummers of Japan, *Yellowman* at the New Repertory Theatre, and *Snow in June* and *Lady with a Lapdog* presented by the American Repertory Theatre.

The Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize was not presented this year. At the Annual Meeting dinner at the Faculty Club on Thursday October 23, the Eugene McDermott Award was presented by Dorothea Endicott (McDermott Award Committee chair) and Professor Lowell Lindgren to Libby Larsen, a Minnesota-based composer whose entire oeuvre is being collected by the MIT Music Library. Ms. Larsen was a charming and gracious guest and returned to campus in April for the residency portion of the McDermott

Award, where she met with classes, observed rehearsals, and gave a presentation for the MIT community at the Lewis Music Library.

At the Institute Awards Convocation on May 4, associate provost for the arts Alan Brody presented the Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards to graduate students James Dai (for theater arts and videography) and Daniel Paluska (for visual arts and music) and Andrew Perelson '04 (for theater arts). The Louis Sudler Prize was presented to Andrew McPherson '04 for his accomplishments in music. Each award-winner was presented with \$1,250.

The first-prize winner of the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize, now overseen by the Council for the Arts at MIT, was Coryn Kempster, a graduate student in architecture. Second and third prizes were awarded to graduate student Lisa Bidlingmeyer and Niels Cosman '05, respectively. The prizes are \$1,500, \$900, and \$600.

A recent program, the Pilchuck Scholarship, was established by the Council for the Arts at the request of the MIT Glass Lab. One MIT student per year is chosen to attend a summer session at the Pilchuck Glass School outside Seattle, WA. The council contributes half of the tuition; Pilchuck provides the balance. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Niels Cosman '05.

The council also administers the Wiesner Student Art Gallery in the Stratton Student Center. Amanda Frye '06 was hired as student curator and has done a wonderful job in organizing several exhibitions this academic year—the MIT Glass Lab, the Experimental Study Group, and graduate student Marc Graham all had exhibitions, with an exhibition of the Schnitzer Prize winner finishing up the season. Amanda hired musicians to perform at the gallery openings, an idea that proved to be a huge success. New lighting fixtures were installed, and the gallery's display cases are scheduled to be upgraded this summer.

Susan R. Cohen
Director

More information about the Council for the Arts can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/office/council/>

Arts Communication

In the 15th year of the Office of the Arts, Arts Communication continued to maintain and increase awareness of the arts at MIT both within and outside the Institute by publishing and distributing up-to-date information on MIT arts events and exhibitions; actively promoting arts-related activities, programs, and people at MIT through publications, products, and media relations; and working with the Admissions Office to inform prospective students about the arts at MIT.

Internal (MIT)

Work began on a redesign of the arts@mit website (<http://web.mit.edu/arts>). Goals included providing better access to information on student programs; featuring the arts@mit DVD, spotlighted events, news, and announcements more prominently; making the site more fresh and inviting through a series of changing images; and making the homepage text more editable. Two rounds of usability testing done with the assistance of MIT Information Systems led to a rethinking of the site's navigation, and a new design was developed in conjunction with designer Kathy Forsythe. Programming began on the new site with the goal of launching it in early fall, 2004.

The existing arts@mit website continued to attract attention and email to the Office of the Arts from around the world. Senior editorial assistant Lynn Heinemann fielded the numerous questions and comments, including inquiries from potential applicants about campus visits and MIT arts opportunities, questions from outside artists about the availability of exhibition spaces and dark rooms, and numerous other queries.

Postcards announcing the new site were produced as part of a project in which new arts postcards were designed and printed for next year's undergraduate application (see "Student Recruitment and Communication," below).



New banners depicting a variety of arts activities at MIT were produced and installed in the plaza between Buildings E15 and E23. A total of 15 individual banners will be rotated into this site—five at a time, three times a year— during the term.

The covers of both the student and faculty/staff directories featured photos and images of arts-makers at MIT. Arts Communication assisted in researching and selecting the pictures and writing descriptive text.

Lynn Heinemann maintained and publicized arts events on MIT's electronic web-based Events Calendar and maintained the arts@mit website, updating calendar listings, publishing each week's *Tech Talk* arts stories and creating new links. The LED sign in Building 16, written and programmed by Heinemann, continues to generate attention with announcements of MIT arts events and activities. Heinemann also continued to produce the weekly "Arts Hotline," reached by dialing 617-253-ARTS.

The “Month-at-a-Glance” calendar (monthly listings of MIT’s arts events and activities) was published eight times during the school year, distributed around campus, and mailed monthly to 603 individuals at their request.

Arts Communication handled the announcements and distribution procedures for a program offering free tickets to the final year of concerts by Metamorphosen.



Cover of the 2003–2004 Faculty and Staff Directory

The Arts-Announce email list, developed for those interested in announcements about MIT-related arts, free and discounted ticket offers, and information on special MIT arts events, continued to be an effective tool for communication.

Arts Communication continued to oversee ArtsNet, which consists of about 90 campus arts representatives.

Haller represented the arts as a member of the Communications Operations Group (COG) and Information Group.

Student Recruitment and Communication

For the third year Haller produced an Arts Reception for prospective students and their families during Campus Preview Weekend. The event, which took place this year for the first time in the lobby of the Zesiger Center, included performances by MIT student musicians and gave accepted applicants for the Class of 2008 a chance to meet faculty and current students and obtain information on MIT arts programs and opportunities. The event has now been embraced as a regular-occurring event during CPW, and this year’s was considered the most successful one yet.

Office of the Arts programs were also represented once again at the campus-wide Activities Midway at the start of the fall semester.

For the ninth year, MIT’s undergraduate application included tear-out postcards for prospective students to use to request information on the arts at MIT and indicate specific arts interests. Postcards were received from 743 individuals and a copy of the arts@mit booklet, a postcard about the Arts homepage on the Web, and a “freebie” flyer were sent to each with a letter from associate provost for the arts Alan Brody.

The arts postcard was redesigned for the 2005 undergraduate application to reflect the look and feel of the new arts@mit web site, and was placed prominently just inside the front cover of the application booklet. For the first time, the card is in full color and will direct prospective students to the arts@mit website for information and brochures rather than being a mail-in request card.

Six thousand additional copies of the arts@mit DVD were created and distributed through the Admissions and the Educational Council offices.

Tech Talk Coverage

For the 15th year, Arts Communication provided arts-related articles, items, and images for the campus newspaper *Tech Talk*, including 13 arts-related front-page stories and/or images, with Haller as *Tech Talk* art editor and Heinemann as primary arts writer.

Other *Tech Talk* contributors included members of the News Office staff, members of the MIT arts community, Susannah Mandel (SM '03), and, for the first time, writing interns from Boston University's School of Journalism (Valerie Conners, Allison Kornet, and Jennette Mullaney).

Special Media Attention

The following are some of the people and projects across the Institute who received external media attention through publicity efforts initiated by Arts Communication:

- The MIT appearances of composer, musician, and activist Peggy Seeger, National Public Radio writer and storyteller Sarah Vowell, and novelist Margaret Atwood.
- The 3rd Annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch at MIT.
- Selected events sponsored by MIT Music and Theater Arts, including the debut of a new Words and Music series at MIT with a performance featuring poet Robert Creeley and saxophonist Steve Lacy; and a concert featuring renowned jazz artists Steve Turre, Ran Blake, and others.
- The awarding of the 2003 Eugene McDermott Award to composer Libby Larsen, and her subsequent visits to MIT.



Novelist Margaret Atwood shows students one of the notebooks in which she does most of her writing. Atwood visited MIT on April 4. Photo by Donna Coveney

Other Media Attention

Associate provost for the arts Alan Brody reviewed *Arthur Miller: His Life and Work*, by Martin Gottfried, in a column for the *Boston Globe*.

Exhibitions presented by the List Visual Arts Center garnered great praise, including *Michael Joo* and *Son et Lumière*.

"Between the Lines: Negotiating South Asian LGBT Identity," Boston's first South Asian GLBT (Gay Lesbian Bi Transgendered) film series, organized by



NPR commentator Sarah Vowell speaks with students at the Media Lab. Photo by Donna Coveney

graduate student Parmesh Shahani, received major attention in the local press. “Besides advancing fun, Shahani ultimately hopes to promote a greater appreciation of the diversity that exists in the global gay and transgender community,” wrote R. J. Grubb in *Bay Windows*.

The opening of MIT’s Stata Center caused a flurry of attention for MIT’s unusual new building. “The exuberant exterior shapes may be arbitrary expressions of a contemporary architectural aesthetic, but the spaces they create respond to the eternal longing for a real sense of community,” said the *Boston Herald*.

MIT alums made a splash in the world of arts:

- Woody Pak (SB ’94) as the composer for a new musical, *The Wedding Banquet*, which had its US premiere by the Seattle Village Theatre.
- Seth Bisen-Hersh (SB ’01) for performances of his musical *Meaningless Sex* at the 2003 New York International Fringe Festival, and his musical study of gay heterosexuality, *The Gayest Straight Man Alive*, performed at New York City’s Where Eagles Dare.
- Patrick Wang (SB ’98) for his film, *Surveillances*, winner of Best Short Film at both the Avignon Film Festival and the Wine Country Film Festival and shown as part of the Boston Underground Film Festival.
- Flavia Sparacino (SM ’97, PhD) for a multimedia interactive component to *La Scena di Puccini* (Puccini’s stage design), an exhibition seen at the Ragghianti Foundation in Lucca, Italy.
- Vladimir Zelevinsky (SB ’94, SM) for his play, *What Time is It?* premiered by Somerville’s Theater Cooperative, where he is playwright-in-residence.
- Daniel L. Goodman (PhD ’89) for his performance in the 2004 Van Cliburn Amateur Piano Competition in Fort Worth, TX.

Arts Faculty Off-Campus

In addition, MIT arts faculty received media attention for their work off campus, including:

- Alan Lightman, adjunct professor in the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, for his fourth book, *Reunion*, based on his experiences as an undergraduate at Princeton.
- Composer and Institute Professor John Harbison for the year-long series “John Harbison and His World,” produced by Emmanuel Music; his evening-length ballet score *Ulysses*, performed by BMOP; and his commission to write a sacred motet that premiered at the Vatican on January 17.
- Professor Tod Machover for his *Toy Symphony* and its adaptation to new audiences, featured in print and on A&E TV’s *Breakfast with the Arts*. The segment included a discussion with Machover, a demo by Mary Farbood of Hyperscore

composing software, and footage of *Toy Symphony*'s acclaimed performances and workshops in Boston and New York.

- Professor Joan Jonas for *Five Works: Joan Jonas*, the video/installation artist's first large survey of work, at the Queens (NY) Museum of Art.
- Professor Krzysztof Wodiczko for his design, with architect Julian Bender, of a 9/11 memorial path in Hoboken, NJ, chosen by a selection jury as one of several projects to be built by the city.
- Kenan Sahin professor of music Evan Ziporyn for his score for the American Repertory Theatre's production of *Oedipus* ("ravishingly discordant music" — *Boston Phoenix*); his lively performance of Artie Shaw's Clarinet Concerto with the Boston Pops ("he made his instrument swing, purr, and wail" — *Boston Globe*); BMOP's premiere of his *War Chant* ("dazzling ... a gripping experience from start to finish" — *Boston Herald*); and his composition *Be-In* ("the most gripping piece" — *London Guardian*) and his bass clarinet playing, featured on the eponymous debut album of the New York-based string quartet Ethel (Cantaloupe Music).
- Professors Ziporyn and Wodiczko, featured in separate episodes of WGBH-TV's *Arts Close Up*.
- MIT lecturer Mark Harvey and his Aardvark Jazz Orchestra for their big-band homage to Boston's Big Dig, titled "Dig the Dig."

Personnel

Haller continued working on a part-time schedule, primarily from her home.

Mary L. Haller
Director

More information about the Office of the Arts can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/arts/>.

Office of the Arts Development

The director of arts development in the Office of the Arts manages all development activities of the associate provost for the arts, maintains a portfolio of 104 arts prospects, and functions as liaison between the Office of the Arts and the Office of Resource Development.

Goals and Progress

The two principal goals of the Office of Arts Development are to seek support from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government sources for arts programs and activities at MIT, and to coordinate arts development activities within the Institute. Arts initiatives listed in the campaign priorities include the Laboratory for the Performing

Arts; full and career development professorships; directorships, curatorships, and education coordinators in the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum; and additional endowment for the Artists-in-Residence Program, fine art conservation, the List Foundation Fellowship Program, the Advanced Music Performance Program, and world music.

The highest priority of the Office of Arts Development is the Laboratory for the Performing Arts. Emotions ran the gamut from high to low this year, which began with significant time and effort spent in cultivation of a potential prospect to name the facility, only to have that individual ultimately decide not to do so. The associate provost for the arts and the director of arts development are agreed that serious cultivation for the smaller naming opportunities within this project must wait until a naming gift for the facility is secured.

Collaborations

Fiscal year 2004 brought another change in office location, from Room 11-268 to 10-207 (closer to the associate provost for the arts, but more important, a private space), made possible largely through the thoughtfulness and hard work of Doreen Morris. The Office of Arts Development continues to maintain close ties with the Office of Campaign Giving and the Office of Foundation Relations, in addition to its collaborations with the Council for the Arts, the MIT Museum, the List Visual Arts Center, and other offices within the Office of the Arts.

FY2003's new emphasis on corporate fund-raising for the arts failed to develop any new gifts or potentially valuable relationships, in spite of significant time and effort spent on the part of the associate provost for the arts and the director of arts development, so that effort was not maintained in FY2004.

Accomplishments

The associate provost for the arts participated in 64 individual development meetings in FY2004, along with a number of cultivation events, the most significant of which was hosted by Council for the Arts chairman Steve Memishian ('70 Management) at his home in Greenwich, CT.

Following a disappointing FY2003, with new gifts and pledge payments to all arts programs (not including gifts-in-kind) amounting to \$1,626,524, FY2004's record total of \$3,577,749 was rejuvenating. Significant components of this total were Margaret McDermott's (honorary member of the Alumni Association) \$1 million gift to augment the Eugene McDermott Award, Dick Nordlof's ('55 ME) first payment of \$250,000 on his unanticipated pledge of \$750,000 in support of the Laboratory for the Performing Arts, and Harold Schnitzer's ('44 Materials Science) \$50,000, bringing the Schnitzer Prize

Fund to \$150,000. Bob Sanders ('64 EE) continues to give \$40,000 annually toward his pledge of \$200,000 for a piece of artwork to be installed at the Stata Center.

Glenn Billingsley

Director

Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs

Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs (previously called Special Programs) began its 13th year of developing diverse programs with MIT departments with a new mandate and new staff. The mission of Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs is to connect MIT students to the arts through new and existing student programs and the Artist-in-Residence (AiR) program.

Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs manages a variety of student programs: List Foundation Fellowship Program, Art Reps, Art Scholars, FASAP (Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program), the Juried Student Origami Exhibit, the Grad Arts Forum, an annual Student Mural Competition, and the Student Art Association (SAA). On July 1, 2003, SAA moved from the Dean for Student Life to the Associate Provost for the Arts. On January 1, 2004, SAA was assigned to Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs.

Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs administer the AiR Program, bringing both renowned and emerging artists to campus for periods ranging from three days to a semester. Designed to complement courses and advance cross-disciplinary work, these residencies offer insights into different cultures and different ways of looking at familiar problems.

Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs Sponsorship

In addition to Institute support from the provost and the Graduate Students Office, Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs received support from the Council for the Arts at MIT, the William L. Abramowitz Fund, the Ida Ely Rubin Artists-in-Residence Fund, the Alan H. Katzenstein Memorial Fund, and the Eugene McDermott Award Fund. SAA is supported in part by the Harold ('44) and Arlene Schnitzer Prize and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Gallery Funds.

Student Programs

List Foundation Fellowship Program in the Arts

The List Foundation Fellowship Program in the Arts (LFFP) continued with support from the provost. As of 2003-2004, LFFP supports individual undergraduate creative work in the performing, literary, visual, and media arts. The program is for MIT students exploring personal, racial, and cultural identity who are United States citizens or permanent residents.

Kathryn Lin '05 (environmental engineering) received this year's fellowship to explore Taiwanese and Taiwanese American composers and their compositions for violin and piano. She had a recital in the spring of 2004 wherein she performed works by several composers and analyzed what the pieces meant to her personal identity as a Taiwanese American woman. She was fortunate to have a master class/dress rehearsal with the composer Tan Dun.

Dang Vu '05 (biology) has been chosen to receive the fellowship for the '04-'05 academic year. Through his project, entitled "The Poison Clan Suite: A Celebration of Mutant Culture," Vu, a Vietnamese émigré, hopes to find his own musical voice and celebrate the global exchange of culture. For this project, he will compose a five piece suite for a rock trio, about a classic Hong Kong martial arts film.

Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program

Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program (FASAP) completed its second year with four seminars led by the associate provost of the arts, Professor Alan Brody (Theater), Professor Peter Child (Music), LVAC education/outreach coordinator Hiroko Kikuchi, and lecturer Charles Shadle (Music). FASAP participants benefited from various arts excursions and special on-campus presentations.

Mandatory events in the fall included an MIT Dance Theater Ensemble open rehearsal choreographed by artist-in-residence Alexandra Beller, a tour of the John Currin exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Berlioz concert by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, *Butley* at the Huntington Theatre, a drawing workshop with the Student Art Association, a drumming workshop with artist-in-residence Lamine Touré, academic-themed dinners with faculty and students from Comparative Media Studies and Writing, and an Arts Share where students presented and shared their art with the other students in the program.

Optional excursions throughout the year included a tour of the List Visual Arts Center's student art loan offerings, *Don Quixote* at the Boston Ballet, the Cantata Singers' *One Blood*, MIT Dramashop's production of *The Company of Angels*, a tour of *Son et Lumière* at the List Visual Arts Center, artist-in-residence Sarah Vowell's talk, and a demo in the MIT Glass Lab by artist-in-residence Peter Houk.

Arts Scholars

The Art Scholars Program was designed to create a community of MIT students who are committed to work in one or more disciplines in the arts and who wish for more interaction with fellow student and faculty artists, and more exposure to the rich resources of the Boston area. It is open to rising sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students regardless of major. This year, the sixth year of the program, 29 students participated in the program. The current mission of the Arts Scholars Program



Maggie Avener '07 juggles at an Arts Share.

is to make it a student-run collaboration. Students are encouraged to plan events and excursions and play an important role in the event selection process.

Events included *Ain't Misbehavin'* at the Huntington Theatre, *Lady with a Lapdog* at the American Repertory Theatre (ART), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, a children's puppet show presented by CrashArts entitled *The Star Keeper*, an MIT Dancetroupe performance, Wynton Marsalis's *All Rise* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, *Snow in June* at the ART, a jazz show at the Regattabar, and an overnight art-seeing trip to New York City.

Art Representatives

The Art Representatives are a network of Arts Ambassadors in every dorm and living group. Dinners were held once a term to provide Art Reps an opportunity to meet, discuss the program, and learn about upcoming events and opportunities. Communication with the Art Reps is maintained in the form of a weekly email calendar of upcoming arts events at MIT. Additionally, the Art Reps distributed materials related to this year's Abramowitz Memorial Lecture by Margaret Atwood to their living group members.

Student Origami Exhibit

The second annual student competition was juried by origami specialists assistant professor Erik Demaine (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science), visiting scientist Martin Demaine, and alumnae Elsa Chen, Anne LaVin, and Jeannine Moseley. The submissions were exhibited in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery from March to April 2004. Orig@MIT, Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs, the MIT Japan Program, and the office of Erik Demaine cosponsored the competition.

Graduate Arts Forum

The Graduate Arts Forum was a new initiative aimed at building an interdisciplinary community of graduate students who make art as part of their graduate work; it also seeks to allow students to gain experience presenting their work and to experience art as spectators. Students in Architecture; Comparative Media Studies; History, Theory & Criticism; Media Arts and Sciences; Science, Technology and Society; and Visual Arts were targeted. This project was sponsored by the Graduate Student Office and administered by Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs.

Forum topics for 2003-2004 included Artist and Inventor, Sound, Narratives, Spectacle Spectator Specta[c]tor, Location as Identity, Paranoia, and Movement.

Student Mural Competition

The first annual student mural competition winners were students of the Applied Mathematics Fluids Laboratory at MIT (David Hu '01, '05; Brian Chan '01, '04; Jeff Aristoff '04; Jeff Leblanc '03; Alex Hasha '02; Robbie Buckingham '00) supervised by associate professor John Bush. Their work entitled *Aquabatics* consisted of photographs taken during the period 1999-2003 in the course of exploratory experimental investigations of surface-tension-driven flows. The mural was installed in the basement

of E15 in May 2004 and will eventually move to a permanent home in the Mathematics Department.

The panel of judges included the Media Lab's executive director and senior research scientist Walter Bender, assistant professor Chris Csikszentmihályi, the Center for Bits and Atoms Director and Professor Neil Gershenfeld, LVAC curator Bill Arning, and LVAC gallery manager/exhibition designer Tim Lloyd.

SAA (Student Art Association)

SAA is a space for creative exploration of the visual arts. Currently there are approximately 60 noncredit classes per year (summer, fall, Independent Activities Period [IAP], and spring) offered in the Ceramics, Photography and 2D studios. These classes are geared to MIT students and are open to all members of the MIT community.

AiR Program

The MIT Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program provides MIT students with opportunities to interact with nationally and internationally recognized artists through master classes, lecture-demonstrations, performances, and workshops. By providing students with opportunities for direct involvement with artists in all of the arts, the AiR Program encourages creative thinking and personal expression and promotes cultural affirmation through the arts. The AiR Program enriches curricular innovation and promotes interdepartmental collaboration.

In support of the mission to bring internationally recognized artists to MIT, Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs has initiated communication with many artists and arts organizations in Cuba.

Named Residencies

The 2004 William L. Abramowitz Program brought acclaimed Canadian novelist and poet Margaret Atwood to campus in April. Atwood's lecture on April 4, entitled "Oryx and Crake Revealed," focused on her newest novel *Oryx and Crake* that offers a view of the future following a bioengineered apocalypse caused when short-term science outstrips long-term responsibility. Preparation for this program included the distribution of Atwood's books *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Cats Eye*, *The Edible Woman*, and *Lady Oracle* to Arts Reps, and a Lecture Series Committee (LSC) screening of the feature film *The Handmaid's Tale*. Copies of *Oryx and Crake* were made available to all MIT students.



Margaret Atwood (right) on a tour of the Broad Institute with project coordinator Carrie Sougnez.

The 2003-2004 Katzenstein Residency was held by Sarah Vowell, writer and contributing editor for National Public Radio's *This American Life*. The residency included a public

presentation during which Vowell read from one of her books and then discussed her upcoming work about tourism and presidential assassination. The event was followed by a book signing. During her time at MIT Vowell also met with a number of students in an informal question and answer session at the Media Laboratory. The talk was co-sponsored by the Center for New Words.

The Eugene McDermott Award recipient for 2003 was composer Libby Larsen, the first woman to serve as resident composer for a major orchestra. MIT students accompanied by MIT lecturer Charles Shadle performed several of Larsen's vocal works at the awards presentation. Larsen attended several classes and rehearsals during her residency from April 4 to 9. On April 8, she gave a talk at the Music Library on her work.

The Artist-in-Residence Program also brought composer and musician Tan Dun, winner of the 1994 Eugene McDermott Award, to MIT this spring to complete his residency. On April 22 he participated in a public conversation with past artist-in-residence Cai Guo-Qiang, and on April 23 he gave a presentation entitled "Instruments from Beyond: A Conversation about Organic and Alien Musical Instruments" at Bartos Theater. Tan Dun met with several students and research groups while at MIT.

The 2003-2004 Rubin residency was completed in the spring by Brazilian artist and architect Valeska Soares. On February 10 she gave a talk entitled "Follies, Recent Works." Soares participated in classes in Theater, Experimental Study Group, and History, Theory and Criticism. Several students in Visual Arts and Media Arts and Sciences also met with her through workshops and studio critiques.

Department-Based Residencies

School of Architecture

Installation artist Barnaby Evans came to MIT in the fall of 2003, sponsored by the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. Evans is the creator of *Waterfire* in Providence. At MIT he co-taught a seminar called "Event Places," which examined the impact of ephemera on the urban environment, and an IAP workshop called "Inventing Events." On October 6 he presented a symposium titled "Illuminating the Mirror: Reflections on *WaterFire*."

In March, graduate students in the Media Lab brought composer, musician, and producer John Zorn to MIT to participate in the Performing Experimental Musical Instruments Workshop. On March 30 he presented "Compositions and Improvisation" in Bartos Theater.

School of Engineering

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science assistant professor and MacArthur Fellow Erik Demaine brought MIT alumnus Dr. George Hart to the Institute in October-November. Hart is a sculptor, scholar, engineer, educator, computer scientist, and mathematical magician. He showed his artwork on October 30, gave a public lecture on its mathematical and computational origins on October 31, and worked with MIT

students and staff on November 4 to build a polyhedral sculpture called “Salamanders” for the new Stata Center.

Sponsored by the Department of Materials Sciences and Engineering, glass artist Peter Houk continued his residency this year in the MIT Glass Lab.

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

In September, the Program in Music and Theater Arts brought dancer/choreographer and former member of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company Alexandra Beller to MIT. On September 22 she gave a talk entitled “The Dancing Body” in which she discussed the barriers between truth and fiction and gender structures that dictate behavior, particularly women’s behavior. She also taught an informal dance class and worked with the MIT Dance Theater Ensemble choreographing “Cliché Soup,” which was performed on September 28.

The Program in Women's Studies sponsored a residency with Native American poet, composer, musician, and singer Joy Harjo in April.

Composer, musician, and activist Peggy Seeger participated in the Artist-in-Residence Program sponsored by the Programs in Literature, Women’s Studies, and Music from September 23 to 26. One of her best-known songs, “Gonna Be an Engineer,” has become one of the anthems of the women’s movement. On September 25 she gave a public concert in Wong Auditorium. While at MIT, Seeger visited several classes and spoke to students about her work.

Master Senegalese drummer Lamine Touré continued his residency with the Music and Theater Arts Section. Touré co-founded and co-directs Rambax MIT, an ensemble dedicated to learning the art of sabar, a vibrant drum and dance tradition of the Wolof people of Senegal. Rambax MIT held several performances this year. Additionally, Touré collaborated with associate professor Thomas DeFrantz and the Dance Theater Ensemble to perform a *Simb* lion dance in April.

Staffing News

The position of program coordinator is filled by a recent graduate of MIT on a one-year contract. Nick Bozard '03 (computer science and engineering) joined Special Programs in August 2003, and Dora Kelle '03 (architecture) was hired to replace him beginning July 1, 2004.

Student staff Nicole Ackerman '07, Mariana Baca '06, Patrick Boyle '06, Johanna Mathieu '04, Madleina Scheidegger (G), Tom Walker '06, and Rachel Valdez '07 were invaluable to the success of Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs.



Building George Hart's “Salamanders” required many hands.



Clay Ward '97 (brain and cognitive sciences, MFA, Parsons School of Design) was hired as the interim half-time coordinator of SAA at the beginning of the calendar year. In June, he was hired as the permanent half-time coordinator of SAA.

Michèle Oshima
Director

More information about Student & Artist-in-Residence Programs in the Office of the Arts can be found on the web at http://web.mit.edu/arts/special_programs.