

Associate Provost for the Arts

The 2005–2006 academic year saw two important new initiatives from the Office of the Associate Provost for the Arts, both dealing with the intersection of science and art.

During the fall term, the associate provost for the arts hosted a steering committee meeting for the Consortium Program for Science Performance and Narrative, a consortium of four universities (MIT, Ohio State University, University of California at Santa Barbara, and New Mexico State University) interested in pursuing interdisciplinary study in science and art. At this meeting, it was decided to hold a conference at MIT's McGovern Institute for Brain Research in the fall of 2006.

In the same vein, the Catalyst Collaborative, a collaboration between MIT and the Underground Railway Theatre to produce science-related plays, began its first full pilot season with staged readings of a dramatic adaptation of Alan Lightman's *Einstein's Dreams* and Ira Hauptmann's *Partition*, a play about mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

The Science on Stage salon, initiated in 2002 by associate provost of the arts Alan Brody and Professor Alan Lightman, continued through its third year with professors Jerome Friedman, Alan Guth, George Benedek, David Miller, and Nancy Hopkins and a number of Boston-area playwrights.

The Privthi Theatre in Bombay invited the associate provost to speak about the arts at MIT at a forum on theater policy and to begin to explore exchanges of students and faculty through the MIT-India program.

Brody also represented MIT at the joint concert of Brahms' *The German Requiem* with the MIT Concert Choir, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, and the University Choir of Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland. President Hockfield welcomed the same choruses to Cambridge when they performed in Kresge Auditorium.

In AY2006 John Durant officially joined the MIT community as director of the MIT Museum, with a faculty appointment as adjunct professor in science, technology, and society.

The Museum Loan Network (MLN) published a retrospective volume representing 10 years of innovation in its national program for facilitating loans of art and historical objects among diverse museums encompassing 49 of the 50 states. Under the superb guidance of Lori Gross, MLN also initiated a number of new programs making use of its extensive and pathbreaking database.

The associate provost for the arts initiated a collaboration between the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and the Sloan School of Management for a pilot course on creativity in management during Independent Activities Period 2006. The associate provost completed his eighth year as the MIT representative on the Board of Trustees for the Museum of Fine Arts. He also joined the board of the Wang Center.

Professor Brody's play, *The Housewives of Mannheim*, was the winner of the 2006 Bloomington Playwrights Project Reva Shriener Full-length Play contest and received a full production. The sequel in a projected trilogy, *Victory Blues*, also had a staged reading at the Traveling Jewish Theatre in San Francisco.

The AY2006 colloquia included presentations by music professor Patty Tang, poet Erica Funkhouser, dean of architecture Adèle Santos, adjunct professor of Music Jean Rife, artist-in-residence in Theater, Max Hafler, and the new head of the Visual Arts Program, Ute Meta Bauer.

AY2006 was Alan Brody's final year as associate provost for the arts.

Alan Brody
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More information about the Associate Provost for the Arts can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/office/provost/>.