

MIT CLUB OF SOUTH TEXAS



January 2006

<http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/s-texas>



Reindeer Herders, Pygmies, Sacred Sites, Community Sit-Ins, Polygamy, Witchcraft, Ancient Fire Pits, Medicinal Plants, and State-of-the-Art Latrines:

Challenges of Meeting World Bank Standards During Upstream Oil and Gas Construction

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

5:30pm

[SmarTrans™](#) DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 11pm CST, Monday, January 16, 2006

The MIT Club of South Texas is pleased to kick off 2006 with a presentation by independent anthropologist Dr. Pandora Snethkamp. Dr. Snethkamp has over 25 years experience working on the management of social, cultural, and environmental issues in oil and gas development in the US and overseas. During her talk she will describe the challenges facing oil and gas companies meeting World Bank and other international standards associated with indigenous peoples, compensation and resettlement, conservation of cultural and archaeological sites, and management of workforce social impacts during construction.

As examples, she will discuss her previous work as the Social Performance Manager of the 12 billion dollar Sakhalin-2 Project in Russia as well as her work on the Chad-Cameroon Development Project and the West to East pipeline project in China.

The presentation will be held at the University of Houston Hilton, located on the University of Houston main campus.

4800 Calhoun Street, Houston, Texas (713-741-2447)

Check our website for a map.

5:30pm Cocktails/Reception (cash bar)

6:30pm Presentation

7:30pm Dinner

Presentation only

2006 Dues Paid Members and Guests \$10

Non Members \$ 20

Presentation and dinner

2006 Dues Paid Members and Guests \$35

You can pay your dues at the door or via [SmarTrans™](#)

Non members \$50

[SmarTrans™](#) DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 11pm CST, Monday, January 16, 2006

Questions: contact Arno Bommer

- Arno Bommer

2006 Leadership in Education (LEAP) Competition for Teachers

The MIT Club of South Texas through its Leadership in Education Program (LEAP) has an ongoing interest in encouraging students interested in science and mathematics and in helping to elevate the level of technical literacy in our community. We would like to recognize key science and math teachers who are making a difference and to support their ongoing commitment to educating our youth in science and technology.

We invite science and math teachers from the Greater Houston/South Texas Area to apply for the 2006 MIT Leadership in Education Award (LEAP).

The winner of this award will attend the 2006 MIT Science and Engineering Program for Teachers, June 25-July 1, **at our expense.**

This program brings educators to the MIT campus for one week of intense study with MIT faculty and scientists who work at the leading edge of research. This program is described more fully in the accompanying brochure. We will select a winner based on enthusiasm as an educator, credibility among peers, ability to stimulate students in science and technology, and interest in making a difference in our community. This is the thirteenth year we have supported teachers from South Texas to attend this unique program.

Applicants must be teaching full-time, fifth-grade level or higher; must speak and read English; and must hold an advanced degree or be working toward one. Science-department heads and district coordinators are also welcome to apply. Each application should be accompanied by (1) a completed application form for the MIT summer program (available in the accompanying brochure) and (2) a letter of recommendation from someone who can speak to the selection criteria noted above.

In order to be considered for a scholarship and travel expenses for the MIT summer program, applications should be sent to Ed Rinehart, 13722 Ashley Run, Houston, TX 77077-1511, to be received by **March 4, 2006.**

The 2006 LEAP application can be found on our website at:

<http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/s-texas/LEAP2006Application.pdf>

- Ed Rinehart

Call for Mentors – Spring Branch ISD “SpringBoard” Mentor Program Club of South Texas Seeks Interested Alumni

Want to make a difference in 2006? Jumpstart a child's life! Share just 30 minutes weekly with a Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD) student “on the brink of success” as a MIT Alumni Club SpringBoard Mentor. Being a mentor is easy and there are hundreds of students from under-represented sectors of our community who've asked to have a mentor. They're waiting patiently for an adult like you to make a difference in their lives.

A mentor is a caring adult who understands the “power of an hour” to make a difference in the life of a child. Each mentor is matched with a student and serves as an advocate, advisor, role model and, most importantly, a trusted friend. Mentors spend time weekly with their “mentee” during the school day – playing cards, shooting hoops, talking about careers and college, helping with goal setting, sharing a craft or just having fun enjoying each other's company. Mentors have the option to visit their student any day of the week, typically before school, during lunch or advisory period, or after school. A dedicated email addresses and excellent campus coordination and communication assure that your student can hear from you even if you are out of town! SBISD's national award winning program design assures that all mentors receive effective, ongoing training and support.

Why is this all important? SBISD students with mentors are more interested in school, have better peer relationships and show improved discipline, attendance and focus on their futures. Not only are kids' lives at stake, but at the present rate, Texas is on track to become a less-educated, less prosperous state. Our state's higher education participation rate is lower than a decade ago and amongst the lowest in the US. If we do not reverse these trends, our state demographer projects a loss of \$30 - \$50 billion in annual Texas household income by 2030. *The schools need our help!*

Let's join the ranks of other prestigious organizations such as the Notre Dame Alumni Club, Chase Bank, Foleys, AMEC Paragon Engineering, Petrobras USA, local faith based communities and others who care about our kids – after all, they are our future!

For more information, please contact Anthony Thomas
- *Anthony Thomas*

2005-2006 Board of Directors

The MIT Club of South Texas is proud to announce the 2005-2006 Board of Directors:

President - Dave Johnston

President-Elect – Eric Chan

Past-President - Anwer Hussain

VP-Communications/Webmaster - Stacey Nakamura

VP-Membership - Ramón San Pedro

VP-Programs – Tarik Ward

VP Young Alumni Relations – Anthony Thomas

VP Community Service - Raul Valdez

Secretary/Historian - Arno Bommer

Treasurer - Steve Murdoch

Enterprise Forum Liaison - Kathie Nordt

Education Council Chair - Ed Rinehart

Directors - Alex Cheng, Marilyn Taggi Cisar, Al Cisar, Ben Fang, Sharon Israel

MIT Parents Association Liaison - Solie Balogh, Dawne Meijer

Anyone interested is welcome at the monthly board meetings, generally held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Dave Johnston



Event Review: Professor David Wallace and the ARCHIMEDES DEATH RAY

The MIT Club of South Texas was proud to present our 2005 Institute Speaker, Prof. David Wallace on December 15, 2005 at the University of Houston Hilton. Professor Wallace is an Associate professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department who specializes in environmentally friendly product design. Prof. Wallace presented an overview of his teaching philosophy in which he uses “real world” issues as a way to stimulate student interest in engineering: student projects ranged from developing safer banana harvesting techniques to providing reading material and night time reading lighting in developing countries. Prof. Wallace presented before and after polls which showed that his classes strongly influence students to enter engineering design careers paths as well as pursue advanced graduate education. Prof. Wallace then described the Archimedes Death Ray experiment – which concluded with his class participating on the cable TV show “MythBusters”! Many thanks to **Marilyn Cisar** for arranging the logistics for this event (if you missed this event, you also missed the flaming cherries jubilee we had for dessert!) By the way, congrats to **Brian Kashiwagi '64** who observed that one of Prof. Wallace's powerpoint plots had reversed axis labels !

- *Stacey Nakamura*

Annual Toast to IAP – Houston: Because No One Does January Like MIT !
Tuesday, Jan 17, 2006

[Click here for more info and to RSVP](#)

Challenges of Meeting World Bank Standards During Upstream Oil and Gas Construction
Wednesday, January 18, 2006

RSVP via SmartTrans™ before 11 pm CST, **Jan 12, 2006** or by US Mail via this coupon before **Jan 12**

	Dinner and Presentation	Presentation Only
2006 Dues-Paid Members & Guests	_____ @ \$35.00 / person	_____ @ \$10.00 / person
Non-Members	_____ @ \$50.00 / person	_____ @ \$20.00 / person

_____ Amount Enclosed

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please make check payable to **MIT Club of South Texas**, and return to:

Arno Bommer
15835 Park Ten Place, Suite 105
Houston, TX 77084-5131

Sign up now for 2006 Membership !

Please sign me up as a **Member** of the **MIT Club of South Texas** for Calendar Year **2006**:

Name: _____ Class & Course: _____
 Home: _____ Work: _____

 Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Preferred Announcement Service – In addition to our regular monthly Newsletter, Please specify your preferred contact method for **special members-only events** and **event reminders**. (Your use of Email helps the Club control operating costs – Your Email address will be held confidential):

E-mail : _____ US Postal Service
 FAX: (____) ____ - _____ Please circle preferred fax receive times: Day Evening Overnight No Preference

Benefactor, \$200+ Sustaining, \$100+ Patron, \$50+ Regular, \$25 Recent Grad ('01-'06), \$5
 Parent (per household), \$25
 Extra Contribution to Leadership In Education: \$ _____

Please make check payable to **MIT Club of South Texas** and return to:

Ramón San Pedro
8503 Stone Village Lane
Houston, TX 77040

**Sign up for 2006 Membership and
 RSVP for the January 18, 2006 Event:
 Mail both coupons to Arno Bommer**

Dues Paid Members for 2006 (as of December 17, 2005)

Benefactor
 Dorflinger, Glen
 Hussain, S. Anwer
 Walker III, Edward
 Westby, Tim
 Williams, Curtis

Sustaining
 Ackerley, Robert
 Flowers, Daniel
 Kuhnen, Carl
 Turner, R. Gregory

Patron
 Baker, Marvin
 Chan, Eric
 Closmann, Phil
 Demirdoven, Nurettin
 Eakin, Bert
 Filak, George
 Johnston, David

Kashiwagi, Brian
 Nakamura, Stacey
 Quintana, Mauricio
 San Pedro, Ramon

Regular
 Asch, Annette LeClair
 Baker, Lawrence
 Blickwede, Don
 Bobbitt, John
 Brady, Tim
 Brito, Jamie
 Cambon, Mike
 Chan, Jennifer
 Cutler, Scott
 Denard, Sam
 Farah, Ali M
 Jester III, Lewis
 Koch, Stephen
 Liu, Roy
 Liu, Yvonne

Mkandawire, Suzie
 Moore, Samuel
 Norvik, Johan
 Policastro, Peter
 Price, Cordelia
 Schweizer, Richard
 Sena, Arcangelo
 Stover, Roger
 Szara, Mark
 Tang, Sunny
 Torres-MacDonald, MaryAlice
 Tribes, Carl
 Vargas, Herman
 Victorio, Tom
 Vrolijk, Peter
 White, R. Winslow
 Zarcaro, John

Recent Graduates
 Fantozzi, Esme
 Fox, Matthew

Hiers, Todd
 Jackson, Benjamin
 Jorgensen, James
 Kane, Jonathan
 Laguna-Aponte, David
 Liu, Song
 Maguire, Karla
 Riddick, Dwan
 Thomas, Anthony
 Ward, Tarik

Parents - Sustaining

Parents - Patron

Parents - Regular
 Browne, Hamilton & Bobbie
 Herder, Charlie
 Ray, Doug and Jana
 Dang, Truong and Loann

The MIT Club of South Texas expresses its thanks for your continued support of the Club !

Questionnaire – Please Complete And Return With Any Coupon

	2005 Club of South Texas Holiday Party	Prof Wallace: Archimedes Death Ray Presentation
I Attended	[]	[]
If you attended, rate event from 5 (very satisfied) to 1	5 4 3 2 1	5 4 3 2 1
I Did Not Attend	[]	[]
If you did not attend, please indicate reason:	[]	[]
Event did not interest me	[]	[]
Interested but had previous commitment	[]	[]
Did not know about event	[]	[]
Did not find out about event in time	[]	[]
Other (please state below)		

I prefer to receive Club information (circle all that apply): Email Newsletter Postcard Website

Other comments (also please include any ideas for future Club events and/or if you are interested in volunteering to help plan and manage events):

<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Annual Toast to IAP – Houston: Because No One Does January Like MIT ! Tuesday, Jan 17, 2006</p> <p>Click here for more info and to RSVP</p>
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<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>International Dining Club Battleship Texas – Behind the Scenes Tour MIT Astronaut Presentation</p>
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