



MIT CLUB OF SOUTH TEXAS

May 2008 Newsletter

www.mithouston.org

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Institute Speaker and Volunteer Recognition Event Tuesday, May 13, 2008

<p>Institute Speaker: Prof. Kristala Jones Prather '94" Biofuels: Rational Design of Microbial Chemical Factories"</p> <p>Volunteer Focus: Educational Council</p> <p>RSVP via SmarTrans™ by 11:00 PM CDT on Thursday, May 8, 2008</p>	<p>Américas Restaurant 1800 Post Oak Blvd (Pavilion Mall) Houston, TX 77056 Phone: (713) 961-1492 Check our website for a map</p> <p>Cash Bar Reception 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Program: 7:30 PM</p>
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To use [SmarTrans™](#), please go to our website mithouston.org

Please note that space is limited (first-come, first-served) and due to restaurant policies, late reservations will not be accepted.

National Award Winners: please contact [Ramón San Pedro](#) to RSVP

Educational Counselors: \$25

2008 Dues Paid Club Members: \$50

Guests of Any of the Above: \$50

Non-Members & Guests: \$75

Please join us for an evening with Prof. Jones Prather, the Joseph R. Mares (1924) Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT. Her presentation will offer a glimpse into the future of biological conversion of feedstocks into useful chemicals, one promising application being the production of novel biofuels in a "biorefinery."

On this night the Club will also recognize and celebrate the efforts of our alumni volunteers, with a special focus on the Educational Council. We will proudly present, on behalf of the Alumni Association, the George B. Morgan '20 Award to its most recent winner from our area, James Knoedler '61. We will also recognize and express our gratitude to all Educational Counselors and Alumni Association Award Winners from the Houston area, a great number of whom we are proud to count among our Club membership.

Our Distinguished Speaker:

Kristala Jones Prather is the Joseph R. Mares (1924) Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT. Her research interests are focused on the design and assembly of recombinant microorganisms for the production of small molecules. Current efforts include the development of tools and methodologies for biosynthetic pathway design and for bioprocess improvement. Prather received an S.B. degree from MIT in 1994, and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, both in chemical engineering. She is the recipient of a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation New Faculty Award (2004), an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award (2005), and a Technology Review "TR35" Young Innovator Award (2007). This year, Dr. Prather won a grant (one of eleven) from the [inaugural round of MIT Energy Initiative seed grants](#): "Microbial synthesis of pentanol as a biofuel."

For more information, please contact [Ramón San Pedro](#)

2008 NASA Astronaut Event
Working In Space: Building The International Space Station
Saturday, June 21, 2008

This event is sponsored by the Wellesley Club of Houston and the MIT Club of South Texas

<p>Guest Speaker: Pamela Melroy (Colonel, US Air Force, Retired) NASA Astronaut Wellesley College '83 MIT '84</p> <p>Saturday, June 21, 2008 Tickets must be purchased before 11pm CDT, June 11, 2008 via SmarTrans™</p> <p>9:15am – 10am: Registration and light refreshments 10am – 11:15am: Presentation by Col. Melroy: 11:15am until 7pm: Enjoy Space Center Houston Exhibits and Tram Tours</p> <p>Note: Space Center Houston normally opens at 10am, but we will be able to enter starting at 9:15am for our event.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Space Center Houston Silvermoon Function Room 1601 NASA Parkway (formerly NASA Rd. 1) Houston, TX 77058 281-244-2100 Click here for a map</p> <p>Approximately 25 miles south of downtown Houston in the NASA/Clear Lake area. Note: the NASA Parkway ramp of Interstate 45 may be under construction on June 21. Watch for detour signs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parking is \$5 (not included in ticket price)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enter via the main entrance and the attendants will direct you to the Silvermoon Room</p> <p>Food service is available inside Space Center Houston</p>
<p>Adults and children 4 and older: \$11.50 per person Children under 4: free (but remember to add them to your headcount when you RSVP) Includes all day admission to Space Center Houston! Light refreshments will be served</p>	
<p>Tickets must be purchased before 11pm CDT, June 11, 2008 via SmarTrans™ To use SmarTrans™, please go to our website mithouston.org Tickets will be mailed via US Mail to you the week of June 16.</p>	

Come join us for a presentation by NASA Astronaut Pam Melroy and enjoy touring the [Space Center Houston](#) facilities. Pam will share her experiences as commander of Shuttle mission [STS-120](#) in 2007. Pam is the second woman to command a Shuttle mission and has also served as pilot on two flights ([STS-92](#) in 2000 and [STS-112](#) in 2002). A veteran of three Shuttle missions, she has logged over 924 hours (over 38 days) in space. Pam received her BS degree in physics and astronomy from Wellesley College in 1983 and her MS degree in earth & planetary sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1984.

Although we have designed this event to be of particular interest to children and their families, we encourage everyone to participate and “be a tourist” in our own hometown for a day!

Although tickets to Space Center Houston are available for public purchase, we have arranged for a significant group discount (adult ticket prices are normally \$18.95!). You must purchase your tickets via [SmarTrans™](#) in order to get access to the Astronaut presentation.

Questions? Please contact [Stacey Nakamura](#) (281) 486-4782

2008 Club Membership Drive

It's time once again, time for the annual MIT Club of South Texas membership drive. The MIT Club of South Texas invites you to join or renew your membership for 2008. Membership in the club runs coincident with the calendar year. Membership is open to all MIT alumni and alumnae, as well as current undergraduate and graduate students and their parents. Your dues in the local club are used to pay for printing and mailing this newsletter, sponsor events for local high school students accepted at the Institute, award prizes at local science fairs, and improve local science and math education through our Leadership in Education Program (LEAP). Although we do benefit from some administrative assistance from the Institute, the MIT Club of South Texas does not receive funding from MIT or from the Alumni/ae Association. Last year was a record year for South Texas alumni and parent participation and we look forward to your continued support in 2008. Join today to get the maximum benefit from your membership! Visit our website to sign up: www.mithouston.org

Sign Up Now For 2008 Membership !

Use [SmarTrans™](#) and save time and postage!

Please sign me up as a **Member** of the **MIT Club of South Texas** for **Calendar Year 2008**:

2008-05

Name:	Class & Course:
Home Address:	Work Address:
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
 MIT5 Recent Grad ('03-'08), \$5
 Parents (per household per year), \$25
 Parents MultiYear (per household for 4 years), \$40 one time payment

Extra Contribution to Leadership In Education (LEAP): _____

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

Mr. Stephen Murdoch
MIT Club of South Texas
13190 Trail Hollow
Houston, TX 77079

Dues Paid Members for 2008 (as of April 21, 2008)

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

Benefactor

Brazzatti, Joe
Dorflinger, Glen
Genssler, Klaus
Hussain, S. Anwer
Israel, Sharon
Koch, Stephen
Moore, Joe
Murdoch, Stephen
Tervalon, Albert
Westby, Tim

Sustaining

Costello, David
Costello, Lisa
Filak, George
Flowers, Daniel
Flowers, D. Fort
Grossweiler, Phillip
Homsy, Paul
Kashiwagi, Brian
Rinehart, C. Ed
Turner, R. Gregory

Patron

Bair, R. Stanley
Baker, Kate Hadley
Baker, Lawrence
Baker, Marvin
Bommer, Arno
Cisar, Al
Curllet, Nigel
Cutler, Scott

Dai, Cheng-Ti J.

Goepfert, George
Hawsey, Jerry
Johnston, David
Karohl, David
Lait, Robert
Marlow, William
Marple, Stanley
Nakamura, Stacey
Pefaure, Jorge
San Pedro, Ramon
Standley, Pamela
Taggi-Cisar, Marilyn
Tang, Sunny
Xie, Yue
Zarin, Marni

Regular

Adebiyi, Adenike
Bae, Jung
Brady, Tim
Byrd, James
Calder, Jon
Chang, Lan
Chilton, Robert
D'Angelo, John
Dawson, Stephen
Espey, Donald
Godbold, Gilbert S.
Goldsmith, Andrew
Guimpelson, Bronislaw
Hiers, Todd
Hixson, George

Kellett, John
Kodama, Koichi
Lantner, Gary
Lantner, Janet
Lin, Susan
Major, Robert
Marshall, Peter
McDonald, Alex
McMahon, Michael G
Medina, Chris
Melroy, Pam
Metzger, Brianne
Mistry, J. B.
Myers, Jeff
Payne, Houston
Peaceman, Donald
Plotkin, Howard
Powell, Robert
Ricards, Harold
Richards, Jason
Richardson, Herbert
Satcher, Robert
Schweizer, Richard
Shi, Shuaichen
Starkschall, George
Stover, Roger
Szara, Mark
Tan, Stephanie
Thaller, David
Tomlinson, Peter
Triebes, Carl
Tubman, Kenneth
Udden, Mark

Wagner, Jeanette
Wang, Dean
Weinberg, Steve
White, R. Winslow
Wong, Eric
Yan, Huafei (Catherine)

Recent Graduates

Anantharaman, Bharthwaj
Arzeno, Natalia
Bossi, Patrick
Bryn, Peter
Cantu, Erika
Fantozzi, Esme
Franco, Katherine
Fu, Caroline
Greene, Thomas
Kadam, Shambhavi
Leskin, Katherine
McKenna, Nicholas
Shull, Sarah
Tong, Raymond
Ward, Tarik
Xue, Liang
Zhu, Chenny

Parents - MultiYear

Sustaining
Glover, Charles

Parents - MultiYear

Patron
Fisher, Bobbie and Charlie

Herder, Charlie and Carol
Tsai, Chang-Ping

Parents - MultiYear

Regular
Durand, Larry and Agelia
Mo, Yi-Lung
Ray, Doug and Jana
Sim, Linda and Kwok

Upcoming Events:

May 8– RSVP Deadline for Institute Speaker Event

May 13 – Institute Speaker and Volunteer Recognition

May TBD – Houston InterClub Happy Hour

Jun 11 – RSVP Deadline for Astronaut Event

Jun 21 – Astronaut Event at Space Center Houston

Jun TBD – Dining Club

Jun TBD – MIT Networking Event

Jun TBD – Houston InterClub Happy Hour

Jul TBD – All MIT Happy Hour

Jul TBD – Dining Club Event

Jul TBD – Houston InterClub Happy Hour

**For The Latest Event Status
Check Our Website and Watch For Our Emails**



[Greg Chamitoff](#)
PhD Course 16, '92
Photo courtesy of NASA

MIT Alum [Greg Chamitoff](#) Will be Flying to the International Space Station (ISS) on Shuttle Mission [STS-124](#)

Greg is a member of the [ISS Expedition Crew 17](#)

Launch is scheduled for
May 31, 2008

Check the NASA Website for the latest launch information:
www.nasa.gov

Astronaut [Gregory E. Chamitoff](#) is scheduled to fly to the station as a mission specialist on STS-124. He will take Garrett Reisman's place as an Expedition 17 flight engineer and return to Earth on shuttle mission STS-126, which is targeted to launch Oct 16, 2008. Chamitoff, who was born in Montreal, Canada, grew up in San Jose, Calif. He has a doctorate in aeronautics and astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.