



# The MIT Club of San Diego Monthly Newsletter

Home Page: [www.mitsandiego.org](http://www.mitsandiego.org)

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VOLUME 09-09

## Club Officers '09-'10

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### Other Board Members (Until)

Eladio Arvelo (2010)

May Tse (2010)

Oliver Smoot (2011)

Drew Terry (2011)

Bob Blumberg (2012)

VADM Ray Peet (2012)

Monica Rixman Past President

Dan Oliver EC Chair

Michael Snow Liason MIT EF

Joe Marcello Senior Advisor

Paul Fleming Advisor

### Program Committee

Randy Tompot

**You!?**

## President's Message: Lulu Tsao

Wei wei wei fellow MIT alum and family/friends,

Trick or Treat! It's the October Halloween festival month. So what costume did you get; what character would you be dressed as? What candies or soul cakes would you be giving out?

I had my treat recently and attended the Alumni Leadership Conference held back at MIT at end of September. It was terrific. It was an opportunity to first-handedly get to know latest happenings at the Tute; to meet many folks, volunteers like us, involved in the different Alumni Clubs and affinity groups from within US and also internationally; to get to know some of the Alumni Association folks who are holding down the fort – a chance for me to be re-connected!

Back here in our home front, with the Board of Directors and officers, we are working on defining what our Club is. What the Club purpose is!

Are we here to "trick" our members and fellow alumni to take their \$ in the pretext of membership fees, or to get them to pay for their attendance to the activities held?

Or are we here to create value and "treat" our members to some good programs, some sense of contribution to the community we live in, to build that sense of connection?

So far, we have identified four focus areas for our Club. They are:

1. Provide connections between MIT alumni and the local community, including the local business, higher education and civic leaders -for social and networking.
2. Provide a strong connection back to the Institute.
3. Provide learning/stimulation/technology opportunities via programs
4. Provide service to the local community, including pre-MIT students, technology education, current MIT students, and other alumni interests including the local MITEF chapter

Now the trick is what's next. How do we take these focuses and make them real and actionable

## Upcoming Events!

### November

Nov. 21: HAYDN  
SEEK: ORCHESTRA  
NOVA

Celebrate the bicentennial of Haydn's death in an evening of cocktails with the Ivy Club and music from Orchestra Nova

## Immediate Past Events!

### October

Oct. 1&2 : MILLIE  
DRESSLHAUS ON  
CARBON NANOTUBES

### September

Sept 26: MIT  
ALUMNAE LADIES' TEA

This is where we earnestly ask for your treat!

Lend us a helping hand and be engaged. Volunteer in one way or another so together, we could transform these directives into actual programs and actions. Be it:

- Suggestion or introduction to your favorite local school(s) or educational program(s) of which we could explore on possible contribution
- Linkage into your favorite professor, department or research areas back at MIT
- Referral to your fraternity brother or schoolmate who is now heavily involved in a research or technology area whereby we could invite them to become our speaker
- Or organize a one-day or on-going program with SEPT teachers or fellow MIT alumni and students to teach math and science at local schools or community centers

There are a wide array of possibilities you could help. But without your treat, without you, and with just the few of us, we cannot make these "tricks" possible.

We hope you would consider becoming involved.

Sincerely,

Lu<sup>2</sup>

[Lulu Tsao@alum.mit.edu](mailto:Lulu_Tsao@alum.mit.edu)

## Get Involved: MIT Club of San Diego Roundtable

In January of 2008, twenty enthusiastic members of the MIT Alumni Club met at the La Jolla Brewhouse to discuss what should be the primary focus of the new administration. Each person had 2-3 minutes to tell the group what they believed the next Administration and Congress should concentrate on achieving. It's been almost a year since that meeting, and the Obama administration has passed its 100 day mark.

Still, we find the nation facing a large number of serious challenges where politics gets in the way of doing the right thing. It's time for the club to step up once again! Paul Fleming has graciously agreed to host a new series where MIT alumni club members tackle the hard issues with jovial tongues and beer in the belly. Each roundtable meeting will focus on one serious issue. Members will have knowledgeable debate of the pros and cons of possible solutions, and reach an action conclusion that we as a group can forward to our congressional representatives.

Some candidates for discussion issues are Healthcare Coverage, Immigration Control, National Identity Cards, Border Security, the Global Climate, etc.

How can you help?

## Get Involved!

Join us on Facebook. Search for the "MIT Alumni Club of San Diego" facebook group, or click directly at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mitsdfacebook>

Join us on LinkedIn. Search for the "MIT Alumni Club of San Diego" LinkedIn group, or click directly at:

<http://www.linkedin.com/e/vgh/2197078/>

Check out [www.mitsandiego.org](http://www.mitsandiego.org) for the latest events, local alumni news, job openings, to pay your club dues...

## -Attend.

- **Offer to moderate or present.** We request one moderator and at least two people from each side of the issue to present their arguments. We welcome anyone who has knowledge of the topic, especially alumni whose research or business overlaps the topic area.

- **Suggest a topic area.**

- **Suggest a venue.** Have a company conference room that isn't being used? Need a little social lubricant at the old beer joint before you speak in public? Suggest your favorite venue!

Please let Paul Fleming, [pef@alum.mit.edu](mailto:pef@alum.mit.edu) know by no later than **11/09/2009** if you would participate and in what capacity and topic/venue recommendations.

## Alumni News

### Keep in Touch with the Tute:

One great way of becoming involved is by staying current and being connected. MIT is making it easier than ever to keep up to date with the research and student achievements that make MIT one of a kind. Get your daily drink from the MIT firehouse. Check out:

The [Slice of MIT](http://sliceofmit.wordpress.com/) (<http://sliceofmit.wordpress.com/>) blog

And the [Tech Connection](http://alum.mit.edu/news/TechConnection) (<http://alum.mit.edu/news/TechConnection>).

(Of course, also check out your MIT Alumni Club of San Diego at <http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/sandiego>.)

### Alumni Look Back:

*Last month was our MIT Alumnae Ladies' Tea. We include an event write-up below. However, we were also privileged to receive the following personal reflection from fellow alumnus Elizabeth Drake, of the Association of MIT Alumnae (AMITA), about her experiences with Katherine Dexter McCormick in the 1950s. Katherine Dexter McCormick graduated from MIT in 1904, and the women of MIT today owe her a debt of gratitude. McCormick Hall, the all-female undergraduate dorm, exists largely as a result of her generosity. Elizabeth takes us back, however, to a time before McCormick. In those days, women at MIT lived in small, off-campus housing. They had to take taxis back and forth from the Institute to their place of residence if the weather was poor or it was after 10pm. The women attended teas with Katherine Dexter McCormick at her Commonwealth Avenue townhouse to thank her for her generosity in funding those taxis year after year. Elizabeth shares her memory of her first tea:*

I lived at 120 Bay State Rd Boston (MIT women's dorm then) during my freshman and sophomore years at MIT. (Fall 1954 thru June 1956 – since the admission of women was limited by the number of "safe" housing slots available there, upperclass women were strongly encouraged to move to apartments in the area after a couple of years.) We trekked over the Harvard Bridge each day to attend classes. Katherine Dexter McCormick (KDM) had

## Give Back!

### Donate to MIT Club of San Diego Fund to Support SEPT teachers

Go to:

<https://giving.mit.edu>

1. Select "Give Now"
2. Insert fund #3892659 or name "MIT Club of San Diego Fund" in the "Search Designation" and click "Go"
3. Follow instructions

established an emergency taxi fund for us – when the weather was terrible or when we were at MIT for something after 10pm. This was a real lifesaver and we all were very grateful. Our housemother (Margaret Alvord) organized us to go to KDM's for her annual tea for the MIT dorm students. I believe it was in the early Spring. We were told that we had to wear hats and wear white gloves – since KDM was a proper Bostonian matron. I had neither, but a shopping trip to Woolworth's took care of that problem. And of course pantyhose and skirts of a proper length....

A group would walk over to KDM's townhouse on Commonwealth Ave. I remember being met at the door by a butler who escorted us up a short dark flight of stairs to KDM's sitting room. It was quite formal and impressive, but KDM was even more impressive. We sat down, introductions were made around the room and we were served tea. We nervously crossed our legs at the ankle as we had been taught. There was silence because all of us were too afraid to speak. KDM broke the ice by saying something like: "Welcome! And I hope all you young ladies know about birth control!" After we came out of shock, a lively discussion about balancing career and families and being responsible for our own lives ensued. She said little about her own life, but asked us each about our aspirations for the future. We were all smiling when we left – and packed away the costume for the next year.

The second and last time I went, it was very similar to the first – but I wasn't nervous going there!

### In Memoriam:

We note with sadness the passing of Dr. Richard S. Mitchell on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Rick earned his Bachelor's degree in organic chemistry from M.I.T. He and brother Mark worked together at DuPont research labs in Delaware before Rick moved to San Diego for the beaches, and to earn his doctorate in molecular biology from UCSD, while working at the Salk Institute. For the past several years, Rick worked in the lab of Dr. John Guatelli, conducting basic research into AIDS and HIV, for the Veterans Medical Research Foundation. When not in the lab, Rick enjoyed the ocean, surfing and swimming, and music - he performed in a band for several years, writing songs, and doing vocals and guitar. Most recently he loved joining the Front Runners and Walkers on their Saturday morning walks, and attending the rehearsals of his friend Tom's cello choir.

We also note the passing of William 'Bill' Schnorr on August 15, 2009. Bill graduated from MIT in 1940, with a degree in Chemical Engineering and served in World War II as a Lt. Commander in the Bureau of Ordinance. After the war, he worked in the reinforced plastics industry and was involved in the development of re-entry protection for space exploration.

Our hearts go out to their families.

-Send us your **Alumni News**. Send your alumni news through the "Contact Us" link at [www.mitsandiego.org](http://www.mitsandiego.org). We want to share your awards, celebrations and milestones with you.

## Upcoming Events

### Haydn Seek with Orchestra Nova and Ivy Club

**Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm Pre-concert reception & 8pm Concert**

**Location: Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive, (Sorrento Valley) San Diego, CA 92121**

## Educational Council

Dan Oliver, Chairman  
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Barry Schwartz  
Vivianna Serra  
Caitlin Shindler  
Sarah Simmons  
Oliver Smoot  
Michael Stuber  
Nicole Truitt  
May Tse  
T H Tsiang  
Scott Velazquez  
Sean Wang  
Sylvia Zachary  
Kenneth Zeger  
Dawn Zhang

*Contact Dan Oliver to  
volunteer:  
oliver@alum.mit.edu*

Celebrate the bicentennial of the death of "Papa" Haydn with the MIT Club of San Diego in an evening with Orchestra Nova (formerly San Diego Chamber Orchestra) with selections from the Orfeo ed Euridice Overture, Cello Concerto No. 1, Symphony No. 45 (Farewell), among others.

Attend an exclusive pre-concert reception with artistic director Jung-Ho Pak, the Harvard Club, and with Orchestra's Qualcomm Premier A patrons. Sign ups will appear on the MIT Alumni Club website on 10/27/09, or meanwhile use the direct link to [register for Haydn Seek here!](#)

## Past Events

### Dr. Millie Dresselhaus on Carbon Nanotubes

Carbon nanotubes... Each nanotube is a unique molecule! Professor Mildred Dresselhaus, Institute Professor, and Professor of Physics and EE, shared her adventures on carbon and carbon nanostructures with more than 150 Club members, alum and friends, as well as Qualcomm engineers. In addition to an evening talk and a morning presentation, Professor Dresselhaus, or Millie we so dearly call her, also held a brownbag lunch with the woman engineers at Qualcomm.

Carbon nanoscience research in recent years has become very important, first because of developments with carbon nanotubes in the 1990s, and later because of the recent rediscovery of graphene in 2004 with its many unexpected properties. This research area, involving one or two atomic layers of carbon atoms, is now the most popular research area in condensed matter physics worldwide. With its wide range of possible applications from field effect transistors and transparent electrodes, as nanotubes for adding resilience to lithium ion batteries, as chemical and biosensors, or conducting reinforcement for polymers and ceramics, as muscle actuators and tissue growth scaffold, to becoming special applications of nanohorns for applications to energy and medicine. It is attracting more and more attention.

Summing the experience, we got this comment from one of the MIT alumni who was also a Qualcomm employee among the audience, "Professor Dresselhaus, it is a wonderful surprise and is such a privilege to sit here and be taught by you again. You were on my thesis committee 20 years ago when I was doing my PhD!"

And the Club would like to thank Ed Hucke for his help in making Millie's visit logistically possible.

Below, enjoy some pictures from this wonderful event:

## Membership

**(2009-2010 so far)**

Members: 55  
Regular: 19  
Sustaining: 7  
Patrons: 10  
Benefactor: 4  
Senior: 10  
MIT5: 5

**It's still early in the new year. Get your membership in today!**

## Club Dues

(July 1 thru June 30)

Regular: \$25  
Sustaining: \$50  
Patron: \$100  
Benefactor: \$250  
Senior Alumnus: \$10  
Recent Grad/MIT5: \$10  
(5 most recent classes)

To view your membership status, log on to your Infinite Connection Account. Select "My Account", then view "Dues and Payments" (Smartrans only). Or contact the club through the "Contact Us" link on our website [www.mitsandiego.org](http://www.mitsandiego.org)



Professor Dresselhaus addresses Club members and guests at the evening session.

**Upcoming Events!  
(In case you forgot!)**

**November**

Nov. 21: HAYDN  
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In addition to meeting with the Club members and guests, Professor Dresselhaus also met with members of the Qualcomm Women in Science and Engineering group.

**MIT Alumnae Ladies' Tea**

On Saturday, September 26th, 14 local alumnae gathered at Mrs. Burton's Tea Room in Old Town to reconnect and meet new friends in the San Diego area. They spent an afternoon together enjoying each other's company and eating tasty tea sandwiches, desserts, and scones, plus of course drinking tea! The charming locale was a quaint setting in a historic house in Heritage Park Row, and the ladies even got dolled up with hats and boas befitting the occasion.

The alumnae class years represented ranged from 1971 to 2005, with majors from Course 2 up to 21B. Whether they were stay-at-home moms, artists, doctors, engineers, managers, philanthropists, or something else, all the ladies found common ground in their MIT memories and enjoyed interesting conversations. Carol King Seligson regaled the group with a story about having afternoon tea with Katharine Dexter McCormick herself in the Green Living Room of McCormick Hall during her days back at MIT. (See another story about tea with Katharine Dexter McCormick in our Alumni News!)

The event was enjoyed by all and new friendships were formed. Stay tuned for more alumnae events sponsored by the MIT Club of San Diego!

Looking good, ladies:



## Membership

Dues for the 2009-2010 Club year are now available [online](#). Remember, paying membership dues not only supports the club; it also gets you discounts and priority sign ups for popular events. If you would rather mail in your membership, please make check out to the MIT Club of San Diego and mail to Mike Lopez at 12525 El Camino Real #D, San Diego, CA 92130.