Presidents Message from Sandy Yulke

I have been thinking very hard about what to write in this, my last column as president of AMITA. Most importantly, I think, is to say that we are on the way, after a long time, to making AMITA a more national alumnae organization. This has been a major focus of my presidency, now that the number of women graduating has increased to the level that there are significant populations of alumnae in cities across the country.

Much credit is due to the women in New York who have now worked for two years to putting together successful local AMITA programs. The March 8 nationwide events were another effort to nucleate AMITA "chapters" around the country.

The Webcast part of this event is yet another example of how communication technology, and MIT's early and widespread use of it can further AMITA's goal to be a national presence. I am the first AMITA Board member to live outside of the Boston area and attend most of the Board meetings by teleconference. Our recording secretary is now a second "remote" Board member.

As president, I am the contact point for alumnae organizing AMITA activities in their cities, and I am pleased that this year I have heard from alumnae in several parts of the country and efforts all around are underway. What I hear from all of you who have contacted me and from the alumnae who came from far and wide for the Leadership Conference/ McCormick Reunion last April is that the world for MIT women is (still) not the same as for men. I chair the women's committee of the Materials Research Society and I hear the same thing there. What this means to me is that there is more than ever a need for AMITA.

For some time, we were assured that sufficient numbers of women would be the solution to the problems faced by professional women in technology. We used to believe that all we had to do was to increase the numbers of women students (and thereby the numbers of alumnae) and that would be enough to change the world of MIT and MIT alumni/ae, if not the whole world. But after more than 30 years of such increases, it is clear that this alone, is not enough. The influence and participation of women, though they are the majority of the population overall, is still limited. There are now fewer women on the Supreme Court, not to mention fewer women majoring in physical science and engineering, than there were ten years ago.

As women who have had the privilege of an MIT education, we have a special role in making the world a better place. As Susan Hockfield has discovered and mentioned specifically on many occasions students come to MIT to change the world. AMITA can be a leading force in that change. Please join AMITA using the form available at the back of the Newsletter and join the other alumnae near you to make a difference.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Womens Spring Sports Spirit Day

AMITA (Association of MIT Alumnae) and DAPER (Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation) invite you to join us on Saturday April 15, 2006 for an action-packed womens sporting day and to root for the MIT Womens Crew, Lacrosse and Tennis teams. We start bright and early with coffee and bagels at the Crew boathouse at 8:30 a.m. for the crew team races. Tennis doubles matches start at 11:00 followed by singles matches at the Dupont tennis courts. The Lacrosse match starts at 1:00 p.m. at Jack Barry Field. Sandwiches and sodas for student athletes and alumnae will follow Tennis and Lacrosse in the Media Room at the Zesiger Center at 2:00 p.m. Get in your own workout with a complimentary day pass to MITs fantastic new athletic center (towel service included, bring your own workout clothes or swimsuit and a lock). Check out other athletic events and facility schedules at http://mitathletics.com. Event locations can be found at MITs campus map website: http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg. This event happens rain or shine so dress accordingly.

Cost: $20
NOTE: Includes complimentary day pass to the athletic center a $12 value!

RSVP: The event registration form is located in SmarTrans at: https://alum.mit.edu/smarTrans/user/Register.dyn?eventID=5296&groupID=182. Payment must be received in advance through the SmartTrans reservation system.

For more information, contact Tabetha McCartney80 at tabetha_m@hotmail.com
Co-sponsored by the Association of MIT Alumnae and Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation

Graduate Alumni Convocation & Reunion AMITA events:

Graduate Student Lunch: Friday, April 21, 12:00 1:30 pm
This event is open to Convocation attendees.
Arriving early for the Convocation and Reunion? Join current graduate students at a lunch sponsored by the Graduate Students Office and Counseling and Support Services. The lunch is from Noon to 1:30 in the Cheney Room (3-310). To register for the Graduate Alumni Convocation & Reunion, alumnae should go to http://alum.mit.edu/gacr. The GACR is open to all alumni who have a masters degree or Ph.D. from MIT. RSVP for the lunch through the GACR link. For more information contact Kim Vermeer, AMITA Programs Chair at kvermeer@alum.mit.edu.
**Dinner:** Saturday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.  
This event is open to Convocation attendees and local alumnae. After the concluding reception, relax with other attendees, AMITA members, and local graduate alums over dinner at Bertuccis Restaurant, 339 Main Street, Cambridge. There is no event fee, but plan to pay for your own meal. Drinks and appetizers for early arrivals start at 7:00. Well order dinner starting at 7:30. RSVP through the SmarTrans link: https://alum.mit.edu/smarTrans/user/Register.dyn?eventID=5344&groupID=182 to make sure we have enough places at the table.

**ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE**

AMITA’s Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, June 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bush Room. Dava Newman 89, Professor in the Technology and Policy Program, will be our featured speaker with a presentation on the report from the Task Force on Undergraduate Educational Commons. Please save the date and look for an announcement as we get closer to the event.

**A FIRST FOR AMITA**

AMITA Gathers Alumnae Nationwide for webcast on Work/Family Integration  
On March 8, 2006, AMITA hosted the first event of the Alumnae Leadership Series, Work & Family Integration. Just under 300 people attended the event nationally, with 120 gathering in Cambridge to view the event live. The evening began with a reception in the Bush room on campus. AMITAs alumnae history project and the MIT Womens Study International Womens Day displays were available nearby in Lobby 10.

Ann Bookman, the evenings moderator and Executive Director of the MIT Sloan Workplace Center, opened the event with some historical context and a perspective based on her research of local area biotech workers. She drew many parallels to which the local attendees could relate to their own lives.

Ruby Chandy 82 spoke first, relating her professional life and how she took it in a new direction when she decided to adopt her now 3-year-old daughter. Her new position allows her a less hectic travel schedule in order to have evenings free with her daughter.

Cathy Buckley Lewis 71, further along in the family process, has a 16 year old son. She spoke about choosing jobs that allowed her to work part time or to flex her schedule sufficiently to provide him some after school time as he grew up. She stressed that your manager can make the difference in your success in these non-traditional positions at work, regardless of the official policy.

Françoise Carré 93 shared her experiences of raising children in a blended family and the added dimensions of eldercare. She also spoke about having a long distance relationship and a two-household family she commutes to Boston for part of the week from western Massachusetts.
The questions presented included some that had been submitted to the panelists by attendees nation-wide when they registered for the event. There were also questions from the local attendees in Cambridge. The questions included one from a grad student who wanted to know how to balance the two-career (driven) family, to requests on suggestions for changing policy both locally and nationally, to the end inquiry from Erica Selin 01 for us as MIT alumnae to come together and look for solutions.

After the official program ended, the speakers returned to the Bush room for further conversation. Ann also signed copies of her book, available there for purchase thanks to The MIT Coop. Overall, the program was well received both locally and nationally. Many alumnae attending had not attended MIT events previously. Several host sites have expressed interest in holding additional events on a national scale as well as emulating the efforts of the New York group who hosts their own local events as well.

**New York**
The AMITA New York City event was held at the law firm Goodwin Procter, LLC and was attended by 23 alumnae (including the speaker and volunteers). The program started with Karen Arenson ’70, a NYTimes reporter and MIT alumna, who spoke about her experience with work and life integration. After her talk, she took questions and opened the forum for other stories from the audience. The webcast started smoothly. At 9:00 pm, our site disconnected and ended the event.

The volunteers were superb, says Tara Fernando Bishop 97, local organizer. Sachiko Hirosue 00, co-organizer, added we also appreciate the great generosity of Goodwin Procter who provided the space and refreshments for free. Networking happened before Karen arrived, and hopefully can continue. The New York group hopes to launch a small post-event discussion group.

**Southern California**
Southern California alumnae met at the City National Bank in downtown Los Angeles for a great conversation on work and family integration. Though technical difficulties prevented us from participating in the Cambridge webcast, our excellent panel speakers and event attendees shared a great amount of personal experiences that resulted in over an hour of great discussion. Our panel speakers were Peg Freking 72, Debra Judelson 73, and Bryn Oh 95, and Debra brought along her husband AJ Willmer 75 to share in their experiences of work, community, and raising two daughters. Many of the attendees were thankful for the opportunity to get together, and are looking forward to more alumnae events in the future. Tamra Johnson 01, organizer.

**Chicago**
Chicago-area alumnae hosted the event at the USG Corporation in Chicago. They had a small but enthusiastic group of 6 MIT attendees and 7 USG employees. Their local speaker was Ava Youngblood. By all accounts the web cast and following local discussion was a big hit, said organizer Connie Sadowski 99. Most attendees expressed interest in attending another event.

**Kansas City**
We hosted the Kansas City event at Black & Veatch Corporation's headquarters in Overland
Park, KS. The event was small -- just two participants -- but delightful. Several alums expressed interest but were unable to attend due to travel conflicts. Hopefully, this event will pave the way for future alumni/alumnae activities in the Kansas City area. Carol Clark 83, organizer.

Norman, OK
The event in Norman was hosted by the University of Oklahoma. There were approximately 20 people in the room, although only the organizer was an MIT alumna. We very much enjoyed the AMITA webcast, says organizer Catherine Mavriplis 89, who stepped in at the last minute to host when Sheena Murphy 84, the initial organizer, was unable to attend. The program was good. I appreciated the mix of experiences though as well as Ann's research on the subject. The organizers and attendees both thought the experience of the webcast was a wonderful opportunity. Mavriplis added, we look forward to more good things from AMITA.

Seattle
Lola Ball 91 organized the Seattle showing, held at Microsofts Redwest campus in Redmond. While only 20 MIT affiliates attended, about 60 members of Microsofts Hoppers, an employee group for women, also attended. The sponsorship from Microsoft and the Puget Sound MIT Club allowed the participants to attend free of charge.

San Antonio
Lissa Martinez 76 and Brian Hughes 77 hosted the San Antonio event in their home. We had a good time, says Martinez. They gathered about 10 attendees, some MIT alums and some not. The local attendees, most of whom were younger than the panel members, found the speakers good. As the question and answer period started, a technical glitch produced lags in the webcast, spurring local attendees to provide their own answers to the questions being asked of the panelists. When everyone started talking, the local discussion was deemed as valuable as the feed, and the consensus was to focus on the local conversation. Martinez added, we did not watch the end, but it [the webcast] sure got the conversations started. The non-MIT attendees found the whole thing very interesting, both the programming and the technology use. I think this was a success, said Martinez. Do it again?

Northern California
Northern California hosted a sold-out event at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati's campus in Palo Alto. Just over 60 alumnae and guests attended the event. From the start of the organizing effort, Ning Peng Drako 90 and Karin Hollerbach 88 local organizers, had an abundance of volunteers. Local sponsor National Semiconductor helped defray the costs. The program and experience was well received, and volunteers are prepared for the next AMITA event.

Washington, DC
The Washington, DC area will host a delayed broadcast of the AMITA Alumnae Leadership Series event on March 27, 2006. Attendance will be limited.
IAP Speed Networking Night

Once again the annual AMITA IAP Networking night was a popular event with alumnae and students. This years event took place on Thursday January 19, filling the Bush room with a crowd of nearly 80 women evenly split between alumnae and undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate school alumnae from Sloan, the Center for Real Estate, and Engineering added to the mix of experiences represented. We took our direction from Kim Vermeer 82, AMITA Programs Chair, who wisely fed us first on pizza and salad. The alumnae were then directed into various categories including Entrepreneurship, Architecture / Planning, Computer Science / Engineering, Government, and Academics. Strangely there was no participation at the Academics table; perhaps Academics at a University dont need Speed Networking to meet up. The Transitions, Or: Life is What Happens When Youre Making Other Plans Table was popular with alums and students alike. This years event was set up on the speed dating model. Once the alumnae had arranged themselves the students rotated to a new table every 10 to 15 minutes. This gave everyone a chance to meet and talk with five or six people of the course of the evening.

Kate Zebrose 83, Membership Chair, met a crew of freshman at the first table where they all enjoyed the pizza. They were interested in Kates various job experiences and compared notes on how life at MIT had / had not changed. Not enough womens bathrooms is still an issue and students have had a new transition challenge as bathrooms on the Infinite Corridor have changed over, resulting in confused men wandering into the womens rooms. Sarah Simons Dimensions of Success display, developed last year for the Womens Leadership Conference, figured prominently at the event contributing even more alumnae experience to widen students horizons. AMITA President Sandy Yulkes 72 historical perspective in her AMITA sponsorship comments helped put some perspective on the contributions of all these alumnae and on MITs role in allowing, if not always promoting, the advancement of women.

The speed networking piece was a challenge in that as you got engaged with students, it was time for them to move to the next table. At the Entrepreneurship table there were a number of Sloan school students visiting along with a senior undergraduate dealing with the challenges of finding a job and freshmen still figuring out their major. As always it was also fascinating to hear the stories of the other alumnae. Thanks to Kim and Krista McCabe from the MIT Alumni Association for putting together a fun event.
AMITA Membership

Thank you to everyone who renewed your membership after I sent out my post web cast plea. This is really helping us pay off the bills and think about the possibility of doing it again. For anyone who hasn't got their membership in yet, please take advantage of the Spring Membership so you are all paid up until June 2007.

Become an AMITA Member

. print the form at the end of the newsletter and mail it to:
AMITA
Kate Zebrose 83Membership Chair
26 Josephine Ave
Somerville, MA 02144

or become a member online at
https://alum.mit.edu/smarTrans/dues-login.vhtml?groupID=182

OPPORTUNITIES

The Journal of Interdisciplinary Feminist Thought invites contributions for its next issue which will be devoted to the theme "Women and Science". Papers are sought in all disciplines; joint papers and papers co-authored with student researchers are also encouraged. Papers should be 20-25 pages in length, typed, and formatted according to the accepted method for the discipline. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Feminist approaches to inquiry
- Women as discoverers
- The interconnectedness of research and practice
- Applied ethics: biomedical; genome; environmental; computer; engineering; business; feminist perspectives
- Women and science in the mass media/literature
- Challenges facing women in the sciences
- Biology of women's health and disease
- Effective programs for women in sciences
- Women and the environment/technology/engineering
- Scientific methods and generalist practice

Send three blind copies of all manuscripts to Drs. Carol Gibbons and Lois Eveleth, co-editors, c/o O'Hare Academic Center, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI 02840. Each copy should be accompanied by a title page with contact information: author(s) name(s), institution(s), telephone number(s) and email address(es) for all authors, and home and work address for the corresponding author.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: June 1, 2006
All work should be original and current.
Editors' email addresses: gibbonsc@salve.edu or evelethl@salve.edu

AMITA Senior Academic Award
Applications are currently being taken for the AMITA senior Academic Award for 2006. This award is presented annually by AMITA to a senior woman student who has demonstrated the highest level of academic excellence and professional promise through her course work and academic endeavors at MIT. The Award Committee will evaluate the nominees academic accomplishments demonstrated by grades, teaching, and research.

AMITA Scholarship Fund awardee for 2005/2006 was a member of the class of 08 from Rockville, Maryland. The sophomore, a management major, is involved in a variety of activities at MIT, many related to womens issues. She is a sister of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, through which she participates in community service events, a member of the Cambridge/Boston-area Big Brothers, Big Sisters program, vice president of corporate relations of the Society of Women Engineers, 2008 class representative of the Sloan Undergraduate Management Association, and a member of the Science and Engineering Business Club. Over the summer, she interned for Gillette Company in the Demand Planning Department and worked the front desk at McCormick Hall. She has worked on two Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects during the school term. Her first project, supervised by Dr. Alethia Jones in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, concerned changes in underwriting for minorities in housing loans under government policy changes. The second, supervised by Professor Henry Weil in the Sloan School of Management, involved studying the system dynamics of operations, particularly the role of emerging technologies. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, collecting stamps, traveling, classical music, opera, musical theater, plays, and ballroom dancing. Her career plans include public policy and administration, economy, international business, and management.

AMITA Jobs listserv
Are you looking for a job or know of a position that is available? Would you like to discuss career and life balance related issues? Join the AMITA Jobs listserv on the MIT alumni website or post your job description (don't forget location and contact information) to amita_jobs@mitvma.mit.edu. For any questions, please contact Sarah Simon at sarah.simon@alum.mit.edu.

For information on upcoming AMITA events check the AMITA web site

AMITA Events
http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/amita/events.html
AMITA Jobs listserv
amita_jobs@mitvma.mit.edu
AMITA Web site
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MEMBERSHIP FORM

AMITA
Kate Zebrose 83 Membership Chair
26 Josephine Ave
Somerville, MA 02144

I am interested in getting involved in

Board of Directors  ___
Program Committee   ___
Membership Committee  ___
Public Relations / Newsletter Committee  ___
Organizing an event in my area. ___

Tell us about yourself:

Name .

Course      Year

Phone

Address

City          State     Zip          Country

Email Address

I have enclosed a check payable to AMITA for:

FREE Member of the Class of 2005     ___ $0.00
Life Membership                        ___ $350.00
Regular Member                         ___ $25.00
Contributing Member                    ___ $35.00
Spring Membership(3/066/07)           ___ $30.00