There is no other place quite like MIT, no other place where there is such an explosively creative mixture of intelligence and curiosity. MIT on the Road gives you a glimpse into some of the exciting new ideas that have opened up in response to 21st century issues.

Be prepared to have your mind opened, your assumptions challenged, and your MIT training put to the test as three of MIT's talented faculty take you on a whirlwind ride through our ever-evolving world.

Join us for an information-rich and exciting day that only MIT can provide. We look forward to seeing you and fellow alumni, parents of MIT students, and friends for this very lively day.

Space is limited, so register online today. http://alum.mit.edu/motr
Global issues involving the health and resources of the planet are some of the most serious challenges facing us today. As these discussions take shape on the international stage, MIT is positioned as a leading resource. In this program, we will examine three areas of critical importance: climate change projections, role of the oceans in maintaining a balanced planet, and how we can meet the burgeoning energy demands for the century ahead.

Program Schedule: SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007

9:30–10:00am  Registration

10:00–10:30am  Welcoming and introductory remarks
Jennifer L. Maxwell ’01
President of the MIT Club of the Southern California
Robert J. Silbey
Dean of the MIT School of Science

10:30–11:45am  Making Sense of Projections of Climate Change
Projections of climate change with even the most sophisticated models are subject to substantial economic and scientific uncertainties. To address these uncertainties MIT’s Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change has undertaken to quantify these uncertainties so that one can make probabilistic projections. Projections like these show that there is a high probability that climate change by the end of the 21st century will take the earth’s climate outside the range it has experienced for hundreds of thousands of years.

Peter H. Stone
Professor of Climate Dynamics, MIT

12:00–1:00pm  Luncheon

1:15–2:30pm  The Invisible Forest: Ocean Microbes, Genes, and Planetary Maintenance
Microorganisms in the sea carry out about half of the photosynthesis on Earth and thus help regulate the climate of our planet by regulating atmospheric CO2 concentrations. They contain billions of unique genes, and this dissolved information is key to the planet’s maintenance. Cracking the code of this information is one of the foci in the portfolio of MIT’s new Earth System Initiative, a multidisciplinary enterprise designed to foster radically new approaches to understanding how our planet works. This talk will examine some of the rapid advances in this area that are critical for responsible management of planetary resources.

Penny Chisholm
Lee and Geraldine Martin Professor of Environmental Studies

2:30–2:45pm  Break

2:45–4:00pm  Powering the Planet: On the Global Energy Future
Energy is the greatest challenge in our future. Rising living standards of a growing world population will increase global energy consumption dramatically over the next half century. The challenge for science, and particularly for the discipline of chemistry, is to meet this energy need in a secure, sustainable, and environmentally responsible way. This talk will frame the magnitude of the problem, show the insufficiency of conventional energy sources to meet these needs, and pose an alternative solution.

Daniel G. Nocera
W. M. Keck Professor of Energy and Professor of Chemistry, MIT

4:00–5:00pm  Cocktail Reception (cash bar)