Welcome to another year with the MIT Club of New York. First, I would like to congratulate our new officers for this year. We all look forward to seeing you soon. Second, I would like to thank last year’s officers and volunteers for an amazing job well done. A special thanks to Karen Ho, our immediate past president. Karen’s leadership and strong work ethic leave large shoes to fill.

This year promises to be another exciting one. Please join us for our annual Kick-Off event on September 30th. The kick-off event is a wonderful opportunity to meet local alumni and enjoy complimentary food and beverages in a relaxed, casual environment. Our MIT Comes to NYC Speaker Series begins this year with Professor Pawan Sinha from the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences on October 7th. Events on green energy/green construction, career development, and a new focus on family friendly events are all in the works. We are continuing to expand and refine our slate of events. Please keep your eye on our semi-monthly email newsletters and our club website at www.mitclub.org for our full schedule.

We also have some special festivities planned for this year. MIT will be celebrating its sesquicentennial in the Spring. In addition to on-campus MIT150 activities, the Club of New York will be hosting local events – stay tuned.

Please remember, our Club is for you. Your support, energy, attendance, and ideas drive this Club. If you want to get involved in any capacity, have an idea for an event, or a comment – please contact me or any of the Club volunteers. Thank you!

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Letter from the President

Come start off a new year with the MIT Club of New York at Kick-off ’10! An MITCNY tradition, the Kick-off is a great opportunity to learn about your local Club and mingle with fellow alums while enjoying cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. Admission is Free! At Kick-off, you will also be able to sign up for membership and learn about its many benefits.

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Kick-off ’10
Thursday, September 30th, 2010
6:30 - 8:30pm
Aleo Restaurant
7 West 20th St. (between 5th and 6th Aves.)
New York, NY 10011
2010-11 MIT Club of New York

**OFFICERS**

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Gary Brackenridge '97 MG

**Chairman of the Board**
Thomas Halket '70 PH

**Immediate Past President**
Karen Ho '94 EE

**Executive Vice President**
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**Vice President of Educational & Cultural Programs**
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**Vice President of Social Programs and Inter-Club Relations**
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**Vice President of Professional Programs**
Lenora Suki GM '97

**Vice President of Service Programs**
TBD

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Alice Tao '08 CE

**Vice President of Membership**
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**NEWSLETTER**
**Editor**
Alice Tao '08 CE

**WEBSITE**
www.mitclub.org

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**EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL PROGRAMS PAST AND PREVIEW**

Fellow MIT alums, thank you for your continued support of and participation in our programs, and for your ideas and feedback throughout the past year. Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors. And a special thank you to Lou Alexander, Connie Yee '08 ME, Liora Sukhatme '98 MG, Anshu Sinha '98 EECs, Miranda Knutson '06 HM, Yu-Hui Lin '97 BIO, Paul Jeffrey CM '77, Julian Iragorri '90 EC, Richard Rysmir '68 MG, and Grace Koo '92 EC.

Your support helped make all of these events possible.

In FY2010, we welcomed four professors to visit as a part of our MIT Comes to NYC Speaker Series. Kerry Emanuel kicked-off the series with a stimulating lecture about climate change and examined how global warming is affecting hurricane patterns. Eric Alm explained different methods of mapping the hidden world of microorganisms with DNA sequencing. Peter Fisher shared the history of dark matter and explained a new experiment at MIT that aims to “see” where the dark matter comes from. Mike Sipser discussed the P versus NP problem, one of the great unanswered questions of contemporary mathematics and theoretical computer science. We were pleased to host a special reception for MIT Club Patrons at the Hayden Planetarium with Peter Fisher. In addition to this educational series, we organized an outing to the NY Philharmonic's performance of Handel’s Messiah and a special walking tour of the waterworks of Prospect Park in Brooklyn.

Our Book Club pontificated on a variety of literature, from A Colossal Failure of Common Sense: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Lehman Brothers by Lawrence G. McDonald and Lehman Brothers Investment Banking) kicked-off the panel discussion. He described several real estate indices, several developed at MIT, which were all down over the past year – many with double digit declines from 11.7% to 56%. He suggested that this current fall in real estate will be as bad as that of the early 1990s.

Galak Tika will be performing at Carnegie Hall on October 30th. The Book Club will be holding events in October and December. More details about these events and other educational and cultural events will be shared in the MITCNY monthly email newsletter. We’re looking forward to connecting with all of you in the coming year!

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**REFLECTIONS ON PAST PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS**

I have enjoyed serving as the Vice President of Professional Programs for the MIT Club of New York over the last three years. During that time, the Club has run more than 50 Professional Programs. I want to thank the Club’s volunteers for planning these programs, working through all of the logistics, and delivering on engaging and collaborative speakers’ programs, panel discussions and roundtable events that have been of great value to MIT alumni in our area.

I would like to share a few of the memorable events from this period of time.

One of the most well attended Professional Programs (which likely also rivals attendance for any of the Club’s events) was held in January 2009 – a panel discussion on “Capitalizing on Distressed Real Estate.” This event, organized by Lenora Suki GM '97 – the incoming Vice President of Professional Programs – had more than 140 attendees, filling both the main event room and an overflow room. This is still a timely topic.

The evening’s moderator, Wilfred Schlumberger (Vice President of Real Estate & Lodging Investment Banking) began by commenting that “these are extraordinary times with depressing news; [however] other people’s distress is someone else’s opportunity.” Since there are more opportunities at the bottom than at the top, and we’re not at the bottom yet, we’re about to be in very good times – soon there will be exceptional investment opportunities in real estate.

Professor David Geltner (George Macomber Professor of Real Estate Finance in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and Director of Research at the MIT Center for Real Estate) kicked-off the panel discussion. He described several real estate indices, several developed at MIT, which were all down over the past year – many with double digit declines from 11.7% to 56%. He suggested that this current fall in real estate will be as bad as that of the early 1990s.

Ed LaGrassa (President of Clinton Realty International) added that “we don’t know...”

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As the incoming Vice President of Professional Programs for 2010-2011, I’m excited for the coming year. I know many of you who’ve attended our past events but look forward to meeting many more of our members and our regular program attendees this year. I encourage you to join the Club to take advantage of the whole season of excellent events we have planned.

We’re already putting together a schedule that includes more of what you’ve already enjoyed, like our Smart Cities series and new programs on architecture and real estate. We also hope to work closely with other MIT affinity groups when we will hit the bottom, but one reason we haven’t hit it yet is that people want a bargain.” Sellers are not yet ready to mark capital values down, and buyers are expecting deeper discounts as the economic distress deepens.

The audience got some insight into where to get funding and what to invest in if we are going to take advantage of these distressed real estate opportunities at or near the bottom of the real estate cycle.

Over these past years, the Club’s other Professional Programs Directors, Nicole Spooner ’02 HU (Career Development), Ryan Cole GM ’03 (Finance) and Bal Agrawal ML ’80 (Marketing) have also organized events in their respective areas. In addition, over 30 other alumni volunteers contribute to various aspects of Professional Programs.

Initially developed by Jay Damask ’90 EECS, SM ’93, PhD ’96 and continued by Jay and Bo Zhou ML ’06, the Sunday Finance Brunch Series (held every 4 – 6 weeks) has kept alumni connected through conversation on a broad range of finance topics.

Jay also spearheaded an innovative series of programs with New York University’s Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences. The first of these programs, on October 28th, 2009, titled “A State Variable Model of Changes in Equity Security Risk,” was attended by more than 90 alumni and guests from MIT and Courant. The program was held at a spectacular venue at the NYU Kimmel Center in Washington Square, and Dr. Dan diBartolomeo’s (Northfield Information Services) presentation was equally spectacular. While he did discuss some complex mathematical models, Dr. diBartolomeo also pointed out, in rather simple terms, that in order to avoid a crisis, those who are developing sophisticated and complex models need to be able to explain what they are doing in layman’s terms, so that others (companies, investors, etc.) can make the right decisions.

Bottom line: straightforward communication is very important.

As I take on the role of Executive Vice President of the MIT Club of New York during this next year, I expect to be doing quite a lot of communication – particularly with the Club’s current volunteers, and with any alumni who want to take on additional volunteer roles. I look forward to an extraordinary 2010-2011 as MIT enters its 150th year.

--Scott Morrison ’86 EE

**Preview of Upcoming Professional Programs**

As the incoming Vice President of Professional Programs for 2010-2011, I’m excited for the coming year. I know many of you who’ve attended our past events but look forward to meeting many more of our members and our regular program attendees this year. I encourage you to join the Club to take advantage of the whole season of excellent events we have planned.

We’re already putting together a schedule that includes more of what you’ve already enjoyed, like our Smart Cities series and new programs on architecture and real estate. We also hope to work closely with other MIT affinity groups to bring you more theme-bending programs focused on finance, sustainability, energy, architecture, construction, transport, marketing, tech, entrepreneurship and much more. These are great opportunities to network with other alumni in your field and across other related areas.

Last but not least, we’re still dedicated to identifying topics in professional development to help our membership build skills and advance their businesses in this rapidly changing, globalizing world.

We’re always looking for great ideas, volunteers and spaces for events, so please be in touch if you’d like to be part of the Professional Programs team (lenora_suki@alum.mit.edu).

--Lenora Suki GM ’97

**MIT Club of New York Celebrates MIT 150**

April 2011 will mark MIT’s sesquicentennial – its 150th anniversary. Celebratory events marking the sesquicentennial will begin on campus in January 2011 and the centerpiece will be an academic event on April 11 (honoring the accomplishments of MIT students and faculty). The MIT Club of New York is also involved in planning for the 150th anniversary, and we expect to offer a number of local 150-related activities (in conjunction with MIT in Cambridge). Stay tuned to our email newsletters in the coming months for more information.

--Scott Morrison ’86 EE
SMART CITIES: TRANSPORTATION AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MITCNY Professional Programs’ new series about
the next generation of cities launched with
“Smart Cities: Transportation and Information
Technology” on February 9th. By 2050, 2.5
billion more people will live on the planet; in
addition, the world is urbanizing at a rapid
rate, especially in the developing world. Our
alum speakers, Alex Cohen MCP ’04 (Principal
Planner at the MTA) and Allison Davis CP ’03
(Senior Transportation Planner at Arup), drew
a record crowd to talk about transforming
transportation systems and cities.

How do you define a smart city? Alex Cohen
emphasized energy efficiency and a small
carbon footprint. Allison Davis pointed to
rising populations and the need for long-term
planning of infrastructure decisions. Density is
key to mass transit’s economics; New York City
is a great example - our 2008 ridership was its
highest since 1950. Our carbon footprint - the
lowest energy consumption per capita of all 50
states – rests on jobs and services all located
close by so New Yorkers don’t have to drive.

Even though the transit system boosts the
city’s competitiveness, more than 90% of New
York’s mass transit was built prior to 1940. Fiscal
crises and deferred maintenance pushed most
recent investments ($50 billion) into the 1980s.
So, investing in the system’s next plan of more
than $80 billion is a pressing issue - starting
with signaling, which dates to the 1920s! More
capacity, new tunnels, Q and 7 extensions,
bringing LIRR trains into Grand Central, new
New Jersey - Penn Station connections… the
needs are tremendous, yet progress still only
incremental.

We also need new technologies to make
the system smarter, carry more people and
offer better service. Incentives have to be
tailored to desired outcomes. Transit-oriented
development (TOD), for instance, features
high density right around a transit hub with
decreasing density radiating out. TOD can yield
25-50% greenhouse gas savings, more land for
amenities like parks and higher taxes for cash-
strapped governments. Arlington County has
40% of its assessed value in the Metro corridor
despite only 11% of its population.

Aligning incentives and disconnecting the
idea of free access to the city with ideas like
congestion pricing will come soon. For now,
rehabbing transport infrastructure will require
a mighty effort.

—Lenora Suki GM ’97

SMART CITIES II: CITY MANAGEMENT
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

On May 12th, we learned more on our urban
world with our second successful Smart Cities
panel, “Smart Cities II: City Management and
Information Technology,” jointly organized by
the MIT Club of New York Professional Programs
and the MIT Enterprise Forum. With Benjamin
de la Pena (Associate Director for Urban
Development at the Rockefeller Foundation)
moderating, we had insights from private,
public, civic and academic on the growing
importance of information technology (IT)
for making cities safe, healthy, efficient and
competitive.

New York City Council member Gale Brewer,
an E-Gov guru, spoke passionately about
new IT tools in the public realm but warned
it takes time and persistence to make it work.
Legislation to release public data often gets
stymied by citizens and agencies who do
not understand IT’S benefits. Martin Fleming
(Vice President of Corporate Strategy at IBM)
concurred, based on his experience leading
IBM’S Smarter Planet and Smart Cities Initiatives.

The challenge to create value from data on
traffic, power, public safety and other areas
is huge, a new business opportunity. When
power companies move to smart grid systems,
they’re going from monthly to hourly usage
readings - 240 billion pieces of data per year
from the typical utility! Same for instrumenting
systems in transport, energy and even water,
among others. It’s not just about analyzing data
but also innovation, growth and higher living
standards.

Nick Grossman (Director of Civic Works at
Open Plans) described active online citizens’
contributions (from reporting potholes to
identifying parks, schools and hospitals on
maps) on the Open Plans site, Streetsblog.
org. Open Plans is also working with the New
York MTA on data releases and transparency
in other cities. That data spurs apps from third
party developers and builds best practice in IT
development. Another Open Plans initiative,
Open 311, promotes standard protocols for
online 311 systems.

Sarah Williams CP ’05 (Director of Columbia
University’s Spatial Information Design Lab)
talked about using data from mobile phones
and subway cards. Phone companies use that
data to put ads in front of more eyeballs, but it
can also be useful in transportation planning.
Future iPhone apps will probably make it
possible to crowd-source air and noise quality
data, too.

This is no theoretical future. Stockholm and
London cut congestion by 25% and emissions
by 15%. IT improves communications between
emergency services. Data on pedestrians have
driven safety improvements. Knowing when

LEFT Professor Eric Alm discusses his work on
microbial DNA sequencing.
Considered one of the most baffling mysteries in science, dark matter is believed to make up roughly a quarter of the universe, while visible matter makes up only four percent. What makes dark matter impossible to detect thus far is due to the fact that it does not absorb or emit light. Research groups from around the world are racing to be the first to detect dark matter.

One physicist who has been studying dark matter for 20 years is MIT Physics Professor Peter Fisher, who is also the department’s Division Head of Particle and Nuclear Experimental Physics. On April 12th, he spoke about the current status and future directions of this area of research at a public event held at the American Museum of Natural History. The MIT Club of New York certainly marked its presence at the Hayden Planetarium, contributing nearly 150 alumni and guests to the sellout crowd.

Professor Fisher started his talk on the two kinds of dark material: dark matter and dark energy. Although 73 percent of total matter is dark energy and 23 percent is dark matter, he focused his talk on the latter because “no one has the first clue of what dark energy is.” On the other hand, dark matter was first proposed in the 1930s by Fritz Zwicky to account for the fact that the light emitted by the Coma galaxy cluster was about 100 times lower than that expected from a cluster of its mass. Since then, there has been solid evidence to show that dark matter exists. However, physicists are still trying to find ways to look for it. Of the one of the best theoretical hypotheses is that dark matter is made of heavy particles (more than 100 proton masses) that interact very weakly with ordinary matter.

Microorganisms are ubiquitous in the environment, and essential to life on Earth. It is estimated that there are ten times as many microbial cells living inside and on our bodies as there are human cells. In fact, humans are comprised of about 90% bacterial! Because the microbial world is invisible to the naked eye and difficult to study directly, much of our information about microbiology comes from sequencing DNA. On February 4th, Professor Eric Alm came to New York and spoke with over 75 MIT alumni (and a few high school students!) about recent work in his lab. They have used microbial DNA sequences for a variety of projects ranging from evolutionary reconstruction of the nearly 4-billion-year history of life on Earth, to human disease diagnosis.

During his talk, we learned about Professor Alm’s studies of the ecosystems at the Earth’s core and his investigations into understanding how they work. Do you know how an environment deep inside a South African mine is able to sustain life without sunlight? Radioactive emissions triggered by the reaction between uranium in the Earth’s crust and water provide the foundation for energy in this isolated ecosystem. Professor Alm provided an overview of how algorithms are developed to determine when a gene was ‘born’ and what genes were present at different times in Earth’s history. Finally, he also spoke about research in his lab that is focused on the human body and the bacteria that live among us. He showed us how patterns in bacteria concentration allow us to diagnose diseases such as Crohn’s in patients without a colonoscopy, saving money and time.

Eric Alm is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Engineering (Course 20) and the Doherty Assistant Professor of Ocean Utilization in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (Course 1). The Alm Lab develops complementary computational and experimental methods for studying microbial evolution, and you can learn more here: http://almlab.mit.edu/ALM/ALM.html
Professor Fisher talked about how his thesis work in 1986 on eight-diodes can be used to look for dark matter. He learned quickly that a dark matter experiment had to be conducted very deep underground in order to avoid cosmic rays. Some of the experiments for detecting dark matter on Earth involve using cryogenic sensors placed underground to measure the directions in which nuclei recoil after being hit by dark matter particles. Professor Fisher claims that the detectors must be 100 times more sensitive to be able to detect any conclusive dark matter signal. Currently, it can be shown that the sensitivity of dark matter detectors is improving by a factor of ten every six years.

There have also been research experiments on detecting dark matter in space. An exciting piece of news is that the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS), a cosmic-ray detector, will be part of the NASA mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery in July 2010.

Despite the lack of results from such experiments thus far, researchers are optimistic that the first sighting will come soon. Professor Fisher thinks it will take at least another ten years.

---Connie Yee ’08 ME

MIT Comes to NYC

MICHAEL SIPSER:
BEYOND COMPUTATION:
THE P versus NP QUESTION

On May 19th, as part of the MIT Comes to NYC Speaker Series, Michael Sipser, Professor of Applied Mathematics, spoke to MIT Club of New York alumni and guests on the P versus NP problem. This is one of the great unanswered questions of contemporary mathematics and theoretical computer science. This was Professor Sipser’s first MIT Alumni Club event, and it was standing–room-only.

The event started with the presentation of one of the 2010 MIT Inspirational Teacher Awards to Mr. George Benack, math teacher at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, NY. (See the related article on Page 8.) This award recognizes outstanding secondary school teachers who inspire their students to make positive contributions through a passion for learning and ongoing enthusiasm. Such passion sets the framework for secondary school students to begin to consider solving problems like the P = NP, P ≠ NP question.

Professor Sipser started his talk by asking a simple multiplication question – something like “What is 7 x 6?” We all answered “42” fairly rapidly – no trick involved. The next problem was more like “What is 3487387387483487827348237 x 9384783823473872348738571?” (Note: these were not the exact numbers he presented, and I believe the two numbers shown were prime.) In any case, Sipser stated that if a calculator or computer were designed to be able to display the result, the calculation could be completed in fractions of a second (the result would be shown almost as fast as a human could press the enter key). By contrast, if the computer was shown the product of these two numbers, and asked, “What are the two prime factors that result in this product?” then that particular problem would take millennia to compute.

The first problem is a “P” problem – one that can be solved in polynomial time (i.e. relatively quickly and efficiently). The second problem is an “NP” problem – one that can be verified in polynomial time (we can rapidly verify this because a computer can almost instantaneously multiply those two large, prime factors and show the product), but likely (if P ≠ NP) takes exponential time to solve.

Professor Sipser explained that these NP problems are characterized by the need to “search” for the answer, and he gave another example – the “clique” problem. He talked about inviting associates of his to a reception where he wanted to make sure that all the invitees knew one another – that is, the group of invitees would form a clique. Given a spatial representation of people and their association with others, he wanted to, in fact, find the largest clique to produce his invitation list. For a small number of nodes (“people”), the problem can be solved by visual inspection, but once we need to look at a larger social network, this “brute force” method will not work, and he has shown that the problem is an NP problem.

While it may be compelling to prove that P = NP, Sipser said that there could be some negative consequences as well. Many of our security schemes are based on products of large prime numbers; if these factors could be solved in polynomial time, then this could have negative security consequences.

Finally, he mentioned that each century, mathematicians produce a list of the top 10 problems to be solved during the century. He had been hoping to solve the P = NP, P ≠ NP question problem in the 20th century, but it has now made it onto the list for the 21st. Perhaps if it is solved soon, the MIT Club of NY can be invited to Professor Sipser’s next reception, as the largest MIT clique worldwide!

---Scott Morrison ’86 EE

Photo: Zhi-Da Zhong ’96 MA
The Economics of Natural Disasters

The recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile remind us of the devastation wrought by catastrophic events. Why do they occur? Are our buildings and infrastructure systems safe? What can we, as citizens, do about it? How do these disasters impact society? Theresa Bischoff (CEO of the American Red Cross in Greater New York), Dr. Zamba Batjargal (Representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to the United Nations (UN)), and Andy Thompson (Earthquake Engineer and Risk Consulting Practice Americas Leader at Arup Consulting Engineers and author of the bestselling book “Peace of Mind in Earthquake Country”) discussed the aforementioned topics at the Economics of Natural Disasters panel on April 27th. The discussion was moderated by Yiannis Kourakis CE ‘07 (Structural Engineer at Arup).

Thompson pointed out that there is a disconnect between the intended performance of a building after a major earthquake and the expectations of the public and policyholders. We do have the technical expertise to design earthquake-resistant civil structures. This means that when a natural disaster such as an earthquake occurs, the major objective dictated by design codes is ensuring that human lives are protected. In other words, buildings are designed to resist collapse during a disaster, allowing occupants to safely evacuate. However, these buildings may no longer be reusable after a major strike. A massive proportion of businesses can be permanently wiped out for this reason. Business owners thus have to ensure that they have “business continuity” plans, and a place for the support of their employees. Bischoff also emphasized the importance of natural disaster preparedness.

There is very little demand on a corporate level for natural disaster readiness. What happens when people start running on the streets? It is very important that the public receives some basic training for such extreme events. Emergency, transitional, and permanent shelters as well as basic first aid and other “survival kits” are items that we should all be familiar with. Do you have enough food and water for 3 consecutive days? Visit the Red Cross website and get informed!

Dr. Batjargal also described numerous examples of natural disasters and stressed the importance of training and public awareness. Even though there have been great advances in modern communication systems, all these become obsolete after a natural disaster. We cannot email, call, text or access the internet following such a catastrophic event. We must all be ready and aware of some standard safety procedures and emergency action plans.

While the arguments for green building can be made in many realms beyond the financial one, the current low cost of energy and a market more concerned with short-term turnaround than life-time costs has so far not resulted in a higher price tag on “green” or LEED-rated properties. More developers are doing green buildings, however, as consumer expectations for what makes a quality building changes. The distressed condo market is also pushing more developers toward rental projects and affordable housing, where operating expenses factor more prominently into the developers’ bottom line.

The effect of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system on the green building movement was hotly debated by the other two panelists: Henry Gifford (noted energy efficiency expert and LEED-detector) and Beth Heider (Senior Vice President at Skanska and Board Member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the group that developed the LEED system).

Gifford posited that the LEED rating system is business-driven and rewards uneven behavior, guiding builders towards energy modeling rather than considering actual energy usage. This can set back the movement towards greater energy efficiency in buildings.

Heider noted that LEED awards are granted before the building completes construction, and so cannot be contingent on the actual energy usage of the finished building. However, the USGBC has started to collect actual energy usage numbers and threatening to revoke LEED certifications if buildings are found to deviate from their energy use projections.

Green Building After the Crisis: Real Green or Green Bubble?

“Green” might not command a higher price point, but the phrase is becoming a proxy for quality and value, according to Alison Novak CP ‘06 (Senior Project Manager at Hudson Companies Inc.), one of three expert panelists at the MIT Club of New York’s “Green Building After the Crisis: Real Green or Green Bubble?” event on June 8th. The discussion was moderated by Claire Cunningham GM’09 (Director of Operations at EcoEdu.me).
Membership Resources: Benefits of Joining the MIT Club of New York

The MIT Club of New York connects you to all the local opportunities related to MIT, the Alumni Association in Cambridge, and other affiliated organizations in the New York metropolitan area. When you are a member of the Club in the 2010-2011 year, the benefits include:

- A full year of reduced admission to Club events, including professional seminars, cultural outings, social gatherings, and the MIT Speaker Series of lectures given by eminent MIT faculty and industry leaders.
- Access to networking opportunities with alumni of MIT and other top-tier universities; service opportunities through community service projects; and leadership opportunities as a Club volunteer.
- Opportunities to become members of associated organizations such as the MIT Club of Long Island, Penn Club of New York and the Hudson Union Society.

Patron level membership additionally provides extended benefits, including access to invitation-only dinners with select faculty and non-MIT speakers. Additionally, to celebrate the Institute's sesquicentennial in 2011, for this year only the Club will offer a special MIT150 Anniversary Patron membership level, which includes an invitation to an exclusive MIT150 Anniversary dinner event with an MIT professor and other celebratory Anniversary programming, in addition to all the Patron benefits.

The officers of the Club are committed to building and maintaining a vibrant, diverse alumni community in the greater New York area, and we look forward to meeting you at our various events in the upcoming year. You can sign up for membership at www.mitclub.org or by submitting the registration form on the back of this newsletter. Please note that the membership year runs from July 2010 to June 2011, and you may be eligible for reduced or free dues based on your alumni status.

—Dom Ricci ’99 PH

MIT Recognizes Inspirational High School Teachers

Most of us have had a high school teacher, counselor, or coach who stands out in our hearts and memories as a significant influence in our lives. The lessons such outstanding educators teach often go far beyond the subject matter of their fields. They may instill values and a love of learning that shape our educational and career choices, and guide us throughout our adult lives.

The MIT Inspirational Teacher Award is intended to provide a vehicle through which MIT students can recognize high school teachers who inspired them, to celebrate outstanding and dedicated educators, and to provide high schools with a stronger connection to the multitude of MIT’s offerings.

This year, MIT awarded 36 teachers worldwide with the MIT Inspirational Teacher Award. On May 19th, the MIT Club of New York honored one in the immediate New York area: Mr. George Benack of Horace Greeley High School. Mr. Benack was awarded an Athena account to access MIT resources, as well as a packet detailing MIT opportunities for high school teachers, students and schools, both during the school year and the summer, on the MIT campus, online and through outreach programs.

Thor Eusner ME ’10 nominated Mr. Benack, noting that he was the person who inspired him to apply to MIT and study engineering. Thor says of his teacher:

Mr. Benack is loved and respected by all of his students and by the entire Horace Greeley High School community. Whenever anybody talks about Mr. Benack, only extremely positive things are said. This includes his students, fellow teachers in and outside of the mathematics department, and parents.

When I look back on how I was able to achieve such great success at MIT, I always think back to my 9th grade math class with Mr. Benack. I owe a lot of my current success to Mr. Benack. My 9th grade math class was...my very first exposure to a fast-paced learning environment. ...Looking back, Mr. Benack has all of the qualities that I look for (and have looked for) in professors here at MIT.

Mr. Benack welcomed students to meet with him in the afternoons and in the evenings. He never allowed a student to leave his office confused. If a student was willing to make the effort to visit Mr. Benack in his office, then Mr. Benack would devote limitless amounts of time and energy to ensure that the student understood the concepts.

...teachers aren’t always respected and valued by the community, but Mr. Benack truly cares about his students. ...If even just one student of his is on a given sports team, then he will go to every home game and cheer for (him).

...I wouldn’t be where I am today without him.

The MIT Club of New York, on behalf of all who have experienced the MIT education, would like to extend much-needed recognition to high school teachers who inspire excellence in their students and lay the foundation for the greatest minds of tomorrow.

—Charlene Chuang ’05 BCS

Interclub Winter Tech Social is a Hit

The MIT Club of New York, in conjunction with the Caltech Alumni Association, Cambridge University Alumni of NYC, and the Columbia School of Engineering, kicked off the new year with the Winter Tech Social at D’Or Lounge January 13th. This is the second in a series of social and professional networking events targeting graduates of top-tier technical and engineering schools and their guests. The Winter Tech Social mirrored the success of the previous Summer Tech Social, which was held in June 2009 at the Brass Monkey. Business cards were exchanged and heavy networking and socializing was observed amongst the evening’s 130 attendees. Because of the excellent turnout and positive feedback, the four schools have decided to continue this series on a semi-annual basis. The Tech Social events differ from other multi-alumni events because they are regular events designed for graduates of technical backgrounds, held in more intimate settings, and focus on networking and building contacts, which is essential for many alumni professionals in the city.

—Geraldine Kim ’03 EC

Alums Turn Out for Hands on New York Day

20 enthusiastic MIT volunteers participated in Hands on New York Day on April 24th. We raked leaves and spread grass seeds at Riverside Park, alongside 125 other volunteers. Riverside Park is Manhattan’s most spectacular waterfront park, stretching four miles from 72nd Street to 158th Street along the Hudson River. That same day, 5,000 volunteers spread out all across the city to take advantage of the beautiful weather and work towards a great cause. Thanks to everyone’s efforts, 69 of our city’s public spaces were made cleaner, greener, and ready for New Yorkers to enjoy all summer long. Special thanks to the MIT team for contributing to Hands On New York, which is an incredible day of service and as well as a critical fundraiser for the New York Cares volunteering organization. This year, the event raised more than $110,000!

—Yannis Kourakis CE ’07 (MIT Team Captain)
The MIT Enterprise Forum of New York City (MITEF-NYC) is the local chapter of a global organization that represents the voice of technology entrepreneurship. For more than thirty years, the MIT Enterprise Forum has been a platform for entrepreneurial education, inspiration, and networking. MITEF-NYC resides at the intersection of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in the greater NY metropolitan area, where it serves to promote the growth and success of high-tech ventures by providing connections to resources that will catalyze and accelerate the commercialization of technology.

Enterprise Forum membership is open to anyone interested in entrepreneurship and the business of technology and is not limited to MIT alumni. In addition to our core constituency of founders and emerging entrepreneurs, our membership includes angel and venture capital investors, as well as service organizations and technology business professionals.

Membership in MITEF-NYC offers an excellent opportunity to network with the people who share your passion for technology innovation and entrepreneurship. New participants are always welcome.

Do you have leadership skills, event management skills, or previous experience with a volunteer organization? Do you have your finger on the pulse of innovative new technology? Are you already networked into the world of high-tech ventures? Do you have a great idea for an event? Do you have free time and would like to learn more about what the MITEF-NYC can offer you?

Contact us at info@mitef-nyc.org if you are interested in:
• Becoming a member/joining our e-mail list
• Volunteering at our events
• Providing a venue for our events
• Learning about Sponsorship Opportunities

We would also like to invite you to join our volunteers reception on September 29 2010. Please register on our website, or email us at info@mitef-nyc.org.

Contact us at info@mitef-nyc.org • www.mitef-nyc.org

MIT Professor Iqbal Quadir – [Founder and Director of the Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship at MIT] delivers the keynote address at the annual Pace Pitch Contest, which is produced in association with MITEF-NYC.

November 6, 2009 – MIT Enterprise Forum of NYC rings the closing bell at NASDAQ.

2010-2011 Event Calendar Highlights
(more details at www.mitef-nyc.org)

• September 23: There is an App for that: The Future of The Mobile App Store
• September 29: Volunteers Reception
• October: Business Plan Presentation
• October 21: Healthcare: The Changing Landscape
• November 17: Connected Healthcare: The future of Mobile Health
• December 9: Venture Capital Roundtable
• January 2011: Cleantech Venture BootCamp
• March 2011: Tech Review – TR50 joint event
• April 2011: Pace Pitch Contest
Membership Renewal Form

MEMBERSHIP IS VALID JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011

Sign me up for the MIT Club of New York at the following annual membership level:

Special Offer: $5 off prices listed below if you register by September 15th, 2010!

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_____ 2010 Graduates | FREE
_____ Patrons | $200
_____ MIT150 Anniversary Patron | $350

Anniversary programming in honor of MIT’s sesquicentennial plus all Patron benefits. Open to all MIT alums.

_____ 2006 - 2009 Graduates | $25
_____ Current Graduate Students | $25
_____ All Other Graduates | $50

_____ 2010 Graduates | FREE

Invitation to an exclusive MIT150 Anniversary dinner event with an MIT professor and other celebratory

Mr./Ms./Other __________        First Name ______________________________        Last Name ___________________________________________

_____ Check here if you are a renewing member with no changes to membership information.

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Please make check payable to MIT Club of New York.
Alternatively, credit card payments can be made at www.mitclub.org

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