

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



Exploring ethics at the center
of science and technology

One evening in April, four student activists joined our undergraduate ethics seminar as guest speakers: Mareena Robinson, Jay Hodges, Rose Lenehan and William Li. As each of them described how they decided to make a difference by educating others and advocating for change, the thirty undergraduates in the seminar listened intently. The activists' stories and advice clearly made a strong impression; they were echoed in subsequent conversations and final presentations.

These young activists are all deeply committed to their work. They also made it clear that, in order to be effective, they had to set limits. In the high-pressure, fast-moving environment of MIT, it would be very easy to burn out. Yet we need students to take this precious time and energy away from their studies and lead us in making change. As the MIT Climate Change Conversation Committee said in their recent report, "action by the younger generation can send a strong signal to the rest of society."

Our mission at Radius is to help members of the MIT community find a passion for ethical action in the world. We want our programs to ignite that bright spark. Just as much, we want to provide the structure to sustain a lasting commitment to change. Through mentoring and logistical support, we help students navigate the complexities of MIT and engage in ethical action without becoming overwhelmed.

Working closely with students is an important part of our fifty-year legacy. Chaplain Johnny Crocker brought a new dimension to the Technology and Culture Seminar in the early 1970s by expanding its reach beyond an invited group of faculty members to include students and the wider MIT community. The International Development Fairs began when Fleming Ray '03 recognized a need for more communication among the growing number of international development programs at MIT. Yoda Patta '12 led us to develop a series of programs on violence against women. Many of our liveliest and best-remembered programs over the years have begun the same way: with a question or an idea from a student.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are excited about our strong relationship with MIT Global Zero and our growing partnership with the students of Science for the People. We will continue to offer the undergraduate ethics seminar in partnership with the MIT Philosophy Department, workshops on mindfulness and purpose, Radius Goes to the Theater, and other engaging opportunities for conversation about the questions that matter.

The young people we encounter at MIT want to make a difference in this world. Their questions and their insights inspire us. Through our students, we rediscover our own passion for justice.

The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas



RADIUS PROGRAMS 2014-2015

ENGAGING STUDENTS AND THE WIDER MIT COMMUNITY IN ETHICAL REFLECTION

FINDING HUMANITY: COURAGE AND COMPASSION IN TIMES OF WAR

Kristen Renwick Monroe • Director, Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality; Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, University of California, Irvine

Kieran Setiya • Professor, Philosophy, MIT

Our 50th Anniversary Forum emphasized our key values of engaging students in reflection and giving them tools for ethical action.

WORK ON PURPOSE

This collaboration with the Public Service Center attracted 15 students, most of them graduate students, for three evening workshops. The students expressed great appreciation for this opportunity to reflect on their sense of purpose.

RADIUS GOES TO THE THEATER

*We offered a post-performance discussion on the psychology and ethics of drone warfare with **Jason Ryan**, an MIT alum who designs the user interfaces for drone vehicles and **Celeste Oliva**, the star of the one-woman play *Grounded* presented by the Nora Theatre in Central Square. MIT students were our guests for the play and joined in the discussion.*

LOVE THE PLAYER, LOVE THE GAME?

Jessica Hammer • Associate Professor, Human-Computer Interaction Institute and Entertainment Technology Center, Carnegie Mellon University

This discussion of games and relationships helped kick off MIT's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, an initiative of the Violence Prevention and Response team that features strong participation from a student organizing committee.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Vincent Intondi • Associate Professor, History; founder, Center for Black Studies at Montgomery College in Washington, DC; author of *African Americans Against the Bomb*

Co-sponsored by Global Zero and the Institute Community and Equity Office



Dialogue and discussion often follow the formal presentation at Radius events. Guests are encouraged to ask questions and share their thoughts.

SUPPORTING STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES

MIT GLOBAL ZERO

*Student leader Mareena Robinson, a doctoral student in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering, built an exciting year of programs on the history and future of nuclear disarmament, including **Why Nuclear Weapons Still Matter: Conventional War and Nuclear Escalation**; **The Iranian Negotiations: Possible Outcomes**; and **Future Prospects for US-Russian Arms Control** with US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control Rose Gottemoeller, a visit co-hosted with Nuclear Science and Engineering and the Program in Science, Technology and Global Security.*

SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

*Student leaders from the MIT chapter of Science for the People worked with Radius on two programs, **The Militarization of the University** and **Science at MIT: From the Cold War to Climate Change** with Noam Chomsky and Subrata Ghoshroy.*

DISPLACEMENT RESEARCH AND ACTION NETWORK

*Radius supported graduate students from DUSP to present **Housing Dynamics and Displacement in Cambridge**. This panel is a great example of our continued commitment to bringing issues home. Displacement is a global issue, and also a real force in the lives of our neighbors here in Cambridge.*

HACK YOUR MIND:

EAT. LEARN. MEDITATE.

Steering committee member Robert Plotkin '93 initiated this effort, which brought the Radius team together with Community Wellness at MIT to offer three lunch programs on mindfulness and technology. The programs included discussion, presentations on current research, and an opportunity for mindfulness practice. All three programs attracted over 50 enthusiastic participants, drawing on faculty, staff, students and other community members.



WORK SMARTER, STRESS LESS, BE MINDFUL

Susanna Barry • Senior Program Manager, Community Wellness, MIT

MINDFUL TECHNOLOGY

Robert Plotkin • Intellectual Property Attorney

WHY IS FACEBOOK LIKE CRACK COCAINE? HOW TECHNOLOGY SUCKS US IN AND HOW MINDFULNESS CAN HELP US STEP OUT

Judson Brewer, MD, PhD • Director of Research, Center for Mindfulness, UMass Medical School

UNDERGRADUATE ETHICS SEMINAR

A record 28 students enrolled in this year's course, which was offered through the Philosophy department with the leadership of Professor **Sally Haslanger** and Philosophy doctoral candidate **Brendan de Kenessey**. The students explored current ethical questions, including racism, the US justice and prison systems, sustainable farming and meat production, the gender biases of gaming culture, and how military spending shapes the university and the nation.

BUSTANI SEMINARS

Each year, we support the **Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar**, which invites scholars, journalists, consultants, and other experts from the Middle East, Europe, and the United States to MIT to present recent research findings on contemporary politics, society and culture, and economic and technological development in the Middle East.

9TH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

It has been an honor and a pleasure working with the Boston Latin School's Youth Climate Action Network, the lead organizer of the summit, for almost a decade. When we started out nine years ago, a few high schools participated, with Boston Latin making up the majority of attendees. This year we hosted over 200 young people, with 51 high schools represented! The network widens every year, providing young people with knowledge, strategies and a chance to meet other students engaged in environmental activism.





STEERING COMMITTEE & STAFF

STEERING COMMITTEE 2014-2015

Samuel M. Allen, *Materials Science and Engineering*
Nazli Choucri, *Political Science*
Leo deCastro, '18
John Durant, *Director, MIT Museum*
James Fay, *Emeritus, Mechanical Engineering*
Sally Haslanger, *Linguistics and Philosophy*
Alison Hynd, *Public Service Center*
Henry Jacoby, *Sloan School of Management*
Jay Keyser, *Emeritus, Linguistics and Philosophy*
Jonathan King, *Biology*
William R. Leitch, '56
Yoda Patta, '12
Ruth Perry, *Literature*
Robert Plotkin, '93
Balakrishnan Rajagopal, *Urban Studies and Planning*
Mareena Robinson, G
Bishwapriya Sanyal, *Urban Studies and Planning*

STAFF

The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas
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RADIUS SUPPORTERS

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Marvin Sirbu

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Aron Bernstein
Nazli Choucri
Frances Elliott
Jeanne and Scott Paradise
Bishwapriya Sanyal
Merritt Roe Smith
Brigitte and Stephen Steadman
Leon Trilling
Kristen and Christopher Wendell
Albert Wilson

Leadership Circle

Samuel Allen
Linda Anthony and Harold Clark
Jeremy Johnson
Jay Keyser
Tracy and Mark Lively
Robert Plotkin

Special thanks to Cam Searle, Bill Leitch, Al Wilson and the rest of our loyal donors and friends for their generous support.

Visionaries

Martha and Jake Jacoby
Jay Fay
James Hardigg
William and Betsy Leitch
John Suhrbier
Jay Forrester
Campbell Searle

Endowment Leadership

William and Betsy Leitch
Albert Wilson

On Nov. 4, 2014, we celebrated our 50th anniversary with Jeanne Paradise, Ed Bertschinger, the Rev. Jane Gould, William Leitch, the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates and many other supporters and friends.

