

ANNUAL REPORT

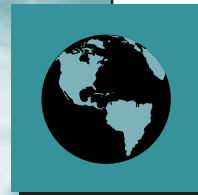
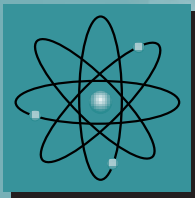


2007 / 2008

THE TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE

FORUM

AT MIT



THE TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE FORUM AT MIT PROMOTES DISCUSSION OF THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, AND EXPLORES THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PROMOTING POSITIVE CHANGE. WE SEEK OUT TOPICS WHICH FALL OUTSIDE OR BETWEEN TRADITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL LINES.

- ▶ Is most development work premised on a myth that you can donate people out of poverty?
- ▶ In a world where 80-90% of the victims of war are now civilians, do we need to change our assumptions about what “peace” looks like?
- ▶ Given the growing evidence that the adolescent brain is incapable of acting on its moral understandings until at least the late-teenage years, is it ever right to prosecute juveniles as adults?



▼ XAQ FROHLICH, TAC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ONE OF THE KEY ORGANIZERS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NIGHT @ MIT, STANDS READY TO WELCOME THE MORE THAN 350 ATTENDEES AT THE MIT MUSEUM ON APRIL 4.



▲ BEN MEZRICH, AUTHOR OF *BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE*, CAPTIVATED A PACKED 10-250 AUDIENCE AND SET THE TONE FOR A FASCINATING PANEL PRESENTATION ON GAMBLING AND ADDICTION ON OCT. 17.

◀ ON APRIL 7, PAUL POLACK, ENTREPRENEUR AND PHILANTHROPIST, ENGAGED THE AUDIENCE IN A LIVELY DISCUSSION ON ETHICS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

At the Technology and Culture Forum, we specialize in asking thought provoking questions, and this year's speakers provided them in spades. As I reviewed my notes from our 2007-2008 events, I was amazed by the quality and timeliness of our speakers' questions.

Two themes emerged through the myriad presentations and events we helped mount this year. Alan Wallace put the first theme most succinctly: The great koan of the 21st century is, "How can we know so much and be so awful to one another?" The second theme, not unrelated to the first, was a call for self-reflection and discipline by individuals and institutions engaged in development-related work. As MIT's global role evolves, we're witnessing students, faculty, and administrators newly engaged around these critical issues. The excellent attendance at our events and the deep engagement of the audiences with our speakers indicate that we are making an important contribution to the life of the Institute at a historically critical time.

We were glad to be able to bring global, national and state-level conversations to MIT through our collaborations with the Massachusetts Climate Action Network, Trinity Institute's national conference on "Religion and Violence," and Doctors Without Borders. We helped take MIT's International Development Network to the next level, expanding the size of the fall Development Fair and adding a spring



event in collaboration with Harvard's International Development Conference. We were especially encouraged to see an increasing number of students at our events, moving us toward our goal of having a greater impact on the formation of the next generation of leaders.



▲ **TAC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE OUT IN FORCE WELCOMING THE MANY GUESTS TO THE 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FAIR ON OCTOBER 5. FROM L-R: XAQ FROHLICH, SARAH JOHNSTONE, YODA PATTA AND PROFESSOR BISH SANYAL.**

◀ **IAN BOWLES, SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF MA, SPEAKING AT MCAN'S GLOBAL WARMING ACTION CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 18TH. THIS WAS TAC'S THIRD YEAR OF HOSTING THE IMMENSELY POPULAR CONFERENCE. THE 2008 CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 16TH AT THE MIT STATA CENTER.**



## youth summit

Last year, TAC began mentoring a student environmental club at the Boston Latin School. The club, BLS Youth Climate Action Network <[www.blsyouthcan.org](http://www.blsyouthcan.org)>, now boasts over 225 members and in May 2007, TAC and BLSYouthCAN hosted the 1st Annual Youth Summit on Global Climate Change to great success. To follow up on that success, TAC and BLSYouthCAN hosted the 2nd Annual Summit on Global Climate Change on May 10. Nearly 300 students from the metropolitan area attended the summit and enjoyed a day of facts and fun. MIT President Susan Hockfield warmly welcomed the students to MIT and encouraged them in their work. Among the other speakers were Boston Mayor Tom Menino, James Hunt, III, Chief of Environmental and Energy Services for the city of Boston, and Liz Soper from the National Wildlife Federation. Workshop leaders included MIT staff, administration and graduate students. Special thanks go to BLS teacher advisor, Cate Arnold.

*MIT President Susan Hockfield and Boston's Mayor Tom Menino join with three BLS student leaders at the 2nd Annual Youth Summit on Global Climate Change on May 10. ▼*





Courtesy MIT Museum

# In Memoriam

LOUIS MENAND, III

• 1 9 2 3 - 2 0 0 8 •

As we end our 44th year, we celebrate the past, present, and future of this unique program. We mourn the passing of Louis Menand, III, whose wisdom, humor and brilliance had been part of TAC since its early days. Steering Committee Ali Wyne, '08, was awarded the prestigious Karl Taylor Compton Prize and has contributed to the work of TAC in creative and inspiring ways and will continue to serve on the Steering Committee as our youngest alum member. We are gratefully astounded by the work and energy of Xaq Frohlich, who helped organize five of our events this year, and Sarah Johnstone, whose four years of excellent work for TAC was recognized this summer by the Diocese of Massachusetts, which awarded her the Barbara C. Harris Award for Social Justice Work.

We eagerly anticipate the 2008-2009 academic year. ■

*Amy McCreath*

(The Rev.) Amy McCreath



▲ **AMY SMITH, DIRECTOR OF MIT'S D-LAB, DEMONSTRATES HOW AGRICULTURAL WASTE, CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO COOKING GRADE CHARCOAL. AMY AND D-LAB STUDENTS GAVE LECTURE DEMONSTRATIONS TO AN ENTHRALLED AUDIENCE AT OUR A GENIUS FOR CHANGE PROGRAM, CO-SPONSORED WITH THE MIT MUSEUM ON OCT. 10.**

## ANNUAL SUPPORT

### ENDOWMENT LEADERSHIP

William and Betsy Leitch  
Albert Wilson  
Mrs. Henry Worcester

### VISIONARIES

Office of the Provost  
Campbell Searle

### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Norman and Nancy Beecher  
Linda Anthony Clark and Harold Clark  
Jay Fay  
Jay Forrester  
Richard Goldhor  
John Heywood  
Jake Jacoby  
William and Betsy Leitch

### SUSTAINERS

Samuel Allen  
Caroline Bloy  
Frances Elliott  
Elias Gyftopoulos  
Jay Keyser  
Marjorie Leggett  
Tracy Lively  
Ruth and David McCreath  
Jeanne and Scott Paradise  
Kitty and David Rush  
Brigitte and Stephen Steadman  
John Subhier

### SUPPORTERS

Carson Agnew  
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Office of the Dean of Graduate Students  
Ruth Perry  
Bishwapriya Sanyal  
Michael Shirley  
Merritt Roe Smith  
Leon Trilling  
Kenneth Wright  
Bernhardt Wuensch

## A SPECIAL THANKS

to our

### Development Committee

■  
Paul Gray, '54  
Stephen Immerman  
William ('56) and Betsy Leitch  
The Rev. Amy McCreath  
Robert Randolph  
Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE  
Patricia-Maria Weinmann  
Albert Wilson, '38  
Bashar Zeitoun, '87

Tuesday • September 18, 2007

**FINANCING ISLAMIC TERRORISM**

**Dr. Ibrahim Warde**, Contributor, *Le Monde Diplomatique*; author of *The Price of Fear: The Truth Behind the Financial War on Terror*; and Visiting Professor, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Co-sponsored with the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar and the Center for International Studies

Thursday • September 20, 2007

**WHERE MORALS COME FROM (AND WHY IT MATTERS)**

**Beatriz Luna**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh

**John Mikhail**, Associate Professor, Law Center and Philosophy Department, Georgetown University

**Patrick Byrne**, Professor of Philosophy, Boston College

Moderator: **Christopher Moore**, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Whitehead Institute, MIT

Friday • October 5, 2007

**6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FAIR**

An annual event designed to showcase the many groups, projects and activities at MIT that provide students with an opportunity to work on issues related to international development



TAC co-sponsored the performance of *RE:DESIGN*, a play based on the correspondence between Charles Darwin and Asa Gray, on February 14th. Following the play, a discussion was moderated by John Durant, TAC Steering Committee member and Director of the MIT Museum.

Wednesday • October 10, 2007

**A GENIUS FOR CHANGE AND THE PASSION TO DO IT: MIT STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Amy Smith**, MIT D-Lab

**John Durant**, Director, MIT Museum

Co-sponsored with the MIT Museum

Tuesday • October 16, 2007

**THE DIGNITY OF DIFFERENCE**

**Sir Jonathan Sacks**, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth  
Co-sponsored with the Chaplain to the Institute, AdDir Fellows: MIT Interfaith Dialogue and MIT Hillel

Wednesday • October 17, 2007

**GAMBLING: FACE TO FACE OR INTERFACE?**

**Ben Mezrich**, author of *Bringing Down The House: The True Story of Six M.I.T. Kids Who Took Vegas for Millions*

**Dr. Natasha Schüll**, Associate Professor, Program on Science, Technology, and Society, MIT; author of *Machine Life: Control and Compulsion in Las Vegas*

**Dr. Maressa Hecht Orzack**, founder and coordinator of the Computer Addiction Service, McLean Hospital; Harvard Medical School

Moderator: **Dr. Christopher M. Kelty**, Visiting Assistant Professor of The History of Science, Harvard University

Tuesday • October 30, 2007

**DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS WEEK @ MIT AND HARVARD**

**Dr. Hansel Otero**, Doctors Without Borders

Co-sponsored with Doctors without Borders @ MIT and Harvard and the MIT Public Service Program

Tuesday • November 6, 2007

**MAKING HEALTH POLICY IN MASSACHUSETTS: AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE**

**Jonathan Gruber**, Professor of Economics, MIT

Friday • November 9, 2007

**SICKO: A FILM BY MICHAEL MOORE**

Moderator: **Dr. David Jones**, Associate Professor, Science, Technology and Society, MIT

Co-sponsored with the MIT Lecture Series Committee and the Large Events Fund

Wednesday • November 15, 2007

**ADVANCEMENTS IN UNDERWATER VEHICLES: RESPONDING TO CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**Jim Morash**, MIT Sea Grant Research Engineer

Co-sponsored with the MIT Museum

Sunday • November 18, 2007

**CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE**

Co-sponsored and organized by the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN)

Sunday-Tuesday • January 21-23, 2008

**RELIGION AND VIOLENCE: UNTANGLING THE ROOTS OF CONFLICT**

Webcast and discussions of the Trinity Institute National Interfaith Theological Conference.

Co-sponsored with the AdDir Interfaith Fellowship and the Chaplain to the Institute

Wednesday • January 30, 2008

**DARWINISM AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN: A DINNER DISCUSSION**

**John Durant**, Director, MIT Museum

Thursday • February 14, 2008

**RE: DESIGN**

A play based on the correspondence between Charles Darwin and Harvard botanist, Asa Gray

Co-sponsored with the MIT Museum

Thursday • March 6, 2008

**COMPUTER-GENERATED INVENTIONS: RISKS AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Robert Plotkin**, *Esquire* '93

Friday • March 14, 2008

**DISSOLVING WAR: WOMEN AS PEACEMAKERS**

**Sanam Naraghi Anderlini**, author of *Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why it Matters*

Co-sponsored with the Center for International Studies

(Continued on Back Cover)

CONTINUED

Wednesday • April 2, 2008

**ADVANCING THE LEGACY OF  
WILLIAM JAMES: THE RADICALLY  
EMPIRICAL STUDY OF THE MIND****B. Alan Wallace**, lecturer, scholar, writer on  
Tibetan BuddhismCo-sponsored with MIT Prajnopaya, The School for  
Humanities and Social Sciences, and the MIT  
Department of Philosophy

Thursday • April 3, 2008

**CONTEMPLATIVE SCIENCE, MIND  
& PHYSICS****B. Alan Wallace**, lecturer, scholar, writer on  
Tibetan BuddhismModerator: **Christopher Moore**, Assistant  
Professor, McGovern Institute for Brain  
Research, MITCo-sponsored with MIT Prajnopaya, the School  
for Humanities and Social Sciences, and the MIT  
Department of Philosophy

Friday • April 4, 2008

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
NIGHT @ MIT**The 15th Annual J. Herbert Hollomon  
Memorial Symposium**FROM IMAGINATION TO INNOVATION:  
PIONEERING SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL  
CHALLENGES****Amy Smith**, MIT D-Lab

Monday • April 7, 2008

**WHAT ARE ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT  
PRACTICES?****Paul Polack**, entrepreneur and philanthropist  
Co-sponsored with MIT D-Lab

Tuesday • April 29, 2008

**IS DEVELOPMENT GOOD?****Balakrishnan Rajagopal**, Professor of Law  
and Development, Urban Studies and Planning  
Co-sponsored with the MIT Program in Human  
Rights and Justice

Saturday • May 10, 2008

**YOUTH SUMMIT ON GLOBAL  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

**Susan Hockfield**, President, MIT  
**Thomas Menino**, Mayor, City of BostonCo-sponsored with Boston Latin School  
Youth Climate Action Network*Dear Friends:*

For 44 years the Technology and Culture  
Forum has been the MIT focus for  
connections among individual values,  
career interests, problems and  
opportunities at the intersection of  
technology, science and society, and moral  
and ethical issues. Its work engages  
students, faculty and staff.  
The vitality of this enterprise depends  
crucially on private financial support  
from alumni and friends. Please  
consider a gift this year for the Forum.

Thank you,  
Paul E. Gray, MIT President Emeritus

**The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT 2007-2008****STEERING COMMITTEE****Samuel M. Allen** — Materials Science and Engineering**Nazli Choucri** — Political Science**Christopher Csikszentmihalyi** — Media Lab**John Durant** — Director, MIT Museum**James Fay** — Mechanical Engineering; Professor Emeritus**Henry Jacoby** — Sloan School of Management**Sarah Johnstone** — G**Evelyn Fox Keller** — History and Philosophy of Science**Jay Keyser** — Linguistics and Philosophy; Special Assistant  
to the Chancellor; Professor Emeritus**Jonathan King** — Biology**Xaq Frohlich** — G**William R. Leitch** — '56**Nergis Mavalvala** — Physics**Louis Menand, III** — Special Assistant to the Provost Emeritus  
(1923-2008)**Christopher Moore** — Department of Brain and  
Cognitive Sciences**Megan Palmer** — G**Yoda Patta** — G**Ruth Perry** — Literature**Balakrishnan Rajagopal** — Urban Studies and Planning**Bishwapriya Sanyal** — Urban Studies and Planning**Ali S. Wyne** — '08**STAFF****The Rev. Amy McCreath**, Coordinator**Patricia-Maria Weinmann**, Associate Coordinator**Christina English**, Program Associate

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