As I stood up to introduce my first Technology and Culture Forum event, our celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, Prof. Jonathan King called me over to say that one of our speakers couldn’t make it. He asked me to introduce long-time activist, MIT lecturer and former State Representative Melvin King, who had agreed on the spot to say a few words.

I had no idea what to expect. For those of you who know him, however, it will be no surprise that within a few sentences Mel King had our audience’s rapt attention. With eloquence and passion, he described the ways that, despite what was promised so long ago, many of our brothers and sisters still are not truly free. He said, “We know so much about the technology of the world. But what we need now is a new technology of the heart.”

Our mission is to find that technology of the heart. Our forums spark lively intellectual conversations, but we always hope to go deeper than the exchange of ideas. We want to inspire people to look at the world in a new way and to consider the deeper ethical implications of their actions.

We look for the student in our ethics seminar, who came into the course saying we all have to look out for ourselves and ended the semester saying, “I have to do at least a little more than my fair share, because I want to leave the world a better place.” We dream of moments like our forum on “Cities for Sale,” when Urban Studies and Planning students were inspired to join Cambridge residents to help protect our city’s most vulnerable members from the effects of new development. In all of our programs, we hope to kindle a dream of peace, a passion for justice, and a deep concern for our planet and all living beings.

It is a great privilege to be able to bring together people with brilliant ideas and compassionate hearts to imagine unexpected solutions to our world’s many challenges. I am very grateful to our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Tom Shaw, for his support of me and of this great program, to Patricia Weinmann for her vision and tireless work, to Christina English for helping it all run smoothly, to our Steering Committee for their excellent guidance, and to all of you for making the Technology and Culture Forum possible.

The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas

The Technology and Culture Forum is a program of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.
2012-2013 PROGRAM LISTING

THE TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE FORUM @ MIT

MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND FOREIGN POLICY

September 27, 2012
FILM SCREENING: COUNTDOWN TO ZERO
Followed by discussion with Graham Allison, Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Co-sponsor: MIT Global Zero

November 13, 2012
ATTACK OF THE DRONES: ETHICAL, LEGAL AND STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF UAV USE
Bryan Hehir, Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Rabia Mehmood, Journalist, Pakistani Television Express; International Herald Tribune
Barry Posen, Ford International Professor of Political Science; Director, Security Studies Program, MIT
Moderator: Kenneth A. Oye, Director, Program on Emerging Technologies; Professor of Political Science and Engineering Systems, MIT
Co-sponsor: The Center for International Studies, MIT

February 26, 2013
DYING TO FORGET: THE FOUNDATION OF US POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Irene Gendzier, Professor of Political Science, Boston University
Hosted by the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar, MIT

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

September 28, 2012
THE 11th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FAIR
Co-sponsor: The International Development Initiative, MIT

April 24, 2013
IN BETWEEN: A ONE MAN SHOW
Ibrahim Miari’s semi-autobiographical portrayal of the complexities and contradictions inherent in Palestinian-Israeli identity
Co-sponsors: Addir Fellows Interfaith Dialogue, Muslim Student Association, MIT Hillel, the Office of the Chaplain to the Institute

May 14, 2013
IRAN AND AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY: WHERE THE US WENT WRONG
Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor and Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus, MIT
Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett, Authors of “Going to Tehran: Why the United States Must Come to Terms with the Islamic Republic of Iran”
Moderator: Ali Banuazizi, Professor of Political Science; Director, Program of Islamic Civilization and Societies, Boston College

April 13, 2013
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NIGHT AT MIT
In collaboration with the Harvard International Development Conference
Co-sponsor: The International Development Initiative, MIT

March 9, 2013
MONEY AND MEANING: A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE
Connecting global innovators — investors, foundations, institutions and social entrepreneurs — to discuss issues at the intersection of money and meaning
Co-sponsors: Episcopal City Mission of Massachusetts, the Office of the Chaplain to the Institute, Village Capital Boston and Social Capital Markets
Environmental Crisis and Capitalism

March 11, 2013
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS AND CAPITALISM
Fred Magdoff, Professor Emeritus of Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont
Daniel Fireside, Capital Coordinator, Equal Exchange
Moderator:
Lawrence Susskind, Professor of Urban Studies and Planning; Director, Science Impact Collaborative, MIT

Civil Rights

October 4, 2012
FILM SCREENING: LOVE FREE OR DIE
Discussion with:
The Rev. Dr. Patrick S. Cheng, Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Episcopal Divinity School
Shannon Fennema, Harvard Divinity School
Co-sponsors: MIT Program in Women’s and Gender Studies and the MIT Rainbow Lounge

October 25, 2012
MATCH MADE IN HELL? CITIZENS UNITED AND A RETURN TO ‘TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VALUES’
Mel White, Author of “Holy Terror” and “Stranger at the Gate”
The Honorable Byron Rushing, Majority Whip in the Massachusetts House of Representatives

May 3, 2013
CITIES FOR SALE: THE RIGHT TO HOUSING VS. CORPORATE REAL ESTATE
Tom Angotti, Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, Hunter College; Graduate Center, City University of New York
Respondent:
Fred Salvucci, Senior Lecturer, Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering; and Urban Studies and Planning, MIT; Former Secretary of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Co-sponsors: Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT and MIT CoLab

America and Iran

On Tuesday, May 14, former National Security Council diplomats, Professors Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett gave first-hand accounts of the times that they believe the American government has missed opportunities for productive engagement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Fellow panelist, Professor Noam Chomsky, put the rising tensions with Iran into the larger context of American foreign policy. Over 350 people came out to hear this lively and thought-provoking conversation which was moderated by Professor Ali Banuazizi of Boston College, an affiliate of MIT’s Center for International Studies. A video of the program is available on our website. One member of the audience wrote to us: “I just wanted to thank you and other organizers for such a good and informative program. As an Iranian student, I am so grateful for your effort to increase public awareness about the relationship between the USA and Iran.”

Mit Global Zero

In Spring 2012, Sam Brinton, a graduate student in Nuclear Engineering and a member of the T&G Steering Committee, founded the MIT chapter of Global Zero, an international organization dedicated to the elimination of nuclear weapons. Since then, Mit Zero has been very active, hosting a film screening and monthly lunch discussions with invited guests from both MIT and beyond. Plans are underway for additional film screenings, continued lunch discussions and evening panel presentations. Please visit the Mit Global Zero web page at http://web.mit.edu/mitglobalzero for additional information.
BEING, THINKING, DOING (OR NOT!):
ETHICS AND YOUR LIFE

The class, now in its 4th year, is an interactive and lively lecture/discussion seminar. During the semester, students investigate and wrestle with ethical problems, share resources and experiences, and gain skills for clarifying and articulating their personal and vocational principles. A combination of guest speakers and class discussion brings a broad array of topics to the table. Very special thanks go to T&C Steering Committee member Professor Sally Haslanger for her insightful teaching and commitment to the seminar. Below are a few reflections and comments from this semester's class members:

“This class provided me with a foundation and vocabulary to be able to articulate my thoughts.”

“I'm going to think about effective activism much more seriously now.”

“I really value that I got to talk with other students--especially those who didn't think the same way I do. It was helpful to find common ground.”

“When I would hear other students' thoughts, it would shake me up.”

“This class gave me the opportunity to study ethics in an applied way using solid information--great combination of facts and ethics!”

“We need to find that belief that YOU can make a difference.”

“I loved the different voices and opinions.”

“Now I have to figure out how to sustain my awareness and commit to change.”

SPECIAL THANKS

Our deepest gratitude to Bill Leitch, Al Wilson, and Cam Searle for their extraordinary generosity.

We would like to give our biggest thanks and most enthusiastic congratulations to Sravnthi Puranam on her graduation and Sam Allen on his retirement from MIT. Although they may be leaving campus, they will continue to be called upon for their creative ideas and sage advice.

We extend our sincere thanks to our former Episcopal Chaplain and Coordinator, the Rev. Janie Donahue, for her more than two years of service, and we wish her all the best in her next endeavors.