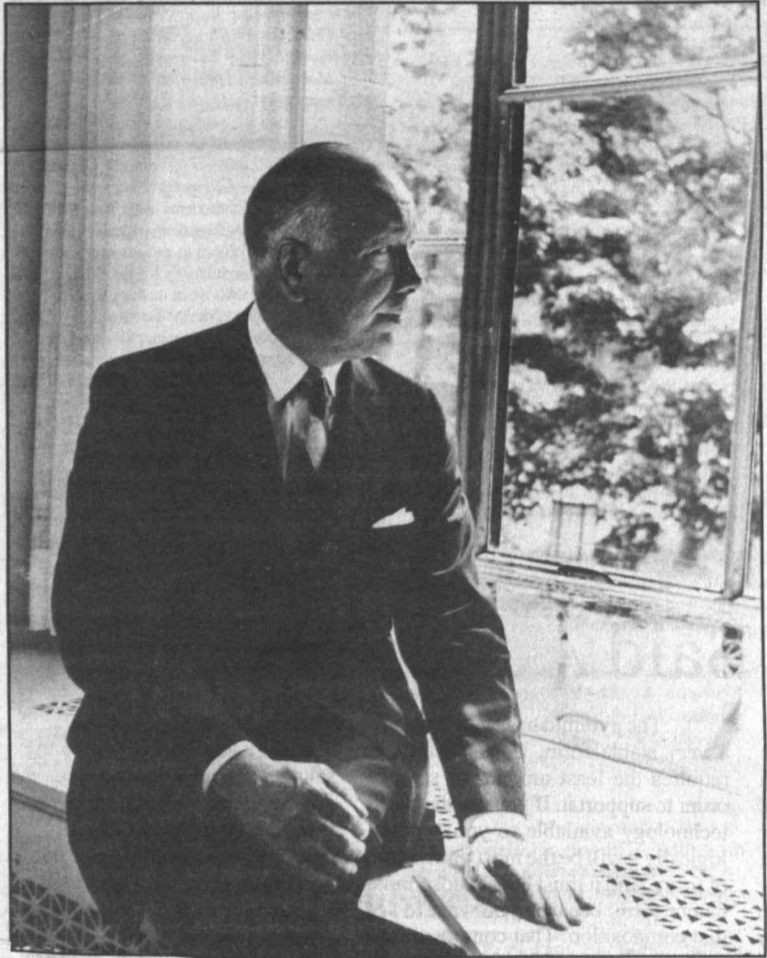


GUIDED MIT'S GROWTH

President Emeritus Julius Adams Stratton Dies at 93



PORTRAIT OF A PRESIDENT—Dr. Julius Adams Stratton in his office in 1975.

A memorial service will be held in the fall for President Emeritus Julius Adams Stratton, an eminent scientist and educator who died June 22 at the age of 93.

Dr. Stratton was president of MIT from 1959-66 and chairman of the board of the Ford Foundation from 1966 to 1971.

Dr. Stratton had been associated with MIT continuously since his enrollment as an undergraduate in 1920, a period of great growth and change at MIT that paralleled significant and far-reaching developments in the fields of science and engineering. Interdisciplinary centers for the earth sciences, the life sciences, space research, materials science and engineering, and advanced engineering study were established and buildings erected to house them.

In addition, he served several administrations through a variety of national boards and committees, participated actively in professional and scientific organizations, and was a trustee of a number of educational and cultural institutions.

Howard W. Johnson, Dr. Stratton's successor, said in a statement,

"Julius A. Stratton's association with MIT spanned more than 70 years, from his days as an undergraduate until his death. His impact and influence on the Institute and all of its parts was a deep and positive one. A distinguished physicist and electrical engineer, his commit-

ment to high standards and insistence on quality performance was a notable characteristic of all that he did and everything that he accomplished. As a professor and as the 11th president of MIT, his lifetime of exemplary achievement will be remembered and revered."

Dr. Paul E. Gray, MIT's 14th president and now chairman of the MIT Corporation, said, "As professor, the first director of the first university interdepartmental laboratory, provost, chancellor, and as president, Jay Stratton provided distinguished, wise and compassionate leadership to the Institute during a time in which the relationship between the research uni-

versities and the federal government was in flux, and the complexion and mission of MIT was also in transition. Jay's strong commitment to the arts and humanities at MIT was particularly important in a period when those activities were first flowering."

President Charles M. Vest said, "Jay Stratton's leadership in science and academia helped shape not only MIT, but institutions throughout the nation. Personally, Jay and his wife Kay were extremely gracious to us when my wife Becky and I came to MIT from Michigan in 1990. Their kindness, their friendship, and the value of their counsel to

(continued on page 4)

REENGINEERING

Six Areas Targeted For Redesign Phase

MIT is about to launch the redesign phase of its reengineering project.

Senior Vice President William R. Dickson, who chairs the Reengineering Steering Committee, announced that the initial redesign work will focus on:

- Management reporting
- Supplier consolidation
- The mail service
- Facilities operations
- Information technology
- Appointment process

The redesign teams, whose members will be named shortly, will begin work during the summer. Redesign teams will begin by analyzing their assigned process and consulting with users and providers of the services involved. From that analysis, each team of about eight people will develop a new design. A prototype of the design will be set up in a laboratory setting where people can come to try out and make suggestions on the new design. Following these laboratory tests, the system will be installed on a pilot basis in a small number of the Institute's

organizations for fine tuning before being implemented across the Institute.

Professor James D. Bruce, who headed the Core Team and continues as program manager of the reengineering effort, described the scope of the redesign effort to be undertaken at this phase of the reengineering effort.

MANAGEMENT REPORTING

Professor Bruce said the management reporting team will design methods to improve tracking, reporting and analysis of information relevant to the effective operation of an Institute department, laboratory, center or administrative unit. The team's initial focus will be on finances, including financial commitments associated with the procurement of goods and services. Later on, its work will focus on other information such as information about personnel, property and space.

SUPPLIER CONSOLIDATION

The supplier consolidation team will work to identify MIT's purchasing pat-

(continued on page 8)

FUNDING PERIL

House Bill Would Slash DOD Research

The US House Appropriations Committee has approved for action in the full House of Representatives a bill calling for a drastic 50 to 62 percent reduction in sponsored research spending by the Department of Defense.

The Defense Subcommittee headed by Rep. John Murtha, D-PA, voted to include the reduction in research spending in the appropriations legislation, and the full committee made no changes as it sent the bill to the floor.

Congressional observers believe the bill may pass the House in that form, and those who seek to reverse the cut in DOD research may have to make their case in the Senate and in conference committee negotiations.

As the legislation now stands, MIT could face a reduction from \$66 mil-

lion in DOD research funds on campus in fiscal year 1993 to about \$25 million in the fiscal year 1995.

"It is not hyperbole to say that the impact would be devastating," said John C. Crowley, special assistant to MIT President Charles M. Vest and director of the MIT Washington Office. "The research funded by the Defense Department—and the House Defense Appropriations subcommit-

tee—at American research universities in the past two decades has been absolutely critical in building America's computer industry. These cuts, if they stand, will do substantial damage to the nation.

"Technological superiority is essential as our armed forces are downsized. A strong and continuous research base therefore is more impor-

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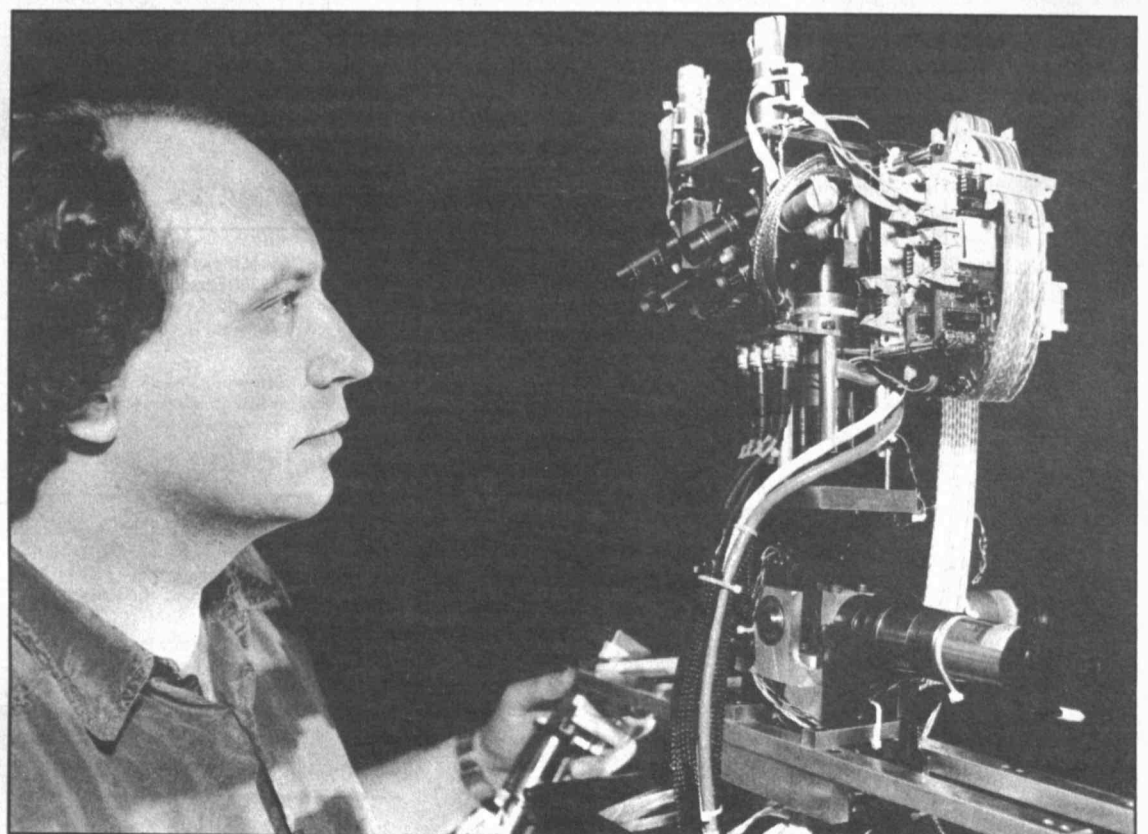
Can a Robot Teach Us How People Learn?

Cog, the newest and most ambitious robot developed by Professor Rodney Brooks in the Artificial Intelligence Lab, is the personification, in name and aim, of his belief that the development of human cognition is based on "embodiment." The theory of embodiment holds that it is through the interaction of the physical body with its surroundings that tactics are learned, associations made, and cognition ultimately developed.

"Physical grounding is critical," said Professor Brooks, who is the associate director of the AI Lab. "Our goal is to build a system that can operate in the same world we live in."

Cog consists of a torso with two arms, two hands, three degrees of freedom in the neck and the hips, and a computer brain modeled on human neuroanatomy. This physical system will permit testing and observa-

(continued on page 7)



MAN AND MACHINE—Professor Rodney Brooks of electrical engineering and computer science with Cog, the newest robot in the AI Lab. The goal for Cog is to be able to manifest the intelligence and behavior of a 6-month-old child and ultimately a two-year-old.

Photo by Donna Coveney

IN BRIEF

SLOW DOWN!

Yellow speed bumps to deter speeding vehicles will be installed along Amherst Alley this week. The speed bumps will be placed near the Westgate store, New House, MacGregor House and the duPont Tennis Courts.

LOOKING AHEAD

Way ahead, actually. The 1995 Institute-wide Awards Convocation is scheduled for Monday, May 15, at 3:30pm at a place to be confirmed later. Since this is a major change from its traditional date, it is being announced now so that schedule planners can accommodate the new time.

CD CHAIRS

Three Are Appointed To Professorships

Three appointments to career development professorships have been announced by Provost Mark S. Wrighton. All the appointments are for three-year terms.

—Assistant Professor J. Robert Fricke of the Department of Ocean Engineering has been selected to be the next holder of the Atlantic Richfield Career Development Professorship in Energy Studies.

—Assistant Professor Hugh L. McManus of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics has been appointed the Class of 1943 Career Development Professor.

—Assistant Professor Paraskevas Spiccas of the Department of Physics has been named to be the next Cecil and Ida Green Career Development Professor.

Professor Fricke received his PhD through the joint MIT-Woods Hole

Oceanographic Institution program. He also holds the BS in biomedical engineering (1974) and the MS in electrical engineering (1977) from Vanderbilt University. He focuses his research and teaching on

acoustics, numerical modeling and autonomous underwater vehicles. From 1977 to 1985, Professor Fricke was with Atlantic Richfield Co. in Plano, TX, as a research engineer and as director of marine systems and standards, developing support systems for the research vessel *M/V ARCO Resolution*. Since coming to MIT he has developed methods to use acoustics to study the underside of sea ice in the Arctic. In addition, he has developed seismic modeling and processing algorithms for massively parallel computers.

Professor McManus concentrates

his research and teaching on the use of advanced materials in high-performance structures for extreme aerospace environments, with an emphasis on modeling the interaction between material behavior and structural performance. His appointment to the professorship recognizes leadership in heading the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics initiative in the "implicit curriculum" which encompasses design, modeling skill, self-education, computer literacy, teamwork, communications, and responsibility and social context. He received the SB (1980) and the SM (1981) from MIT in aeronautical engineering and the PhD (1990) from Stanford University in mechanical engineering. He joined MIT in 1991 after seven years with Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. in Sunnyvale, CA, as a structures engineer.



McManus

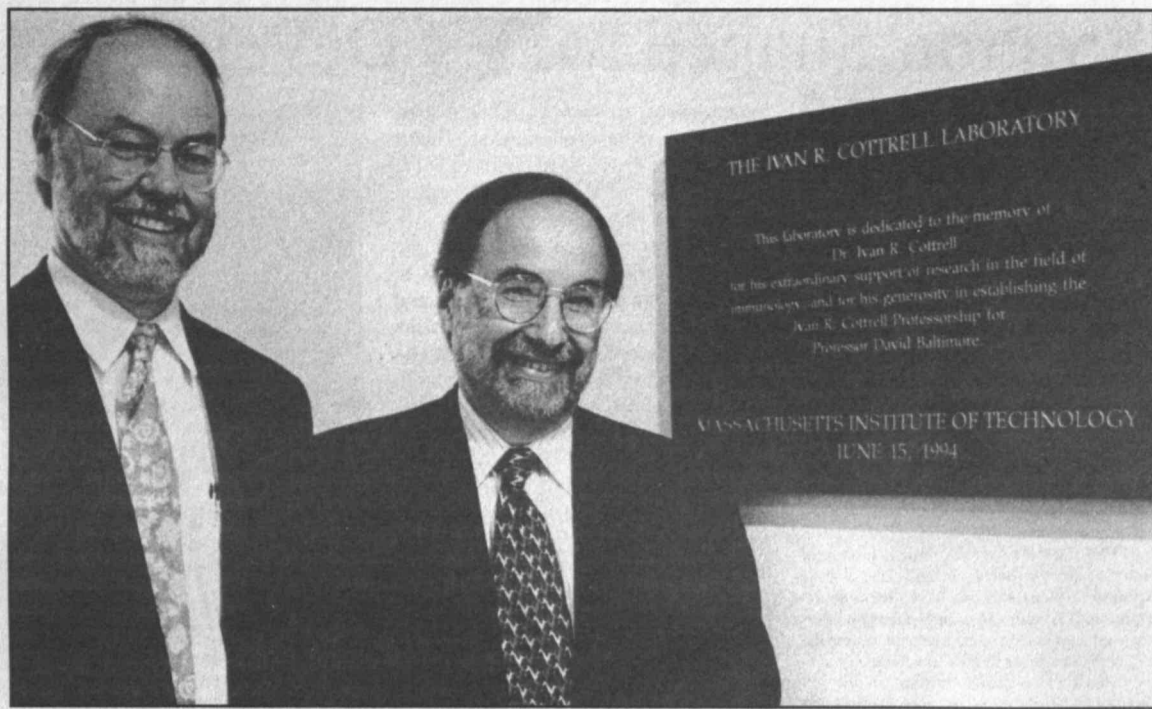
Professor Spiccas, who received the SB (1984) and the PhD (1988) from MIT, is a particle physicist. He led the group of 18 MIT scientists who were part of an international team working at the Fermi Laboratory which recently announced the first direct evidence for the top quark. The top quark is the last to be verified of the six subatomic particles believed to be the building blocks of matter. Before joining MIT, Professor Spiccas was a Wilson Fellow at the Fermi Laboratory (1990-91) and a scientific associate at CERN (1988-90).

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Spiccas

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NEW NAME AT MIT—Professors Phillip Sharp, head of the Department of Biology, and David Baltimore, pose before the plaque naming the Ivan R. Cottrell Laboratory in the new biology building, where Dr. Baltimore will carry out his research. A retired dentist, Dr. Cottrell became intrigued with immunology and Dr. Baltimore's research, which led to the bequest that made the new laboratory possible. Photo by Donna Coveney

HONOR FOR BALTIMORE

Research Passion Leads to \$4M Gift

By Kenneth D. Campbell
News Office

In 1988, at the age of 98, Ivan R. Cottrell, a retired dentist in Rochester, NY, had been teaching himself molecular biology and immunology for eight years.

"He would sit down in his apartment with a big immunology textbook and a medical dictionary and pore over the latest articles in the professional journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, *Scientific American*," said David Ferris of Rochester, his attorney. "He would read voraciously, and referred to it as his work. He had been an avid skier and tennis player into his 80s, and now, in his 90s, he would say, 'I can't do physical exercise any more, but I can still do my work.'"

Mr. Ferris was recalling his five-year association with Dr. Cottrell, who died in 1989 at the age of 99, at a June 15 informal celebration at the Ivan R. Cottrell Laboratory in the new MIT biology building. The ceremony was honoring Dr. Cottrell's unsolicited bequest of \$4 million to MIT to support both the teaching and research work of Professor David Baltimore. Through investment over three years, the fund has grown to \$5 million.

The ceremony was also celebrating Dr. Baltimore's return last month to MIT, where he has been a graduate student, a postdoctoral fellow and since 1968, a faculty member, including eight

years as director of the affiliated Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. Professor Baltimore won the Nobel Prize in 1975 for his 1970 discovery at MIT of reverse transcriptase, an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of RNA to DNA and provides a technique for studying the relationship between certain types of viruses and cancer. Dr. Baltimore returned here after nearly four years at Rockefeller University in New York, first as president and later as research scientist.

Dr. Cottrell, who was born in Norwood, MA, in 1890, graduated from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1912. He was a friend of George Eastman, and he recalled to associates Eastman's gift of \$20 million to MIT to build the Cambridge campus.

Dr. Cottrell developed his own considerable fortune from his dental practice and from investments. He was a bachelor and had no direct heirs, and he wanted to make sure his money went to a center where there was a critical mass of research in immunology, Mr. Ferris said.

Dr. Erling Johansen, dean of the Tufts University Dental School and formerly head of the Dental School at the University of Rochester, recalled Dr. Cottrell, his friend of 42 years. "He was on my faculty at Rochester and every Tuesday afternoon, he would come to our seminars to discuss recent developments in practice and science.... His basic interest in immunology came from the AIDS epidemic. He was greatly concerned about this threat to humanity."

Dr. Cottrell underlined and clipped the articles that especially attracted his attention, Mr. Ferris said. Asked if there was one particular article that had clinched Dr. Cottrell's decision to leave the money to Dr. Baltimore and MIT—"Yes, I'd like to know that too!" interjected Dr. Baltimore—Mr. Ferris said there had not been a single article, although Dr. Cottrell had followed Professor Baltimore's work in *Science* over the years and a 1988 *Nature* speculation by Dr. Baltimore on the future of gene therapy for HIV-infected patients had greatly fascinated Dr. Cottrell.

Mr. Ferris brought with him Dr. Cottrell's underlined copy of Dr. Baltimore's September, 1988 *Nature* article, "Gene therapy—Intracellular Immunization." Dr. Baltimore wrote in the article (No. 381 of his 491 published articles): "At first blush, it seems hard to think of protecting an individual against an infection by genetically engineering resistance into the person's cells."

After outlining a complex proposed genetic engineering procedure involving bone marrow stem cells, he wrote, "I believe that this type of process has a real chance of success, and propose that it be called intracellular immunization.... I believe intracellular immu-

nization has as good a chance as any other procedure of becoming a real AIDS therapy."

Dr. Baltimore, in the corridor outside the Ivan R. Cottrell laboratory, looked at the six-year-old *Nature* article anew. "You know," he mused, "when I wrote that, people said, 'Gene therapy—that's pie in the sky!' Now it's a whole industry!"

"There is no higher tribute to a scientist than to be recognized based solely on his or her published work," said Professor Phillip A. Sharp, head of the biology department, in introducing Professor Baltimore. "The Ivan Cottrell professorship at MIT will be a fundamentally important addition to the Department of Biology work in the future." Dr. Sharp praised Professor Baltimore's research in virology, cell biology and immunology and his "major impact" in teaching scientists in his lab, in developing the MIT biology department, in helping establish the Center for Cancer Research, and in bringing the Whitehead Institute to MIT.

About his return to MIT, Dr. Baltimore said, "I came back to MIT, rather than go elsewhere, because I believe that the future of biology is happening here [and] will happen here. I started here as a virologist, and spent 10 years studying the polio virus. This led to the discovery of reverse transcriptase almost as a side issue. I spent 7 to 8 years in the Cancer Center, and began research in immunology in a serious way in the late 1970s."

His philosophy of research, Dr. Baltimore said, is simple: "Research is training in practice. We continually train ourselves to think new things. Research is teamwork. The technical support and office support is critical. Research thrives on commitment; that was key to my decision to come back to MIT to utilize the resources Dr. Cottrell has provided so generously. Research is enhanced by openness and collaboration, and this is a wonderfully open and collaborative building. Research is messy—there are no rules, so long as honesty is the guide. The 'scientific method' is really an invention of the philosophers. Scientists don't have a method; what they have is an immense curiosity, and young people who are willing to immerse themselves in the subject."

"I'm overwhelmed, by the generosity of this gift, and by the fact that somebody sits quietly, over a period of ten years, reading immunology without a direct professional interest," Dr. Baltimore added. "One tends to think of one's publications as going out to the community of scholars, but I've come to realize there exists a whole other audience reading *Science* and *Nature*. That someone is doing that at the age of 90 to 99—I just find that astounding," said the Ivan R. Cottrell Professor of Biology.

Summer Schedule

Summer issues of MIT Tech Talk, including Positions Available, are scheduled for July 20, August 17 and 31.

Positions Available will be issued separately on July 13 and August 3. Those who subscribe to Tech Talk specifically in order to get Positions Available may call (617) 253-2704 to be sure they are included in the Positions Available mailing list.

Members of the teaching staff and others who schedule events should remember to send in activities early in the term for inclusion in the August 31 Institute Calendar because Tech Talk is not scheduled to appear again until September 14, after the term has begun.

ERRATUM

Wisdom Wins MacArthur Grant

In the June 15 issue of Tech Talk, part of the article on Professor Jack Wisdom's receiving a MacArthur Grant was inadvertently omitted. Tech Talk regrets the error. That portion is as follows:

The MacArthur Foundation described Dr. Wisdom as "a physicist who has significantly advanced the understanding of solar system dynamics. Introducing new methods to the study of dynamical problems, he has obtained important and widely cited results that create new insights into order and predictability in the laws of nature."

Professor Wisdom's research flies in the face of 17th century notions of the solar system as immutable celestial clockwork with motions predictable, at least in principle, indefinitely into the future. His work proves that many solar system phenomena are celestial manifestations of "chaos"—a new field of mathematical study with applications to fields as diverse as chemistry, fluid mechanics, biological systems and meteorology.

Using novel algorithms and fast computers, Dr. Wisdom and his col-

leagues have explored hitherto unknown realms of chaotic dynamical behavior of moons and planets. They have revealed wildly tumbling moons and chaotic orbits in the asteroid belt that explain the origin of meteorites.

Several years ago an asteroid was named after Dr. Wisdom—it is now Asteroid Wisdom—in recognition of his achievements in the astronomical world.

Professor Wisdom was one of the first to use the theory of chaotic processes in planetary dynamics. By following the evolution of a large number of asteroid orbits over millions of years, he discovered that the boundaries of the famous Kirkwood gaps—they were discovered more than 100 years ago, but have remained unexplained—coincided with the boundaries of the re-

gion of chaotic orbits. He proved that the clearing of the gaps is a consequence of mechanics—with no need to appeal to special phenomena such as collisions between asteroids.

More recently, Dr. Wisdom and Professor Gerald J. Sussman of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science collaborated to demonstrate that the solar system, based on a model developed from their calculations, is chaotic in a mathematical sense.

Professor Wisdom received a BS in physics from Rice University in 1976 and a PhD from the California Institute of Technology in 1981. Following postdoctoral work at the University of California at Santa Barbara and the Observatoire de Nice in France, he came to MIT as a research scientist in 1984 and joined the faculty in 1985.

Dr. Wisdom won the American Astronomical Society's Harold Urey Prize in 1986 and Helen B. Warner Prize in 1987. He was selected as a Presidential Young Investigator in 1988. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Wisdom

Stratton Shaped MIT's Development in Many Capacities

(continued from page 1)

both of us have been inestimable."

Dr. Stratton's personal characteristics and values were described in an anecdote told by an alumnus and recounted in *MIT in Perspective*, by Francis E. Wylie, director emeritus of the MIT News Office. The alumnus recalled that Dr. Stratton, his physics professor, once arrived at the classroom and announced, "There will be no class today. I apologize. I have not prepared." Mr. Wylie commented, "There are innumerable ways for a professor to cover up in such a situation—such as giving a quiz. It is characteristic of Stratton that he would not bluff, and this may have been the only occasion in his life that he was not prepared. Earnest and thoughtful, warm yet dignified, impatient only with bad intentions or sloppy work, Stratton was well qualified as the president who would guide MIT into its second century."

COMMUNICATIONS WORK

Dr. Stratton's early professional contributions centered on the developing field of communications and communication theory in the 1920s. In 1941 he published *Electromagnetic Theory* (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1941), a volume widely acknowledged as a classic in the field. Italian, French, and Czechoslovakian editions have been published.

As World War II approached, and MIT established the Radiation Laboratory in 1940 as the center for radar research in the United States, Dr. Stratton joined the staff as a member of the Theory Group and worked on the development of LORAN (Long Range Navigation), which by the end of World War II covered nearly a third of the globe with radio beams enabling airplanes and ships to determine their location. In 1942 he went to Washington as an expert consultant to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. When communications for ferrying planes across the North Atlantic proved unsatisfactory because of the proximity of the magnetic pole, he went to Labrador, Greenland and Iceland to study the problem and subsequently recommended a very low-frequency system. In this post he served also as chairman of committees to improve the effectiveness of all-weather flying systems and of ground radar, fire control and radar bombing equipment. He visited North Africa, Italy and the United Kingdom to study radar bombing and to assist in planning the use of radar in the Normandy invasion. In 1946 he was awarded the Medal for Merit for his services.

The Radiation Laboratory demonstrated impressively the value of interdisciplinary research and, as the end of the war neared, Dr. Stratton and others sought a way in which its momentum and program methods could be sustained for peacetime research. This was effected through the establishment at the Institute of a new Research Laboratory of Electronics, of which he became the first director. Its form of orga-

nization was so successful that it soon provided a pattern for interdisciplinary research in a variety of fields at MIT, and its example was followed at other institutions as well.

While serving as director of the laboratory, Dr. Stratton continued to be active as a professor of physics and became increasingly involved in the affairs of the entire Institute. In 1947 he was one of five chosen by the faculty to comprise the Committee on Educational Survey, appointed to review the state of education at MIT, in the light of post-war developments and circumstances. He was chiefly responsible in 1949 for the final preparation of the committee's report, which reaffirmed the original concepts of the Institute, the principles of limited objectives and faculty unity, a continued strong commitment to undergraduate professional education, the partnership of education and research, and the importance of graduate education. In addition to reaffirming the status of science, engineering, and architecture as integral parts of the Institute's mission, the committee recommended that the social sciences and the humanities be strengthened within the context of MIT. In accordance with this recommendation, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences was created in 1950.

Dr. Stratton's wife, Catherine N. Stratton, joined in many of her husband's concerns at MIT, particularly with respect to the arts. Her efforts brought into being a loan/lottery program through which students can obtain original works of art for their campus residences. MIT's Council for the Arts was created in 1971 as a result of her work and more recently she was instrumental in developing an annual seminar series for the MIT community on successful aging.

In 1949 Dr. Stratton was appointed MIT's first provost and received an additional concurrent appointment as vice president in 1951. He was named chancellor in 1956 and became acting president in 1957, when President Killian was appointed special assistant to President Eisenhower for science and technology. In January of 1959, Dr. Stratton became president, with Dr. Killian appointed chairman of the Corporation.

Born in Seattle, on May 18, 1901, Dr. Stratton and his forebears represent a remarkable span in American history. His grandfather was born in 1799, and his father in 1844, in Jefferson County, IN. At the age of nine the latter, with his mother and brothers and sisters, traveled in a covered wagon over the Oregon Trail to the Northwest, where the father had already staked a claim.

When Dr. Stratton was a small boy, the family lived for a time in Dresden and Berlin, where his mother continued her study of music. He began his school days there, acquiring a knowledge of German that later was to prove useful. As a teenager in Seattle he developed a keen interest in the then-new field of radio and built his own set. Too



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION—Jay Stratton and his wife Kay enjoy themselves at his 90th birthday party in 1991.

young for military service when World War I began, he hoped that the Navy might overlook his age if he qualified for a commercial radio license, but the war was nearly over before he was ready. However, he secured a post as radio operator on Pacific coastal vessels and then on a ship carrying rails for the South Manchurian Railroad. Returning through the China Sea in a typhoon, young Stratton received an SOS from another ship loaded with Russian refugees which had been blown ashore in Japanese waters. Trying to aid the distressed vessel, his own ship, the *Western Glen*, went aground. Though it managed to extricate itself, it was not soon enough for him to reach home in time to apply for admission in the fall of 1919 to Stanford or Yale.

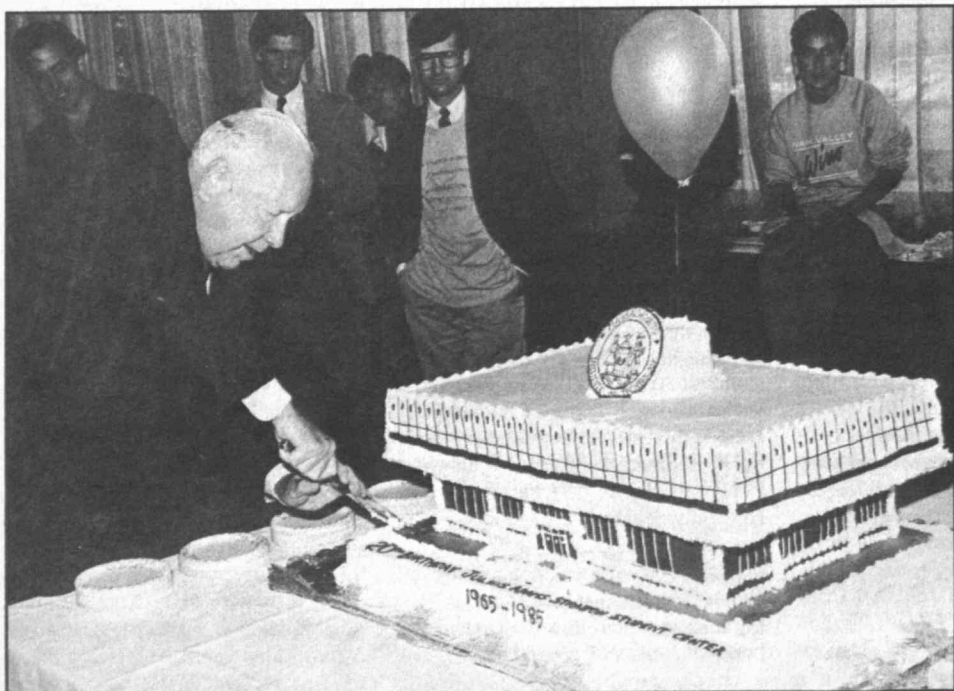
He entered the University of Washington but after a year there decided to go to MIT, which he had learned about from a fellow student. Typically, he shipped as a radio operator on the *Eastern Pilot*, bound for New York by way of the Panama Canal, and arrived in Cambridge in September 1920, to find that tuition had been increased by \$50 to \$300 and that he would be allowed virtually no credit for his freshman year at the University of Washington. He was determined to finish in three years, and the necessary overload did not permit much time for anything but study. He did, however, serve as secretary of the Radio Society which operated a transmitter with a signal powerful enough to be received in Hawaii.

His last trip as a commercial radio operator was in the summer of 1922 on the *President Madison*, its destination China and the Philippines. He was graduated from the Institute in 1923 with an

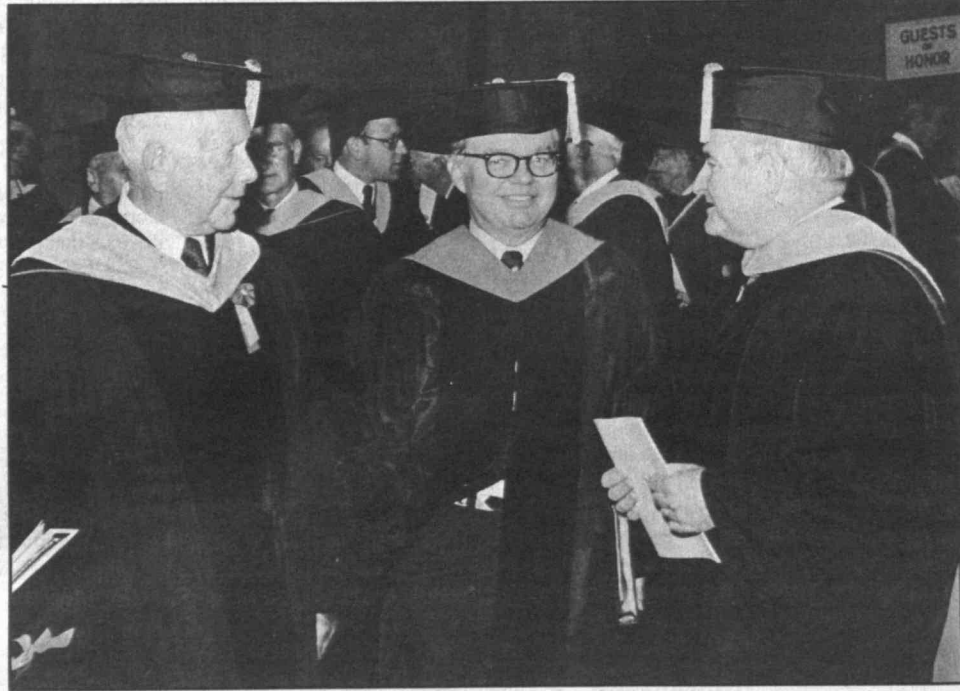
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HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE—Dr. Stratton stands before a bust of himself made by Beatrice Paipert '51.



STUDENT CENTER GALA—Dr. Stratton cuts into a cake shaped like the student center that bears his name on the building's 20th anniversary in 1985.



COMMENCEMENT TRIO—Dr. Stratton joins former president Howard Johnson and then-president Paul E. Gray at a commencement ceremony in the 1980s.

ENERGY EFFICIENT

MIT Solar-Aided Car Shines in Tour de Sol

■ By Alice C. Waugh
News Office

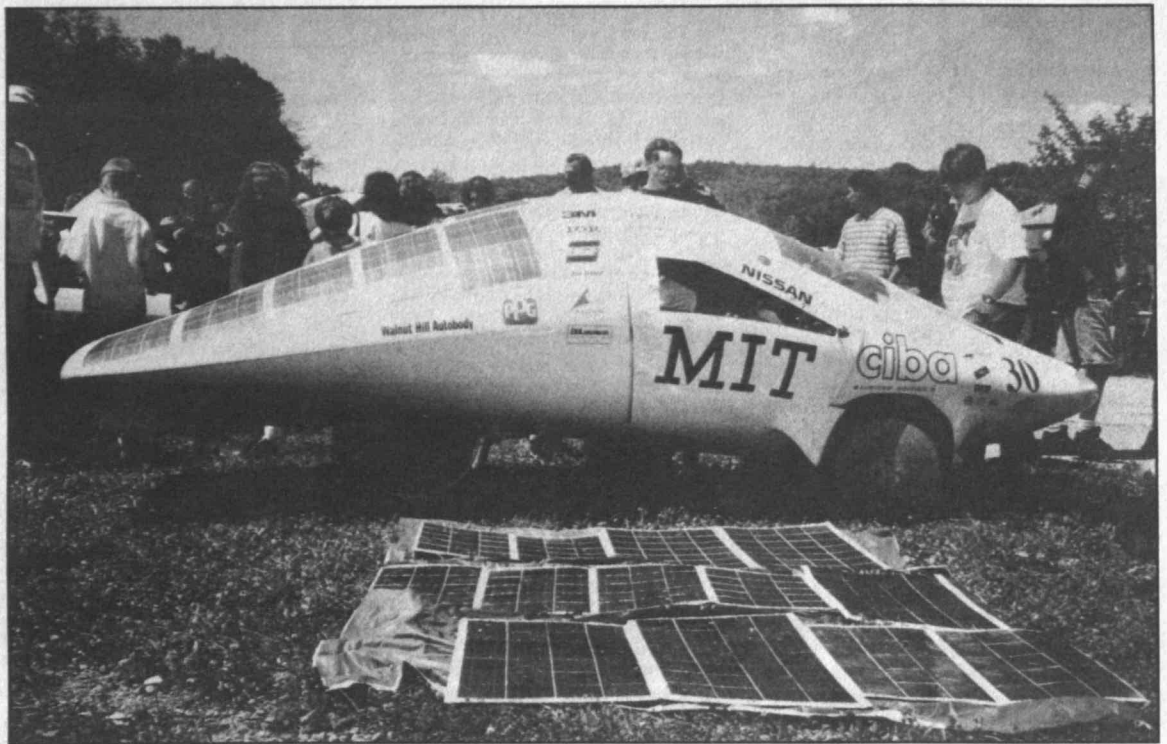
A vehicle built by members of MIT's Solar Electric Vehicle Club took first place in its category last month in the 1994 American Tour de Sol, the national solar and electric vehicle championship.

The Aztec, a three-wheeled, two-passenger vehicle that runs on batteries assisted by a solar array, finished first in the division of the commuter-car category. It also won an efficiency award by virtue of its energy use of approximately 45 watt-hours per mile during the event, in which cars were raced and showcased over the course of a week between New York's Battery Park City and the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. The event is organized by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association of Greenfield, MA.

Also taking honors were vehicles produced by Solectria Corp., an Ar-

lington-based company headed by James Worden, who graduated from MIT in 1989 with an SB in mechanical engineering. The Solectria RS, a modified racing version of the Solectria Force (a Geo Metro altered to run on electricity rather than gas) also won in its commuter-car division (Aztec was entered in a division that set a limit on battery power). In the production vehicle category, the Solectria Long-Range E-10 electric pickup truck took fourth place and was named the event's best vehicle running on lead-acid batteries.

Aztec also runs on lead-acid batteries and has a range of about 140 miles, depending on terrain. Its 45 watt-hours per mile is the equivalent of approximately 735 miles per gallon for a gasoline-powered car. Running on experimental nickel metal hydride batteries, the Solectria Force RS broke the Tour de Sol distance record by going 214 miles on one charge. Although most of



GAS-FREE CAR—The Aztec, which runs on batteries and solar power (solar arrays are in the foreground), made a good showing during the recent Tour de Sol.

the participants were students and entrepreneurs, Ford also had an entry.

During the week-long race, vehicles

recharged at night and drove about 60 miles a day toward Philadelphia, then had the opportunity to drive extra laps.

Demonstrating additional daily range resulted in overall time reductions un-
(continued on page 7)

Stratton's Achievements as Scholar, Administrator Recalled

(continued from page 4)

SB degree in electrical engineering.

In spite of his technical training, Dr. Stratton had developed a strong interest in the humanities, and he enrolled first at the University of Grenoble and then at the University of Toulouse with the intention of undertaking a doctoral dissertation on the influence of science on French literature. But the pull of science and engineering was too great and he returned to MIT for graduate study in electrical engineering. His master's thesis was completed in time for the degree list in January 1926.

Next came the award of an MIT Traveling Fellowship in Mathematics and Physics, which took him to Zurich for doctoral study at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology). There he worked under Peter Debye and received an ScD degree in mathematical physics in January 1928. An assistant professorship in electrical engineering brought him back to MIT. In 1930 he transferred to physics, where he became associate professor in 1935 and full professor in 1941.

Much of his research concentrated on the propagation of short waves, about which less was known than the long waves then generally employed in radio transmission. His work and that of his colleagues on microwaves foreshadowed later efforts in the development of radar and the burgeoning of electronics after the war.

AIDED PHYSICS BLOOM

His early years in physics coincided with a revitalization of that academic department, pressures for which had begun to emerge in the late 1920s and which, with the arrival of physicist Karl T. Compton as president of MIT in 1930, became a major Institute goal. New and far-reaching developments were taking place and the urge for reform and the study of physics for its own sake rather than simply as a service course for engineering students was given further impetus by the ideas and aspirations of young faculty members who, like Dr. Stratton, had recently returned from advanced study in Europe.

In addition to *Electromagnetic Theory*, Dr. Stratton was the author of many articles and technical papers and of *Elliptic Cylinder and Spheroidal Wave Functions* with P.M. Morse, L.J. Chu and R.A. Hutner (1941), and *Spheroidal Wave Functions*, with P.M. Morse, L.J. Chu, J.D.C. Little, and F.J. Corbato (1956). *Science and the Educated Man*, a collection of selected speeches, was published by the MIT Press at the time of his retirement in 1966.

His years as a faculty member and administrator were marked by a deep concern for the individual and a genu-

ine interest in students and their problems. He led major efforts in curriculum revision and in the development of the residential program, including a dormitory for women, apartments for married students, and increased recreational and athletic facilities. In 1965 the new student center was named, at the request of the students, the Julius Adams Stratton Building.

Throughout the years he was an ardent spokesman for the nourishment of quality and a protagonist of the first-rate. He championed the importance of science at all levels of education and the need for humanistic studies in undergraduate scientific and engineering curricula. Above all, he believed firmly in the need for special institutions with well-defined objectives and "an intellectual environment in which imaginations are stirred, which fosters confidence that worthwhile things can be done, and where feelings of freedom and security go hand in hand with a sense of obligation and loyalty."

When Dr. Stratton reached mandatory retirement age in 1966, he was elected a life member of the MIT Corporation and was a life member emeritus at the time of his death.

In 1980, through a gift from William R. Hewlett, vice chairman of the Hewlett-Packard Company and an alumnus of the Institute, the Julius A. Stratton Professorship in Electrical Engineering and Physics was established to be occupied alternately by a faculty member from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Physics.

In 1966 Dr. Stratton became chairman of the board of the Ford Foundation, which ended with his second retirement in 1971. Here, too, he was remembered for the extraordinary breadth and warmth of his relationship with the staff, as counselor, source of inspiration and friend. Of his 16 years of service as member and as chairman, a trustee resolution on his retirement said in part: "He has demonstrated in every word and action the meaning of the standard to which he has held us all: that we are here to serve not our own ends but those for which the Ford Foundation is chartered. He leaves the Foundation stronger than he found it, and all who care for its work are deeply in his debt."

Dr. Stratton returned to Cambridge in 1971 and in recent years had devoted his time and energies to the preparation of a history of MIT, with particular emphasis on the background of its founding and its development and growth in the 19th century.

Dr. Stratton was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1950. In the early 1950s, Congress was pressing for a loyalty oath for individuals receiving federal research grants. In 1955, when the

Academy was asked to consider this question, he was appointed chairman of a special committee known as the Committee on Loyalty in Relation to Government Support of Unclassified Research. The Committee outlined criteria for government policy with respect to such matters and recommended against special loyalty requirements for those involved in unclassified scientific research. Its recommendations were accepted by the Eisenhower administration in 1956.

Dr. Stratton served as vice president of the Academy from 1961 to 1965 and during that period chaired an Academy committee which led to the creation under its aegis of the National Academy of Engineering, of which he became a founding member.

MANY MEMBERSHIPS

He was a member also of the American Philosophical Society and the Council on Foreign Relations; a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Physical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; a member of Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, and an eminent member of Eta Kappa Nu.

He was a Life Trustee and Member of the Corporation of the Boston Museum of Science and member

emeritus of the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, of which he was a director and member of the corporation from 1973 to 1979.

He was a member of the National Science Board from 1956 to 1962 and again from 1964 to 1967, resigning when he was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to serve as chairman of the newly established Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources. After a two-year study the commission issued a landmark report, "Our Nation and the Sea," that resulted in the formation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency as the central focus for marine activity and in the establishment of such programs as that of Coastal Zone Management. In 1969, he was awarded the Marine Technology Society Citation and was chosen Man of the Year by the National Fisheries Institute. He received the Individual Distinguished Achievement Award of the Offshore Technology Conference in 1971 and the Neptune Award of the American Oceanic Association in 1979.

Dr. Stratton also received the Distinguished Public Service Award of the United States Navy (1957), the Medal of Honor of the Institute of Radio Engineers (1957), the Faraday Medal of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers (1961), the Boston Medal for Distinguished Achievement (1966), the

Silver Stein Award of the MIT Center of New York (1967), and the Bronze Beaver of the MIT Alumni Association (1968). Dr. Stratton held 17 honorary degrees from colleges and universities in the US, Great Britain and Canada.

His decorations included that of Commander of the Orden de Boyaca of Colombia (1964), and Knight Commander, Order of Merit, of the Federal Republic of Germany (1966). He was an officer of the French Legion of Honor (1961), an Honorary Fellow of the Manchester (England) College of Science and Technology (1963), and an Honorary Member of the Senate of the Technical University of Berlin (1966). In 1966 he was the recipient of the first Julius Adam Stratton prize for cultural achievement awarded annually by the Friends of Switzerland to Americans or Swiss citizens who have studied or worked in each other's countries and whose achievements exemplify the fruitfulness of this exchange.

Dr. Stratton is survived by his wife, Catherine N. (Coffman) Stratton; three daughters, Catherine Nelson Stratton of London, Mrs. Lew (Cary) F. Boyd of Newbury, MA, and Mrs. Laura Thoresby of London; and a granddaughter, Caroline Stratton Boyd.

Remembrances may be sent to MIT (Treasurer's Office, 238 Main St., Cambridge 02141) for undergraduate scholarships in memory of Julius A. Stratton.

Service Held for Vera Ballard of Whitaker

A memorial service was held Friday (June 24) for Vera (Johnson) Ballard, assistant director of the Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology, who died of cancer on June 17 at the age of 42.



Ballard

More than 500 persons filled the MIT Chapel and overflowed onto the adjacent lawn. Others listened to the service in Kresge Auditorium.

Speakers at the service, whose theme was "A Celebration of Life," included Cambridge Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves and Cambridge YMCA President Richard A. Foot. Ms. Ballard lived in Cambridge and was active both in the community and the YMCA. MIT speakers included Joan F. Rice, vice president for human resources; Ramona B. Allen, personnel officer; Evelyn L. Perez, assistant dean of the School of Science, and Kenneth A. Smith, professor of chemical engineering. Officiating was Geoffrey Black, pastor of the

Congregational Church of South Hempstead, United Church of Christ.

Ms. Ballard began her career at MIT in 1978 in the Personnel Office, where she worked as a personnel officer and administrator. She became administrative officer at Whitaker College in 1983 and assistant director in 1987.

She was a member of the MITEqual Employment Opportunity Committee, the MIT Medical Department Consumer Council, and the National Council of University Research Administrators. In 1984, she received recognition of her contributions to the Institute through a Black Achievers Award.

Ms. Ballard was a member of the Cambridge YMCA's board of trustees and several of its committees. She was a recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award in 1992. She also served on a variety of committees and interest groups for the City of Cambridge.

Ms. Ballard became interested in fitness and weight training about five years ago and in 1993, she became a personal trainer certified by the American Council on Exercise, the International Association of Fitness Professionals, the Aerobics and Fitness Asso-

ciation of America and the Fitness Resource Association. She established her own business, Balanced Fitness, and designed customized fitness programs for people over 40.

Ms. Ballard was born in Roxbury and graduated from Brown University in 1973. In addition to her bachelor's degree, she successfully completed requirements for medical school enrollment at Allegheny Community College. She also received a certificate of special study in administration and management from the Harvard University Extension School.

She leaves her husband, Charles; her mother, Helen Wade Johnson of Boston; a sister, Alyce Johnson of Newton; a brother and sister-in-law, Henry and Naja Johnson of Los Angeles, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial fund has been established at MIT. It is an expendable fund to be used in a research project in the life sciences with particular applicability to the health needs of people of color. Donations made be sent to the Vera Ballard Memorial Fund, c/o MIT Treasurer's Office, 238 Main Street, Room 200, Cambridge, MA 02142.

GALA OCCASION

75 Get Certificates At LIS Graduation

At its 89th Graduation Exercises, the Lowell Institute School recently awarded 774 certificates, including 75 to MIT employees.

Dr. Bruce D. Wedlock, director of the Lowell Institute School, presented the certificates at a graduation dinner held at the MIT Faculty Club.

Assisting him was John Lowell, trustee of the Lowell Institute. The graduation ceremonies were held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association of the Lowell School.

The guest speaker was Dr. Samuel Jay Keyser, associate provost for Institute life and co-director of the Center for Cognitive Science (see excerpts below).

Recipients from MIT and Lincoln Laboratory were:

- Katherine Joy Allen, Linguistics and Philosophy
- William G. Byford, Plasma Fusion Center
- Alfred Cangeme, Physical Plant
- Bartley L. Cardon, Lincoln Lab
- Renee A. Caso, Aga Khan Program
- William M. Cassidy, Lincoln Lab
- Maynard Errol Charles, Comptroller's Accounting Office
- Nathaniel G. Charles, Sloan School of Management
- John J. Chase Jr., Distributed Computing and Network Services
- Jianmei Che, Nuclear Reactor Lab
- Shu-Zi Chen, Biology
- Christodoulou Christodoulos, Mathematics
- Anthony Rudolf Clarke, Physical Plant
- William F. Colbert, Lincoln Lab
- Janet T. Colwell-Popp, Campus Police
- William H. Comstock, Microproduction Lab
- James Randall Cook, Center for Space Research
- Susan Ann Curry, Lincoln Lab
- Susan Jean Dacier, Lincoln Lab
- Carol Elizabeth Dawkins, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Hans Dietrich, Libraries
- John Stephen Dippold, Economics
- Mary Ann Donofrio, Comptroller's Accounting Office
- Michael C. Doucette, Center for Space Research
- Barbara A. Doyle, Bursar's Office
- Keith B. Doyle, Lincoln Lab
- Viktor Dubrowski, Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Shawn Patrick Dunn, Student Financial Aid
- Paul Falkos, Spectroscopy Lab
- Jun Feng, Plasma Fusion Center
- John Alexander Finlayson, Physical Plant
- Gillian Finn Galloway, Media Lab

- Peter J. Goodwin, Francis Bitter National Magnet Lab
- Peter Charles Guiod, Research Lab of Electronics
- Arvind Hariharan, Chemical Engineering
- Robert Edward Hatch, Lincoln Lab
- Mariano P. Hellwig, Center for Space Research
- Anthony Francis Hotz, Lincoln Lab
- Mark Hamilton Jacobs, Alumni Association
- William T. Keating, Plasma Fusion Center
- Sarir Ahmad Khamsi, Lincoln Lab
- Melissa Ann LaBarge, Laboratory for Computer Science
- Scott A. Ladd, Lincoln Lab
- Mary Ann Ladd, Lab for Computer Science
- James M. Letendre, Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Chungpin Liao, Plasma Fusion Center
- John Anthony LoRusso, Clinical Research Center
- Louise Mathilda MacEachern, Telecommunications Systems
- Philip Leo McAlary, Graphic Arts
- Paul Joseph McCafferty, Physical Plant
- Beth Ann McCain, Energy Lab
- Barry L. Millsap, Materials Processing Center
- John Paul Moran, Lincoln Lab
- Scott Jay Murdock, Lincoln Lab
- Scott E. Murray, Lincoln Lab
- Steven Michael Nebiolo, Purchasing and Stores
- Marla Jean Notaro, Medical Department
- Lawrence Walter O'Brien, Laboratory of Nuclear Science
- Joan Marie Orvosh, Plasma Fusion Center
- Suzanne S. Ourfalian, Lincoln Lab
- Robert Frank Paquette, Francis Bitter National Magnet Lab
- Joseph Ranjan Perera, Biology
- Eupremio Salvatore Piccinonno, Physical Plant
- David Alan Pires, Alumni/ae Association
- Richard Daniel Shumilla, Physical Plant
- David Michael Smith, Brain and Cognitive Sciences
- Michael Merle Steeves, Plasma Fusion Center
- Susan N. Walsh, Ocean Engineering
- Pei Fang Wang, Media Lab
- John K. Warger, Lincoln Lab
- E. Donald Weiner, Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Kenneth Moody Wilson, Haystack Observatory
- John Philip Woods, Lincoln Lab
- Roberta E. Young, Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences
- Grant Alistair Young, Libraries

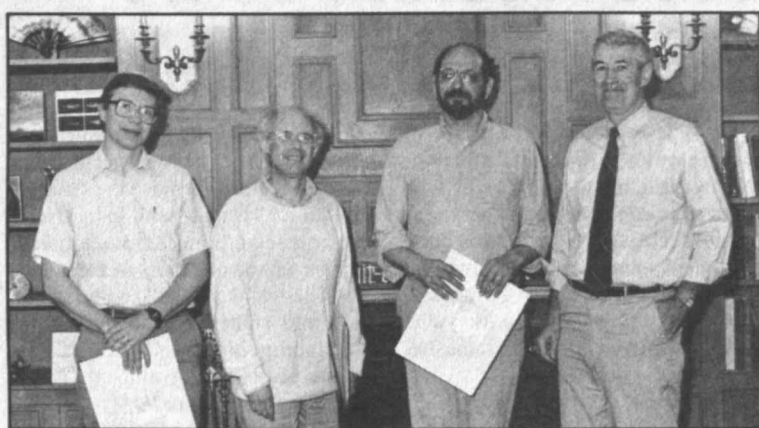
Three Win Science Teaching Honors

Three faculty members from the School of Science—Professors Thomas Greytak of physics, Victor W. Guillemain of mathematics and Frank Solomon of biology—have received the School's 1994 Teaching Prizes for Excellence in Education.

Professor Greytak, recognized for excellence in undergraduate education, was cited for "his admirable taste and skill in selecting and presenting course material, and for his effectiveness in maintaining intellectual standards while winning the gratitude and affection of his students." The undergraduate prize was established by former Dean and Provost John M. Deutch in 1982.

Professors Guillemain and Solomon were recognized for excellence in graduate education, an honor established by Dean Robert J. Birgeneau in 1992.

Professor Guillemain was cited for "his ability to communicate the deep conceptual architecture of mathematical analysis and to do so with elegance and inventive simplicity," while Professor Solomon won by virtue of "his outstanding success in communicating to graduate students, by word and by



CLASSROOM KUDOS—Robert J. Birgeneau, Dean of the School of Science (far right), recently presented the School's 1994 teaching awards to Professors Thomas Greytak of physics (far left), Victor W. Guillemain of mathematics and Frank Solomon of biology.

example, the enthusiasm, standards and satisfactions of advanced research in biology."

"One of my greatest pleasures in becoming dean of science has been learning how many truly outstanding teachers there are in the School of Science," Dean Birgeneau said. "The teaching prizes are one of the ways in

which we are able to recognize and reward these superb educators. Tom Greytak, Victor Guillemain and Frank Solomon are among the very best teachers in the School of Science. Each of them is deeply committed to education both in and outside the classroom. MIT is fortunate to have them on its faculty."

Solar-Electric Car Shines in Race

(continued from page 5)
der rules of the event. However, organizers mandated minimum times for the on-road segments for reasons of safety. "It's not a speed race, but more of an energy management race," said Goro Tamai, a graduate student in mechanical engineering who has worked on Aztec as a hobby.

The Aztec was first built about three years ago but underwent several improvements in preparation for this year's Tour de Sol. A new motor, transmission and controller gave the vehicle more power, allowing it to accelerate and climb hills faster and run at greater speeds overall, Mr. Tamai said. The braking system has also been improved, with better regenerative braking (when braking, some of the car's kinetic energy is returned to the batteries).

To qualify as a commuter-class car, the 780-pound Aztec seats two people side by side, rather than the more aerodynamic arrangement of one behind the other. It also has headlights, seat belts, a horn and other equipment required by its vehicle registration as an experimental motorcycle.

But that's about where Aztec's resemblance to an ordinary car ends. There are no high-beams on the headlights and no windshield wipers. Instead of a gas gauge, radio and analog speedometer usually found on dashboards, the vehicle has digital readouts of volts and amps along with switches for getting readouts of other information such as motor temperature. Its body is plastered with decals from corporate sponsors who contributed components and services, such as Ciba (composite body materials), Van Dusen

(composite oven-curing), True Temper (aircraft steel tubing), Alcan (aluminum), 3M (tape and plastics), Intel (computer technology), and Nissan (funding). Walnut Hill Auto Body of Cambridge provided the paint job.

Aztec's appearance is a definite departure from Detroit standards as well. Its futuristic aerodynamic shape, including the large solar array attached to the sweeping back, attracted quite a few looks on the road during the Tour de Sol. In fact, the vehicle's approach was heralded more by its appearance than by its sound. "Sometimes people wouldn't even hear us coming. From the outside, it was whisper-silent, but inside it was one big echo chamber" because of the lack of an engine firewall, padding and other normal car amenities, Mr. Tamai said.

The car gets only about a tenth of its power from the solar cells, which harness 12 percent of the solar energy hitting them. Solar cells are very expensive; to achieve 17 percent efficiency would cost more than 10 times as much, designers estimate. They are susceptible to damage from common hazards such as rocks tossed up by other cars.

The fragility of solar technology was demonstrated in another race last fall, the 1,860-mile Diado-Hoxan World Solar Challenge through the Australian outback. Team New England (a collaboration between the solar car clubs of MIT and the University of Lowell) entered with high hopes for its unorthodox strategy of driving without collecting solar power and periodically stopping to unfold a large solar array. However, Australia's "dust devils," or small but intense spinning winds,

repeatedly damaged the solar array by twisting it, and the car had to withdraw.

"It was a fast and efficient car, but the technology needs refining," said Kathleen Allen, the club's technical instructor and a part-time physics student. "For a car built in 18 weeks with prototype technology, it did very well."

The Solar Electric Vehicle Club's next project is "Manta," a single-seat, three-wheeled car being built this summer in preparation for next summer's Sunrayce '95 from Indianapolis to Colorado. The vehicle will be much lighter than Aztec and will use proportionally five times as much solar power.

AI's New Robot

(continued from page 1)
tion of how rudimentary image-vision processing develops into complex human interaction and eye-hand coordination.

The building of Cog represents a serious attempt to build a robot with something approaching general purpose cognitive abilities. "We want Cog to have the ability to interact with humans in a real sense. We don't want our robots to be aliens," Professor Brooks said.

Since the development of human cognition is so little understood, this project represents a bold tack—admired by some, decried by others. Professor Brooks and his team, which includes Assistant Professor Lynn Stein and graduate student Cynthia Ferrell, are undaunted. "I'll know we've succeeded when the graduate students feel bad about switching off the robot," Professor Brooks said. **Donna Coveney**

AN INITIATION RITE

Savor the Present, Keyser Advises Lowell Institute Students

By Samuel Jay Keyser
Associate Provost

Recently a friend told me about something that happened when he was duty officer on an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean. It was November 22, 1963. He was in the ready room checking the teletype machine as he briefed the carrier pilots just before their next mission.

Suddenly, in the midst of the weather report, this appeared: WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS SHOT IN DALLAS TODAY AND DIED. The message interrupted a report of wind velocity, sea height, barometric pressure and ambient temperature. There was a carriage return and on went the weather report.

The death of the president had come to him in the same way the wind speed

had. My friend was stunned, but he could not stop to grieve. Planes were landing and taking off. The assassination of a president was reduced to just one more detail in an already detail-gorged day.

Much of our own lives is like this. We are engulfed in so many details that we have no time for reflection. Nor do we need a national tragedy to see this. How many times have we interrupted a pleasant conversation to answer the telephone? We could let it ring, but most of us don't.

Why? Because we value the future more than the present. And the reason why, I believe, is that we are losing the ability to savor the present.

Two years ago the gifted editorial page editor of The Boston Globe, Kirk Scharfenberg, discovered he had cancer. The sky was the limit and then he

was struck down. I did not know Kirk Scharfenberg, but when he died, the papers were filled with poignant me-

I have made a pact with myself to spend five minutes each day looking at the world as if my days were numbered.

morials. So was the radio. I remember listening to one commentator describing an interview he had had with Scharfenberg about his impending death.

The commentator asked what Scharfenberg thought he would miss most. He said he would miss the things he had come to take for granted, like the light on the buildings along the

Charles just before dusk, or the sight of a little girl dressed for church on Sunday morning, bouncing along behind her mother like a skiff tied to a trawler. I thought how sad it was to wait until you know you are going to die before you pay attention to the moment. So I have made a pact with myself to spend five minutes each day looking at the world as if my days were numbered.

During the recent solar eclipse we were told a safe way to view it was through a pinhole camera. You put a pinhole in a piece of cardboard, hold the cardboard between the sun and a piece of paper and the image of the eclipse is projected onto the paper. Now as it happens, the way leaves on a tree over-

lap makes a thousand pinhole cameras and I watched a thousand crescent shaped eclipses projected onto the sidewalk by the leaves, turning the concrete into bubble wrap. That was my Scharfenberg moment for that day.

"Commence" comes from the Latin prefix *com-* and the verb *initiare* "to initiate." So a commencement is not so much a beginning or an ending as it is an initiation. Here are my initiation instructions for you. When the ceremony is over and you go on your way, find something you took for granted before your initiation and look at it as if you were seeing it for the last time. Maybe it will become a habit.

Samuel Jay Keyser is Associate Provost for Institute Life. Adapted from a commencement address delivered to the graduating class of the Lowell Institute School at MIT on May 19, 1994.

Six Processes To Be Redesigned by Teams

(continued from page 1)

terms in order to increase effectiveness by reducing the number of suppliers of routine goods and services, and to decrease the Institute's cost. Continued attention will be paid to the Institute's principles of doing business with minority- and women-owned businesses and with businesses located in Cambridge.

THE MAIL PROJECT

Work on the mail project will build on the results of a committee appointed by Mr. Dickson well before the start of the reengineering effort. That committee has submitted a report recommending a number of changes in how mail service is provided to the community. Under the auspices of the reengineering project, the mail committee's recommendations will be pilot-tested in one area of the campus.

FACILITIES OPERATIONS

In facilities operations, the goals are to improve the quality and responsiveness of service and to reduce the costs of repairing and maintaining our facilities. This work will build upon the long-range planning activities begun under Victoria V. Sirianni, Director of Physical Plant.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information technology transformation will seek to design and implement a management framework which achieves fundamental improvements in information technology services across the Institute. Specifically, it looks to put in place a framework whereby high-quality, flexible systems of significant value are rapidly put in place to support the new integrated and streamlined administrative processes.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Last winter, Joan F. Rice, vice president for human resources, chartered a team to examine the steps MIT takes as it makes academic appointments. Team members were academic and administrative staff members who process those appointments. The team recently recommended that the process for all appointments—academic, administrative, support and service staff—be redesigned. The goal is a paperless process and work will proceed under the reengineering project.

"The next phase of our reengineering work will involve broad consultation with people throughout the MIT

community," Mr. Dickson said. "Redesign team members will include those who use as well as provide the services. In addition, people with expertise in human resources and information technology will be members of the teams.

"The teams will talk with faculty, staff and students throughout MIT, developing ideas and models that people can test and comment on as a way of refining the redesign.

"Reengineering will simplify what we do, thereby making work easier, more effective, more efficient," Mr. Dickson added.

The Steering Committee made its announcement after studying the results of the Reengineering Core Team's extensive review of a number of key administrative processes.

The Core Team, a group of nine MIT staff members which worked nearly full time for more than two months, selected five key processes for closer review. They were student services, support of the research proposal process, facilities operations, management reporting and buying and paying for supplies and services. The team analyzed the processes on the basis of cost, impact on revenue, potential for improvement, significance of changes to MIT's future and the ease of implementing changes.

"Every member of the Core Team has worked incredibly hard to strengthen MIT for the changing times the Institute is coping with," Mr. Dickson said. "This is tough work, not an activity that people undertake for personal glory. Their efforts deserve the highest of accolades from everyone at MIT."

Those areas of the five not selected for the initial redesign work, as well as additional areas, will be considered for reengineering in the future, Mr. Dickson said.

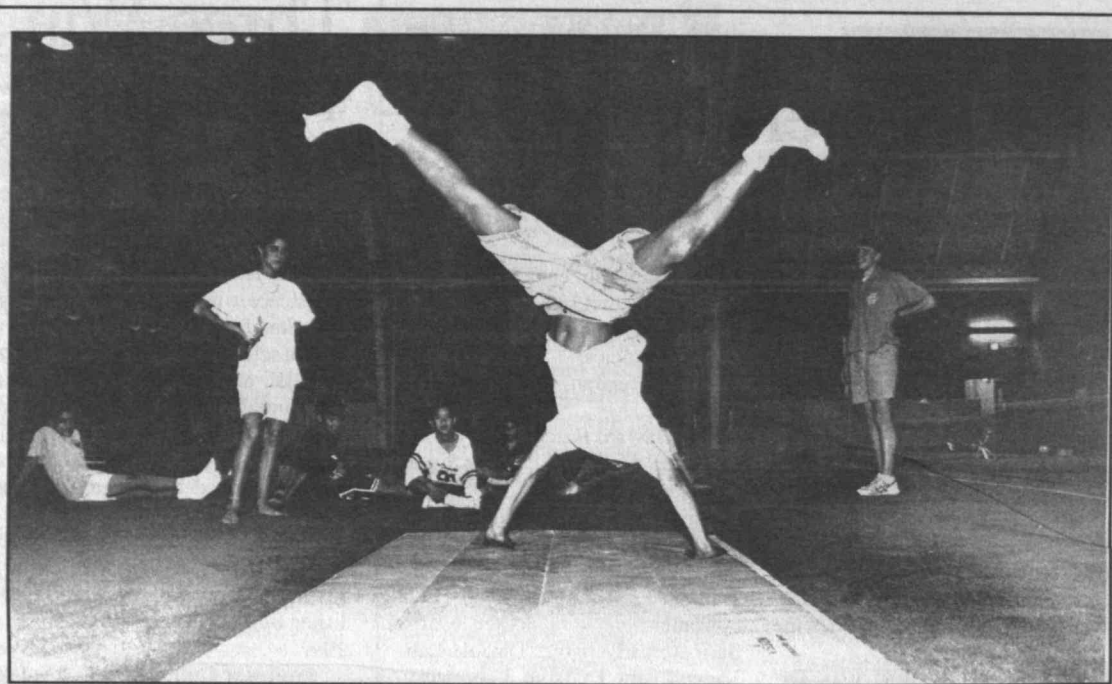
The next phase of the reengineering effort will go forward in several steps. The first phase, design, lasts about three months. In this phase, the redesign team develops a new, more efficient way to accomplish the Institute's goals. The redesigned process then goes into the lab phase for about six months, where the design is tested and redesigned as needed. Throughout the redesign and lab testing, the redesign teams will seek input from the community through participation in the labs and in focus groups.

At the point a final design is agreed upon, a three-month pilot of the process with a small portion of the community will be set up to get out any last kinks. After a successful pilot, the new design will be introduced so the whole community can benefit from the newly redesigned process.

Mr. Dickson said that the Steering Committee will appoint a redesign team for student services in January after the newly created Student Information System is up and running. "This new system was developed over the last three years by the Registrar's Office, in consultation with faculty, students and staff throughout MIT. The system will provide a much more comprehensive and flexible foundation for making significant improvements in MIT's student services," Mr. Dickson said. Student services is the collection of administrative services performed for students from their arrival on campus to graduation. These services include registration for subjects, recording grades, administering financial aid, collecting fees, placement, etc.

MIT President Charles M. Vest has referred to the Institute's reengineering effort as "pure MIT: think big, analyze ourselves, act on what we learn, and show the rest of the academic world how to do it."

This endeavor allows MIT "to think more about ourselves as a system—how one person's work affects that of others throughout the Institute, how a savings in one area makes possible creative investments in another, how to avoid duplicating each others' efforts, and how to do it right and do it once, thus making each individual's work more important."



GOING FOR A SPIN—Cartwheeling into MIT summer day camp is Justin Fong, 12, who already has the maneuver nearly mastered on the first day of the gymnastics part of camp. Photo by Donna Coveney

CLOSING THE GAP

Making the Case for Reengineering

■ By William R. Dickson
Senior Vice President, Chair of
Reengineering Steering Committee
and James D. Bruce
Vice President,
Reengineering Program Manager

We are now beginning to redesign MIT's administrative processes. As we get started with this second phase of our reengineering work, it is important to remind us all why we must undertake such a difficult task.

WHY DO WE NEED TO DO THIS?

There are three primary reasons. First, our administrative processes have become complex as they evolved over the years. Second, these processes often do not provide the timely, high-quality results needed by faculty, students, staff and sponsors, even though everyone involved in the processes works hard. Finally, our operating budget has been out of balance, with our costs exceeding our income, for many years. More recently, the size of these annual operating gaps has grown, requiring the Institute to deplete other funds in order to close the gaps.

In redesigning our administrative processes, we seek to simplify our work, to improve the quality of the administrative services that support the Institute's fundamental mission of teaching and research, and to restore balance to our annual operating budget. Reengineering means changing the way we work—what tasks are performed and how information flows—across functional areas and departments. Reengineering MIT's administrative processes will not affect what and how we teach or how we conduct our research.

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Our efforts to reengineer MIT's administrative processes are guided by seven institutional objectives set forth by President Charles M. Vest and Provost Mark S. Wrighton. Most recently stated in the March issue of the Faculty Newsletter and in the April 27th edition of TechTalk, these objectives include:

- Maintaining MIT's position as the leading academic institution focused on science and technology
 - Maintaining merit-based admission and need-based financial aid for undergraduates
 - Tempering the rate of tuition growth
 - Enhancing the diversity of our community
 - Fully supporting academic year salaries for faculty
 - Maintaining competitive salaries
 - Maintaining sufficient flexibility to take advantage of new ideas and opportunities advanced by the faculty.
- Our ability to make major progress toward these objectives is limited by our fiscal constraints.

A GROWING FINANCIAL GAP

For many years, MIT has had a gap between annual income and expenses. Between fiscal 1975 and 1993, a total of \$117 million was required to fill these annual gaps. The bulk of these monies, some \$90 million, came from unrestricted gifts that were spent in the year they were received. If there had not been an operating gap, these gifts could have been used to build our endowment for professorships and financial aid, as well as to support new initiatives in teaching and research.

From 1975 to 1988, the average annual operating gap was \$4 million. Since 1989, the average annual operating gap has been \$12 million. In fiscal years 1993 and 1994, to close the operating gaps, we have spent current year unrestricted gifts and other funds. We have also had to decapitalize some unrestricted funds that were set aside in

By simplifying our work, we will also significantly reduce our costs.

prior years to function as endowment. If we do not reverse these trends, more than \$100 million will be required to close operating gaps between 1994 and the turn of the century, a period of only six years. About half of this funding would have to come from decapitalizing funds functioning as endowment. Such a move reduces income available from those funds that would support operations in future years.

To avoid such a scenario, and we must avoid it, the Institute must dramatically reduce annual expenses or increase income. However, external forces limit our opportunities to increase income in the years ahead. For example, US research spending is growing at a much slower pace than in earlier decades. Regional economic development considerations may play an increasingly important role in funding decisions by research sponsors. At the same time, the federal government is pressuring the nation's research universities, including MIT, to reduce what we charge for the indirect costs associated with research. In addition, concerns by students, their families, and their prospective employers about the costs of education constrain the rate at which we can increase tuition.

Without significant increases to Institute income, it is estimated that we will have to reduce expenditures by some \$40 million a year to eliminate the operating gaps that are forecast for upcoming years. (This figure takes into account decreases in indirect cost recovery that we will experience.) We must reduce our annual expenses by this amount over the next few years.

We are committed to get there in a way that will simplify our administrative work and improve our services. If we just make budget cuts without also changing how we do our work, we will soon find ourselves back in financial difficulty. This is exactly what happened after the budget reductions that were made in the 1970s and 1980s.

OTHER ACTIONS

Reengineering our administrative processes is one of several efforts to ensure that the Institute responds effectively to the situation and that the Institute's strengths and excellence endure. Some of the other efforts are:

- A committee chaired by Prof. Merton Flemings, examining MIT's relations with industry
- A blue ribbon panel studying healthcare options at MIT
- Sloan School restructured to provide 25 percent more capacity to enable new educational and research programs and increase the quality of student services
- Consolidation of administrative services in the School of Architecture
- A recent study recommending improvements in the cost and effectiveness of campus mail services
- The publications services review group's assessment of the Institute's printing needs in light of changing technology
- A study of the academic appointment process, recommending that the Institute's appointment processes be redesigned.

ENSURING OUR FUTURE

In reengineering administrative processes, we aim to simplify the way we conduct our administrative activities and to increase the satisfaction of the people for whom we provide services: the faculty, students, sponsors and other staff. By simplifying our work, we will also significantly reduce our costs.

We are ready to begin the next phase of the reengineering effort and are determined to succeed. There is a bright future for work, study and research at the Institute. It can be a future freed of bureaucratic entanglements, where the best faculty, students and staff work together with adequate funding and tools, as national leaders, not only in research and in teaching, but in how we run our institution.

William Barton Rogers' vision for MIT must live on. MIT must continue to be an independent educational and research institution addressing the challenges of the nation and the world. It is up to us to protect and promote this vision of MIT as a powerful magnet for intellect and creativity, with an emphasis on the pragmatic and the practical. We must work together in the coming months so that our Institute community can define the leading edge of human knowledge and invention for the 21st century.

DOD Funding Threatened

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tant than ever. Historically, Congressman Murtha has been a strong supporter of Defense Department research. Despite today's controversy, we hope that he will maintain that support," Mr. Crowley said.

Professor J. David Litster, MIT vice president and dean for research, said the unprecedented cutback "would be a complete disaster for the national university system." Both Mr. Crowley and Professor Litster were interviewed by the Boston Globe last week for an article anticipating the action by the Defense Subcommittee.

The Globe also quoted Sen. Edward M. Kennedy as saying: "Drastic cutbacks like that make no sense. This research represents the backbone of the nation's future high-tech defense capabilities and has far-reaching benefits for the civilian economy too. I'm confident that the full House and Senate will reject these shortsighted subcommittee cuts."

The appropriations bill is expected to be voted on before the House breaks June 30 for its Independence Day holiday. Members are scheduled to return to Washington July 11.