Associate Provost

The associate provost oversees three areas: 1) extra-academic arts programs and institutions; 2) international strategic programs and initiatives; and 3) the OpenCourseWare (OCW) program. Arts programs include Arts Initiatives, to which the Office of the Arts reports, the List Visual Arts Center (LVAC), and the MIT Museum.

The Arts

Accomplishments

The 2010-11 academic year was one of the most successful for the arts in recent years, in large part because of their major role in MIT’s 150th anniversary celebrations during the spring term.

The MIT 150 Exhibition launched the sesquicentennial events in January in a newly renovated Thomas Peterson ’56 Gallery at the MIT Museum. The LVAC presented two highly acclaimed exhibitions that reexamined early media pioneers Stan VanDerBeek and Juan Downey, fellows at MIT’s Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) during the 1970s. The music that animated the Next Century Convocation on MIT’s Charter Day was commissioned by the Council for the Arts at MIT, composed by our faculty and performed by more than 400 student musicians. FAST, the Festival of Art, Science, and Technology, extended throughout the term. Clustered in five weekends and created by 392 faculty, students and staff, the festival incorporated 61 concerts, exhibitions, installations, panels, and performances that drew a total audience of more than 32,000 people. All together, these events revealed in new ways that the arts are one of the most prominent elements of MIT’s outreach to the public.

The events of the past year offered unprecedented opportunities for faculty, students and staff to collaborate across the Institute around the arts. They created an aggregated picture, for the MIT community and the public at large, of the excellent but dispersed arts programs and activities in the Institute. In addition, the exhibitions and the festival demonstrated a central argument of the white paper on the arts, namely, that MIT’s legacy and competitive advantage lies in research at the intersections of art, science, and engineering. This Report on the Arts at MIT was presented to Academic Council in December 2010, to the Faculty in February 2011 and published by the provost in June 2011. The Executive Summary outlines several broad goals, which build upon MIT’s strengths.

The MIT Museum had an exceptional year, apart from its prominent role in the 150th celebrations. It partnered with The Koch Center for Integrative Cancer Research to open the Koch Institute Public Gallery in March on the occasion of the formal dedication of the new building. And the Museum expanded its pioneering role in the science festival phenomenon by co-sponsoring the first international gathering of Science Events participants at a conference in Washington, D.C. In addition to critical acclaim for the LVAC’s three exhibitions, included two mounted for the 150th anniversary, the List brought to completion two Percent-for-Art projects, Anish Kapoor’s Non-Object (Plane) for the Stata Center and Martin Boyce’s Through Layers and Leaves (Closer and Closer) for the Koch Center. The Catalyst Collaborative (CC@MIT) had its most successful production to date, Breaking the Code, a play and related programming about
British mathematician Alan Turing, best known for breaking the Nazi’s Enigma code, which was presented in conjunction with FAST.

**Current Goals**

Lead the Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT) in an effort to set goals for the next decade. The Executive Committee of the Council is discussing its mission and plans for a retreat to be held in September, 2011, which is focused upon setting new goals to commemorate CAMIT’s 40th anniversary in 2012.

Continue the momentum created by FAST. The festival was a great success and has lessons to offer about activating the entire campus and fostering collaborations across many disciplines. The question now is how to capitalize upon this success

Revitalize the Artists in Residence program to foster cross-disciplinary collaborations and greater integration with ongoing research and teaching in departments, labs and exhibiting institutions at the Institute.

**Administrative Initiatives**

A new Artist in Residence Committee (AIR) has led the reorganization of the program. The committee is chaired by the executive director of arts initiatives and composed of faculty in the creative arts and the directors of the LVAC and MIT Museum.

The reorganization of the Office of the Arts has created a stronger and more cohesive staff, with a renewed sense of mission.

The associate provost chairs the Creative Arts Council and the Advisory Board of the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT. He is a member of the Executive Committee of CAMIT and of the advisory boards of the LVAC and the MIT Museum.

**Future Plans**

Plans are underway for the next gala in celebration of the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT and the 40th anniversary of CAMIT.

**Personnel**

Jane Farver retired as director of the List Visual Arts Center after nearly twelve years of service, effective June 30, 2011. A search is underway for a new director. Departures and new appointments in the Office of the Arts, the LVAC, and the MIT Museum are noted in subsequent sections.

**International**

**Accomplishments and Finances/Funding**

The International Advisory Committee (IAC), co-chaired by the associate provost and the vice president for research, continued to review proposals for new and existing international programs across the five schools. The IAC’s findings and recommendations for the year are being compiled and will be transmitted to the president and provost. It also conducted several internal discussions about international strategies, lessons learned from existing international programs,
and where MIT faces its greatest challenges and competition on the international front. As a consequence of these discussions, the IAC has scheduled a major retreat for the late summer of 2011 on MIT’s international strategies and possible new models.

The MIT-Singapore University of Technology and Design Collaboration (MIT-SUTD), under the direction of Professor Sanjay Sarma (Mechanical Engineering), reports to the associate provost, who chairs the collaboration’s steering committee. The collaboration, which builds on more than a decade of MIT education and research activities in Singapore, is to date the largest and most complex university capacity-building endeavor in MIT’s history, though the Skolkovo (Russia) program, which is now being finalized, could surpass MIT-SUTD. The MIT-SUTD collaboration has made excellent progress in the area of curriculum development and has also contributed to the MIT-SUTD efforts to recruit its first faculty members. The International Design Center, which constitutes the research arm of the collaboration, has emerged slowly but now appears to be building up steam. The appointment at long last of a co-principal investigator of distinction for MIT-SUTD should accelerate joint research efforts.

The effort to help the government of Rwanda to develop a climate observatory, to be the largest in Equatorial Africa, has been making reasonable progress in recent months. The associate provost and professors Maria Zuber and Ronald Prinn of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department lead this effort, which emerged from a field trip they made to Rwanda in November 2009 at the request of the Rwandan government.

The associate provost continued to advise the Greater China, India, and Middle East faculty working groups on designing and implementing strategies for these countries and regions. The Greater China Faculty Working Group, chaired by Professor Victor Zue (EECS AND CSAIL), issued a major report on MIT’s strategic goals for Greater China in the coming decade in August 2010 and presented its findings to Academic Council and the MIT Faculty in late 2010 and early 2011, respectively. See: http://web.mit.edu/provost/reports/Final-GCSWG-Report-December2010.pdf.

Madame Liu Yandong, State Councillor and the highest ranking woman in the government of China, visited MIT in April to deliver a China Forum lecture hosted by president Susan Hockfield and to participate in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a fellowship program with the China Scholarship Council to sponsor students from China to study at MIT: http://global.mit.edu/projects/project/chinas-state-councillor-madame-liu-yandong-mit/

Also in April, the first of nine Low Carbon Energy Executive seminars for Chinese government officials, industrialists, and educators, was offered by MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI), with more than 30 participants from China in attendance. The seminars are paid for by the Chinese government and emerged from President Hockfield’s June 2010 visit to China.

The associate provost, in cooperation with the Global Initiatives Office in Resource Development, established two new faculty innovation (seed) funds for India and China as part of the MISTI seed fund initiative. $150,000 each for India and China was made available for research and educational seed initiatives.
The associate provost has replaced former Chancellor Phillip Clay as Chair of the Advisory Council of the Kuwait Center for Natural Resources and the Environment, which will have new faculty leadership effective July 1st. Professor Mujid Kazimi and Associate Professor Jacopo Buongiorno of Nuclear Science and Engineering will serve as director and associate director, respectively. The associate provost has also replaced Professor Clay as Chair of the Advisory Council for the MIT Portugal Program, which is now directed by Professor Dava Newman (Course 16).

**Future Goals:**

To build on the work of the Greater China Faculty Working Group, which has been reconstituted to focus on the implementation of the China Strategy Report.

To accelerate the activities of the India Faculty Working Group and to develop new resources for research and educational programs in and with India through the MIT India Trust and the MIT-India Innovation Fund.

To advance the Middle East Faculty Working Group’s discussions about MIT’s Middle East strategies.

To continue to monitor through the IAC all international major research and education programs, and especially those in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Russia and China.

To find a solution for regularly updating and strengthening the impact of the Global MIT website, which is listed on the MIT homepage.

**OpenCourseWare (OCW)**

**Accomplishments**

In its tenth anniversary year, OCW published 64 new courses and updated/refreshed 98 previously published courses, for a total of 162 courses published for the year. This brought the total number of courses on OCW to 2,074. OCW also added six substantial supplemental resources, bringing the total number of these educational enrichment units to 34.

In FY2010, OCW received a grant of $2 million over three years from the Stanton Foundation to publish materials for 20 foundational courses specifically structured for independent study. In January 2011, OCW published the first five of these “OCW Scholar” courses: Physics I (Classical Mechanics), Physics II (Electricity and Magnetism), Calculus I (Single Variable Calculus), Calculus II (Multivariable Calculus), and Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

Other work this year included completion of 10 courses for the Singapore University of Technology and Design collaboration (funded through the SUTD agreement); publication of 3 courses for the MITEI (funded by the Bechtel Foundation); and initiation of the Chemistry Outreach project in collaboration with the Chemistry Department (funded by a gift from the Dow Chemical Company).
OCW garnered the following awards and recognition during the past year: Science Prize for Online Resources in Education (SPORE) by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), *Science* magazine; one of *Time* magazine’s “50 Best Websites of 2010”; World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Award (one of six laureates, $20,000 prize), by the Qatar Foundation.

**Administrative Initiatives**
A number of new members were added to the OCW External Advisory Board. This year’s meeting was held on May 4, 2011 in conjunction with the OCW 10th Anniversary celebration, and coinciding with the OCW consortium annual international meeting held on the MIT campus. The consortium elected a new president from a European university, representing a significant step in the transition of leadership of the Consortium from MIT to the global OCW community.

**Finances/Funding**
OCW expenses for FY2011 totaled $3.5 million, about four percent below the budget of $3.7 million. OCW received $425,000 in individual donations in FY2011, nearly doubling the prior year’s total. In line with the OCW sustainability plan, other efforts included hiring of a Corporate Relations Manager to spearhead the corporate underwriting/sponsorship program approved last year. OCW also worked closely with the Resource Development Office (RDO) to raise mutual understanding and awareness so as to strengthen the RDO commitment to raising funds for OCW. Feedback indicated that the meetings were helpful although no major gifts materialized during the year.

**Future Goals**
As OCW looks forward to FY2012, it will continue to publish new and updated MIT courses. OCW will publish seven more scholar courses and will continue development work on the SUTD, MITEI, and Chemistry collaborations.

OCW has begun a major project to redesign the OCW web site. This project, to be completed late in 2011, will: update the overall look and feel of the website to convey a more dynamic, fresh, innovative personality for OCW, with increased social media integration; create opportunities for showcasing courses and resources, and a platform on which to build content collections and future enhancements; improve overall user experience to increase discoverability of resources and inspire repeated use of the site.

Over the course of the coming year, OCW expects to undertake a strategic planning process to understand and address the challenges and opportunities facing it over the next three to five years.

**Philip S. Khoury**
**Associate Provost**

More information about the associate provost can be found at http://web.mit.edu/khoury/www/khoury.htm