ESD NEWS

ESD Visiting Committee Chair James A. Champy will chair the new MIT Presidential Search Committee. The search committee will include ESD faculty member Thomas Kochan (also a member of the ESD Council) and former ESD Visiting Committee member John Reed. Read the full news item about the committee by the MIT News Office here.

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ESD is pleased to welcome Prof. César A. Hidalgo, joining ESD with a joint appointment. Hidalgo is the head of the Macro Connections group at the MIT Media Lab, where he is the Asahi Broadcast Corporation Career Development Professor. He is also a faculty associate at Harvard University's Center for International Development.

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Ambassador João Mira Gomes of Portugal, permanent representative to NATO, visited with students from MIT Portugal and the Technology and Policy Program last week to discuss some of the key challenges in the global community, in advance of the NATO summit in Chicago in May. He was accompanied by the Consul General of Portugal, Paulo Cunha Alves. The visit was facilitated by the nonprofit organization World Boston.

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U.S. Air Force Major and former LAI student Sean P. Dorey, LAI researcher Dr. Josef Oehmen, and former LAI researcher and Associate Professor Ricardo Valerdi (now at The University of Arizona) won first place and a $1,000 prize in the Defense Acquisition University Alumni Association 2012 research competition on "Doing More Without More." Their paper, Enhancing Cost Realism Through Risk-Driven Contracting: Designing Incentive Fees Based on Probabilistic Cost Estimates, proposes a new structure that encourages defense contractors to submit proposals based on more realistic costs. Read more on the LAI site.

WORKING PAPERS

Several new working papers have been added to the ESD Working Papers Series, including:

Megacities and High Speed Rail systems: which comes first?
Francesca Pagliara, University of Naples Federico II
João de Abreu e Silva, Instituto Superior Técnico
Joseph Sussman, MIT
Naomi Stein, MIT
The four papers listed below are being submitted for the Third International Engineering Systems Symposium (co-sponsored by CESUN, ESD, and TU Delft), to be held June 18-20, 2012 at TU Delft.

**The Historical Roots of the Field of Engineering Systems: Results from an In-class Assignment**
Christopher L. Magee, MIT
Rebecca K. Saari, MIT
G. Thomas Heaps-Nelson, MIT
Stephen M. Zoepf, MIT
Joseph M. Sussman, MIT

**The Earth as an Engineering System: Addressing Sustainability through Science, Technology and Policy**
Noelle E. Selin, MIT
Carey L. Friedman, MIT

**Analogies Between Complex Systems and Phases of Matter**
Joel Moses, MIT
David A. Broniatowski, MIT and Synexxus, Inc.

**Controlling Change Within Complex Systems Through Pliability**
Brian Mekdeci, MIT
Adam M. Ross, MIT
Donna H. Rhodes, MIT
Daniel E. Hastings, MIT

View these and other working papers at: [http://esd.mit.edu/WPS/](http://esd.mit.edu/WPS/)

**IN THE MEDIA**

Research from the Materials Systems Lab (part of the MIT Sociotechnical Systems Research Center) examines ways to prevent accumulation of impurities in recycling aluminum

*Preventing contamination in recycling*
MIT News – March 6, 2012 **MIT homepage spotlight article***

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*It's Time to Bring Manufacturing Back to the U.S.*
Harvard Business Review blog - February 27, 2012

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Seth Lloyd quoted briefly at end of Nature article

*The unavoidable cost of computation revealed*
Nature – March 7, 2012

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Recent AgeLab coverage:

AgeLab researchers featured on Discovery program: *Life Behind the Wheel: A Roadmap For Safety*
Premiered on the Discovery Channel on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 8 AM/ ET
Watch segment on Older Drivers featuring Lisa D’Ambrosio

AgeLab’s AGNES suit featured on The Huffington Post
“AGNES Suit Adds Fifty Years to Your Life”
The Huffington Post – March 7, 2012

Joseph Coughlin quoted in article on drug costs for older Americans
“Drug Prices Up — or Not? Either Way, Treatments Will Chew Up Retirement Savings”
Time Magazine - Moneyland blog – March 8, 2012

EVENTS

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
MIT SCALE Graduate Programs Webinar Series: Why the MIT Global SCALE Network for Talent? : The Hiring Company Perspective
Time: 11-12pm
This informative session entitled, "Why the MIT Global SCALE Network for Talent?: The Hiring Company Perspective" will feature Greg Ramos, Global Director Transportation, Anheuser-Busch InBev and Norbert Nusterer, Vice President New and ReCon Parts, Cummins.

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
LAI Research Seminar
Richard Weng presents Risk and Opportunity Management on the Portfolio Level in Product Development
Time: 4:15-5:30pm
Location: E38-615

Thursday, March 15, 2012
CTL Global Leadership Lecture Series
Alberto Alemán Zubieta, CEO of the Panama Canal Authority
"The Impact of the Panama Canal on Global Shipping"
Location: E51-345
Time: Lunch served at 11:30, Talk starts at 12:00 and ends by 1:00
Topic: The expansion of the Panama Canal, scheduled to open in 2014, is an incredibly large and complex civil engineering mega-project. While the expansion will certainly improve the economy of Panama as well as shift global shipping patterns, it will also position the Republic as a leading logistics hub in Latin America. This session will address the impact that the expansion will have on the Canal and on the growth of Panama into a logistics and global trade hub.

Friday, March 16, 2012
CTL Distinguished Speaker Series
Representative Michael E. Capuano
Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
"U.S. Federal Transportation Legislation – Current Events"
Location: W20-306 (Stratton Student Center)
Time: Lunch served at 12:00, Talk starts at 12:30 and ends by 1:30
Topic: The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which authorized U.S. federal transportation spending, expired in 2009. Since then,
transportation spending has been continued through the use of a series of short-term extensions. Currently, reauthorization bills have been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate, but with substantial differences. This presentation will provide Rep. Capuano's perspective on the current process of creating new federal transportation legislation.

Friday, March 16, 2012
NECSI and ESD Seminar: Learning Good Representations for Learning
Speakers:
Tomaso Poggio, Ph.D., Eugene McDermott Professor in the Brain Sciences and Human Behavior at MIT; Director of the Center for Biological and Computational Learning at MIT
Mark Kon, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Boston University
Time: 12:30-2:00pm
Location: E51-151

Monday, March 19, 2012
MIT SDM Systems Thinking Webinar Series
A Systems Approach for Addressing the Crisis in Employment and Consumer Demand
Nicholas Ashford Ph.D., JD
Time: 12-1pm

Wednesday, March 21, 2012
LAI Research Seminar
Dr. Josef Oehmen presents Lean Enablers for Program Management
Time: 4:15-5:30pm
Location: E38-615

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