ESD NEWS


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In March, Professor Joseph Sussman became the 30th recipient of the Transportation Research Forum's (TRF) Distinguished Researcher Award. This award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves throughout their careers as research scholars in transportation. Recipients are selected by a committee composed of previous winners and past presidents of the Transportation Research Forum. Read more here.

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Professor Olivier de Weck will be giving a TEDx talk on Tuesday, May 13 at EPFL in Switzerland as part of TEDxLakeGeneva. The event will be at the Rolex Center at EPFL, with an expected live audience of about 800. The title of Professor de Weck’s talk is “Humanity’s path to becoming a multi-planet species.” (His talk will probably be at around 12pm Boston-time and there will be a live web stream.)

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Julia Collins (SCM ’10) has made Jeopardy! history, becoming the most-winning female contestant in the TV game show's 30-year history. She has won ten episodes in a row and $220,610 in prize money—and will return to the program on May 19. (See CNN Money news item here.) You can follow her on Twitter at @JeopardyJulia.

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A team including Albert Chan (LGO ’15) won both top awards in MIT’s annual Clean Energy Prize (CEP) contest for developing a chip that augments the output of partially shaded solar cells. The MIT News Office reported that Unified Solar took home both the $100,000 DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clean Energy Prize and the $125,000 NStar MIT Clean Energy Prize. Of the 60 teams that entered the contest to develop clean-energy startups and innovations, six won CEP awards. Unified Solar now becomes the finalist in the energy category of the MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition, whose winner will be announced May 14. Read more here.

PUBLICATION

“House of Project Complexity—understanding complexity in large infrastructure projects” – Donald Lessard, Vivek Sakhrani & Roger Miller – Engineering Project Organization Journal – published online
May 6, 2014
(This paper was also included in the ESD Working Paper Series; see here.)

IN THE MEDIA

Article on new research by David Simchi-Levi
“MIT Professor David Simchi-Levi’s Risk Exposure Index (REI) used by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction”
MIT News – May 2, 2014

Profile of Sandy Pentland
“Meet the Godfather of Wearables”
The Verge – May 6, 2014
Note: Pentland will be teaching a new edX course, Big Data and Social Physics, starting May 12

Article by Thomas Kochan on job creation
“How corporate America can create better jobs”
CNNMoney.com – April 28, 2014

Article on John Sterman’s “Fishbanks” management flight simulation
“Interactive tool developed by MIT Sloan professor creates a virtual world for students to explore sustainable management of renewable resources”
MIT Sloan website – May 7, 2014

Article on start-up founded by SDM Fellows Alex Piña and Sean Gilliland
“Sun-focusing satellite dish heats water on your roof”
New Scientist – May 1, 2014

Seth Lloyd quoted in story on a new theory of “quantum entanglement”
“New Quantum Theory Could Explain the Flow of Time”
Wired – (via Quanta Magazine) – April 25, 2014

EVENTS

Friday, May 16, 2014
Dissertation Defense of Fernando De Sisternes
Time: 3pm
Location: 9-152
Title: Risk Implications of the Deployment of Renewables for Investments in Electricity Generation
Committee: M. Webster (supervisor), I. Pérez-Arriaga (supervisor), R. Schmalensee, J. Parsons

Monday, May 19, 2014
SDM Systems Thinking Webinar Series
Risks and Mitigation Approaches for Business System Integration
Daniel Mark Adsit, SDM ’13, Principal, Mergence Systems
Time: noon-1pm

**Tuesday, May 20, 2014**
Dissertation Defense of Steven Fino
Time: 9:30am
Location: E40-298
Committee: D. Mindell (chair), S. Widnall, O Cote

**Wednesday, June 4, 2014**
SDM Information Evening
Time: 6-9pm
Location: Boston Marriott Cambridge, Two Cambridge Center, 50 Broadway, Kendall Sq., Cambridge, MA

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