World-Wide Celebrity, Baker Housemaster

Stephanie Keeler

Looking more like a movie star in a science fiction film than a rocket scientist, Housemaster Dava Newman is featured on the MIT News Office Website, posing in the sleek BioSuit on Henry Moore’s sculpture “Reclining Figure.” These days, this Baker Housemaster and professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Engineering Systems is living the life of a celebrity; featured in TIME and on CNN for her research and development of the BioSuit.

According to an article from the MIT News Office, BioSuit is a space suit for astronauts, which is similar to human skin. It’s more like a second skin, designed to allow astronauts to be more agile for space exploration. Dava says the BioSuit is designed as “a minimum energy suit that literally could be ‘painted on’ to provide maximum mobility for extreme exploration required on the Moon or Mars.

Although the BioSuit has given Dava celebrity around the world, Dava is more than a celebrity at Baker House. She is a role model and a support

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Since the program is so popular, we may miss a name from time to time. We’re sorry, but if you let us know, we’ll fix it next time.

Recipients
April 16-August 1:

Stephanie Keeler
Emily Do
Dawn Warfield
Kerri Mills
Nicole Messuri
Marco Ruiz
Kiley Noonan
Steve Burke
Tracy Purinton
Jan Burke
Jennifer Lai
Joe Ferriera
Sharon Westerfeld
Simone Albeck
Cynthia Stanton
Summer Hutcheson
Dawn Simonelli
Joe Austin
Barbara Hughes
Luis Chavez
Kari Hebert
Mayra Madrid
Phil Hatchouel
Tony Davis
Rosa Blackwood
John McDonald
Dwight Brown
Matt Lindblad
Dimana Macdonald
C.J. Azubuine
Jimmy Carlson
Kenny Mc Richie
Humberton Periera
Dan Martin
Rita Geller
Carol Elder
Amy Heinl
Jarek Koniusz
Clif Bonvie

For more about this program, visit: web.mit.edu/dsl/spot

Dean’s Annual Breakfast - Every piece counts!

A t last year’s breakfast we tried a different format and invited students to share from their hearts how staff in DSL have impacted their lives during their time at MIT. Their genuine thankfulness showed and their presence was a hit.

This year, we plan a similar format, inviting students to share some of their experiences with DSL that have shaped their educational experience at MIT and have changed their lives in large and small ways.

Students like Kendra Johnson, a junior Civil and Environmental Engineering major, who, instead of just thinking about how she could change the world someday, spends her spare time trying to change it, living by Gandhi’s motto, “We must be the change we wish to see in this world.”

Students like Adlai Grayson, a senior studying Biology, who is involved with several dance groups on campus including MIT Dance Troupe, is a dedicated and passionate member of BSU and GaMIT and is coordinating “Fierce,” which last year was the largest student drag show in the country.

Students like Doria Holbrook, Class of 2008, who says, “Having a hobby gives you balance in your life and something else besides work. I couldn’t do what I do academically without diving. Diving has taught me how to focus and streamline my thought process.”

MIT is filled with students who are just as passionate about life and recognize that there is so much more to living than just studying. These students recognize that it is through the work of all of us in DSL that they are able to explore, build, lead and serve the world.

Join us at this year’s Dean’s Annual Breakfast on September 12, 2007 at 8:30 am in La Sala (W20/Student Center). Hear from these students and more!
It’s always a great time to recognize staff you know who go above and beyond - those who strive for excellence in their work life. However, now is a particularly good time to think about those staff you work with who strive for excellence daily for the good of MIT, its staff and students.

Before you know it, the deadline for the MIT Excellence Awards will be upon us so don’t wait to begin thinking about who to nominate and to begin writing up those nominations.

FACTS:
• MIT Excellence Awards is among the HIGHEST HONORS at MIT.
• Recipients of the MIT Excellence Awards represent many areas of the Institute and perform all types of jobs. So, you can nominate ANYONE - support, service and administrative staff at all levels.
• Nominees can be TEAMS or INDIVIDUALS.
• Recipients receive cash prizes as well as an award.
• A ceremony is held each year in their honor. This year it will be on February 28, 2008.

The deadline is Wednesday, October 17, but don’t delay...we all know how hard it is to write a nomination at the last minute in the rush of the academic year.

For more information or to begin submitting a nomination, visit http://web.mit.edu/hr/rewards/excellence/index.html

Dava Newman, Housemaster

system for residents. On the Baker House Web site, Dava says she and her partner Guillermo Trotti “look forward to providing necessary support and guidance to students; working with the student government; and representing students’ ideas, concerns, and creative solutions to the administration.”

As Housemaster, her life inevitably has become intertwined with the lives of residents, which is something Dava found particularly difficult with the death of Baker House President, James Albrecht. Although dealing with her own grief, Dava was there to console and reassure students.

Dava’s residents and her students are lucky to have someone like Dava to support, encourage and guide them. In an interview on The Futures Channel, Dava said her students “want the tough challenges. They want to answer questions that no one has answered before.” With her research and commitment to Baker as proof, Dava is the perfect role model of someone who seeks a tough challenge.

Rudyard Kipling must have had people like Dava in mind when he said, “No printed word, nor spoken plea can teach young minds what they should be. Not all the books on all the shelves – but what the teachers are themselves.”

TechTV - MIT’s own YouTube

Well, it didn’t take long for MIT to create its own YouTube style web site. MIT Tech TV is the video-sharing site for the MIT community. It supports the MIT community through the aggregation and distribution of science, engineering, and MIT-related video on the web.

By visiting http://techtv.mit.edu you can see videos created and uploaded by members of the MIT community, including students and staff.

Already, DSL’s own Hobby Shop has gotten in on the action and submitted its first video, entitled “Join the Hobby Shop.”

For more information on TechTV and guidelines on video content and uploading, visit http://techtv.mit.edu site.
What’s New In DSL?
Promotions and Introductions

There is so much to celebrate this summer... New staff and faculty have joined us from near and far, staff from within DSL have been promoted and overall the division looks a bit different than it did last summer.

- In the Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation, we welcome Julie Soriero who joined us on July 1 and Mark Ryder who joined DAPER Facilities in Customer Service.
- Stephen Immerman is now leading the newly created area, Student Development, which encompasses Hobby Shop, Public Service Center, Student Activities and Student Leadership Development. Campus Activities Complex joined the Student Development area in July. In the PSC, Justen Cantan joined as a Research Support Associate and in Student Activities, Catherine Hursh is the new Financial Assistant.
- John McDonald has been promoted to lead as the new Director of Enterprise Service, overseeing Audio Visual, CopyTech, MIT Card and Endicott House and Ed Ruiz recently started as the new MIT Card Office Manager. Jason Cecilio joined CopyTech as a Computer Support Assistant and Georgia Taylor joined Endicott House’s Guest Services.
- In Residential Life, Donna Denoncourt has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Residential Life, overseeing Residential Life Programs and FSILGs; Kaya Miller was promoted to Assistant Dean for FSILGs and Residential Life Programs and Lauren Wotjkun was promoted to Assistant Director, FSILGs.
- In Housing, Jason Doucette joined as a Assistant House Manager and Ilana White joined as Graduate Student Housing Coordinator.
- In Student Activities, Jed Wartman was just promoted to Assistant Dean for Student Activities.
- In the Office of Student Mediation and Community Standards, David Kennedy was named the Interim Director and Ruth Rosenberg joined the office as the new Mediation Coordinator and Trainer.
- Joining the DSL Administration team, is Stephanie Keeler as the new Public Relations intern, Alicia Meklosky as the new Financial Services Coop student, and Abigail Hine as the new Assistant EHS Coordinator.
- And, last but not least... Victoria Davenport joined DSL as Senior Administrative Assistant to the Dean and Laura Hajj joined DSL as a Stewardship Assistant.

We tried to include everyone, however if unintentionally we missed someone, we apologize. Join me in congratulating and welcoming all of these new staff members to the DSL Team!

calendar
upcoming events

August

26 Freshmen Orientation Begins

September

3 Labor Day MIT Holiday
5 First Day of Classes
10 Phys Ed. Begins First Quarter
12 Dean’s Annual Breakfast 8:30 am W20 in La Sala
17 Career Week Begins
20 Career Fair 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

October

8 Columbus Day MIT Holiday
29 Phys Ed. Begins Second Quarter

November

7 DSL Visiting Committee
8 DSL Visiting Committee

To request your events to be included in the DSL calendar, please email your information by October 1 to sharon7@mit.edu.