Two MIT professors win MacArthur Fellowships

Katabi and Seager awarded $625,000 each

By Kathi Xu

This year, the MacArthur Foundation selected 24 recipients of their MacArthur Fellowships, otherwise known as the MacArthur “Genius Grants.” Two MIT professors — Dina Katabi MS ’99, PhD ’03 from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Sara Seager from the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences — were named MacArthur Fellows. The Tech spoke with them to find out what excites them about their research, and how it’s like to work in male-dominated fields.

Each fellowship includes an award of $625,000, with no restrictions on how the funds are used. This is an increase from the $500,000 given out to last year’s recipients, who included MITing Professor Catherine Díaz.

“This year’s class of MacArthur Fellows is an extraordinary group of individuals who collectively reflect the breadth and depth of American creativity,” wrote Cecilia Conrad, Vice President of the MacArthur Fellows Program, on the MacArthur Fellows Program website. Through its no-strings-attached prize money, the fellowship is meant to further encourage the winners’ creativity.

Dina Katabi

For over a decade, Professor Dina Katabi has worked on improving the speed and security of wireless networks. Her research at the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory straddles the traditional division between electrical engineering (EE) and computer science (CS). According to Katabi, the key limitation of today’s wireless networks is their ability to handle interference. Through her research, she aims to minimize the effects of interference.

“American academia is a shared medium, so it’s like speaking in your room,” Katabi described. “If you have so many people who are trying to talk at the same time, nobody can understand anything.”

The community that is working at the intersection of EE and CS has been growing in recent years. “It is still relatively small because it is difficult,” Katabi explained. “You really need to have some background in EE and some background in CS, and most people don’t come equipped with this background.”

A Syrian native, Katabi obtained her bachelor’s degree from Damascus University in Syria before coming to MIT to obtain a Master’s and PhD. After completing her PhD work, she was appointed as an assistant professor and is now the director of the MIT Center for Wireless Networks and Mobile Computing (Wireless@MIT) and NETMIT (Networks@MIT).

Although Katabi says that the low representation of women in her field crosses her mind sometimes, she deems it “annoying” but not enough to prevent her from doing the things she wants to do.

“When you are doing what you are passionate about, you love your work, and you don’t worry who you’re with,” Katabi said. “You are with colleagues who are also passionate about the stuff you do, and you are treated more in common with the gender than with them. You have the passion about what you are doing.”

Katabi is excited not only by her research topic, but also by the process of research itself.

“The thing that fascinates me about research in general — and I think this is probably true for all researchers — working at MIT — is really the process of discovering something new,” said Katabi. “It’s just like you are reading a book. Imagine you are reading a mystery book, every new page reveals something new that just gets you one step closer to discovering more. That process of research is really what’s most exciting.”

Recently, Katabi has worked on developing technology to see through walls and track moving humans on the other side using

Sara Seager is also a recipient of a 2013 MacArthur Fellows Program fellowship at MIT. A professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences and the Department of Physics, Seager’s work is mainly focused on exploring the possibility of life in our galaxy.

Voodoo magazine has funding restored

By Omar Ibarra

The Financial Board (Finboard) of the Undergraduate Association (UA) has released its trimmedly funding allocations for student groups. This release, delayed by about a week, comes on the heels of Voodoo Magazine successfully appealing Finboard’s decision to revoke Voodoo’s funding on the grounds of a Title IX complaint. Voodoo is headed by Senior House co-president and member of the UA Council Alina Kononov ‘14.

In December 2012, Student Activities Office (SAO) director Leah Flynn received an unofficial complaint from the original author of a comic that was reprinted in Voodoo. Flynn forward it to the MIT Association of Student Activities (ASA), who brought the complaint to Finboard for consideration in the next allocation cycle. According to Kononov, Voodoo was denied funding in Finboard’s preliminary allocation decision, which was released to the UA Council for approval on Sept. 25, 2013. One day later, Kononov sent a lengthy email to the UA council describing her objections with Voodoo’s funding, stating, among other things, that she believed Finboard was attempting to exercise “ungrounded, sub rosa financial censorship.” In response, four other council members objected to the allocations, causing the vote to be delayed until the next UA Council meeting on Oct. 9, per council procedure.

Some council members suggested a lack of transparency in Finboard’s allocations process. “It seems the entire process is very cloudy; between the people who want the funding and the people who review the funding, only the people who are doing the allocations know the process,” said Andrew Dore ’14, president of the Interfraternity Council.

Other council members questioned whether the only reason that Voodoo was given this much attention was because the magazine’s editor, Kononov, was on the council board as the president of Senior House. They pointed out that the Council was not closely scrutinizing smaller groups that did not have direct ties to the UA. The voting members of the UA Council consists of representatives from the dorms, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and Living Group Council.

In the end, the UA council voted to reinstate Voodoo’s funding, contingent on the condition that they meet with the SAO and Finboard to discuss the complaint. This is not the first time Voodoo has been denied funding. In the Spring-Summer allocation cycle, Voodoo was denied funding by Finboard when they received only half the amount of their requested funding. In response, Finboard met Voodoo in May 2013 to discuss these concerns. According to Vice-Chair of Finboard Coralie Haynam ‘14, an email in an email meeting with MIT’s General Counsel, SAO, Finboard and Title IX coordinators to ensure their future leadership did not “cross the line” was sent to Voodoo’s funding as an example in their behavior. Voodoo eventually successfully appealed to regain their full funding.

R. Gregory Morgan, a member of MIT’s General Council, recommended against restricting Voodoo’s funding in the future, through a written statement presented at the UA Council meeting.

This week, Kononov ‘14 stated that though a decision should be made at the council meeting on Oct. 16, she had already open to an appeal process after this meeting, giving more time to discuss the implications of Title IX in regards to Voodoo’s publication.

DREAMING OF BEING AWAKE
My alarm clock wakes me up — but only in my dreams.
FUN, p. 5

GOODBYE, PU PU HOT POT
Hello, Patty Chen’s Dumpling Room!
ARTS, p. 10

THE PASTA NEXT DOOR
Basta Pasta does not disappoint.
ARTS, p. 8

DURING COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND...
We’ll have fun if we’ve ever done working.
FUN, p. 5

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA
Bringing Mozart’s The Magic Flute into the 21st century.
ARTS, p. 7

IN SHORT
Quarter 2 Registration for un- dergraduates is open. Graduate student registration opens on Oct. 29 at 8 a.m. — 1 p.m. Final day of open enrollment closes for all on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 1 p.m.

Applications for Leadership that VAP may open. The cap for this one is for clothing and accessories only. Drop-off starts at 8 a.m. and pick-up lasts from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There is no school this Monday and Tuesday due to the Colum- bus Holiday. Classes begin on Wednesday, Oct. 16. Newsletter will publish on Tuesday. Enjoy the long weekend!

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu
UN backs peace effort in Central African Republic

By Rick Gladstone

The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution on Thursday aimed at stabilizing the Central African Republic, a dangerous and dysfunctional country that has descended into near-total chaos over the last half year.

Sponsored by France, the country’s former colonial power, the resolution promised support for a new multinational African Union force that is deployed the Central African Republic, and raised the possibility that the operation would be transformed into a U.N. peacekeeping mission, which would give it more resources and power.

The resolution demanded that the weak interim government, put in place after armed rebels known as the Seleka ousted President Francois Bozize in March, adhere to previously negotiated plans to hold elections in early 2013, proposing unspecified help to honor that deadline.

It further demanded that the Seleka and other armed groups “lay down their arms immediately” and allow the unfettered flow of humanitarian aid into the country. It also said the Security Council would investigate and report all violations of human rights there, including through the deployment of advisers who specialize in the protection of women and children.

The Security Council action followed a crescendo of warnings, including from France’s president, that the Central African Republic, chronically unstable in the best of times, had become an utterly insecure and terrifying country because of the Seleka insurgency, creating new risks of instability among neighboring states.

The resolution singled out Seleka fighters as being responsible for what it called “extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence against women and children, rape, recruitment and use of children and attacks against civilians.”

While the resolution did not threaten the immediate prospect of a more forceful armed intervention, the reference to the possible strengthening of the African Union force was welcomed by the Central African Republic’s U.N. ambassador, Charles Armond Dossou.

“Today is the first day for another time — it’s the beginning of a different future,” he told reporters outside the Security Council chamber after the resolution had been approved.

Rights groups who have been sounding the alarm on the breakdown in the Central African Republic were more cautious in their endorsement, saying it did not go far enough.

“The Security Council is finally waking up to the human rights tragedy playing the Central African Republic,” said Philippe Bolopion, the U.N. director for Human Rights Watch. “Broadening the human rights mandate of the U.N. mission is a good but insufficient first step.”

He said the Security Council should urgently strengthen the credibility of the African Union force “to protect civilians and sanction individuals responsible for grave abuses, including Seleka leaders.”

Subject: Weather

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers, high 65°F (18°C). Winds from the southwest at 10 mph.

Tonight: Cool and partly cloudy, low 53°F (12°C). Wind at 5-10 mph.


Sunday: Sunny with high of 67°F (19°C).

Monday: Sunny and warm, high of 69°F (19°C).

Hurricane

Low Pressure

Warm Front

Cold Front

Sunny

Cloudy

Partly cloudy

Overcast

Rain

Snow

Windy

High pressure

Low pressure

Warm front

Cold front

Pressure Systems

Situation for noon Eastern time, Friday, October 11, 2013

Observers disagree on fairness of election in Azerbaijan

By David M. Herszenhorn

BAKU, Azerbaijan — A prominent delegation of international election observers on Thursday sharply criticized Azerbaijan’s presidential election as unfair and rife with fraud, aggressive efforts by the Azerbaijani government and its allies to portray the vote as legitimate.

According to official returns, President Ilham Aliyev overwhelmingly won a third five-year term in Wednesday’s election, securing 84 percent of the vote with nearly all the counting completed. The best established of nine opposition candidates, Jamil Hassalli, won 5.5 percent.

Hassalli’s campaign, however, alleged that there had been election irregularities throughout the country, and observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe said they had also documented widespread irregularities, including ballot-box stuffing and what appeared to be fraudulent counting.

The observers also said the election was “deeply unfair” from the start, tilted to Aliyev’s advantage because of his dominance of state-controlled news media and his use of official efforts to suppress the opposition.

The election was “undertaken by limitations on the freedoms of expression, assembly and association that did not guarantee a level playing field for candidates,” the observers wrote in a report that was released at a news conference here Thursday afternoon.

“Continued allegations of candidate and voter intimidation and a restrictive media environment marred the campaign,” the report said. “Significant problems were observed throughout all stages of Election Day processes and underscored the serious nature of the shortcomings.”

But observers from other delegations, including former members of the U.S. House of Representatives, said the voting was clean and efficient. Aliyev, thanking voters for their support, expressed the desire to “continue with the process of the future,” adding, “the Azerbaijani people will always remain united and strong.”

The election was “undoubtedly the poorest election since the collapse of the Soviet Union,” the observers wrote. “The Azerbaijani people are excluded from any possibility of exercising their democratic rights.”
Bank of England retains low interest rate

By Julia Wending

LONDON — Britain’s central bank decided on Thursday to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 0.5 percent, saying it sees little evidence that the country’s economic recovery will gather pace. The Bank of England, as expected, to leave its interest rate at 0.5 percent, said it would keep its program of economic stimulus at £75 billion pounds ($120 billion), in which £37 billion is committed to buying government bonds and £35 billion to buying private-sector bonds.

Britain’s economic recovery has been gaining momentum as consumption picks up, and some possible incomes have increased over recent months. The consequences of the industrial production in August sig- nalled on Wednesday, however, that some headwinds to the recovery persist.

Recent positive economic data raised some questions whether Mark Carney, who took over as Bank of England governor in July, would stick to the plan he announced in August. To eliminate uncertainty for maintaining stability in Britain’s financial system, Carney said that the rates would remain unchanged until at least 2017. This is a bit longer than the current 7 percent. Some economists said that the Bank of England’s bond-buying stimulus program could be added just a bit to the plan.

The Bank of England’s announcement today is a welcome change, said the governor, who has taken office in the US to keep a strong financial system in place. With a tough new Iran sanctions bill teed up in the Senate, they have been able to cut rates since 2008, when they were at a record high of 15 percent. The Bank of England’s base rate has been at a record low of 0.5 percent since March 2009. Economists do not anticipate a change in the bank’s bond-buying stimulus pro- gram unless the economic recovery stalls.

Bank of England retains low interest rate

by Mark Lander, The New York Times

Standoff on debt has yet to rattle Asia

By Bradsher

KONG — When the U.S. government decided to default on its debt for the first time in four years to cover costs related to Iraq, some in China’s finance community, including Wen Jiabao, then the prime minis- ter, strongly and publicly warned against the potential fallout for China and other emerging markets. But since then, as China’s investments in Treasury securities have multiplied, it has been less vocal about the risks of a default.

When Congress and the White House took the first steps in August to avoid a default, the Chinese government said it would not invest new money in U.S. Treasury bonds and might reduce its existing holdings. But since then, the Chinese government has been gaining momentum as concerns about the impacts of a default have receded.

As a consequence, some investors said the central bank’s bond-buying stimulus pro- gram would have a significant impact on the U.S. economy.

The Bank of England voted, as expected, to leave its interest rate at 0.5 percent Monday, concern about it Monday, but the Chinese Internet has not lit up with comments about the decision to cut government spending in Washington.

Some analysts have suggested that the central bank might consider raising interest rates, as the government continues to try to keep inflation in check.

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‘Free speech for me but not for thee
The government shutdown and Democrats’ hypocrisy

By A.J. Edelman

Imagine a scenario in which Republic- ans controlled both houses of Congress, as well as the presidency. In its haste to prevent the arrival of a newly elected senator they pen a bill that almost none of the legislation is enacted. It is a massive tax cut with all sorts of measures that Democrats believe will hurt the middle class and the economy. The bill passes, but two years later, before it is implemented, Democrats, who still believe that this tax cut will be economically harmful, ask for a one year delay in implementation. They pass a measure to keep the government funded with but one caveat—that there be a delay in the implementation for one year. Republicans refuse the government and the shutdown happens, saying that Democrats are “holding the country hostage” and “acting like spoiled children because they didn’t get what they wanted.”

A president who refuses to even sit down and negotiate is assigned absolutely no blame while the shutdown is deemed ‘the Republican shutdown.’

Our current government shutdown is the same, but flipped. Substitute Demo- crats with Republicans and the tax cut with Obamacare, and you have our current scenario. Yet I don’t believe that the vast majority of readers would actually have called the Democrats spoiled children. Leaning left individuals certainly would have insisted that Republicans fight against a piece of legislation they felt would hurt the economy. But that is not how our system seems to work. Instead, dissent from Republicans is considered an act of un-reasonable hostility and is condemned by liberals and the majority of uninformed ‘Independents.’

Now there exists, as has existed for decades, a liberal view of “free me but not for thee.” President Obama voted against raising the debt ceiling as a senator. Today, when Republicans claim that they should use the debt ceiling to evaluate spending, they are labeled “irresponsible.” Senator Obama and his Democratic colleagues viciously fought against filibuster reform when Republicans controlled the Senate. But earlier this year Democrats derided Republican attempts and tried to reform the filibuster to prevent future attemps to stall legislation opposed by Re- publicans. Wendy Davis of Texas launched a “brave,” “historical” filibuster and was lauded in the press while Senator Paul and Ted Cruz were lampooned and derided for their in the U.S. Senate. A president who refuses to even sit down and negotiate is assigned absolutely no blame while the shutdown is deemed “the Republican shutdown.”

The current liberal climate is saturated with the mantra of “for me but not for thee” When it came to the current legis- lation, many turned a blind eye to who would pay for the steep increases in pre- miums and the layoffs that would result to trim a company’s workforce. As reported recently in one San Jose Mercury News piece, “Cindy Vinson, of San Jose, Calif., will report paying $2,000 more each year for an individual policy. Additionally, on the West Coast, people at Pacifica Valley, Calif., will pay nearly $80,000 more for insur- ance to cover his family of four.” The take- away line, however, comes from Vinson—she who remarks, “Of cause, I want people to have healthcare, I just don’t realize I was the one who was going to pay for it personally.”

Of course Vinson didn’t mind sup- porting a feel-good law to help those she would be the one who was going to pay. Though it is too little, too late—those members are seeing premiums and decreased increases paid but also increased premiums and de- creased employment. So much for hoping for a win in the current shutdown. Democrats are still whining about the system of democracy we have, all the while refusing to negoti- ate. Worse, our country is stuck in a cycle where many expect consequences not to affect them, or affect them only in a special treatment. Only when people actually get hit does it sink in—“for me but not for thee” only works so long. It’s time to wake up.

Dissent from Republicans is considered an act of unreasonable hostility and is condemned by liberals and the majority of uninformed ‘Independents.’

Despite the fact that these drawbacks were predictable, union support for Obamacare was nearly universal. Why would unions (whose members would be adversely affected by the ACA) support such a measure? Because they expected waivers. “Wai- vers for me but not for thee.” Now, unions have realized that Obamacare represents a big problem for their membership and they have started to speak out. But it is too little, too late—their members are seeing

corrected letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s website and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or later that may be invented. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

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OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Sarah Betts ’14, Associate Editors John J. Peterson ’14, and Executive Editor Anne Cai ’14. The editor Jacob London.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editors.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the authors. Each letter must be signed and include the author’s name, school and classification. Letters to the editor will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s website and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or later that may be invented. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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The Tech

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Editor in Chief

Sarah Betts ’14

An article in Tuesday’s issue on HackMIT misstated Julian Ceipek’s name and did not specify which MIT College team he be- longed. Ceipek was on the same team as Stephanie Northway.

To The Editor: The Health Care Reform Act has been touted across the country as “the greatest healthcare reform the country has seen” and “a major step forward in making healthcare more affordable and accessible for Americans.” This bill is a huge mistake. Republicans believe Obamacare will hurt the middle class. President Obama himself has acknowledged that in some cases already almost 300 percent), companies will dump employees onto the government plans, and businesses will cut em- ployees to part time hours or fire them completely in order to avoid taking a ma-
Q.E.D. (QUITE EASILY DONE)  

BY ERIKA TRENT

THE WEB BROWSER’S ALPHABET OF ONLINE PROCRASTINATION

- amazon.com
- Blog.okcupid.com
- Courseroad.mit.edu
- Dropbox.com
- bay.com
- Facebook.com
- google.com
- Hyperboleandahalf.com
- I saw you mit.edu
- Justamedubbed.tv
- Knowyourmeme.com
- Lifehacker.com
- itadmissions.org/blogs
- Netflix.com
- Outlook.com
- Phdcomics.com
- Qeodomics.com

NEED TO BUY TEXTBOOKS... OOM, DORM SUPPLIES STAY OFF-SALE!!!

IT’S NOT WASTING TIME IF YOU’RE PLANNING YOUR FUTURE!

IF YOU’RE NOT TOOLSING, MIGHT AS WELL, YES, HACKING!

ORGANIZE YOUR FOLDERS INSTEAD OF ORGANIZING YOUR LIFE

SEE FRIENDS ENJOYING THEIR LIVES – HINDER WHAT’S CHICHEST AT STUPIDLY SEARCHING SUGGESTIONS

REACH PEAK PROFOUND RELEVANCE ABOUT HARSHSHIPS OF ART

SEE NUMBER OF USERS ON STELLAR RIGHT NOW - FEEL LESS ALONE

TOO LAZY TO DELETE OLD EMAIL, BUT STILL PRINT NEW EMAIL

PARADOX OF CHILI PEPPERS BEGINS... LIKE WIKIPEDIA, BUT BETTER.

THE SEARCH OF THE OTHERS BEGINS...

WHAT SHOULD WE CALL ME?

TOO SLEEPY TO PROCRASTINATE FURTHER - OFF TO BED!

 Ratemyprofessors.com
 Stellar.mit.edu
 Twitter.com
 Uncyclopedia.com
 Vimeo.com
 Whatashouldwecallme
 Xkcd.com
 Youtube.com
 ZZzzzzzzz...
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku
Solution, page 12

2 5 3 1
3 8 9 6 1 7
2 8 1 6
1 9
9 7 4 8
2 3 1 7 4 5
1 7 2 8

Losing Altitude by Charles Slack
Solution, page 12

1 2 3 4
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ACROSS
1 Frosted
5 Real estate development
9 Fraction of a fl. oz.
12 Future husbands, maybe
14 Calgary Stampede, e.g.
15 Contents of some kegs
16 Moonshine
18 North Atlantic catch
19 Boxing surface
20 Meditation method
21 Time out
23 Barbarian
25 Part of UCLA
26 Insignificant thing
29 Regard impolitely
31 Of hearing
32 Org. concerned with
ACROSS
33 Prefix for economics
35 Oil holder
39 Where the stars are
41 Web presence
42 Burrowing rodents
48 Nutrition label listing
49 L’Oreal rival
50 Floral band
52 Comply with

53 Baseless rumor
55 Out in the distance
56 Washington’s home, 1777/78
61 Part of TGIF
62 Homerian epic
63 Paddywhack
64 Summer top
65 Plans (out)
66 Sort

DOWN
1 Tech giant
2 Buffett title
3 Henri’s water
4 Knucklehead
5 Poet Van Dyke
6 Insignificant thing
7 Life of Pi director
8 Close to the ground
9 Puget Sound city
10 Catchphrase
11 Goes biking
12 Hidden supply
13 Close competitor
14 Prefix for hero
15 Prefix for economics
16 Time out
20 Meditation method
21 Time out
22 Trials and tribulations
23 Dome-shaped do
24 Hoops org.
25 One side of an issue
27 Woven together
28 __ Mutual Friend (Dickens novel)
30 Without struggling
33 Most important
34 Hotshot
36 Falling-out
37 46th state
38 Bumped into
40 One side of an issue
42 Monetary gain
43 Money-back ploy
44 Not at all eager
45 Had
46 Koala color
47 Feudal subjects
51 Take on
53 Film excerpt
54 Fortress cry
56 Enthusiasm
57 Patterned after
58 Metaphor for hope
59 Productivity measure
60 Stretch (out)

Techdoku
Solution, page 12

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 OPERA REVIEW

An American version of The Magic Flute

Boston Lyric Opera brings the magic of Mozart's music into the 21st century

By Bogdan Fedele

Imagine Mozart and his librettist Schikaneder enlisting the help of a contemporary dramaturg to pitch their singspiel The Magic Flute to the American public. This unlikely premise was exactly what Boston Lyric Opera was going for with their world premiere of a new English adaptation of Mozart's famous opera. Bolder than most, the new production featured a more comprehensive back-story, altered geographic setting, clearer symptoms, and delightful English lyrics.

The stage décor was enchanting, the costumes eye-catching, and the singing breathtaking. 222 years after its premiere, Mozart's opera sounds incredibly fresh in this ingenious reimagining, delivering its potent mix of joyous humor and nuggets of wisdom with a renewed vitality, and a surprising up-to-date relevance. Attend- ing the BLO's production of The Magic Flute made for a spectacular night at the opera, at once entertaining and inspiring. The opera's original premise is simple; it unfolds as an allegory opposing the forces of the night — led by the Queen of the Night — against the forces of the day — led by Sarastro. Tamino, the pro- tagonist, is on his heroic quest to save the princess Pamina from the evil agent Monostatos. Taminis sidekick, Papageno, is on his own quest to find a wife, which he eventually does, in Papagena. The opera also aboundeth with themes and symbols reminiscent of Mayan civilization. The layered perspective is very appropriate, representing both the mystical labyrinth from which the protagonists are trying to escape, and the stages of initiation that Tamino and Papageno have to go through to prove themselves worthy of their counterparts. This set also afforded very smooth transitions between scenes, because a radically different set could be quickly achieved with relatively small set movements. The magical setting and his classmates, and recreates the original Magic Flute story. Introducing the whole allegory as a dream or hallucination is very compelling, the additional story layer suggests that the protagonists are ultimately common folk, but the opera is only a mys- terious reflection of their day-to-day trials and tribulations.

One of the key strengths of BLO's production of The Magic Flute is the English translation and adaptation. The creative team, composed of Leon Major, John Conklin, and Kelly Rosera, delivers a well-balanced, ingenious adaptation that unfolds naturally in English, while retaining both the poise and the humor— the overtone overtones of the original German text. While the gist of the original text is maintained, the freer translation allows for excellent rhyming and fluidity in the lyrics, which establishes a close connection with the audience. Additionally, the lyrics are projected, which helps the audience appreciate the delectable quality of the translation even more. Staging is another noteworthy accomplishment. The set is constructed using inde- pendently moving rectangular frames, and is richly decorated with vividly colored props full of symbols reminiscent of Mayan civilization.

The singing — the main attraction of going to the opera — was the best part of the BLO's production. Featuring an all-local cast, with many singers performing with the BLO for the first time, the operatic spectacle had an elbuent, youthful quality, and offered a smooth blending of superb singing and compelling acting. Tenor Zach Borichevsky, showcasing a precise, nuanced high-register singing and agile acting, delivered a convincing performance as the lead character Tami- no. With her soulful and endearing singing, as well as her sleek stage presence, soprano Deborah Selig owned the role of Pamina. Baritone Andrew Garland was delightful and funny as Papageno, vividly expressing the character's humor with his excellent acting and singing. Joining him for one exciting aria was soprano Chelsea Basler, as Papagena, who showcased her comedic talent and warm, mellifluous singing. Up-and-coming sensation soprano So Young Park drove the audience wild by portraying the Queen of the Night with lively acting and breathtaking sing- ing dexterity. In each one of her fiend- ishly comic scenes, she amazed the audience with an array of acting tricks and an expressive delivery. While all the performances were out- standing, if I had to pick the least com- pelling one, it would have to be the three boys/guiding-spirits. While their tackle of Mozart's greasepaint singing parts was com- mendable, their stage presence was often tentative. As guiding spirits, they often seemed in need of guidance themselves. Moreover, being in charge of carrying Tamino's magic flute and Papageno's magic bells (an interesting new concept, at least in theory), made them look even more confused and out of place.

The Magic Flute

The magic flute is the English translation and adaptation.

The singing — the main attraction of going to the opera — was the best part of the BLO's production. Featuring an all-local cast, with many singers performing with the BLO for the first time, the operatic spectacle had an elbuent, youthful quality, and offered a smooth blending of superb singing and compelling acting. Tenor Zach Borichevsky, showcasing a precise, nuanced high-register singing and agile acting, delivered a convincing performance as the lead character Tamino. With her soulful and endearing singing, as well as her sleek stage presence, soprano Deborah Selig owned the role of Pamina. Baritone Andrew Garland was delightful and funny as Papageno, vividly expressing the character's humor with his excellent acting and singing. Joining him for one exciting aria was soprano Chelsea Basler, as Papagena, who showcased her comedic talent and warm, mellifluous singing. Up-and-coming sensation soprano So Young Park drove the audience wild by portraying the Queen of the Night with lively acting and breathtaking singing dexterity. In each one of her fiend- ishly difficult arias, when she reached the stratospherically high notes, it felt like droplets of the sublime tingling one's ears. At the opposite vocal range, bar- bid David Cushing delivered an earthy, booming performance of Sarastro, showcasing an excellent vocal technique and nuance. Rounding out the cast, tenor Neal Ferreira vividly portrayed the lust-crazed villain Monostatos, making use of his alluring, well-projected singing voice and excel- lent theatrics.

While all the performances were out- standing, if I had to pick the least com- pelling one, it would have to be the three boys/guiding-spirits. While their tackle of Mozart's greasepaint singing parts was com- mendable, their stage presence was often tentative. As guiding spirits, they often seemed in need of guidance themselves. Moreover, being in charge of carrying Tamino's magic flute and Papageno's magic bells (an interesting new concept, at least in theory), made them look even more confused and out of place.

Bass David Cushing delivered an earthy, booming performance of Sarastro, showcasing excellent vocal technique.

A fresh repackageing of Mozart's fantas- tic tale, now with a solid book, delightful English lyrics and outstanding singing and acting — the BLO's production of The Magic Flute is a momentous artistic manifestation with a strong appeal to both opera aficionados and neophytes. If you have never seen The Magic Flute, this is probably your best introduction to this opera. If you have seen it, you'll relish the freshness of this interpretation. Either way, you don't want to miss out on this one.
The pasta next door

Homestyle Italian cooking in Cambridge

By Rex Lam

After checking out one of the most famous Asian restaurants in Boston, I decided to try something totally different — a hole-in-the-wall Italian restaurant in the heart of Cambridge. Unless you spend your free time walking around the streets of Cambridge, you have probably never heard of Basta Pasta. Hidden in a residential area, the restaurant is about a ten-minute walk from the Central Square T station. After navigating through streets with nothing but houses, I finally spotted the restaurant and noticed the construction work around it. The street was being torn up, and traffic cones and fire trucks were everywhere. My first impressions were neutral at best.

My initial opinion changed very quickly. Walking into Basta Pasta, I immediately felt surrounded by the many family-owned eat-in/take-out places back in my hometown in the suburbs of Boston. There are a few tables to the side, but the centerpiece of the restaurant is the counter and the menu board above it. It is the type of place where you choose your own table and serve yourself.

At the recommendation of the guy at the counter, I ordered three pasta dishes. As I waited for my food, I noticed the constant stream of people coming in. For a small restaurant with an unimpressive exterior, Basta Pasta draws quite the crowd. It seems as if all the locals have known about this hidden gem for years, but have kept their secret from the hungry college students next door.

I immediately felt like I was in one of the many family-owned places back in my suburb in the suburbs of Boston.

The first dish I had was the meatball pomodoro linguini. Normally not a huge fan of meatballs, I found these to be firm, flavorful, and very well balanced. Still, I was more impressed by the linguini, which was thin and cooked for the right amount of time. By this point, the restaurant was full and lively with conversations. The line to order was almost out the door, and I felt lucky to have come just before the crow.

I then moved on to the chicken piccata linguini, which turned out to be my favorite. Just like the meatball pomodoro linguini, the pasta was perfect. What made this dish even better was the blend of different flavors. While the linguini itself was relatively bland, it was complemented by the strong, distinct flavors from the mushrooms and capers. Furthermore, slices of lemon gave the chicken and pasta an extra zesty dimension. In essence, each bite featured an unexpected combination of the various tastes, and it made me eager to finish the whole plate before ordering another different flavor.

Not many dishes could have topped the chicken piccata linguini, but the last dish — Bolognese fusilli — was no disappointment. Although I usually only get Bolognese when I feel particularly unadventurous, this dish proved to be quite special in that the fusilli was homemade, very chewy, and varied in length and shape. Altogether, it was a very different experience from eating pre-made fusilli out of a box.

By the time I finished my dinner, all of my first impressions had completely vanished. I had in mind were the unpredictable flavors of the chicken piccata linguini. As someone who does not eat out at Italian places often, I am glad that I found Basta Pasta. Places like Basta Pasta show that you do not always need a big name or fancy decorations to be a great restaurant. If you ever have some time to venture out to the streets of Cambridge, I highly recommend stopping by Basta Pasta for some great Italian pasta.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

When I dream of Jiro Dreams of Sushi

Where to go to satisfy your sushi cravings

By Ian Watts

After every Netflix binge that inevitably includes an all-too-frequent viewing of Jiro Dreams of Sushi, I am always left looking for a way to satisfy my cravings for raw fish. After determining that a flight to Tokyo isn’t the most efficient or economical option, I turn to the choices that Boston and Cambridge have to offer. If you too suffer from recurring bouts of sushi withdrawal, I’d recommend giving either (or both) of my go-to places a try.

Avana Sushi

A true sushi masterpiece in the rough, Avana Sushi is situated in a “Food Court” at 42 Beach St. in Chinatown. If you decide to go and arrive at this address, I’d answer two of your questions before you ask them: no, you aren’t lost, and yes, this is the place. Your destination is the sushi stand nestled snugly between a cell phone knick and an egg puff cart (also delicious) with only six counter seats. If you go at a prime time, expect to wait, or order take-out and find a spot nearby for a picnic.

After you’re seated, you’ll look at the menu and see it was worth any discomfort that your journey and/or wait may have caused. “Conventional” maki are cheaper than LaVerde’s at $4.95 per roll, sushi and sashimi are around $4 a serving, special rolls are $9, and to top it all off, miso soup is only $2. Spoiler alert: it’s all delicious.

My go-to options are the Spicy White Tuna Avocado Roll ($4.95), the surf clam sushi ($3.95), and the Spicy Scorpion Maki ($4, tuna, cucumber, tobiko, and a layer of shrimp, $8.95), but really anything that is on the menu is worth getting, and then getting more of. If you don’t trust me, trust Boston Magazine, who named Avana Sushi “Best Low-Brow Sushi” for 2013.

Uni

When my desire for sushi (almost) desiring of fish’s approval trumps my desire to have money in my wallet, I usually head over to Uni Sashimi Bar, which can be found just across the river from campus, at the intersection of Commonwealth Ave. and Mass Ave. The restaurant occupies a very small basement space (17 seats) in the Eliot Hotel. The space is cozy but modern, with dark tables and dim lighting. The focal point of the room is the sashimi bar, behind which the restaurant’s chef makes the sashimi for the restaurant in full view.

Uni serves sushi and Japanese fare with “fuson” elements, but the use of that skepticism-inducing buzzword of the mid-2000s shouldn’t scare you off. While the menu may not meet fish’s exacting standards for traditional cuisine, you certainly won’t be disappointed by it. Uni shares its space with Clio, one of the highest-rated French restaurants in the city, and both are owned by James Beard Award winner Ken Oringer. So don’t worry, the kitchen staff knows how to incorporate French elements into their Japanese dishes. Two of my favorite dishes are the “Tuna Poke” ($17), which is cubes of raw tuna in a slightly spicy sauce with mango and onion, and Scotch Salmon Sashimi ($15), which is slices of raw salmon served simply with a bit of sauce containing candied ginger and black sesame.

Prices for a meal are steep, however, with small dishes averaging about $15–$25 each, and a satisfying meal requiring at least two or three of them. For a slightly less pricey option, visit Uni on a Sunday or Monday night for their “Sake Bomb Menu.” It includes a four-course dinner (with the exact dishes chosen by the kitchen), a Sapporo, and a glass of sake $35. If you aren’t a picky eater and like surprises with your dinner, you should certainly make your way to Uni for this option.

Basta Pasta

319 Western Ave., Cambridge

Monday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m., and Sunday 3 p.m. – 10 p.m.

By the time I finished my dinner, all of my first impressions had completely vanished. I had in mind were the unpredictable flavors of the chicken piccata linguini. As someone who does not eat out at Italian places often, I am glad that I found Basta Pasta. Places like Basta Pasta show that you do not always need a big name or fancy decorations to be a great restaurant. If you ever have some time to venture out to the streets of Cambridge, I highly recommend stopping by Basta Pasta for some great Italian pasta.

Basta Pasta Trattoria, an Italian restaurant near Central Square, dishes out pizza, pasta, risotto, and paninis to customers until 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
The Passion of the Capt’n

Captain Phillips is proof that a movie can feel like a documentary. I imagine this story would be truly shocking if he were a close friend or relative of yours. I can also see how if he were, say, a friend of a friend, or a third cousin of your wife, his story would still be a great story to tell to friends over dinner. But given that I have no particular acquaintance or close relationship with this man called Captain Phillips, and considering the great scheme of things, the story of his kidnapping and rescue — at least in the movie version — struck me as just one more story in a genre that has seen better.

Some critics have described the movie as thrilling. I even heard some press guys sitting next to me describing how the film created an environment of claustrophobia. I imagine Somali pirates would look like, little else truly remarkable about the film. Some critics have described the movie for the Navy SEALs, who look the part (strong, professional, efficient) but are a bit one-dimensional. And Hanks himself is kind of “meh” during the rest of the movie. Thrown in some amateurish special effects of the vessels, the fact that not much is happening during most of the movie and — worse — that what happens is exactly what you already knew was going to happen, and the result is closer to a snooze-fest than it is a thriller. The rescue operation was so disproportionate compared to the pirate threat that I almost felt sorry for the pirates. Captain Phillips’ rescue was as predictable and underwhelming as was the hijacking of his ship, and his days of danger at sea are not even remotely in the same league as other maritime adventures, like that of Shackleton.

Shackleton.

The beauty and terror of space

The special effects are enough to pull you in

By Kristen Sunter

The film opens with sobering facts about space written on a black screen, while a sound like a rocket launching grows deafeningly loud. It is slow from the very beginning that Alfonso Cuaron’s Gravity will be merciless. But the brutal facts and gripping story are set against the incredible beauty of Earth as seen from space, with slight-of-hand special effects, and gorgeously rendered scenes of sunrises and the northern lights from orbit.

When a Russian anti-satellite mission accidentally hurl deadly debris into the orbit of a shuttle mission sent to upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope, Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) is flung from the cargo bay arm into space. Mission commander Matt Kowalski (George Clooney), who is wearing a thruster suit, continues to act almost unbelievably demonstration of mechanics: the camera first focuses on her face from outside her helmet, and then slowly moves through the glass until we see the same sickening spinning she experiences. Space buff might know that the ISS and Hubble are not actually one, and a real life Stone wouldn’t have been wasting precious fuel to go around in the beginning.

However, the unrealistic aspects are not mistakes but rather sacrifices to tell the greatest story. When Stone removes her space suit in the airlock of the ISS, she should be wasting no time to rescue the still-free-floating Kowalski, but instead she carves up in the fatal position as though the airlock were a womb, which is one of the most powerful images of the film. Later, she sees the Soyuz as a similarly safe place and does not want to push on. But survival requires going away from the places that were once.”
Taking off from the ground into flight
A modern dance performance with aerial elements

Ground Ipswich Moving Company
Choreographed by Janet Taisy Craft
Performed by Chandra Cantor, Jenny Carlson, Danielle DiVito, and Tabitha Liversidge
Boston University Dance Theater
October 4-5, 2013

By Kristen Sunter

The word “aerial” has come to connote aerial silks, trapeze, lyra, and similar circus arts, and the performances often involve more acrobatics and gravity-defying tricks than dance per se. That’s not to say that aerial silks are not graceful or expressive, but that Cirque du Soleil has set a high standard for making audiences gasp.

In Ground, however, the use of the slings was strictly to serve the dance: the aerial dance concert, choreographed by Janet Taisy Craft and performed by members of the Ipswich Moving Company, was less an aerial performance than dance per se. That’s not to say that aerial silks are not often involve more acrobatics and gravity-defying tricks (top to bottom) Jenny Carlson and Danielle DiVito in rehearsal for the aerial performance. But all these were forgivable problems, as the base of a good dumpling was there; the execution was just off. I had a feeling it was opening week bums and visited again more recently.

The second visit was much better. The vegan dumplings were excellent, full of an earthy mushroom flavor. The vegetarian dumplings were not quite as good, as the way they were fried interfered with the flavor. However, I have the feeling I would have loved them steamed, as the vermicelli, egg, and chive combination is a winning one. The only real issue is the price. Two orders of dumplings costs around $14. When I spend $14 on restaurant food, I usually hope to have plenty of leftovers. Instead, I left feeling barely full.

The restaurant certainly has potential, and if they start delivering as intended, it could be a nice way to get homemade dumplings at home. Visiting the restaurant could be a nice break from campus, especially with a stop into Toscanini’s right next door. However, if you are looking for an authentic, cheap meal, you’ll still have to go to Chinatown.

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E-mail join@tech.mit.edu
By Karleigh Moore

Fangirls and boys everywhere have been eagerly awaiting the return of Supernatural, a show about two brothers saving people and hunting all things supernatural, creepy, and deadly. The show made its ninth season return this Tuesday, Oct. 8 on The CW, and, as expected, Supernatural fans have already begun to flood Tumblr with GIFs capturing key scenes, new fanfiction, and speculation about what the new season has in store.

I have to admit, I am obsessed with this show. I spent the entire summer in a fangirlish craze, watching episode after episode until I completed all eight seasons. (If you are planning a similar feat, may I recommend IAP?) I spent a mere three months in anticipation of this episode, and it did not disappoint.

The season eight finale left fans dumbfounded, asking, with Heaven and Hell in their current states, how could life on Earth continue to be? What will happen to Sam? How many times do the main characters have to die? Will Destiel ever become canon? Does God exist? These are all questions that plague the minds of viewers and have spurred endless discussion on social media sites.

Sadly, we have not yet received answers to most of our questions, in fact, we have been left with new questions. The episode contained many pleasant surprises, despite the slew of new unanswered questions. I was happy to see that actor Jim Beaver returns as a guest star for the episode, playing fans’ beloved Bobby Singer, a father-like character to the show’s two lead roles, Dean and Sam Winchester. The episode is shown through interesting perspectives, as one of the main characters is in a coma. Though Supernatural is known for having suspenseful episodes, there were also many funny moments — Castiel’s “rusty” social skills make an appearance once again, and Dean’s infamous one-liners and banter make their way into the episode.

Once again, I am left with only my Tumblr dashboard for answers as I wait for next Tuesday’s episode, when hopefully more truths will be uncovered and my ship, Destiel, will be one step closer to canon.
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Kochs and conservatives split over health care law
In midst of government shutdown, most vocal conservatives splintering under pressure

By Eric Lipton and Nicholas Confessore
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Under at-
tack for the government shutdown, some of the most vocal elements of the conservative wing of the Repub-
lican Party are publicly splintering, a sign of growing concerns among even hard-core conservatives that the
― defeat—health-care-at-any-cost strategy may have backfired.

The dispute centers on the best way to oppose President Barack Obama's health-care plan: to imme-
diately try to bring it down by block-
ing any federal budget deal that in-
cludes funding for it, or to gradually build public opposition until Con-
gress and the White House are con-
trolled by elected officials willing to
repeat the law.

On Thursday, the divisions were on display as conservative groups such as the Heritage Action Fund for America said it would not fight a short-term increase in the debt ceil-
ing while Americans for Prosperity insisted just a few days ago that any increase be tied to cuts in entitle-
ment programs.

Their actions followed an un-
usual public statement Wednesday by the Koch Cos., the conglomer-
ate controlled by the billionaire conservative brothers Charles
and David Koch, who sent a letter to the Senate stating that they did not support the effort spearheaded by Heritage Action to force the partial closure of federal government as a way to eliminate funding for the
health care program.

"We want to set the record straight and correct this misinformation," the letter said.

The conflicting opinions, which had been kept mostly private for months as the budget conflict in Washington escalated, reflect a growing fear that the Republicans will be blamed for forcing the government shutdown without anything to show for it.

"We were fighting a battle where we already lost, on the same battle-
field where we already lost it," said Hogan Gidley, a former execu-
tive director of the South Carolina Republican Party and an advisor to Rick Santorum's presidential campaign.

Don Holler, a spokesman for Heritage Action, which has led the effort to defund the health care program even if it meant a govern-
ment shutdown, said the divisions among conservative activists were not a surprise.

" Anyone you choose to engage in policy fights in Washington, chances are your supporters are not going to be in 100 percent align-
ment all the time," he said. "That is how Washington works.

Stopping the health care plan should be a years-long effort to marshal growing public animosity

Democrats have seized on the disputes, noting that Freedom Part-
tners, a trade association backed by the Koch brothers and others, donated $500,000 to Heritage Ac-
tion before the 2012 presidential election.

"By shutting down the govern-
ment, Republicans are satisfying the Koch brothers while millions of people are suffering," Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and the Senate major-
ity leader, said in a tweet before the

Kochs distanced themselves from
the Heritage Action effort.

Holler said that one issue divid-
ings conservatives was the timing of attacks on the health care plan.

"The supporters of Heritage Action's strategy believed that the critical moment to mobilize was the con-
vergence of the new budget year that began Oct. 1 — meaning that the government would run out of money if a new budget was not passed — and the opening day of the online markets, known as ex-
changes, that enabled people to buy health insurance under the
new law.

"If there is a better strategy than defunding, we are all ears," Hol-
ler said, recalling a conversation among conservative activists this year as they debated the best path forward. "If it is more workable, sign us up. But nobody was able to present one that would work before October 1st."

Opponents of the approach are arguing that conservatives would have been better served by trying to force an overall reduction in fed-
eral spending and tying that effort to the debt ceiling fight, a step the Koch-backed Americans for Pros-
perity urged this week. Specifically, the group argues that stopping the
health care plan should be a years-
long effort to marshal public animosity toward the law. That will help
elect Republican majorities in both
houses of Congress, which will re-
peal it.

Stanley S. Hubbard, a Minneso-
ta-based television executive and a donor to groups supported by
the Kochs, said he preferred that approach. "Whether you like it or not, it's the law," he said. "And if you don't like it, elect people who can repeal it."

The startup of the program of-
fered a perfect opportunity to ad-
vance that longer-term approach, supporters of it said, since without the politically manufactured bud-
get crisis, there would have been more media attention on the pro-
gram's troubled beginning, includ-
ing failures of the online enrollment system.

What was clear in Washington was that the focus shifted from the defunding the
healthcare program.

"We believe tying the fight over Obamcare to the continu-
ing resolution takes our focus off the many flaws of Obamcare, as well as cutting out-of-control gov-
ernment spending," said James Davis, a spokesman for Freedom
Partners.

Lambesh Chen, a fellow at the Hoover Institution and a former policy adviser to Mitt Romney, said he worried that by hurting the Republican brand nationally, the House Republican strategy would set back the cause of repealing Obamcare.

"To the extent that we are com-
promising our ability to win close races, that is a big problem for those of us who think that the best way to get through this is through a legislative mechanism," he said.

Others expressed irritation that the House Republicans had been so outmaneuvered on the shut-
down that they were now offering a short-term increase in the debt ceiling without any offsetting bud-
get cuts — a worse deal, however temporary, than they were de-
manding in the early stages of the budget battle.

Similar divisions emerged among Republicans in Congress several weeks ago. Even Karl Rove, a Republican operative and for-
mer adviser to President George W. Bush, questioned the defund-
ing strategy in a column for The
Wall Street Journal last month.

"Any strategy to repeal, delay or replace the law must have a cred-
ible chance of succeeding or af-
fording broad public opinion posi-
tively," he wrote. "The defunding strategy doesn't."

What was clear in Washington on Thursday was that the focus had shifted away from the defund-
ing of the health care program. Re-
publicans on Capitol Hill were de-
scribing the fight as an effort to cut future budget deficits — a major shift in strategy and an acknow-
ledgment that they were expecting the defunding push to fail.

Chris Chocola, president of the conservative Club for Growth, which has supported many Tea Party candidates, said Thursday that the conservatives were still unified on their ultimate goal: kill-
ning what they call Obamcare.

"Different people have differ-
te views on how to get there," he said. "Moving in that direction and having the debate are worth the effort."

Catherine Frazier, a spokes-
woman for Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who led a defunding effort in the
Senate last month, said she agreed Thursday.

"We believe we have made im-
portant headway in our argument to undo Obamcare," she said. "Any potential backlash is not on our radar right now."
our forces join@tech.mit.edu

we’re seeking to build

Less networks become a way of
tively far from the transmitter.

we will be able to wirelessly power
devices when the device is rela-

Specifically, Katabi imagines that
entertainment to online commerce.

used in a variety of ways, from en-

tion devices. Now, computers are
— similar to how your computers
functioned only as computa-
ters were a few decades ago, when

power devices.

Katabi imagines that we will soon be
able to wirelessly power devices.

Katabi explained, “Then, wire-
less networks become a way of
powering some devices so they
provide power transfer, and then they
[also] provide tracking and control and then you can start
thinking, ‘Can I make networks become general-purpose net-
works?’ as opposed to just com-

Katabi imagines

Katabi's research has other im-
portant applications as well, such as protecting pacemakers from
harmful interference.

"Having a challenge is some-
thing interesting," Katabi stated.
"It gets the best out of you."

As an astrophysicist who stud-
ies planets outside of our solar sys-
tem (exoplanets), Professor Sara
Seager receives a lot of calls about
UFOS and alien sightings. Thus, Seager missed the call the first
time the MacArthur Foundation tried notifying her of her award.
Her assistant had screened it out.

"In this case, the call was so mysterious that it didn’t go through," Seager explained in a
phone interview with The Tech.

In her research, Seager studies
the atmosphere of exoplanets and
their interiors, ultimately look-
ning for any spectral signatures of
chemical compounds that could
indicate the existence of life (called biosignature gases).

"On my best days, I usually get
to do some computer program-
ning and often will be working
with one or two colleagues and
just intensely working for five or
six hours in a row on a very hard
problem," said Seager.

After obtaining a B.S. from the
University of Toronto and a PhD
Science, Technology, Engineering,
and Mathematics) academia.

"I think people will listen to me
now, even more than before," Sea-
ger commented. "Assuming I want
to get something done, it gives me
a platform for a voice."

Leon Lin contributed reporting.

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Susie: Hey Ethan!

Susie: I'm looking for a job on campus. Do you have any ideas? I like programming and computers.

Ethan: What's up?

Ethan: You should join the technology department at The Tech! We pay $14/hr.

Ethan: You get to learn valuable job skills too!

Susie: Cool, but what if I don't know that much yet?

Ethan: We've got people who can help you out.

Ethan: E-mail join@tech.mit.edu and we'll send you more info!
The Tech Friday, October 11, 2013

SPORTS

Team moves up to fourth in latest USTFCCCA Men’s cross country ranks up

Bates College, and Bowdoin College region, ahead of Williams, MIT is also first in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Runner of the Week.

For the second week in a row, the Engineers finished in first place at the Purple Valley Classic with 41 points. The weekend before last, the Engineers finished in first place at the Purple Valley Classic with 41 points and was followed by Williams College with 58 points and host Middlebury College with 60. Williams moved up four places to fifth from last week to sit directly behind MIT in this week’s rankings, while Middlebury fell one place to 24th. For his third place finish in the 8k, Roy A. Wedge ’14 was named the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Runner of the Week.

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By Charlotte Brackett

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