

52 Honored at Awards Convocation

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lectures; he presented difficult materials with lots of insight."

Two recipients were named from the Sloan School of Management. Professor Arnold I. Barnett: "He made statistics class interesting and amusing. Anyone who can make this subject even vaguely provocative deserves to be recognized as an outstanding teacher."

Robert M. Freund, Nanyang Technological University Senior Professor of Management Science: "He really cares about whether or not students understand the material. He is enthusiastic about the topic and makes it fun to learn."

Three members of the faculty received the Everett Moore Baker Memorial Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. They are:

Steven H. Strogatz, assistant professor of mathematics: "He singularly stands out as the best teacher I have had at MIT. He excites interest in the subject and gives students a solid conceptual understanding of the material."

Robert J. Silbey, professor of chemistry: "He manages to capture your attention through his enthusiasm, his clear and thorough explanations, and through using real-world examples that students can relate to."

Margery Resnick, associate professor of foreign languages and literature: "She exemplifies what an ideal teacher should be. She is approachable, friendly and not intimidating, and focuses more on teaching and serving students."

The Amar Bose Teaching Award was given to Professor Alvin W. Drake of electrical engineering and computer science. In presenting the award, Dean Joel Moses said: "Professor Drake developed 6.041, his subject in applied probability, some 25 years ago, and despite its overwhelming success he has never felt complacent. He strives continually to improve it. 6.041 remains, today, a hallmark in our curriculum."

Referring to Professor Drake's teaching, Dr. Moses said, "One of Al's many strengths is the ability to recreate, in a class of nearly 200 students, the atmosphere of a class of 20."

A fourth teaching award, the Goodwin Medal, recognizes a graduate student for "conspicuously effective teaching." Two students won the medal this year. The recipients and quotes from some of their nominators follow:

James F. Abbott of physics from Princeton, Mass.: "His clarity, thoroughness, dedication, and motivation are unique. I have never seen anything like it from a graduate student in my 25 years at MIT, and I only know of two professors in the entire department who could equal his high level of teaching," a faculty member wrote.

Gregory W. Wornell of electrical engineering and computer science from Canada: "I would not have expected a graduate student to be able to teach a course [6.341] of this breadth and complexity. . . He achieved the ultimate aim of teaching: he not only informed, he also provided intuition into the material and the motivation to learn it," a student wrote.

Other award recipients were also honored for their commitment to the MIT community.

James N. Murphy Awards for MIT employees whose contributions to the Institute community have endeared them to students were presented to three people this year. The recipients and quotes from some of their nominators follow:

Be B. Hubbard, administrative secretary at the Lab for Computer Science: "Be is Mom to the entire group. She listens to troubles, distributes candy, counsels students in need, babysits," and much more.

James E. Roberts, night watchman at East Campus House: "Big Jimmy serves as protector, physician, counsellor and parent to MIT students in their hours of greatest need. He has saved lives directly through his cool and courageous actions and he may have saved lives indirectly through his kind words and deeds."

Phyllis Ruby, graduate administrator in mathematics: "She's the first and last person a graduate student sees." Said one student, "If Phyllis were to leave, it is possible that the Mathematics Department might grind to a halt."

Four students received Karl Taylor Compton Prizes honoring their work in

promoting high standards of achievement and good citizenship within the community. They are:

David P. Carroll, a senior in biology from Baytown, Tex., who "has shown an impressive commitment to raising awareness on issues of hunger and social injustice. His leadership in the MIT Hunger Action Group has ensured that organization's ever-increasing visibility and effectiveness on campus."

David G. Steel, a graduate student in physics from England, who "as a member of numerous Institute committees . . . and in his efforts on behalf of the Graduate Student Council, the Physics Department and the Alumni Fund Board has articulated graduate student concerns about housing, support, networks, families and recreation."

Rebecca D. Kaplan, a junior in brain and cognitive sciences from Canada, whose "dedication, energy, effectiveness and commitment to social activism is evident in her work with Gays at MIT, Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Awareness Day, and the Association for Women Students."

Steven D. Penn, a graduate student in physics from Allston, who "has been involved in activities unified by the constant themes of democracy, freedom of inquiry and justice." Those activities include serving as vice-president of the Graduate Student Council and helping found the Thistle.

Receiving William L. Stewart, Jr., Awards for outstanding contributions to extracurricular life at MIT were:

James W. Bales, a graduate student in physics from Brookline, for reviving and strengthening the annual intramural College Bowl tournament, sometimes called the "Varsity Sport of the Mind."

The Colombian Student Association, for organizing numerous activities that "successfully presented varied aspects of Colombia to the MIT community."

Defeat Discrimination at MIT, for efforts that "have given MIT the opportunity to reassert its commitment to maintaining an environment that refuses to tolerate prejudice, bigotry and

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COMPTON PRIZE WINNERS—Recipients of awards recognizing high standards and good citizenship were, from left: David Steel, Rebecca Kaplan, David Carroll and Steven Penn.
Photo by Donna Coveney