

# Graduate Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics Newsletter

March 4, 2004 On the Web: [http://web.mit.edu/~stevep/Public/GA3/newsletter/GA3news\\_mar2004.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/~stevep/Public/GA3/newsletter/GA3news_mar2004.pdf)

## GA<sup>3</sup> News

**Monthly Newsletter** GA<sup>3</sup> begins a regular newsletter to keep you up-to-date on lab, department, and university news relevant to Aero/Astro grad students. PDF archives can be found on the GA<sup>3</sup> website.

**Social Events** RECENT: Jay Peak Ski daytrip was held on February 22nd. 55 people from MechE and Aero/Astro attended (see right).  
UPCOMING: Wine & Cheese Social (faculty, staff, and grad students). Tentatively Thursday, March 18, 4 - 6pm.  
UPCOMING: Volunteer Day.



*Aero/Astro students enjoy Jay Peak.  
Photo by Oliver Martin*

**GA<sup>3</sup> Involvement** In addition to the social programs, this semester we are hoping to get involved in the prospective graduate student open house and start looking into the prospects of an AA graduate student conference.

**Website** The website is being updated to include GA<sup>3</sup> reports/surveys, quals info, monthly meeting minutes & newsletter archives (<http://web.mit.edu/~stevep/Public/GA3/resources.html>) It will soon be moving to its permanent web location.



## GSC News

**Insurance Subsidy** "Health insurance will be fully subsidized for graduate students supported by research and teaching assistantships (RA's and TA's) beginning academic year 2004-2005. This announcement follows the culmination of the efforts of the GSC Cost of Living Advisory Board (GSC COLAB)." (Please see <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/initiatives/colab/> and [http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/news-events/gsn/articles/2003/12/GSC\\_CostOfLiving.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/news-events/gsn/articles/2003/12/GSC_CostOfLiving.shtml))

**Childbirth Accommodation** "A childbirth accommodation policy has been finalized and adopted by the Institute. Female graduate students supported by teaching and/or research assistantships will be eligible for eight weeks of support and salary, and unsupported students will retain pre-existing Institute services and health coverage." (Please see: <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/studentlife/family/maternity.shtml>)

**Tax Relief** The GSC, as a member of NAGPS (National Association of Graduate-Professional Students), is lobbying the US congress in support of bill HR 3412. This bill would increase the tax-exemptions and tax-deductions (among other things) for grad students, resulting in tax savings on the order of \$1,000 per year for many grad students.

### ***Tax Relief***

Please see <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/programs/NAGPS/> for more information. To contact your representative directly in support of this bill visit <http://www.capwiz.com/ams/issues/bills/?bill=4528511>.

### ***GSC Elections***

GSC Officer and Committee elections are coming soon. If you have questions or are interested in running for a position, contact: [gsc-vice-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-vice-president@mit.edu) for GSC officers or committee chairs through <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/about/committees/>.

### ***GSC Involvement***

If you aren't interested in running for a GSC position, but want to help out and be involved, GSC committees are involved in all facets of grad student life (academic, social, cost-of-living, housing, etc.) and are always looking for help, ideas, etc. If you'd like to find out more, please see: <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/about/committees/>.



## **Department News**

### ***Ocean Engineering Merger***

The AA Dept is no longer in the running for a merging with Ocean Engineering. It appears Course 13 will merge with Mechanical Engineering instead. Reasons cited were historical ties and physical proximity.

### ***Qualifying Exams***

Performance Statistics for the last five years and a 2003 statistical assessment of bias in the exams are now available on the website at <http://web.mit.edu/~stevep/Public/GA3/resources.html>.

### ***New Faculty***

Prof. Missy Cummings <http://web.mit.edu/aeroastro/www/people/missyc/index.html>  
Prof. Nicholas Roy <http://web.mit.edu/nickroy/www/>  
Prof. Annalisa Weigel [http://esd.mit.edu/Faculty\\_Pages/weigel/weigel.htm](http://esd.mit.edu/Faculty_Pages/weigel/weigel.htm)  
Prof. Brian Wardle <http://mit.edu/wardle/www/home.html>

### ***Additional News***

<http://web.mit.edu/aeroastro/www/news/index.html>

## **Lab News**

### **CSRL (Complex Systems Research Laboratory)**

**News** SERL (Software Engineering Research Lab) recently renamed to CSRL.

## **GAS TURBINE LABORATORY AT MIT**

### ***Events***

"An Economic Analysis of Global Range Airpower"

Dr. Jon Protz of the Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency (and a GTL alumni)  
*When/Where:* Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm in 31-161 (Microengine Conference Room)  
Coffee and donuts are served at 4:15pm.

"Development of a MEMS Liquid Valve System for Space Propulsion"

Mr. Jin-Wook Lee (current GTL Ph.D. student)  
*When/Where:* Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm in 31-161 (Microengine Conference Room)  
Coffee and donuts are served at 4:15pm.



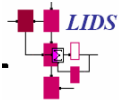
## International Center for Air Transportation

**Student Awards** Bruno Miller receives Outstanding Student of the Year presented by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) University Transportation Center.

Tom Reynolds receives AIAA Orville & Wilbur Wright Graduate Award recognizing significant research contributions to the field of aerospace engineering and the RTCA William E. Jackson Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aviation.

**Faculty Awards** Prof. John-Paul Clarke receives U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) FAA Excellence in Aviation Award for 2003.

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## Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems

**News** Our upcoming move to the Stata Center has just been postponed to April 16.

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## Lean Aerospace Initiative

**Events** LAI Plenary Conference to be held in Dana Point, CA over spring break. Executives and engineers from companies within the LAI consortium will meet with the LAI members to discuss the current and future states of LAI, as well as tools developed by researchers.

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## MAN VEHICLE LABORATORY

**Events** "Spacesuit - a highly articulated multi-mission personal spacecraft"  
Ed Hodgson of Hamilton Sundstrand -- Talk sponsored by Mass Space Grant in 16.S26  
*When/Where:* Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 - 4 pm, 37-212

Student Town Meeting on U.S. Space Vision - What would you want NASA and the President's commission on U.S. space exploration policy to know? Come and voice your opinion!  
*When/Where:* Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm in 35-225 or Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm in 33-116

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## Space Systems Lab

**Recent Events** Over thirty students, staff, facility, and friends of SSL went on their yearly Ski Trip Research Retreat from Feb 26-29<sup>th</sup>. This year's destination was Okemo Mt. in Vermont.

**Events** Weekly SSL seminars are held in 37-212 at 4pm on Fridays.

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## Technology Laboratory for Advanced Composites

**News** Prof. Mark Spearing has returned from 2002-2003 sabbatical; however he has announced intentions of returning to England.

TELAC welcomes Prof. Brian Wardle (Ph.D. 1998) to the department & the laboratory.

Send questions or comments about this newsletter to [ga3-comm@mit.edu](mailto:ga3-comm@mit.edu)