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town and gown

E-topia looks at future of media in cambridge

Comparative Media Studies, the MIT Communications Forum and the Center for Reflective Community Practice will present a two-day event, "E-topia/ Designing Cambridge: 21st-Century Communications for our Community" on Nov. 21 and 22.

The program kicks off on Friday, Nov. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Media Lab's Bartos Theater with a talk by William Mitchell, academic head of the MIT Media Lab and author of several books on how advanced communications technologies can be used to benefit communities, including *e-topia: "Urban Life, Jim—But Not As We Know It."*

"Mitchell's talk will be a timely introduction to an issue our community is now studying," says CMS visiting professor and Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Scholar **Mark Lloyd**, whose class Democratic Engagement and Communication in Cambridge is involved in analyzing how well local media serves Cambridge. A website developed for the class can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/cms.881/www/>.

"The City of Cambridge has begun an examination of whether it should offer communications services to Cambridge residents," Lloyd explains, "and if so, what services should be provided. Our class is involved with community leaders in answering this question. A question especially relevant in this year of local elections."

Following Mitchell's talk, experts will debate the role of local governments in providing communications services.

On the second day of the program, panelists will describe a variety of MIT communications experiments

designed to improve community life. Speakers for that panel include Keith Hampton, Ceasar McDowell and Mitchell Resnick of MIT, and Richard O'Bryant of Northeastern University.

A second Saturday panel will examine how local media served Cambridge during the 2003 elections. Speakers include Michele Babineau, editor of the Cambridge Chronicle, and Susan Fleischmann, executive director of Cambridge Community Television.

The Saturday, Nov. 22 programs will be held in 6-120 beginning at 10 a.m. See the MIT Communications Forum website at <http://web.mit.edu/comm-forum> for details and agenda updates.

All events are free and open to the public and will offer opportunities for audience questions and comments.



William Mitchell



Mark Lloyd

Fall 2003 communications forum and cms colloquium

Forum: Are National Television Systems Obsolete?

Thurs., Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m., 4-237, MIT
James Carey, Elihu Katz and William Uricchio

Colloquium: Video Games II

Thurs., Nov. 6, 5 p.m., 2-105, organized by Matt Weise

Forum: Covering Iraq: American Media vs. the World?

Thurs., Nov. 13, 5-7 p.m., Bartos Theater, MIT
Alex Jones and Danny Schechter

Colloquium: Unhurt Melodies and Sensuous Impasse: Romantic and Contemporary Poetic Mediality

Thurs., Nov. 20, 5 p.m., 2-105, Maureen McLane

Forum: e-topia/ Designing Cambridge: 21st-Century Communications for our Community two-day event

Friday, Nov. 21, 4-6 p.m., Bartos Theater, MIT
Sat., Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 6-120, MIT
(see story on this page for details)

Designing Cambridge events are free and open to the public, offering opportunities for audience questions and comments. See <http://web.mit.edu/comm-forum> for details.

director's chair

CMS continues its global reach, cutting-edge ambition

by William Uricchio

CMS, a media studies program with a twist? Or, a reflective and applied engagement with mediated culture and the culture of mediation? The recent activities of CMS students, staff and faculty sketched out in this issue of *In Medias Res* demonstrate the vitality of the program as the latter, a critical interface between media (technologies, publics, modes of representation) and core humanities, arts, and social science issues.

Global in reach, cutting-edge in ambition, the people of CMS continue to show the value of a comparative and critical approach to the processes of mediation.

Fall brings with it the excitement of a new group of students and visiting scholars, as well as the experiences

of those returning from stints in the field or in the library.

It also brings change. Alex Chisholm, a fixture of the program from its start and a key figure in our outreach to the world of industry, foundations, and donors, has recently accepted a position as director of content at LeapFrog Enterprises, one of our ongoing research partners. This is a tremendous opportunity for Alex, and we wish him our best and look forward to an invigorated relationship with the small but growing colony of CMS alum at LeapFrog.

By the time the next issue of *In Medias Res* appears, we will have had a changing of the guard. Henry Jenkins will be back at MIT, and it will be my turn to head for the hills (or rather, the Lowlands).

Success with the semester ahead.

Education arcade sets sights on e3 conference

The Education Arcade is a consortium of international game designers, publishers, scholars, educators, and policy makers whose mission is to demonstrate the social, cultural, and educational potentials of games by initiating new game development projects.

The project's activities this year will culminate in an educational games conference in Los Angeles as part of the Electronic Entertainment Exposition (E3) on May 9-11, 2004.

Here are the projects to be presented at the conference:

Revolution is a multiplayer online videogame prototype based on the American Revolution designed by **Matthew Weise**, **Henry Jenkins** and **Kurt Squire** in collaboration with **Pauline Maier** from the History Department. Development work on the prototype is being supervised by **Philip Tan** and coordinated by **Brett Camper** and **Matthew Weise**.

Electromagnetic Knockout! is a 2D party videogame designed for software stability, simplicity and multiple players. The game is being developed using SDL, an open-source programming library for 2D game graphics.

Metamedia applies technology to humanities

Over the summer, the MetaMedia research group embarked on several new projects and extended existing ones, including:

- **Authors in the United Kingdom** (with **Wyn Kelley**, Literature)
- **Cultura** (a cross-cultural initiative with **Gilberte Furstenberg**,

Foreign Languages and Literature)

- **Declarations of Independence** (with **Pauline Maier**, History)

- **Memory and Commemoration - Young German Writers** (with

Dagmar Jaeger, Foreign Languages and Literature)

MetaMedia also enhanced the ways students can comment on media objects in the MetaMedia archive.

Currently, five classes at MIT are using MetaMedia. For detailed information on MetaMedia see the project website at <http://metaphor.mit.edu>.

Games Literacy has **Henry Jenkins** and **Parmesh Shahani** focusing on identifying projects outside MIT that involve education about games or game development in the K-12 arena, as well as compiling an inventory of college-level courses on game studies and design. They hope to identify and begin implementing the roles that the Education Arcade could play as a consortium to further extend the games literacy field.

Augmented Reality. Continuing work that began with the Games-to-Teach Project, **Eric Klopfer** from the MIT Teacher Education Program is developing new handheld location-aware games and technologies, as

well as developing toolkits and teaching materials to support the use of augmented reality gaming in education.

Web Redesign. With the transition from the Games-to-Teach Project to The Education Arcade, the research group is overhauling its online and offline presence, adding up-to-date reports of development projects and online support for the upcoming E3 conference.

Archiving of the Games-to-Teach website and redesign of the The Education Arcade website is being handled by **Philip Tan** and **R.J. Bain**. A logo and overall visual scheme is being developed by **Moneta Ho**.

people, places, things

Summer and fall activities demonstrate cms breadth, diversity

Faculty

Odile Cazenave published her book *Afrique sur Seine, Une nouvelle génération de romanciers africains à Paris (Africa on the Seine, a New Generation of African Novelists in Paris)* in June. She will present her book in October at an African literature festival in Tchad. In addition, she is on the film programming committee of the African Studies Association's Oct. 30-Nov. 2 meeting in Boston. Next term, she will teach a course on global feminism.

Peter Donaldson participated in the Forum for the Future of Higher Education at the Aspen Institute in September as Carnegie Lecturer. His lecture focused on the Shakespeare Electronic Archive and the MIT Shakespeare in the 21st Century Project.

John Dower and **Shigeru Miyagawa** showed a combination print/multimedia installation (created as part of the Japan in World History Project), at the Newport (R.I.) Black Ship Festival in July. The exhibit will travel to the Los Angeles Convention Center for Japan Expo in November, followed by a showing at the East-West Center in Honolulu. A number of other locations are being negotiated for 2004.

Henry Jenkins, on leave from his duties as director of CMS sends "greetings from the land of pickled okra," where he is spending the bulk of his time at a family cottage in the North Georgia mountains.

Henry reports: "I have been taking time to swim in a spring-fed lake, listen to the pitter-patter of squirrels chasing each other across our wooden roof, and witnessing the remarkable

"A new book, *Dungeons and Dreamers*, devotes a chapter to my Congressional testimony after Columbine."

-- Henry Jenkins



spectacle of pig races at the fair.

"I have also done interviews for *Soundscape*, *The Connection*, *On the News*, and other PRI and NPR shows, participated in a French television documentary, continue writing my two monthly columns for *Technology Review* (online edition) and *Computer Gamer* (with **Kurt Squire**) and am pulling together a collection of essays while trying to make progress on my new book about media convergence and the relationship between media producers and consumers.

"I am also sorting through the ways that the story of *The Matrix* is dispersed across film, anime, games, and comics, what demands this new mode of narrative places on consumers, and how it reflects larger trends in the media industry. After that, I will be focusing on drawing out the similarities and differences in the ways that censorship and copyright enforcement restrict our rights to read and write about *Harry Potter*.

"I am working with **Philip Tan** and **Parmesh Shahani** to launch a media literacy program under the Education Arcade Project banner.

"And, oh, I am torn between gloating over the fact that a new book, *Dungeons and Dreamers*, devotes a chapter to my Congressional testimony after Columbine and grimacing over the fact that the authors called me 'grandfatherly.'"

Wyn Kelley delivered the first annual Melville Birthday Lecture at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, a program organized by the Melville Society Cultural Project in collaboration with the museum. Titled "Melville Pictures the City," Wynn's presentation used images from nineteenth-century portrayals of the city (New York and Jerusalem) as well as clips from Scorsese's *Gangs of New York* to discuss urban themes in Melville's work.

Christina Klein was awarded the Mitsui Career Development Chair for her research and teaching. Speaking of teaching, Tina is teaching a new course with **Greg Dancer** called Hollywood/ Hong Kong / Bollywood that looks at the material and aesthetic ties connecting the U.S. and various Asian film industries. She also presented two papers at the University of Illinois: "Martial Arts and the Globalization of U.S. and Asian Film Industries" and "Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* and the Shaw Brothers' Legacy in a Globalizing World."

Martin Marks traveled for the third year in a row to Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England to perform and lecture about music for silent films. Soprano soloist **Margaret O'Keefe**, who teaches in the vocal music program at MIT, accompanied Marks. He prepared scores for two silent features: *Phantom of the Opera* (the 1925 version with Lon Chaney), and Murnau's *Faust* (1926), and says, "Margaret and I hope to present these scores again here at MIT, during January's IAP."

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faculty continued

Shigeru Miyagawa spent this summer as visiting professor at the National Institute of Multimedia Education in Japan. In collaboration with NIME's faculty, he initiated a project on 19th-century Japanese photography, which will become a part of the Japan in World History Project.

Charity Scribner will launch her book *Requiem for Communism* with a series of lectures at the end of the current term. She has been invited to speak at the Dia Center for the Arts in New York and the Center for European Studies at Harvard. In Germany, the *Weimarer Beitrage* will publish a translation of her recent essay on Christa Wolf's novel *Leibhaftig*. In the spring term of 2004, Charity will teach a new course at MIT called Plotting Terror in European Culture and Media.

Irving Singer is putting the final touches on his book titled, *Three Philosophical Filmmakers: Hitchcock, Welles, Renoir* to be published by MIT Press in spring 2004, and is at work on another book tentatively titled *Film as Mythmaking*. Irving's essay, "The Dead: Story and Film" about the John Huston film in relation to the James Joyce short story will appear in the winter 2003 issue of *The Hudson Review*.

Janet Sonenberg and The Royal Shakespeare Company held a two-week workshop during which Janet's newly developed acting technique was tested. The workshop was a success – the technique works with the English, whose training is quite distinct from the Americans – and the technique will be used to create a new work on Pontius Pilate in spring of 2004.

David Thorburn spent part of his summer completing editorial work on the launch volumes of the Media in Transition book series he edits for the

MIT Press. These two anthologies, *Democracy and New Media* and *Rethinking Media Change: The Aesthetics of Transition*, co-edited by Thorburn and **Henry Jenkins**, have just been published. David reports that he also completed essays on *The Sopranos* and on television aesthetics for *The Encyclopedia of Television*, helpful preparation for his course on the cultural history of American television, which he will teach this spring.

Edward Turk reports that "Except for a few days in Venice, I spent most of the summer in Paris completing a full draft of my book-in-progress, a literary-medical memoir. I'm delighted to be back home teaching a revised version of Major Media Texts in the CMS grad program and Contemporary French Film and Social Issues in the FLL/CMS undergraduate curriculum."

William Uricchio spent the summer teaching at Utrecht University and found time to visit Cambridge University and organize a joint MIT-Cambridge Filming the City conference to be held March, 2004. Since returning, William has been a regular at Logan, flying back to Europe to give lectures in Paris and Utrecht, and to organize a conference in Budapest. He is editing a book entitled *Media/Culture* and trying to finish a book co-authored with Roberta Pearson of Cardiff University on the struggle over motion picture theaters as social space. Meanwhile, William is bracing for two major life changes: a forthcoming year-long leave thanks to a Guggenheim fellowship, and a conversion from PC to Apple.

Christine Walley has been working as a co-producer on a recently completed video documentary, *Containment: Life After Three Mile Island*. The film explores the ongoing impact of the 1979 nuclear accident on the nearby community of Middletown, Penn., and

is being screened at various college campuses this fall. Walley is also co-directing and producing (along with Chris Boebel) *Exit Zero*, a video documentary that explores the demise of the steel industry in a working-class Chicago neighborhood and the region's "new economy" based on casinos and toxic waste sites.

Visiting scholars

Maureen N. McLane is pursuing several projects including the completion of *The End of Poetry: Balladeering, Minstrelsy, Mediality*, a look at poetry-as-media ca. 1800 and now; and *Poetry in Prose: Lost Souls, Dead Poets, Live Feeds, and other Media Phenomena*, a collection of essays on poetry and contemporary culture for a general audience.

Curtiss Priest will publish "Media Ownership: Visceral Sensibilities versus Corporate Greed" in the February issue of the *American University Law Review*. Priest has also been asked to be a panelist at a symposium on the FCC's Media Ownership Rules on Nov. 14th in Washington.

Marja Roholl is back in Cambridge after a teaching stint at her home university in the Netherlands, and is currently co-teaching Technologies of Vision, a course on American poetry and photography, with **Stephen Tapscott**. Here at MIT, she's also been researching and writing a book on the Library of Congress's collection of Farm Security Administration and Office of War Information photographs of the home front. Marja is also organizing a Dutch conference on American culture and the Second World War, and drawing on her CMS experience to help develop a new BA and MA program in media and journalism at Rotterdam University.

Sylvia Sensiper has been working on photography projects at Peabody Elementary School in North Cambridge. A paper about the photographic curriculum she developed at the school, "Let's Make a Better Picture: Teaching Photography as Science and Art to First Graders," will be published in the *Journal of Pedagogy, Pluralism and Practice*.

Yuichi Washida, who is director of the Hakuhodo Institute of Life and Living, Japan's second largest marketing and advertising firm, is settling in and launching into his research project. He will conduct a "media environment" survey in the U.S., the Netherlands, Sweden, China, and Japan, to determine how people in each country interact with media with an emphasis on new media including the internet, e-mail, mobile phones, digital games, and online chatting.

Graduate students

Robert (R.J.) Bain went Hollywood this summer. He reports, "This past summer, I had the privilege of working in Hollywood as assistant to writer/producer John Romano at Sunset-Gower Studios. Romano, a former professor of English Literature at Columbia, is a consulting producer on NBC's *American Dreams*, and is involved in a number of feature film projects at various stages of development.

My time was split between doing research related to these projects and research for possible future projects. Romano often receives books and amateur films to consider for potential adaptation, and it was my duty to read/view these works and to provide him with a synopsis and my thoughts regarding why something would or would not make a good motion picture. Needless to say, this was a blast.

"I was fortunate to have access to both the set and the writers' room for

American Dreams. I visited the set on a number of occasions, but I was espe-

cially fascinated by the writers' room and the collaborative manner in which television scripts are conceived and written."

Lisa Bidlingmeyer earned her MFA in painting at the Tyler School of Art. At CMS, her research interests include advertising and videogames, particularly how space is experienced relative to the body and the presence or absence of the body in virtual space.

Joellen Easton is associate producer for *The World*, currently splitting her time between the BBC documentary series *The Changing World* and a six-program special series called *The World After the War in Iraq*. At CMS, Joellen is pursuing her interest in the media's role in international political and democratic engagement.

Michael Epstein reports, "Besides soaking in Venetian life for two and a half months, I began doing research for my thesis 'Fiction on the Move,' which looks at the design and challenges of telling stories with mobile devices." (see stories on page 6)

Clara Fernandez spent a month in Stratford-Upon-Avon working in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust where she collected 200 images from Royal Shakespeare Company productions to expand the Hamlet in the Ramparts Project, and for future CMS archives. Clara will be attending the Level Up-

Digital Games Conference in Utrecht, Nov. 4-6 where she is presenting a

poster of the vampire in the Castlevania videogames.

Cristobal Garcia writes: "The summer was a nice mix of work, academic stimulation, pleasure and fun. It all began the last week of May when I flew to Greece for the Mass Media and Globalization conference in Athens and presented my paper, 'Political Edutainment in the U.S. Media.'

"Fellow CMS student **Yannis Zavoleas** was at the conference, and being in Athens with my Greek friend was a great experience. Later, my wife Josefina and I went to Hidra, an island in the Aegean Sea.

"The next stop was Venice. Along with **Michael Epstein** and our partners from University Ca Foscari, we spent June and July developing the first phase of History Unwired in Venice: Mobile Technology for Intelligent Tourism and Global Citizenship." (see stories on page 6)

Neeti Gupta presented her summer work on cross-cultural collaborative design at a UN conference in September. She also presented at Washington State's Global Education International summit and participated in the UBICOMP 2004 conference. She is building a prototype of a location-aware project involving social networks with Prof. **Keith Hampton**. Over IAP, Neeti plans to illustrate and record her grandmother's stories.

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Mailing list serves los angeles-based mit grads

Jeanne Yu (1998 graduate in Film and Media Studies) has created a mailing list for MIT graduates working in the film and television industry. MIT alum and CMS students can subscribe to mitfilmalums@listserve.mit.edu (for all industry-related notices) or mitfilmalumsla@listserve.mit.edu (for Los Angeles notices only) by emailing Jeanne at Jeanne_yu@alum.mit.edu, or (alum only) by joining through the MIT alumni website (<http://alum.mit.edu>).

graduate students continued

CMS graduate students going mobile

History Unwired in Venice: Mobile Technology for Intelligent Tourism and Global Citizenship started in January 2003 as a brainstorming session between CMS graduate students **Cristobal Garcia**, **Neeti Gupta**, **Michael Epstein**, and **Yannis Zavoleas** regarding educational uses for mobile technology.

After a discussion with CMS visiting scholar **Filippo Dalfiore**, it was decided that Venice would be the test site for the project, and Cristobal and Michael traveled there this summer to conduct a study of tourist behavior and civic development.

Based on their interviews with over a hundred tourists, and focus groups with local citizens and mobile-device design firms, they wrote a design document titled *Exploring Venice Frontiers* for the regional government in which they identified an emergent type of tourist who wants to understand and preserve local cul-

ture, as well as a local population interested in contributing to the content and implementation of their system.

The students are now working to create a prototype and test mobile devices for this new type of tourist-local interaction, while planning an open workshop to present their findings and chart further developments.

Freedom trail test set for halloween

While involved in the History Unwired Project in Venice, **Michael Epstein** is also combining mobile technology and storytelling right here in the Hub.

"I set up a project with the Freedom Trail Foundation to integrate the multimedia and networking capabilities of pocket PCs into the live storytelling done by their historically dressed tour guides," Michael explains.

"Our first project, scheduled for Halloween night, will be a tour of the Old Granary Burial Ground near Boston Common."

Anyone interested in taking the Oct. 31 Halloween tour should contact Michael at m_e@mit.edu.

Moneta Ho says she "spent this summer building and destroying relationships, creating cities, and witnessing earthquakes, meteor showers and alien landings. This was all in a day's work during my internship at the video game company Maxis, creators of the Sims and SimCity. Back at MIT, I will continue my research with Literature Head **Peter Donaldson** and **Kurt Fendt** in the Metamedia group, and will be working on several projects including the design and interface for the Au-dela du regard Project with **Johann Sadock** from Foreign Languages and Literatures."

Andrea McCarty worked for the past few years as a film archivist, and over the summer received a grant to document early amateur film formats. She spent time recording an oral history with a local film collector, and going through his collection of rare film and equipment.

Yannis Zavoleas presented papers at the Visual Knowledges conference at the University of Edinburgh and the Media and Globalization conference in Athens, and published his essay

"New Media and Representation in Space" in a special "MediaLand-DisneyLand" issue of *Architectones*.

CMS alum

Graduate students

Class of 2001

Jim Bizzocchi is an assistant professor in the School of Interactive Art and Technology, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, where he teaches courses in interactive narrative, game design, and video production, and where his research interests include the emergent aesthetics of large-scale high-resolution video display.

Cynthia Conti is an adjunct professor at Clark University, where she teaches courses in media policy and television culture in the Communication and Culture and Screen Studies Dept.

David Spitz is senior consultant with Deloitte in New York, working with clients on the content management strategy. He is preparing his MIT Master's thesis, "Contested Code(s):

Toward a Social History of Napster," for publication.

Christa Starr attends the Graduate Film School at NYU, and has been doing freelance Avid editing, web design, and trying to put together funding for a short film.

Christopher York, formerly of MetaMedia, is a researcher for the Perseus Project at Tufts.

Class of 2002

Candis Callison is a doctoral candidate in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society at MIT. While presenting papers on a variety of media issues, Candis continues the work she began in CMS on digital representations of the environment. She is expecting a baby in December.

Anita Chan is in the Ph.D. program in Science, Technology, and Society at MIT.

Sophie Ormerod is manager of advertising for New York-based Whenu (www.whenu.com).

Qi Wang is in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media at UCLA, and continues making documentaries and art films including *Written on the Water*, *Pink Dots Set to Indian Song in Chinese*, and a work in progress about gay culture in Chongqing, China.

Margaret Weigel writes on arts and culture for WBUR and *The Women's Review of Books*, and creates digital media projects for numerous clients. She will be a visiting professor for the course Critical Listening in the Sonic Arts at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts for the spring 2004 term.

Michelle Woodward is in Jerusalem working as a photo researcher, archivist, and photographer for a documentary about Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers. Her essay, "Between Orientalist Clichés and Images of Modernization: Photographic Practice in the Late Ottoman Era," will be published in the winter issue of *History of Photography*.

Class of 2003

Stephanie Davenport is a Boston-based freelance consultant in media relations and development for the arts, working for Ars Electronica Center, Linz, Austria, and Art Interactive Gallery in Cambridge, and individual clients.

Nadya Direkova presented her thesis work on bilingual toys to a number of design companies, and was hired as an associate producer at Leapfrog in San Francisco.

Robin Hauck has been writing film criticism and working on a screenplay that she plans to submit to the Sundance Screenwriters Workshop in May 2004. She recently participated in her first triathlon, and her daughter Haley started kindergarten.

Aswin Punathembekar is pursuing a Ph.D. in media and cultural studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In October, he presents "Hindi Cinema in Transnational Circuits: Brokering Cultural Identity in the Indian-American Diaspora" at the Annual Conference on South Asia.

Philip Tan is the Technologist in Residence in CMS, consults for the Media Development Authority of Singapore, and is project manager of the Education Arcade Project (*see story on page 2*).

Undergraduate students

Dante Anderson (1995) received an MA in cinema studies at NYU, and is currently pursuing an MBA at the Harvard Business School.

Jin Kang (1996) earned an MFA in film production at USC focusing on editing and cinematography, and is director of enhanced programming at Fox Cable Networks.

Phillip Tiongson (1996) completed an MS at the Media Lab and is currently a student in the MFA program at the Columbia University Film School.

Humair Yusuf (1996) earned an MA in creative writing while publishing a number of short stories. He teaches Language, Culture, and Society for a business school in Pakistan.

Marissa Acosta (1998) is working on various media projects, including producing, directing, and editing documentaries for a college radio station.

Chris Marchant (1998) works at the United Space Alliance in Houston where he is a computer programmer.

Brian Tivol (1998) has been working for a local company that makes websites.

Stephanie Miller (1999) is currently completing a Master's in information technology at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Marleigh Norton (1999) is working on a Master's degree in human-computer interaction at Georgia Technical Institute.

Geeta Dayal (2001) worked for WGBH-TV in Boston on documentaries, earned a Master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, and is currently research assistant for an upcoming book on the history of post-punk music from 1978 to 1984.

Luke Phelan (2002) is working with video artist Julia Scher, involved in all aspects of production. Projects include *Sounds for the Watched* (video), *Multivalence/Multiviolence* (video) and *Embedded*, (installation piece).

Margaret Wong (2002) was promoted to Web Technologies Consultant in MIT's Information Services.

Jessica Bowles-Martinez (2003) is working at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab on a distributed remote processor for a Mars rover.

Jessie Chen (2003) is completing a Master's degree in the Arts in Education Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In Medias Res

is published three times a year by:
MIT Comparative Media Studies (CMS)
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new course

Digital poetry class offered for spring 2004

What would poetry in a computer game look and sound like? Can hypertext be an effective compositional tool for poets? What happens to words when they are combined with digital video and audio or Flash? Can a good poem be interactive?

What is the poetry of digital media?

This new class being offered by **Ed Barrett** explores the possibilities of poetry when it is released from the page and created for digital media. Students will create and discuss their own digital poetry throughout the semester, and are encouraged to imagine new forms of poetry for a variety of digital media. Students will receive PDAs with wireless cards on loan for the semester to experiment with accessing poetry on hand-held devices. Class size will be limited.

The class, 21W.799 Special Topics, will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4:30. Call the Program in Writing office at 617.253.7894 for more information.

Comparative Media Studies is now a full undergraduate major at MIT. For more information, see the undergraduate website at web.mit.edu/cms/ugrad, or contact the CMS office at 617.253.3599 or via email at cms@mit.edu.

CMS

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