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News & Events



Green Acres ... Have fun and win exciting cash prizes in the art & design competition, organized by Harvard Green Campus Initiative! The NEW submission deadline for the "Vision of Sustainability 2020" competition is April 3rd, 2006. "What do you think an environmentally sustainable campus of the near future will be like?" Let your imagination run green and win! \$10,000 in cash prizes. Go [here](#) for more information.



Star Performance ... The Jan 9th issue of the [Boston Globe](#) profiles grad student Roberto Martinez: "Roberto Martinez can talk about quantum dots and string theory, electron transport and structures one-billionth of a meter in size. It's all in a day's work for the Harvard University graduate student, who is working toward his PhD in mathematical physics. But now Martinez, 26, is about to bring it down to a level the average American can understand and even enjoy. Martinez is about to become a reality TV star." Martinez will appear on Animal Planet's *Chasing Nature* on Jan 31 @ 8 PM.



GO TEAM! ... Congrats to HCES and their "Robotic Futbol Club"! The [Harvard College Engineering Society](#), together with the MIT Competitive Robotics Club, recently won a \$30,000 [iCampus Grant](#) to create their own robot soccer team. Their goal is to enter this year's [Robocup Competition](#), an international joint project to advance understanding in AI, Robotics, and related fields. Only 5 iCampus grants, sponsored by MIT and Microsoft Research, were awarded this spring. For more, check out these [photos](#).



Grand Designs ... Congrats to David Ricketts and Kyoungho Woo in [Donhee Ham's Group](#) for winning the 2006 ADI Outstanding Student Designer Awards from Analog Devices. Ricketts was honored for his development of the first [electrical soliton oscillator](#) and Woo was recognized for his design of a new fast lock frequency synthesizer architecture.



Going the Distance ... Harvard University, through its Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has joined the Indo-US Inter-University Collaborative Initiative in Higher Education and Research—a partnership composed of Indian education and government institutions, U.S. universities, and international corporate sponsors—intended to enhance engineering and science education throughout India via distance learning technology. For complete details go [here](#).



Shuttle Launch ... *The Crimson* reported on the boundless creativity of David Malan '99, current CS grad student and the prime mover behind the first Podcast of a [Harvard course](#). Finding continued inspiration from his days in [CS50](#) (the most common entry into the CS concentration), Malan piggybacked on earlier work to create Shuttleboybot, a smart script that allows students to instantly view the Harvard shuttle bus schedules via instant messaging. While it may seem a roundabout way of getting around, during Boston's cold winters, saving a few seconds translates to warm relief. The complete [scoop](#) is here. And to see when the bus may be coming near you, go [here](#).



Hot Stuff ... The Division's Daniel Jacob, part of NASA's Aura satellite project, designed to closely track local and regional air pollution and their sources, was quoted in a December NASA press release [here](#). And while we were a bit late to the punch (praise is praise!): in March 2005, Thompson Scientific named Dr. Jacob among its top 10 "hottest" researchers based upon the total number of "hot" papers -- those that achieved a rate of citations in scientific journals that is markedly higher than papers of comparable type and age. For more, go [here](#).



Tiny Bubbles ... Anand Bala Subramaniam, Howard Stone, L. Mahadevan, and Manouk Abkarian have demonstrated that gas bubbles can exist in stable non-spherical shapes without the application of external force. Translation: bubbles can break free of their characteristic round forms and flex their skins into peapod-, doughnut- and sausage-shaped versions. The new fangled bubbles are created by coating ordinary gas bubbles with a tightly packed layer of tiny particles and then fusing them. You can read more at [Nature](#) or see the [press release](#).

Newsletters

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Race to the Bottom ... Experience life at the smallest levels by catching up on the latest nanoscience research with Charles Lieber. The *Gazette* reports "the race to the bottom of matter involves not only constructing smaller, more efficient devices but also finding better ways to make the tools needed to produce these things. In the November 25 issue of the journal *Science*, Lieber, along with graduate students Chen Yang and Zhaohui Zhong, announced a unique way to fabricate nanodevices. Instead of using conventional methods to make wires that connect together nanotransistors and other circuit components, this team built the components right into the wires." For the complete scoop, go [here](#).



Capasso Awarded Presidential Medal for Culture ... The President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, will present [Federico Capasso](#), Robert L. Wallace Professor of Applied Physics and Vinton Hayes Senior Research Fellow in Electrical Engineering, with the Presidential Medal for Culture in a ceremony in Rome on December 14th. The honor is bestowed upon individuals who have achieved high distinction in science, the humanities, or other cultural activities.



Kinetic Writing ... the Dec/Jan 2006 BOOKFORUM's cover story celebrates the late Thomas McMahon's other life as a fiction writer; he was also a distinguished applied mechanics professor at DEAS for over two decades. For more go [here](#) ... AND ...

Clever Coding ... Former Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg stopped by CS50 to talk about the success of his start-up, facebook.com. *The Crimson* was there in person to assess the online king who created not simply a company, but a new verb. For more go [here](#).

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