



October 15, 2009

Dear MIT Junior or Sophomore:

On behalf of the Burchard Scholar Selection Committee, I invite you to apply to become a **BURCHARD SCHOLAR** for the calendar year 2010 in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Burchards will meet for two consecutive terms beginning in February 2010.

The Burchard Scholars are a group of MIT undergraduates who are appointed each year on the basis of having demonstrated unusual abilities and academic excellence in the humanities, arts, or social sciences. Those appointed are invited during the year to a series of dinners at which an MIT faculty member or visiting scholar makes a brief presentation of work in progress followed by general discussion. A Burchard Scholar can be a major in any department in the Institute; no preference is given to HASS majors. All sophomores and juniors in good standing are eligible to apply.

In the recent past, the Burchard Scholar dinner-seminars have included presentations by Associate Professor **Taylor Fravel** (Political Science) on "*Three Perspectives on China's Rise: Threat, Opportunity, or Menace?*"; a special outing to meet **Yo-Yo Ma** at Symphony Hall; Clinical Professor of Neurology, **Dr. Thomas Byrne** (Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology) on "*Mirror Neurons: Impact on Learning, Empathy and Theory of Mind*"; and Senior Lecturer **George Ruckert** (Music and Theater Arts) on "*The Sarod and the Raga in North Indian Tradition.*" Such "intellectual feasting" allows both students and faculty a greater chance to mix and gives Burchard Scholars an opportunity to engage in the kind of intellectual exchange that characterizes scholarship in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

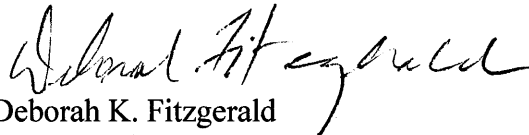
The Selection Committee (composed of faculty in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) will designate up to 30 students as Burchard Scholars in 2010. If you are a sophomore or junior with strong intellectual interests in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, have done consistently excellent work in one or more of these areas, and wish to participate actively in our dinner-seminars, I urge you to complete the attached application form.\* A faculty member in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences or the School of Architecture and Planning who has taught you in a HASS subject must write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. The back of the application form should be used for this purpose. Your referee must then send the application and reference directly to the Burchard Scholar Selection Committee at E51-255 by **Tuesday, December 1, 2009.**

I should add that the Selection Committee is also requesting HASS faculty to nominate Burchard Scholars directly. Therefore, it is possible that one of your instructors will suggest that you apply to become a 2010 Burchard Scholar. The application procedure is the same. But don't wait for a faculty member to approach you; if the Burchard Scholars Program interests you, and you feel that you are qualified, take the initiative yourself!

The Burchard Selection Committee looks forward to receiving your application at **E51-255** by **Tuesday, December 1, 2009**. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision before the end of the fall term.

You may also access and download the 2010 Burchard Application and Reference Form and review the list of past and present Burchard Scholars at: <http://shass.mit.edu/undergraduate/scholarships/burchard>

Yours sincerely,



Deborah K. Fitzgerald

Kenan Sahin Dean

Professor of the History of Technology

**\* You should apply only if you will be able to attend and participate regularly in the Burchard dinner-seminars, which will meet Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. four times a semester.**

Enc: 2010 Burchard Application and Reference Form