Marie No, MBA ’10, spent the first three months of her life living in MIT’s Westgate, and now the 25-year-old is back here enrolled in the Sloan School of Management. “I feel like I’ve come full circle,” she said.

Marie’s father, Hee Cheon No, earned his PhD in nuclear engineering from MIT, and as a visiting professor, moved his young family around to places like the family’s native Korea, as well as Germany and Indianapolis. The No family encouraged their three young daughters to play piano but when they lived in Indiana they didn’t have one. Six-year-old Marie was angling to learn the violin; her parents agreed, and Marie and her dad and sister all took lessons together. Her sisters remained faithful to the piano, but Marie stuck with the violin – and 19 years later, she’s still playing.

She graduated from the Juilliard School with a Bachelor of Music in violin performance in 2005 and she is currently completing a master’s degree (part-time) in violin performance from the New England Conservatory.

Early Devotion
Marie truly devoted herself to the violin at the age of 10, when her family lived in Germany. She didn’t speak German and felt alienated in a strange country. “I started collecting CDs of violin concertos, and then I started practicing a lot. That’s when I resolved to be a violinist.” Her practical parents didn’t encourage music as a career path at first. “I was good at arguing and they wanted me to be a lawyer,” Marie remembered with a laugh. Their concerns were valid. “As a musician, one is criticized constantly. It’s very, very competitive,” she admitted. And time-consuming, as she practiced her instrument sometimes as much as three, four, or even 14 hours a day. “It demands total devotion and total perfectionism,” she said.

By the age of 13, Marie was performing in concert halls around the world. In 2001 she was a featured soloist of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Durham Symphony Orchestra. She has toured extensively and performed at celebrated concert halls including Leipzig’s Mendelssohn-Saal at Gewandhaus, Aspen’s Harris Concert Hall, Seoul Kumho Hall, and New York’s Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

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We welcome story ideas, photos, suggestions, and comments from students, faculty, and staff. Please send items to: Sarah Foote, Editor, news@sloan.mit.edu. Deadline: 12 p.m. Thursday for publication the following week.

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“I’m a very committed person and I never thought I would be anything else,” she said. As a teenager, she set her sights on Juilliard. Fortunately, the renowned performing arts school gave her a full scholarship. She thrilled there. “It’s a small school, so every single person is brilliant and focused on what they want to do. It’s a healthy competition.”

After graduation Marie spent a year in Germany where she studied music intensively with several pedagogues around Europe. “I wanted to immerse myself in the German culture – where it all culminated – Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven. It’s also important for a musician to understand the language…although I spoke German already…language is a huge influence on music.”

Teaching the Children
Marie had no doubt about continuing her formal education and was accepted into Boston’s prestigious New England Conservatory (NEC). While taking a masterclass in a German alpine town in 2006, she and several Juilliard alums devised a plan to start a summer music program for disadvantaged children in New York and Boston. Marie has always been drawn to teaching, and for years has given private violin lessons to children and taught as part of the Juilliard Instrumental Music Program. It was the seed of an ambitious plan and Marie now admits she and her friends had no idea what lay ahead. “We planned but none of us had any business skills…we thought we could get a bunch of kids and instruments together, but it didn’t work out that way.” A Juilliard grant they applied for fell through because they didn’t understand the logistics of how to draw funding.

This didn’t stop them, however, and they planned intensively for 10 months and held the Cambridge Summer Strings, a week-long program for young musicians in Cambridge in August of 2007. The summer workshop did not cater to “disadvantaged” youth, but 20 children, aged 6 to 12, who played violin, viola, cello, and piano participated. Eight Juilliard graduates and several other volunteers helped Marie run the intensive course. The program provided one-on-one instruction and chamber group rehearsals and lessons in music theory and history.

While working on her master’s degree Marie plotted her next step: business school. “I’ve always looked for a way to be a leader,” she said. “I was interested in education and music and I wanted to found a permanent music institute.” She knew she needed to learn new skills to expand her ideas. Chatting about the future with her mom one day, Marie mentioned her plans. Her mom, who’s also a professor, told her daughter to look into MIT Sloan. Marie looked up the Sloan website and was smitten with the School. “I went to the website, and I saw ‘innovation’ and ‘leadership.’ I loved the fact that it encouraged innovation. How can I bring innovation to the arts? Maybe I can learn!”

Marie wanted an MBA because it didn’t require an undergraduate business degree and because an MBA is often the perfect choice for someone who plans a career change. After she was accepted to MIT Sloan, Marie planned the second summer music institute, which she renamed the Nosis Music Institute. (Years ago, Marie and her two sisters devised the name Nosis, because they’ve always planned to go into business together one day.) Her older sister designs toys at Hasbro and her younger sister is a freshman at New York University where she is majoring in musical theater. They are just as interested in education as Marie. The Nosis Music Institute was also well-attended this past summer and many of the same children from last year participated.

Now that she’s here at MIT Sloan, Marie doesn’t practice the violin as much as she used to (“I’d rather be able to sleep than practice!”), but she is still giving lessons. She’s excited to be at the School. “I’ve learned so much…everything is new to me…DMD, accounting, OP,

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communications… I can tell that I’m learning very valuable things. I love the classes, the discussions, and all of the motivated students from very diverse backgrounds.”

In addition to her classes she is a member of the Management Consulting Club and MarketLab. She also just submitted a successful proposal for an international study tour to Venezuela during Spring Break. MIT Sloan students will visit Venezuela to participate in “El Sistema,” a socioeconomic and government-funded program that aims to pull children out of poverty through classical music. “Poverty causes anonymity,” Marie explained. “Music can help children find their identity. I’ve already contacted the MIT Sloan Club of Venezuela and they want to help us,” she said.

Once she completes her MBA, Marie said she may work for a consulting company, although her long-term goal remains sustaining the Nosis Music Institute. “I first just want to experience good business practices and learn more analytical skills,” she said.

She’s already familiar with the intense study it takes to learn a classical musical piece. “It takes a lot of time. It’s not only about learning the notes. I have to know a piece so well, that when I start, I have the music in my mind…like a map. It’s kind of like a Rubik’s Cube. Or a math problem,” she explained.

Her commitment to her art, her enthusiasm, and her future dreams of running a full-time music institute will undoubtedly help her achieve success at MIT Sloan and beyond.

The Right Fit

Marie No owns three violins, but the main instrument she performs with is a Julius Caesar Gigli violin made in 1791. In 2006 she visited 18 European cities in search of the perfect violin before she found it in London. It’s no coincidence she decided on an 18th century model – the period of the 1500s to the 1700s are often referred to as the “Golden Age” of violin making, particularly in Italy where Stradivari made his instruments. “There are some highly valuable modern violins,” Marie said. “But, it is a fact that as the wood ages, it makes the sound more complex. A modern violin has more hollowness and simplicity.”

Marie’s violin has to “fit” her perfectly. “I listen to it for up to eight hours a day. I don’t want to listen to something unsatisfactory. It has to have the right tone and depth,” she said.
Professor Bertsimas Honored

Dimitris Bertsimas was awarded the 2008 Farkas Prize of the INFORMS Optimization Society, for his research work on robust optimization and its applications. The Farkas Prize is awarded bi-annually by INFORMS for the most significant contribution to the field of optimization by a researcher.

Professor Levi’s Paper Wins Award

Retsef Levi and his co-authors Mahesh Nagarajan from the University of British Columbia and Ganesh Janakiraman from New York University’s Stern School of Business, were chosen to receive the INFORMS Optimization Society Young Researcher Prize at the INFORMS annual conference in October for their paper entitled “A 2-Approximation Algorithm for Stochastic Inventory Control Models with Lost Sales” that appeared in Mathematics of Operations Research.

MTV Is Currently Casting New Series

Do you have what it takes to make it in the fashion business?

We are casting a new television series for MTV that will bring a group of people to New York City to work directly with a world-renowned fashion designer. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be intimately involved in the fashion business, to meet and work with a team of fashion experts, and to participate in the creation of a fashion line.

Who we are looking for: We are looking for creative, outgoing, self-confident, and talented people who don’t yet have on-the-job experience but who are passionate about fashion, design, sewing, sketching, graphic art, or any other aspect of the fashion business. We’re not just looking for fashionistas or trendspotters; we are also looking for creative thinkers who know how to market, merchandise, and sell the line. You do not need to have previous experience in the fashion industry.

If you want to learn more, or if you know anyone who would be perfect for this show, please e-mail us at mtvfashioncasting@gmail.com or call 888-421-4555. At the end of our series, one lucky person will be rewarded with the opportunity of a lifetime.

Quote of the Week

“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.” —Robert Frost
A Call for Graduate Resident Tutors

Residential Life Programs is looking for MIT graduate students and MIT undergraduate seniors who are continuing into a MIT graduate program. These students are invited to apply for live-in positions as Graduate Resident Tutors (GRT) in various undergraduate dorms.

Essentially, GRTs assist the Housemasters in ensuring the well-being of the undergrad residents. GRTs are compensated with a free room for 12 months per year and a stipend of $1,460 for the 2009-2010 academic year. See the detailed mission statement, job description, and eligibility requirements included below.

There will be four information sessions before the application deadline of is January 28, 2009. The information sessions are great way to hear an overview of the program and get questions answered.

GRT Information Session Dates:
November 13, 6:30 p.m., in 1-134
December 2, 6:30 p.m., in 1-135
January 5, 5:00 p.m., in Student Center, Twenty Chimneys, third floor

Those students interested in applying should submit their application by going to http://greta.mit.edu/apply. Any questions regarding the position or the application process can be directed to: be-a-grt@mit.edu or 617-452-4280.

The job of the Graduate Resident Tutor (GRT) is to foster a supportive, safe, and positive living environment and to build a community atmosphere among undergraduates in MIT residence halls. This responsibility includes encouraging personal growth, providing outlets for managing stress, and facilitating positive interpersonal relationships. GRTs are also responsible for implementing community standards, enhancing security, and promoting mutual respect among the residents they serve. In undertaking this position, GRTs become part of a residence team led by the Housemasters and including other GRTs, the Residential Life Associate (RLA) and House Manager.

Job Description
Graduate Resident Tutors should expect to spend at least 10-12 hours per week involved in the following types of activities. Student or building emergencies may require a greater time commitment.

Eligibility:
General requirements for the GRT position include evidence of solid judgment, sensitivity, and the ability to work with students, colleagues, and faculty. This position is considered employment at least 10 hours per week. To be eligible to apply for a GRT position, individuals must be (1) a full-time, enrolled MIT graduate student, (2) a full-time, enrolled graduate student in a combined program with MIT and another institution, or (3) an MIT undergraduate (see restrictions below). A bachelor’s degree is required to be a GRT. Preferred applicants are registered in a multi-year program and are at a point in their studies where they will likely be staying at MIT for several more years.

Specific to Interested MIT Undergraduates:
MIT undergraduates may apply in their senior year, but must be admitted to an MIT graduate program by mid-April prior to accepting a GRT position. Applicants must provide official notification in writing (copy of letter or e-mail) to the Associate Dean for Residential Life Programs to clear her/his GRT application. Anyone who was an undergraduate at MIT may not serve as a GRT in the same house where s/he lived unless s/he left MIT three or more years prior to applying. Students finishing their undergraduate degree and continuing on in a one-year Masters program are not eligible to apply for the GRT position.

Specific to Interested International Students:
International students on any type of visa who already have a Research Assistantship or Teaching Assistantship requiring at least 10 hours of work per week are not eligible for the GRT position and should not apply. Acceptance of a GRT position would result in violation of U.S. law, as total employment would exceed 20 hours per week. The Residential Life Programs Office consults with the International Students Office as well as the Graduate Students Office on all International student applicants and takes advice from these offices as to eligibility.
Town Hall Tidings

Last week’s MBA Town Hall meeting attendees were treated to a finalist’s $100K elevator pitch, an analysis of the presidential election, and a spirited preview of the upcoming Ocean Charity Auctions, complete with live bidding on two tickets to the upcoming Fall Ball.

Peggah Kamali, Senate Executive Officer, announced the exciting events for the remainder of the semester. The Latin Si-Function will take place on November 13; the Korean C Function will take place on November 20, and the annual MBA Program Thanksgiving Dinners will be held on November 19 (for first-years) and November 24 (for second-years). The Ocean Auctions will be on December 4, and the Talent Show is scheduled for December 10. Peggah also reminded everyone that the deadline for applications to join a credit-related trip is November 14. More information can be found on SloanPoint.

The 2008 MIT $100K Elevator Pitch Contest Finale took place on October 18, and Paul Suthapong, MBA ’09, was one of just 10 finalists (out of 155 preliminary pitches). Paul gave his 60-second elevator pitch at Town Hall. The next stage in the MIT $100K Competition is the Executive Summary Contest, where entrants can win $2,000 for a two-page written executive summary. The deadline is December 4.

Veena Jayadeva, MBA ’10, a member of the Peer Recognition Awards Committee, presented this month’s Peer Recognition Award to the Management Consulting Club, for its dedicated role in helping students weather the recent financial crisis. The Club members accelerated their efforts in helping the second-year MBAs in their job search, with extensive resume reviews, coaching, and interview prep. For the first-years, the Club introduced a “Skill Camp Series” to bring seasoned consultants from top firms to educate students on the day-to-day skills of consulting. The Management Consulting Club’s Presidents are Grete Roed, Jason Chapman, and Burt LaFountain, all MBAs ’09.

Jason Chapman thanked his peers for the recognition. “We’d like to thank you for this honor and recognition of our efforts to fulfill the mission of MCC, which is to help educate students about careers in consulting but ultimately help them get the jobs they want, regardless of the economic situation.”

Next, Gabriel S. Lenz, an Assistant Professor in MIT’s Political Science Department, provided a special presentation on the presidential election which he called “surprisingly predictable.” Election year income growth is a great predictor of how well the incumbent does, he said. Many political scientists saw that this was a “pretty clear year for a Democrat to win.” But there were so many other factors to consider this year, including race. “First of all, Obama is black. And Americans don’t elect blacks to any office very often. Another variable is that people were worried about was inexperience. In this election McCain was vastly more experienced.”

One of the myths that has been adopted by pundits on the left and the right is that moral issues have somehow “tricked lower income

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people into voting for Republicans,” Lenz pointed out. However, that’s not true. Over the past 50 years, income has actually become a better predictor of voting patterns. Lower income people are becoming more and more Democratic and higher income people are becoming more Republican.

Finally, there was a preview of the upcoming Charity Auctions. In the fall, the Senate puts together an auction for each Ocean as well as for the second-year class and MIT Sloan Fellows. Last year, in total, the seven auctions raised more than $88,133 for charities as diverse as the California Wildfires Fund and the Children of Uganda.

John Marcus, MBA ’09, auctioned off two tickets for $280 to the Fall Ball (including a bottle of champagne) to David Gold, MBA ’09.

The next MBA Town Hall will be held on December 5.

Biomedical Business Club Event Held

The biopharma industry enjoyed its peak years between 1995 and 2000, but the last seven years have seen some decline, according to James Kent, a Partner and Managing Director at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG). Kent, who specializes in health care and the biotech and pharmaceutical industries, presented a talk that was co-sponsored by the Biomedical Business Club and the Management Consulting Club last week.

Kent cited three reasons why the industry is now under pressure: the ability to source product is under threat; the willingness of the system to pay for those drugs; and the tremendous issue with the lack of trust. If you are chairman of R&D for a large pharma company these are “three terrifying pieces of analysis.” However, pharma has the chance to turn itself around if it can follow the leads of other industries – including aluminum, consumer goods, and aircraft engines – that have risen above recent challenges.

MOVIES

NOW PLAYING ON CAMPUS...

The Dark Knight (2008)

To say that Christopher Nolan’s The Dark Knight is the best comic book adaptation does the film a bit of a disservice. It may be a Batman film, but this isn’t a kid-friendly action movie full of the “bams” and “pows” of the original series. This is a pitch-black thriller with enough drama and tragedy to please even William Shakespeare, but it will certainly keep both comic fans and uninitiated audiences equally happy. The Dark Knight starts in the wake of Batman Begins: with the appearance of Batman (Christian Bale), Gotham City’s criminal underworld is unnerved. They’re also plagued by the new D.A., Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), who, in his quest for justice, remains above the city’s corruption. Enter a new villain, the Joker (Heath Ledger), who wants to unite the criminals for a common purpose: to kill Batman. The Dark Knight is one of the most hyped movies to date, and a lesser film would be crushed under the weight of all that expectation. Though there’s more emphasis on plot and character development than in most comic book adaptations, that doesn’t mean Nolan has skimped on

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any of the action sequences. Each set piece is done perfectly, leaving the audience breathless. Showing on November 14 at 6:30 and 10:00 p.m. in 26-100, and again on November 16 at 6:30 p.m. in 26-100.

*From the Lecture Series Committee website. All movies are just $4.*

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**Video Games Live**

Video Games Live™ is an immersive concert event featuring music from the most popular video games of all time. Top orchestras and choirs perform along with exclusive video footage and music arrangements, synchronized lighting, solo performers, electronic percussionists, live action and unique interactive segments to create an explosive entertainment experience!

This is a concert event put on by the video game industry to help encourage and support the culture and art that video games have become. Video Games Live™ bridges a gap for entertainment by exposing new generations of music lovers and fans to the symphonic orchestral experience while also providing a completely new and unique experience for families and/or non-gamers. The show is heralded and enjoyed by the entire family. It’s the power and emotion of a symphony orchestra mixed with the excitement and energy of a rock concert and the technology and interactivity of a video game all completely synchronized to amazing cutting-edge video screen visuals, state-of-the-art lighting and special on-stage interactive segments with the audience.

This event will take place on Friday, November 21, 8:00 p.m., at the Citi Performing Arts Center: Wang Theatre in Boston. Prices range from $35 to $75, and all ages are welcome. For more information call 866-348-9738.

*From the Arts & Entertainment section of the *Boston Globe*.*

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**Cass R. Sunstein to Speak**

“*Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*”

Cambridge Forum is pleased to welcome University of Chicago Law School’s Cass R. Sunstein for a discussion of his best-selling book “*Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness,*” in which he and co-author Richard Thaler demonstrate how thoughtful “choice architecture” can be established to nudge us in beneficial directions without restricting freedom of choice.

This talk will take place Wednesday, November 12, 7:30 p.m., First Parish Church, 3 Church Street, Cambridge. This event is free; no tickets are required. For more information call 617-661-1515.
**Return to Sender**

Junk mail – at least some of it here at MIT – may be stopped if we join forces and publicize the problem. That’s what the Working Group Recycling Committee (WGR) is hoping to do with its drive to collect Institute junk mail when MIT celebrates America Recycles Day on November 14, said Emily Heininger, MBA Admissions Coordinator. Emily is also one of several recycling ambassadors for the WGR here at MIT. America Recycles Day is on November 15 (a Saturday), so MIT will recognize the day on the Friday before, she added.

Employees have been asked to collect and save any unnecessary junk mail they receive here at work. The junk mail stacks will be pooled with more junk mail from across the Institute, and the WGR will use it to “make a statement” on November 14. Drop-off boxes for junk mail are in Emily’s office in E52-126 and David Chotin’s office in E52-101.

According to Emily, the WGR has planned a junk mail drive for quite a while now. “We had been thinking about what to do for America Recycles Day and junk mail is something that has always bothered the WGR, so we said, ‘Let’s start locally,’ and start drives in each of our offices.”

Junk mail is pervasive at MIT because employees come and go and purchased mailing lists do not get updated, Emily said. Some internal offices also distribute paper flyers, when, in fact, an e-mail bulletin can be just as effective, she added. “I think a lot of people don’t know that you can contact an office and say, ‘Please remove me from your mailing list.’”

Although junk mail is often recycled, one of the WGR’s initiatives is to prevent such correspondence from being printed in the first place.

America Recycles Day is in its 11th year and is a nationally-recognized day to encourage Americans to recycle and buy recycled products. For more information about the WGR, contact Emily at emilyh@mit.edu.

—Amy MacMillan
Autumn’s August Days
Photos by Sarah Foote