SHOUT OUT
TO MY PEEPS

RAK Week Shout-Outs
Props to the grad students who push themselves every day! Your work is the foundation of the Lab.

RAK Week Shout-Outs
Shout out to our students who are creative, curious, and deploy to change the world!

- Joi
Natasha Jacques!
For trying to teach emotion to our future machine god.
Rebecca Reid- It was a real pleasure to work with you! Thank you for helping our group to adapt Friday 5S activities :)

– Canan
Cynthia Breazeal! She's a great team builder and passed down an awesome group culture of "That's a great idea! You're in charge!!"

– Sooyeon
Pedro and Agnes and Devora and Leo and all the advocacy friends, thanks for putting in the time and energy to make things happen.
Natasha, thanks for always being down to talk and help me de-stress :)}
Monica, you make the Media Lab a much better place to be. Thanks so much for ALL YOU DO to help our lab be so welcoming for everyone. It really matters.
NecSys friends - thanks for always helping with poster printing!
Mirei Rioux is extraordinary talented at knowing how to handle complex situations and she's ALWAYS so nice to interact with - thank you so much, Mirei!
Craig Ferguson – for brilliant and creative game design and his kindness helping so many people learn to build cool stuff.
To all ML MS 2nd year, thank you for being my family throughout this time. We can do this and we'll graduate together soon!
Tomas Vega, I admire your + energy and courage to always stand up for what's right!
Atieh, For being the most humble, kind, patient, genuine, and hardworking person. We need more people like you!
Every time I send something to Peter Rombult, even on weekends(!), he is so helpful, responsive, and knowledgeable - he always can find accurate answers even when they are complicated. His communication is so clear and his expertise is solid gold. Our lab is blessed to have him!
Cornelle and Candido and all of the lovely people at facilities - thank you for not only doing excellent work, but always being friendly, approachable, and caring!
Peter Rombult, Thank you tons for checking our grant applications diligently and providing us budget files with speed of light!

– Canan
Thanks for all the belly rubs and ear scratches, you all make coming to work so much fun!

- Brady
Blakeley Hoffman! Truly enjoy your passion about ethics & articles / videos / blurbs you send out make me stop and think about how our work is or could impact the society. Also, you're such a great baker, and I really appreciate the goodies you bring to the lab.

- Sooyeon Jeong
Kelley Shepard, for your incredible, never-ending patience.
Nicole Degnan really cares about the Lab and works incredibly hard to ensure everyone can do what they came here to do.
To the entire gang at PRG for making my job a joy! Honored to work with you.
To Jessica and Rebecca, you two are remarkable and help me to keep it all together. I can not thank you enough

- Pobs
To everyone in the Fabulous Robot Group for being so kind and helpful in letting me be away to deal with my family problem - you are absolutely the best!
Carl Bowman and Kathy Wu for engaging and listening to many different team members about transiting to a new space.
Honestly, shout out to myself for making it this far.
Lindsey, I started at the Lab around this week a year ago! You were so incredibly helpful and patient answering my million questions while I was beginning to figure everything out. It's been wonderful to share an office with you, and I feel very lucky to call you (and Chibly) my officemates! Thank you for being such a great friend and colleague.

- Maggie
Linda, for always having her door open.
Dhaval - you give the best hugs :)
To everyone working to make the Media Lab is a zero waste space.
Joanna Paneras, for always being so helpful and patient, no matter how trivial the technical issue may seem.
Stacie Slotnick, for being an amazing communications resource!

RAK Week Shout-Outs
Caroline - I really admire your organized and well-balanced approach to life. I can’t wait to meet your new cat soon!
Devora and Emily—thanks for being awesome ceramics buddies (and awesome humans) and brightening up my Thursdays!
Laura – thanks for always having such a calming and supportive presence.
Tato, you have the best smile and you are one of the most helpful humans I have ever met :)
City Science team, for being such a welcoming crowd!
The whole Media Arts and Sciences staff, who keep infinite details and diverse matters all organized and resolved, and who make our "academic" lives so productive and - well – livable.

– Tod Machover
Cynthia Breazeal for her mentorship, leadership, and demonstration of resilience.

– Hae Won
Monica, you are the absolute MVP. Thanks for making not only me (but also my mom) feel awesome. You make such a huge difference in all of our lives and the media lab is so lucky to have you!
Rebecca Cuscaden!
For her friendliness and hard work.
Irmandy and Atieh! Thanks for always being so positive and kind :)
Sunanda for being such a kind, patient, and sassy friend and mentor. You make me smile every day.
Andrea – for always being available to listen, commiserate and share stories, no matter how busy you are!
Priscilla because she makes us GetFit!
Kevin Davis because he deals with everyone complaining about space and elevators and is unfailingly helpful and positive.
Bedriye, Our very own administrative assistant, thank you for taking care of my calendar!

– Canan
Natasha Casas because she makes the group work and also makes banana bread.
Sam Spaulding! Sam is a great mentor and a leader for the RAs, and is always there to help others in need. :)

– Sooyeon
Bianca because she is one of the few people who can get stressed and still be nice to everyone; also she’s my #1
Ravi Tejwani! Although you have confused us many times by signing up for lab-wide events and not telling us about it, that kind of helped the group be more "social" and "personal." Thanks for doing that! But wait... don't do it again though. Haha!

- Sooyeon Jeong
Abdulrahman Alotaibi
for always knowing
where to get good food!
Natasha Jacques, for being at the same time the busiest and most available person I know.
Kevin Davis is the nicest, most helpful person in the whole Lab.
Avery Normandin, you are the best dancer in this place and we all know it.
Thank you Lily, for helping me figure out my life.
Sarah Lam! Thanks for all the good work in our projects you made during IAP. I'm really looking forward to see you grow as you spend more time at MIT and getting more hands on different projects.

- Sooyeon Jeong
Liz Barrios’ positive outlook on life gives me some much needed perspective!
Merci Leò for your friendship and kindness!
Tina Quach because she is the nicest person ever! Always willing to listen and offer support in any way she can.
Huili Chen! For really stepping up as a first year PhD student and being a great role model for others to push forward awesome research. I love how you always think of ways to help vulnerable populations through what you do at the lab. <3

– Sooyeon
Andrew Sliwinski because he is the best supervisor and teacher! He's very patient, encouraging, and helpful.
Randi Williams – For being totally awesome for everything she does for the group, for the broader MIT community, and helping to make STEM a more inclusive endeavor for everyone.

– Robo-Mom
Heather Pierce. For being so supportive and encouraging whenever someone goes to you for advice and questions! You are Wonder Woman and a rockstar! 😊
All of NecSys! You guys keep us running and are cool humans in general! :)

RAK Week Shout-Outs
Fluid students and visitors, for their passion and hard work!
Peter Rombult and Marissa Wozniak, for being so quick and responsive with preparing proposals and dealing with contract issues.
Ryan, Mirei, Kristin, Deb, Rickey and all the other people tirelessly and enthusiastically promoting our work to members and prospects.
Stacie Slotnick – The ML Website Guru!
Hae Won Park – For everything she does for PRG from working with students, helping to teach, helping to define exciting new initiatives, and always being there to listen. She's aaaahmaaaaazzzing.

– Robo-Mom
Shout out to our faculty who lead the way and imagine and make the future!

- Joi
Finance team - thank you for your guidance and knowledge!

- Media Lab HR
Shout out to Kevin Davis for everything he does to keep this place running.
Hiroshi Ishii – Hearty thanks for being my senior advisor and Japanese dad! Your support and guidance is priceless.

– Canan
Judy Mai. For always fixing all our technical issues and just being a super cool person in general 😊
Shout out to the Media Lab Moms group – a necessary space to vent, get advice, problem solve, and feel less crazed.

RAK Week Shout-Outs
Carmelo at LLK: Thanks for sharing your wisdom, kindness and peacefulness with all of us around you.
Thank you Arnav Kapur, for picking me up when I was down. You are one of the kindest and most genuine souls.
Conformable Decoders,
Thanks for the hard work and persistence and of course keeping 5S in place :)
– Canan
Hae Won at PRG: You are a rockstar 🎸. The Lab loves you!
Thank you Zoe Bentley for sharing your amazing web design skills!
Kika Arias! Kika is an awesome self-motivated learner and is a leader in many undergraduate student activities. I literally couldn't have done my several projects without her help!

– Sooyeon
Amanda Stoll – Thank you for everything you have done to keep MAS running over the past two years. It has been bumpy, but you have maintained your dedication to the students and the Program and we are all better for it.
Huili Chen – For really stepping up and always ready to dig in and help others in the group as well as the broader MIT community around STEM and inclusivity.

– Robo-Mom
Amanda Stoll for having a fairly high tolerance for all my wacky ideas. You bring them all to magnificent fruition!

- Monica
Canan, I appreciate about your leadership and mentorship. I am very thankful and pleasant to work with you. You are very kind, bright, hard-working and perfectionist. Additionally, you have a great team includes lab manager, RA and students.

– Bedriye
Peter Rombult, for his guidance and patience with a novice PI :-)}
Polly Guggenheim, my friend and my foster mom(!!) Hope she remembers we are here for her as she always have been for us.
David Sadat, Our dear Lab Manager, Thank you so very much for keeping our YellowBox as shiny as possible!

– Canan
Marissa Marcoux, a magician who puts everything in order and who has answers for almost anything!

- Hae Won
Britney Johnson for creating a much needed space for the black community.
Tesha Myers, for fighting with numbers for us!
Personal Robots🤖, no words. What did I do right in my past life to be rewarded with these amazing people? I would do anything for them!

- Hae Hae
Mirei, for her resourcefulness, kindness, and always being available for advices. You have the best smile!
Students and staff of the Opera of the Future Group for being the most brilliant, creative, out-of-the-box, and truly kind-and-lovely musical adventurers I know.

– Tod Machover
Lily Zhang – for strategizing and brainstorming with me, and giving me the cutest goddaughter.
Stephanie Gayle – The best Finance Officer ever! Thank you for keeping our money safe!

– Canan
Amna Carreiro! For being your silly, fun loving self and giving the best hugs! You are a wonderful person! <3
Thanks to everyone in the Lifelong Kindergarten group for creating such a playful, creative, collaborative, and caring community!

– Mitch
Huge shout out to the free food! You feed me and my family and give me one less thing to worry about during the week.
Monica, Lily, Amanda - who work tirelessly to keep the MAS program moving. Your hard work makes me look successful.

– Linda
Amna Carreiro, for always going out of her way to help resolve difficult problems, whether with finance and reimbursement, or event planning.

– Iyad

RAK Week Shout-Outs
Manu Muco! It's really great to have someone who has gone through MIT undergraduate experience and be able to talk about it. Always enjoy your insightful ideas on technology, AI, robots, etc. And I'm super excited to see how your research ideas get implemented in robots. :)  
- Sooyeon Jeong
David Colby Reed took time out of his schedule to present an overview of Space Enabled to a visiting ML member organization. I appreciate him making himself available to represent the group and sharing his expertise and views.

— Minoo
Andrea’s mom is hilarious and wonderful and should come back and make me tamales!
To anyone who stopped and took a moment to say thank you to those who provide assistance and direction.
Thanks to the Scratch Team for empowering kids around the world to imagine, create, share, and learn!

– Mitch
Thank you Kristy for being such a champion for working parents around the Lab and answering all my first-time-mom questions!
Polly Guggenheim! Because she is there for us through thin and through thick, and has the most amazing life stories always. Love seeing her punch students with affection. <3

– Sooyeon
Shout out to our support people (partners, kids, parents, etc.) who listen to us all complain, but still help us stay motivated!
Kristy Johnson is a powerhouse! I don’t know how she does everything she does, but her presence in the Lab is a constant inspiration.
Hae Won Park! She is an awesome mentor and pushes us youngins to reach far and high for better research, higher societal impact.

– Sooyeon
Andrew Rapo! Thanks for all of your work in the Flow Editor, which made Jibo development process much simpler and modularized. Wish the best of luck in your future path!! :)  

– Sooyeon
Randi Williams! Love the impact of your work and the amount of passion you have for it. Thanks for always being so nice to Jayden and be willing to play with him! You spread warm and fuzzy feelings to others through your kind acts. :)

– Sooyeon
Jon Ferguson! We wouldn't have been able to use Jibo as research platforms without the huge amount of work Jon has done for the past few months! Really appreciate his dedication to help folks in the group with their research needs. :D

– Sooyeon
Jacqueline Kory Westlund! She's an awesome friend, researcher, mom and human being. Congrats on finishing the dissertation! We're so proud of you!!! <3

– Sooyeon
Amanda Stoll - She always has a cheery attitude and keeps a level head, even when students come to her with difficult requests!
Safinah Ali, one of the most creative and artsy roboticists ever! Your love for dumplings and buns make me giggle and I enjoy watching your artworks on the window! So jealous of your many diverse talents. <3

- Sooyeon Jeong
Monica Orta & Linda Peterson – they have been so patient in answering all of my questions as a new employee!

- Heather L.
Kate Darling is a badass!
Kate Darling! She is an awesome researcher, a great friend and an awesome mama. So glad to have her as part of our group and share the lab space with her.

– Sooyeon
Ariel Ekblaw – we should all strive to be as thoughtful, poised, and accomplished as you.
Nicole Degnan, for being a great supervisor.
Monica Orta for excellent life coaching.

- Stephanie
Agata Garcia! Thanks for being so patient with me even when my head is all over the place with our project. You're such a great addition to our wellness study and I'm super glad I got to know you through it! Looking forward to continue our collaborations. :)

- Sooyeon Jeong
Thanks to Kalli for being such a force in the Lab advocating for others and for serving as a role model for others.
Keyla Gomez – your energy and enthusiasm is infectious!
Thank you Fabian Scheidt and Andre Schmeing for being awesome friends.
Emily Ndulue – sincere, hard-working and a great addition to the ML family (Civic Media)
Sam Spaulding: thanks for your good energy and for sharing your knowledge and expertise.
Patrick Chwalek: thanks for taking initiative and caring about doing things the right way. You make the people and places around you better!
Amanda Stoll knows how to throw a party 🎉

– Andrea
Amanda Stoll, for compiling all these shout outs! And for giving excellent weather forecasts.

- Stephanie
Meng Xi! Meng saves the day whenever there is a robot crisis and especially he put a lot of effort and hours into mentoring Kika and Sarah to build Huggable.

- Sooyeon Jeong
Ishaan Grover, Cuz it's Ishaan!!
I always enjoy chatting with Ishaan about research ideas and any random things that comes to our conversation. You add such a flavor in our group.

- Sooyeon Jeong
Andrea Porras makes the hard days easier with her positive approach and humor.
Anastasia Ostrowski, I've learned (and am still learning) so much on how to be mindful when designing any technology from you! I really enjoy our chat in the morning about random stuff like kitchenwares. :P

- Sooyeon Jeong
Pedro Reynolds-Cuellar, cuz you have the best laughs and smiles! Your son Simon is such a sweet buddy to Jayden, and Gabriella is so CUTE! <3 <3

- Sooyeon Jeong
Erica Jones-Mollud for being the best co-op ever!
Laura Franch! You've made so much contributions to our work in wellness projects, and it's just so much fun working with you! Looking forward to launch our study in a few months! (fingers crossed)

- Sooyeon Jeong
Ariel Ekblaw - you are wonder woman! You are one of the most inspiring and high-achieving people I know, and you also manage to be humble, kind, fun, and make time for the important people in your life. You set an example of success that we all aspire to!
Sarah B., Juliana N., Sneha M., and Dave B. Thank you all for being such an incredible team! I love coming into work each day and getting to see you all! You are all so inspiring!
Andrea Porras filled a Latina shaped hole in my work-life that I did not realize I had.

- Monica
Agnes and Oceane, queens of electronics and loveliest blobs of sunshine and friendship, for helping me not lose it with thesis but most importantly, for being my friends :) 

– Kalli
Agnes for being such an amazing, caring, thoughtful and sharp member of our community. We need more Agnes' to make this world a better place ♥
Javier, thanks for being a wonderful mentor and friend.

- Kristy
Joanna Paneras, for being my iMac Sherpa.

- Nina
Kelley Shepard’s kindness (and cereal event) brings me joy.
Joe Murphy is the best! Thank you for creating a community across our two suites.
Research group administrators - Great job assisting the faculty, students, researchers achieve the research goals! Thank you!

- Media Lab HR
Amanda Stoll is full of good ideas!

- Andrea
Craig Furguson! Thanks for offering to help us with the wellness project and drafting the Android app with Jibo. We really appreciate your tips/advice on what to be ready for when deploying technologies with MIT undergrads.

- Sooyeon Jeong
Thank you Canan for holding our team together, supporting us both intellectually & emotionally, and being such a strong role model for us!

- David Satat
Fadel- Thank you, my dear friend, for unplanned chai latte breaks (i.e., scientific stress relief sessions).

- Canan
Lily Zhang – you let me complain in your office a lot. I really appreciate it.
Kevin, Cornelle, and Candido! For all their hard work and for always being friendly and responding quickly. Thank you!
Jessica Mello - for always helping to make things run smoothly!
Membership team - Thank you for your tours & keeping our members engaged!

- Media Lab HR
Joi - Thank you very much for being a patient listener and visionary supporter

– Canan
Stephanie Gayle - For your quick wit and for always having the answers or knowing where to find them!
I want to recognize Judy Mai from NecSys for being so welcoming and helpful to everyone in the lab. She works incredibly hard and will drop what she's doing to help staff and students whenever they need something.

- Emily Piket
Facilities team - thank you for keeping our spaces in working order & helping the community

- Media Lab HR
Shout out to all of our students! It might not always feel like it, but you guys are killing it!

You do research, participate in service activities, give back to the Lab, and support one another through this very unique journey. You should be proud of your badass-ness.
Shout out to Monica for always being there, being real, and being awesome. If the Media Lab is paper, you are the glue.
Stephanie Gayle – thank you for coming back from New Zealand! You were missed.
Shout out to Agnes Cameron for designing the best round boys and being so kind and funny and smart and positive and being a true angel.
Devora Najjar, Natalie Merchant, Eddie Vedder, Shangela, Michael Stipe, Kate Pierson, Shostakovich, and Just Livin' Baby, for keeping me sane, real, and goopy.

#TheOohAh$ensation #ReadUWroteU
To all the admins who support our faculty and students. You keep this place running and we are grateful for you!

- MAS Office
Laura Franch! You've made so much contributions to our work in wellness projects, and it's just so much fun working with you! Looking forward to launch our study in a few months! (fingers crossed)

- Sooyeon Jeong
Thank you to the staff, you keep this place running and are a pleasure to work with!

- Joi
Tod - Thanks so very much for all of your support / nomination letters. Applying to grants is so much fun with you!

– Canan
Communications team - Thank you for always being a resource!!

- Media Lab HR