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**BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER
Science (non) Fiction: It's a Brave New World
April 28 at the MIT Media Lab**

(BOSTON —March 29, 2011) The Boston Book Festival holds a very special fundraising event on Thursday, April 28 at 6 p.m. at the newly-constructed MIT Media Lab (75 Amherst St., Cambridge, Mass.). "Science (non) Fiction: It's a Brave New World" will feature two pioneers of science-fiction-worthy technology: **HUGH HERR**, who, after losing both legs in a climbing accident as a teenager, now designs award-winning prosthetic limbs, and **CYNTHIA BREAZEAL**, who directs the Personal Robots Group at the Media Lab and designs "sociable robots." Bestselling author and experimental psychologist **STEVEN PINKER** will host the event, which will be held on the top floor of the stunning glass and steel structure described by *The Boston Globe* as "the world's most exquisite building." Following the presentation will be a family-style dinner designed to encourage human-to-human communication. Tickets are \$125 per person, and can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/BBFSNF>. For more information, visit www.bostonbookfest.org.

Hugh Herr is Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and directs the Biomechanitronics Group at MIT's Media Lab. A double amputee, he works to develop prosthetics that fuse muscle mechanics with neural control merging the body with machine.

Cynthia Breazeal, author of *Designing Sociable Robots*, is Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she founded and directs the Personal Robots Group at the Media Lab. Cynthia and her team have developed some of the world's most famous robots, including Kismet the social robot and Leonardo the expressive robot.

Steven Pinker is the bestselling and award-winning author of seven books including *The Language Instinct*, *How the Mind Works*, and most recently *The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window Into Human Nature*. He is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University and a frequent contributor to *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, and *TIME*.

The third annual Boston Book Festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011 at the Boston Public Library, Old South Church, Trinity Church, John Hancock Hall at The Back Bay Events Center, Cloud Place, and outdoors in Copley Square. Festival events will include presentations and panels featuring

internationally-known writers, scholars, critics and commentators; a focus on technology as it relates to reading; programming for children, teens and families; writing workshops and competitions; outdoor booths; and poetry and music performances. All daytime events are FREE and open to the public. The featured authors, announced in fall 2011, will represent a wide array of programming, and include award winners, best-selling authors, renowned scholars, children's writers, and writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The Boston Book Festival is produced by the non-profit organization of the same name, and is made possible with the generous support of individual donors and sponsors including Random House Audio, Other Press and Hachette Book Group. For more information, visit www.bostonbookfest.org.

Boston Book Festival Partners include Mayor Thomas M. Menino; The Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events; The City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department; ReadBoston; Boston Public Library; the Boston Athenæum; PEN New England; Grub Street; Trinity Church; Old South Church; Boston Children's Museum; Cambridge Public Library, New Center for Arts and Culture; 826 Boston; Brattle Theatre, Berklee College of Music; Emerson College; Harvard Book Store; Brookline Booksmith, Porter Square Books; Independent Film Festival Boston and Newtonville Books.

Boston Book Festival Board of Directors: President Deborah Z. Porter; Treasurer Steve Oristaglio; Secretary Susana B. Lopez; Hannah Gilligan Comboss, Paul La Camera, Callie Crossley, Robert Duboff, Joseph Finder, Rona Kiley, Glenda Manzi, Jeff Mayersohn, John Taylor "Ike" Williams. **Honorary Advisory Board:** Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ann Gund, Steve Grossman, Arthur Golden, Phil Balboni, Amy Ryan, Diane Patrick, Tom Perrotta, Lou Casagrande.

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