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kerry wins in a landslide...

At least in the Sidney-Pacific website poll of Sidney-Pacific graduate community residents. About 75% of the residents voted that Senator John Kerry should win the presidential election. The Sidney-Pacific website will be featuring lots of other new polls and then posting the results on SPTV. So check out s-p.mit.edu and vote!

Orientation is over, but the Sidney-Pacific Graduate Community is still hosting plenty of fun events. Just in the past week was a COSI lecture with Sheila Widnall, the Former Secretary of the US Air Force) and a Day of the Dead festival. Of course, there are also the popular weekly coffee hours and monthly brunches. Plus, there are always impromptu social gatherings like poker nights and sports/tv watching parties.

As always, the newsletter staff is looking for writers, reviewers, columnists, artists, and photographers. Let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for the next newsletter. 

GET PUBLISHED !!

Write for the Sidney-Pacific Newsletter

Send articles, cartoons, photos, puzzles, jokes, or ideas to [sp-newsletter-chair \[at\] mit \[dot\] edu](mailto:sp-newsletter-chair@mit.edu).

Will you be here during Thanksgiving? Sign up for the Housemaster's annual Thanksgiving dinner at [rgmark \[at\] mit \[dot\] edu](mailto:rgmark@mit.edu).

features

meet the s-p fellows, part II

bios courtesy of S-P Fellows

Introduction by Howard Shen, S-P Fellows Liaison

In the last issue of the newsletter, we included bios about the S-P Fellows. Just to remind you, the S-P Fellows are five or six professors affiliated with Sidney-Pacific who do the following:

1. De-mystify the holy image of the "Professor" for incoming students (especially international students).
2. Organize events with residents that non-MIT Professors would not necessarily have access to (see examples below). The student life offices gives them a budget to do this.
3. Interact with students and form informal relationships as mentors/advisors perhaps not in the students' major.
4. Attend SP events for fun and interaction.

paola rizzoli

Paola Rizzoli became an oceanographer because of the well-known dangerous flooding problems of Venice, her home city. Her first work was to model the flooding ("*acqua alta*") under different meteorological conditions and investigate its effects on the Venice lagoon circulation as well as on the erosion of the surrounding coastlines. Because of this work, she began commuting with Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California, where she completed her second Ph.D., in Physical Oceanography in 1978. (Her first Ph.D. was in Theoretical Physics from the University of Padua, Italy, in 1970). For her American Ph.D., she investigated the dynamics of strong oceanographic and meteorological flow structures with long lives, such as hurricanes, which violate the principles of chaos, that is the intrinsic unpredictability of the ocean and atmosphere circulations. The research was motivated by the work of Edward Lorenz, the developer of chaos theory and of "the



Paola Rizzoli. (Photo courtesy of Paola Rizzoli).

butterfly effect." Lorenz together with Jule Charney brought her to MIT in 1981.

Paola Rizzoli's major research interest is focused on modeling the ocean general circulation from the global scale to marginal, semi-enclosed seas. Particularly extensive is her work on modeling the circulation of the Atlantic ocean, which is the most important ocean in affecting the Earth's climate system by creating the so-called ocean "conveyor belt." She worked extensively on the Gulf Stream system in the '80's-early '90's and more recently on the tropical /subtropical interactions which affect the climate of Brazil and west Africa. She has also investigated extensively the Eastern Mediterranean and Black seas, with both observational and modeling work. These local circulation models have major implications for the development of local ecosystems and the flora and fauna that inhabit them. The physical/biochemical interactions are especially crucial to understand and predict the behavior of the Black Sea ecosystem that constitutes an extreme example of human induces eutrophication. 

Newsletter Chair:

Karen Schrier (sp-newsletter-chair [at] mit [dot] edu)

Contributors:

Elodie Adida (eadida [at] mit [dot] edu)

Professor Paola Rizzoli (rizzoli [at] ocean [dot] mit [dot] edu)

Jacob Eisenstein (jacobe [at] mit [dot] edu)

AFTERNOON AT AQUARIUM: S-P Housefellow Paola Rizzoli will host an afternoon at the Aquarium on Sunday, November 21 @ 1pm. Email sp-housefellows-chair[at]mit[dot]edu to reserve a spot. Tickets will be subsidized, and we are working on a "backstage tour" of the Aquarium--a once in a lifetime opportunity!!

features

november 10– november 25, 2004

time	date
	wednesday, november 10
9 pm - 10 pm	S-P Coffee Hour, Multipurpose Room
	wednesday, november 17
9 pm - 10 pm	Fair Trade Coffee Hour, Multipurpose Room
	sunday, november 20
2 pm	Holiday Festival: Event with arts/craft sale with local Cambridgeport artists, live-music and holiday food
	sunday, november 21
1 pm	Afternoon at Aquarium, hosted by Paola Rizzoli
	wednesday, november 24
9 am - 10 pm	S-P Coffee Hour, Multipurpose Room
	wednesday, december 25
1 pm	Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Housemasters

Check online at http://s-p.mit.edu/about_sp/oguide2004/calendar.php for more events and activities.

features

the sidney-pacific guide to recycling: how to do more

by S-P Environmental Chair

“The major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in the industrialized countries. Developed countries must take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption.”

—United Nations Agenda 21

Hello SP residents!

I am the environmental chair of the dorm. This means I am here to encourage you all to recycle and adopt an environment-friendly lifestyle. That includes turning off the light/heat when you leave your apartment, recycle, use reusable containers as opposed to disposable ones, avoid unnecessary waste, etc. There is a lot you can easily

What to recycle:

- paperboard (cereal, tissue and shoe boxes, etc.)
- newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail (No need to remove staples, paper clips, spirals or even the plastic windows on envelopes!)
- beverage containers, drink boxes, milk/juice cartons
- all office paper (no blueprints)
- cardboard (no pizza boxes)
- Styrofoam (in reasonably small pieces, food scrapped off)
- aluminum pie plates, trays and foil
- aerosol cans (empty)
- glass containers (all colors)



do! You might think that your own individual efforts are insignificant, but that's not true! By making efforts to protect the environment, you may influence others to imitate you, and you can have a real impact!

Recycling

You must have seen posters about recycling in the building. For your information, recycling glass, metal, plastic, paper is mandatory in Massachusetts. Sidney-Pacific makes it easy for you to recycle: there should be a blue recycling bin in your apartment (if not, request one by emailing sp-environment-chair@mit.edu), you just need to collect recyclable items in it, and leave it by your door at night, like you do with your trash. You can also directly sort and drop items in the recycling bins located in common kitchens and in corridors. Recycling really does not require much effort, and it's so important! It helps saving natural resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Bring your own...

Another easy way for you to have a positive impact is to bring your own plate, utensils, and cup at SP events where food is served, like coffee hours, bbqs, or brunches. That's

features

recycling, con't

a very little effort too, and it helps reducing paper and plastic waste! By the way, as an incentive, at brunches we now have a separate line for people who bring their own stuff, so you'll also save some time in the line if you do it!

Learn about how to do more!

A program will soon start in Sidney-Pacific to help you know more about what you can do for the environment. It's called EcoTeam, and it was launched by the Empowerment Institute (see <http://empowermentinstitute.net>). It will assist you in translating your desire to do the right thing into a program of environmental action that will make a difference. If one or more of the following categories fit your situation, participating in the EcoTeam Program will be helpful.

1. You have a vague sense of what you should do for the environment, but beyond recycling, you don't know what to do or how to do it.
2. You are well-informed, but need motivation translating this knowledge into action.
3. You are doing many sustainable lifestyle practices, but need help achieving better consistency for each practice.
4. You are practicing a consistently sustainable lifestyle, but wish to go to the next level.

We will meet approximately twice a month and use a step-by-step workbook to create a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle. Choosing from a series of practical actions, the team supports one another to reduce waste, use less water and energy, buy "eco-wise" products and encourage others to get involved. More than increasing awareness, the EcoTeam Program enables people to change the way they live—measurably.

You will see some posters about it soon, but you can always email sp-environment-chair@mit.edu if you want to participate. **SP**

Did you know? Some statistics...

- Americans – as 5% of the world's population – consume 33% of the planet's resources and waste up to 75% due to inefficiency and lack of awareness.
- Households directly consume one third of these resources, and indirectly use much of the rest through the purchase of products and services.
- Last year, Cambridge residents recycled over 17,000,000 pounds of paper and containers.
- This reduced over 8,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions equal to removing nearly 6,200 cars from the road.
- This saved 159,888 trees and 25,239 barrels of oil.



opinion

S-P speaks: what should we do with the seminar room?



"I think the Seminar Room would make a great coffee shop."

—Chris Lim, Sloan SDM G'05



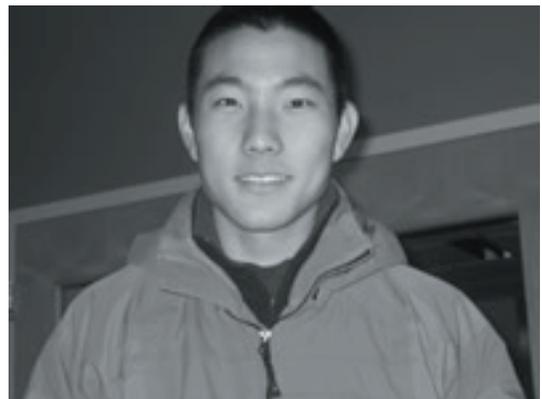
"We should install a giant moon bounce in the entire room."

—Colleen Horin, Aero-Astro '05



"You should have a weekly movie night there. It would also be a great room to give group talks."

—Susanna Thon, Physics '05



"There should be another weight room."

—Mark Sakai, Material Science 'G