We all know that MIT students like numbers, so here are some stats about our very own home:

- **Number of available beds in S-P:** 702 beds
- **Number of residents in S-P:** 695
- **Number of new residents in S-P this year:** 250
- **Number of intramural sports teams:** 8
- **Number of pounds of trash disposed by each S-P resident (2004):** 400
- **Number of pounds of trash recycled by each S-P resident (2004):** 150
- **Average number of pounds recycled by each MIT student since Recyclemania started:** 8.14
- **Average number of pounds recycled by each Harvard student:** 9.06
- **Number of miles from S-P to 77 Mass Ave:** 0.54
- **Number of miles to building E-51:** 1.14
- **Number of flags in the S-P lobby:** 58
- **Number of coffee cups used at one coffee hour:** 45
- **Number of yellow tang in the aquarium:** 1
- **Number of clown fish in the aquarium:** 2
- **Number of batches of eggs laid by the clown fish last semester:** 3
- **Number of eggs used at the last brunch:** 540
- **Pounds of potatoes cooked at the last brunch:** 50
- **Pounds of pancake mix used at the last brunch:** 40
- **Number of sausages cooked at the last brunch:** 630
- **Average number of daily hits on the S-P website:** 9,857
- **Number of sq. ft. of largest residential apartment:** 917 (2-bedroom)
- **Number of sq. ft. of smallest residential room:** 300 (single)
two graduate student events

career symposium for masters and doctor students

by Waleed Farahat, S-P Outreach Vice Chair

On Saturday, March 5th, the MIT Careers Office, the Graduate Students Office, and the Sidney Pacific Graduate Community hosted the third annual Graduate Student Career Symposium in the Sidney-Pacific Multi-purpose Room.

The Graduate Student Career Symposium was designed especially for masters and Ph.D. students and included alumni panels focusing on careers beyond academia in such industries as biopharmaceutical & medical technology, intellectual property, technology transfer & patent law, government, NGOs & International Development, finance, and consulting.

annual reception for graduate student women

by Jessica Vey

This year’s Annual Reception for Graduate Student Women will be held on April 5th, 2005 at Morss Hall in Walker Memorial from 5 pm - 7 pm. The reception is meant to serve as an opportunity for female faculty and graduate students to meet and mingle, and this year will feature a catered soup dinner. We are pleased to announce that MIT President Susan Hockfield will attend and make several remarks!

This yearly event is sponsored by the Graduate Students’ Office and has always been well-received by the community. Make sure you attend, and bring your female faculty advisor and friends!
## Calendar (March)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, March 16</strong></td>
<td>Special Coffee Hour with Live Music by Hartford’s Grey (MP Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Saturday, March 19</strong></td>
<td>S-P Brunch (Multipurpose Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am - 2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Saturday, March 19, Saturday, March 26, Sunday, March 27</strong></td>
<td>R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, March 30</strong></td>
<td>Turkish Coffee Hour (MP Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Thursday, March 31</strong></td>
<td><em>research in progress seminar series: “Consuming Commodities: Hello Kitty Meets Queer Eye</em> (Stata Center, 32-124)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 pm - 7 pm</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, April 5</strong></td>
<td>Graduate Student Women Annual Reception, Walker Memorial, Morss Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Thursday, April 7</strong></td>
<td><em>research in progress seminar series: “Subcultural Spaces: Art and Interface</em> (Stata Center, 32-124)</td>
</tr>
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Also: check online at http://s-p.mit.edu/about_sp/oguide2004/calendar.php for events and activities.
splendor starts with sp

by Krishnan Srinam, S-P Trustee

I have been asked often, “What makes Sidney-Pacific such a vibrant place? How come Sidney-Pacific organizes really creative events time and again? How does Sidney-Pacific function so smoothly and take good care of its residents?” To many, the answer may seem obvious: it is the contribution of all residents who volunteer. Correct, indeed. However, such an answer is incomplete if one does not appreciate the student leadership within our community. After all, hard work without direction is meaningless. What is seldom seen at events and outings is the meticulous planning that happens behind the scenes. Good planning and organization makes residents want to participate, to volunteer and help out, making it worth their while. Good event hosts rally their volunteer crew, motivate them and encourage them to have fun while contributing their time.

The 50-odd officers in S-P house government are the engines behind all things S-P. While all officer positions are rewarding, each position is unique in character; each individual’s personality may very well have a best-fit officer position. Are you a party animal, or a gourmet chef? The Office of Residential life has eight or so committee chairs where you might fit. Are you a gadget-freak, or a number-cruncher? Perhaps you will consider the ten committee chairs in the Office of Resources. Do you like writing, poster design or web design? The Office of Information has six committee chairs to whet your appetite. Are you keen to work not just within S-P, but with the rest of MIT, our neighborhood, and the greater community? The Office of the President has 4 committee chairs placing you on the interface with the outside community. Would you rather be the people’s representative and a helpful resource for your peers and neighbors? You could become one of 13 Hall Councilors-par-excellence.

The fun does not stop here. If you are up for challenge; if strategic thinking is your passion and if you have what it takes to manage a large group of highly motivated individuals, then look no further. There are five executive positions (affectionately called SPEC): President, VP of Resources, VP of Residential Life, VP of Information and Chair of the Halls. The S-P website has more details about all positions (http://s-p.mit.edu/people/officers.php).

For those who will need to go through the MIT Housing lottery for next year, an officer position could provide you a one-year exemption allowing you to stay at S-P. Of course, there are other incentives—leadership development, building your soft skills, public-speaking and systems thinking. To me, the best part was the chance to work with the best and brightest from around the world, many of whom have since become close friends of mine.

The next year at S-P awaits your own style into this amalgam of fun. Are you ready? Read ahead for the SPEC election, officer interviews and Hall Councilor election schedule.

“The best part was the chance to work with the best and the brightest from around the world, many of whom have since become close friends of mine.”
sidney-pacific graduate residence house government election information

by Lillian Dai, S-P Trustee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPEC (5 positions)</td>
<td>Have someone nominate you (or nominate yourself) between March 1 and 15.</td>
<td>Accept the nomination and provide a statement by March 15. Elections are on April 5.</td>
<td>Any current S-P graduate student resident can be nominated for one or more SPEC positions (self-nominations acceptable). If elected, SPEC members must live in Sidney and Pacific for a one year term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Chair (28+ positions)</td>
<td>Apply online between March 17 and April 8.</td>
<td>Interviews and selections will take place at the end of April.</td>
<td>Open to all MIT students (residents and non-residents). If selected, committee chairs can live in Sidney and Pacific for a one year term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall Councilor (13 positions)</td>
<td>Apply online between April 5 and April 19.</td>
<td>Meet your residents between April 20 and 22. Elections will take place on April 20-23.</td>
<td>Open to current S-P residents only. Once elected, hall councilors must live in the hall they represent. NOTE: Residents applying for different halls need to have separate application submissions for each hall they apply for.</td>
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* subject to change

Note: You can apply for more than one officer position. However, you will need to submit a separate application for every position that you apply for.

CANDY FOR A CAUSE

S-P resident Anita Villanueva is currently training for the Boston Marathon (April 18, 2006). She’s also running for a cause: helping to give hope to those suffering from leukemia and related diseases. By running this marathon, she’s pledged to raise at least $2,500 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (a non-profit organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education and patient services). To raise the funds, she’s selling some candy she made herself. Check out http://candy-for-a-cause.hopto.org for more info. In addition to candy, she’s selling handmade soaps, too: http://soap-for-hope.hopto.org.
Write a classified ad (real or fake)! Send them to sp-newsletter-chair [at] mit [dot] edu!
Dear Redstar,

I am launching an advice column in this newsletter and want to know the best way to introduce myself to my audience. The newsletter serves the Sidney-Pacific community at MIT, which is surely so fabulous and together that no one will need my input! But, perhaps if they know that I too am a graduate student and familiar with the challenges that confront us in our quirky Institute universe, those with a quandary or merely a query will seek my input. Do you think it’s helpful to tell them that I am an outgoing single woman in her late twenties who enjoys yoga, vodka tonics, and working on her golf swing, or am I confusing this with my Match.com profile? Perhaps if they knew that I have attended 20 weddings in the last five years, they might take that as proof that many people in my prior life have turned to me for a listening ear and some constructive feedback? Delivered gently, of course! Please advise.

Sincerely,

Redstar

Dear Redstar,

Thank you for your letter. I have heard of this famed building, Sidney-Pacific. Though I hear the people there are as magnificent and successful as you purport them to be, I have faith that like the rest of us, they too could sometimes use some advice on which end is up. I hear that MIT can be a challenging place, full of obtuse computing guidelines, relentless blanketing of snow, and an infamously confusing building ordering system that leaves even the sharpest engineering student scratching her head in bewilderment. I think someone like yourself, who has lived and worked in many cities and countries and with such a diverse group of people, could find experience to draw on to relate to your neighbors. Perhaps if they knew that you also mix a mean cosmopolitan they might seek you out beyond just this advice column? Good luck!

Yours,

Redstar

New columnist “Redstar” specializes in dating issues and career/professional/academic advice!! Send questions to sp-newsletter-chair [at] mit [dot] com, or send them anonymously to mailbox 261A.
On Wednesday, February 23, S-P Cultural Committee in association with Sangam, hosted an Indian Cultural Hour S-P Tsunami Fundraiser event. The evening featured dinner and an Indian classical dance and music show. The dances were performed by Sumati Ram-Mohan and Charuleka Varadarajan, while the music was performed by Saikat Guha and Chintan Vaishnav. One of the dance pieces paid tribute to the Tsunami victims and called for help.

A large sum of donations was collected, thanks to S-P residents and friends. The contributions will go to the UNICEF tsunami relief fund through MIT’s Public Service Center. The S-P cultural Committee would like to thank all the residents who contributed to the success of this event.