

Incoming Residents Welcomed To Sidney-Pacific by Housemasters

By **The Housemasters**

From the Housemasters Roger and Dottie Mark:

Dottie and I extend a warm welcome to all the residents of Sidney-Pacific! We want very much to help build this community of students into a safe, supportive, family where all feel at home.

We are an incredibly diverse and international group, and we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from each other during our time together!

As housemasters, we are eager to meet each of you and to be available to you both professionally and personally. We will certainly try to be visible at coffee hours and social affairs, and we will host a number of housemaster dinners in our apartment. It is our hope that each resident will attend at least one such dinner during the year. But you do not need to wait for an invitation, drop by any time you want!

Housemasters are faculty members who live in community with students in MIT dorms. We are appointed by the president

and report to the Dean of Student Life.

Our goal is to facilitate the building of community within the living group, to represent and advocate for the needs and desires of the students to the administration, and to communicate the policies of the administration to the students.

We work closely with the officers of the student government as advisors and supporters, but the student government takes full responsibility for policies, strategies, and programming in the dorm. Housemasters, as experienced MIT faculty members, are also available to residents for advice and counseling on academic and/or personal issues, and we are particularly pleased when individual students contact us for advice!

From the Associate Housemasters Annette, Roland and Joshua:

Welcome to your new home and to the SP family! Sidney-Pacific is one of the most diverse and active residences at MIT. The building is exceptionally

well-run and organized because it is built on a tradition of students and staff working together to create a stimulating and welcoming home environment. We are happy that you are able to join this remarkable community and hope you will take part in many ways.

Having been students for a very long time ourselves, including studies abroad, we understand much of the excitement and difficulty associated with moving to a new university, a new city, and a new country. We greatly appreciate the diversity of the SP community and hope that we can be of help in supporting your transition to MIT, particularly for international students.

We welcome you to stop by with questions or concerns or simply to come play with Joshua. We look forward to spending time with each of you. We hope that you take advantage of your time at Sidney-Pacific, meet your hall councilor, stop by the weekly coffee hour, and join one of the many social and academic committees organized by your house government.

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Greetings From SPEC Members

By **SPEC**

Hello everyone! We're SPEC, the Sidney-Pacific Executive Council. We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new residents joining us this year. In the next week and a half, we'll be holding orientation events almost every day. We'd love it if you would come join us and mingle with other residents. There are three particularly large events we'd like to note:

Rock 'n Roast BBQ and Movie Screening: Tuesday, August 28, 6PM - midnight

Return to Lythion Dance Party: Friday, August 31, 9PM - 1AM

Orientation Brunch: Sunday, September 2, 12PM - 2PM

In addition, we'll also have dessert socials, outings, hall and Housemaster dinners, and more. Please keep your eyes peeled for announcements about these great (free) events!

We'd also like to take the time to tell you about how Sidney-Pacific (SP) works; after all, these events and everything else in SP didn't spring out of nowhere. There are, in essence, three main components to the functionality of SP, each focuses slightly different aspects, but all are intertwined and work to make SP function successfully. First, we have the House Manager, Jack Ahern and the House Mechanics, who maintain the physical infrastructure of the building. Next, we have the Housemasters, Roger Mark, Dottie Mark, Annette Kim, and Roland Tang, who are live-in faculty/spouses who give their time to and share their experience with the residents, as well as providing for some of the programming at SP. Finally, we have the House Council, the government of Sidney-Pacific, comprised of 55 student volunteers. We organize most of the events

at SP and also perform day-to-day, behind-the-scenes tasks that make life here great.

We'd like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the events and resource at SP rely on the spirit of volunteerism, from the officers of the House Council as well as residents, such as you. Therefore, we encourage anyone to come and help out at our events and of course, we always welcome new faces and friends.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at spec@mit.edu for any questions or comments. Enjoy orientation before classes and research set in!



Courtesy of N. Gu

SPEC members, from left, Michelle Sander, Rosaria Chiang, Nan Gu, Wendy Iskenderian, and Swati Mohan enjoy their SP jobs.

Sidney-Pacific Speaker

Newsletter Chair
Matthew Walker

The Speaker is published on a monthly basis to serve the needs of the Sidney-Pacific Graduate Community. Submissions of articles, photos, events, and other items of interest can be sent to: sp-newsletter-chair@mit.edu



A Short Housemaster Biography

By **Matthew Walker**

Dottie and Roger are both Boston natives. Born in Cambridge and Brookline, respectively, they attended area high schools before attending nearby colleges.

Dottie majored in education at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. She went on to teach elementary school and handle cases for the children's protective service.

Roger attended MIT, where he briefly dabbled in physics before majoring in electrical engineering. He subsequently earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering at MIT while studying concurrently for his M.D. at Harvard Medical School.

Though Dottie dreams that the two passed each other as babies while their mothers walked them in their strollers, the first time they recall meeting was at a Halloween party sponsored by a Park St. Church Bible Study group. Dottie was a member of this group with Roger's sister Beverly. By Dottie's recollection, Roger came dressed as a radioman.

They started dating some 18 months later at Beverly's suggestion. About six months later, Roger proposed, and they were married the following summer. Forty one years later, Roger and Dottie are the proud parents of four children and nine grandchildren.

Their oldest child, Betsy, is

a doctor for the Mayo Clinic in Paradise Valley, Arizona. She has four children with her husband Marc.

Their oldest son, Bryan, studies glaciology as an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University, though his work often takes him to Peru. He and his wife, Suzanne, have two children.

Middle son David is the family's third physician. He's currently serving with the National Health Service Corp at a Crowe Reservation in Montana. He has three children with his wife Kristen.

Finally, their youngest son, Rob, recently was ordained as a minister. Among his many missions, he operates a homeless shelter in Waltham and a children's camp in New Hampshire.

In their spare time, Roger and Dottie enjoy a variety of hobbies. Roger used to fix cars, a skill he taught to all four of his children before they got their licenses.

He also enjoys sailing; he and Dottie often take weekends on the Cape, where they have a 19-foot Mariner Class sailboat.

Dottie likes reading, lately finding the work of Mauve Binchy, William Martin, and Jimmy Carter interesting. She's also done extensive research of her genealogy, tracing one branch of her family to 1840 Scotland and another to 1638 England.

One event that Roger re-

calls from the earlier years took place in the spring of 2004. One evening, there was a building-wide fire alarm at around 11 pm.

This particular alarm was peculiar in two respects. First, Roger saw somebody dragging something across the balcony over the lobby on the second floor. Though it was common practice at the time to look for residents who did not leave during alarms, Roger decided to be lenient.

The second peculiarity was that the alarm lasted much longer than usual. The firefighters later informed him that the cause of the fire alarm was a broken sprinkler head in the garage. From the scraping of the surrounding ceiling tiles, it was apparent somebody had driven something that was too tall into the garage and sheared off the sprinkler head.

Roger and then associate housemaster Keith Hampton reviewed the security tape and saw an SUV with a box spring and mattress strapped to the top come into the garage.

Though the tape's resolution was too low to make a positive identification, Roger sent an email to the building stating that the authorities would soon discover the identity of the culprit through the ID card entrance records.

He received a confession ten minutes later.

Transportation Options Explained

By **Leah Acker**

In most parts of the United States, an automobile is both a necessity and a status symbol. American teens count down the days until their 16th birthday when they get their driver's license—a state-issued ticket to adult independence. However, when MIT graduate students move to Cambridge, they often find that maintaining a car isn't as much fun as they thought it would be when they were 16.

Boston isn't a fun place to drive. The 2002 Urban Mobility Report ranked Boston as having the 11th worst traffic in America. Perhaps this congestion has to do with lost drivers. It is difficult to find a regular Boston driver without a horror story. Here's a typical tale: "I was just trying to get to Prudential, but the roads weren't clearly marked. I ended up in New Hampshire."

Even if you manage to find your destination, parking is expensive. MIT charges \$729 for an annual student parking pass while the meters in Cambridge are 50 cents an hour.

Along with parking costs, insurance in Massachusetts is double or triple the cost in most other parts of the country. Also, getting auto insurance here is not "so easy a caveman could do it," as GEICO, State Farm and many other major insurance companies will not sell insurance to Massachusetts drivers.

Unlike most other states, Massachusetts has "no-fault" (or perhaps more aptly titled "every-

one's-at-fault") insurance. This policy drives up insurance costs for companies in the state as well as for responsible drivers.

"No-fault" means that if someone tries to zip between lanes and sideswipes your car in the process, both you and Zippity "the lane changer" will have that accident put on your records. Both of your insurance companies will pay for the damages, and both of your insurance rates will go up, even though you were just in your lane minding your own business.

Instead of keeping a car in Cambridge, many SP residents have found alternate transportation useful. MIT students without cars are eligible to get monthly "T" passes at half the normal rate, or about \$30. The Red Line train runs from Central Square (a ten-minute walk from SP), and buses stop just outside of Star Market at Sidney and Franklin (a five minute walk from SP).

While a "T" pass is handy, particularly for those of us who travel to different parts of Boston regularly, it isn't necessary. There are several free shuttle options for SP students.

The Northwest Shuttle picks up students at SP and will take them to many MIT locations, including Kendall Square and 77 Massachusetts Avenue. This shuttle runs weekdays from 7:25AM to 6:42PM. The Tech Shuttle is also available for free.

SafeRide, another free shuttle option, runs from 6PM until the wee hours of the morning everyday. SafeRide has stops through-

out Cambridge and Boston. Using SafeRide, SP residents have many options for evening and weekend outings, such as dinner out in the Back Bay or in Beacon Hill or shopping at the Prudential Center.

Partners shuttles run weekdays from 7:30AM to 7PM. They go from 65 Landsdowne (about a block and a half out the SP front door) to both Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. While most SP residents probably don't want to go to the hospital for recreation, these shuttles are handy for residents who have labs in or near those hospitals.

For those who want to use a car every once in a while, ZipCars are a good option because they allow you to "rent" a car on an hourly basis. You lose the hassle of car maintenance while keeping the convenience of a vehicle. If you simply want to carpool, check out goloco.org, a social network that connects people who want to share rides of all distances.

Finally, in the city, a bicycle maybe the handiest option of all. SP has a bike room which allow you to store your bike in a safe, dry, convenient location. Also, SP residents can borrow bikes at the front desk.

While Boston and Cambridge aren't America's most automobile-friendly cities, you don't need to put "the pedal to the metal" to get where you want to go. You can simply catch the "T," hop on a free shuttle, or put your foot the pedal of a trusty bike.

Printing From Afar: An SP How-To

By **Chris Mandy**

Hello there and welcome to the most stupendous dorm at MIT. If you haven't noticed yet, there's a Resource Room on the first floor (room 158) where 15 computers (8 Windows (WinAthena), 2 Macs and 5 Linux-Athena machines), 5 printers, a scanner and a photocopier patiently wait for you to come and play with them. Since most of you will acquire your own computers at some point, I've been asked to elucidate how you can print onto our fantastic printers from your little companions. As you'll see, it's really intuitively obvious. It's also explained at SP.mit.edu/it/print-install.php if you get lost.

STEP 0

You'll need two rudimentary things to begin any kind of computing at MIT: a Kerberos account and certificates. You've all received a letter explaining how to set up your Kerberos identification (it's the local part of your MIT e-mail address) by now, and if you haven't done so, go install certificates from web.mit.edu/ist/topics/certificates. Most specialists agree that life without certificates at MIT is simply ghastly.

STEP 1

The next step is to install the required identification and printing software: Kerberos and a printing tools suite (either KLP (Windows), LPD (Mac OS 10.4) or LPR (Linux and older Mac OSs). Kerberos can be found at web.mit.edu/software – click on your OS (this is where you

need certificates). I recommend downloading the "Student Bundle" which comes with all sorts of useful software. The easiest way to get your printing tool suite is to follow the links on web.mit.edu/ist/topics/printing.

STEP 2

Now you need to configure the printers you want to print to. At SP you can choose to print to our older HP8150 Laserjets (SIDNEY and PACIFIC), the brand new HP9050s (MASSAVE and ALBANY) or our HP4600 colour printer (WAVERLY). You can also set up any other printer from any of the other MIT computer clusters. At SP, every month the first 300 pages you print on our four black and white printers are free, and we charge \$0.03 for every page after that, with a \$1.00 minimum charge. All pages printed on our colour printer are \$0.30, so make sure you really want to print in colour before you use it. It's also up to you to ensure there's actually paper in the printers (you can get more at the front desk) and that the toner hasn't run out (e-mail me if it does). Setting up the printers depends on which of KLP/LPD/LPR you've downloaded, so I refer you to <http://itinfo.mit.edu/article?id=XXXX> where XXXX is 6250 for KLP on Win XP, 6716 on Win 2000, 8246 for LPD on Mac OS 10.4, 6664 for LPR on Mac OS 10.3, 6072 for LPR on Mac OS 10.2 and 7231 for LPR on Linux. The pages are all linked from the SP IT Printer installation page. You'll need to follow those steps separately for each

printer you want to be able to print to. Make sure you download the appropriate drivers for the printers (HP8150dn PS for SIDNEY/PACIFIC/MASSAVE/ALBANY even if MASSAVE and ALBANY are HP9050s, and HP4600dn PS for WAVERLY), and don't forget to enable double-sided printing. There are also links to download the drivers from the SP printer installation website.

STEP 3

Print. No, really, you're done. Pretty trivial huh? To print you'll need to ensure you have tickets on Kerberos (which amounts to logging in), and if you forget to do this, you'll be prompted anyway.

Now I should warn you that you can still expect some minor glitches. This is all complicated patched software. My laptop, for instance complains of a server error the first time I try to print anything after getting Kerberos tickets, but performs fine after that. I've never managed to fix this as I allegedly didn't murmur the chants and light the incense in the right order during the installation.

More information on printing at SP can be found at SP.mit.edu/it/printing.php, and there's a lot of information on MIT's IS&T website: web.mit.edu/ist. But if my darling printers are giving you some trouble, if you have other issues, questions, ideas for IT at SP or generally feel lonely, feel free to write to me at sp-it-chair@mit.edu. I look forward to charging you outrageous rates for your printing binges.

Join the International Mentorship Program

By Hila Hashemi

Sidney-Pacific is a very diverse community as about 30% of its residents are international students from about 50 different countries. This presents a great opportunity for you to make strong cross-cultural bonds and learn about different cultures. This diverse environment also helps make your integration into your new environment easier.

To help you take advantage of this diversity, as part of this year's orientation, we are organizing an international mentorship program in which about 25 new incoming international students are matched to 25 current students living in SP from a different culture and background. The mentor at SP is to have a point of contact in the dorm itself that will help expose you to American culture, as well as learn about

the culture of your mentor. This orientation mentoring program is part of a larger initiative to expand cultural awareness and dialogue between residents at SP.

As part of the program, there are two group outings when all the mentors and mentees go out together. One is a dinner outing on Monday August 27 at 6:00PM (before the Small World Reception) and an ice-cream outing on Sunday September 16.

If you are interested in joining the International Mentorship Program, email sp-cultural-chair@mit.edu.

Sidney-Pacific Plant Sale

Tuesday, August 28, 10AM to 7PM

Sunday, September 2, 10AM to 5PM

Want a plant to decorate your room? You'll have two chances to buy a plant during orientation! Come to one or both plant sales to pick your favorite plant!

- Free fertilizers with every purchase
- Easy and hardy tropical and exotic plants
- Cactus and succulents for the lazy gardener
- Large plants for your windows and small plants for your desks
- Large selection of ceramic pottery, baskets, and supplies
- Repotting Service available



SP-MORE Information

For new residents in need of furniture or appliances, look no further than the Sidney-Pacific Moving Out Recycling Exchange. Former residents have donated unwanted by working items that you can use to enhance your apartment.

Bring your ID and come to the Second Floor Study Lounge (Room 278) to pick some items. People will be limited to one large piece of furniture or appliance and a couple smaller items.

For further information, email sp-more@mit.edu or talk to your hall councilor.

Times:

Friday, Aug. 24, 5PM - 8PM

Saturday, Aug. 25, 11AM - 2PM

Sunday, Aug. 26, 7PM - 10PM

Baby Housemaster Offers Tips For Making the Most Out of Orientation

Dear Baby Housemaster,

I am a new graduate student. Can you suggest some ways for me to make some new friends?

--Excited New Arrival at MIT

Dear ENAAaMIT,

You'll often see me roaming the halls so be sure to say hi. I'll be your friend!

Also, I've noticed the way to make friends at SP is pretty easy. We have tons of events in the dorm to meet people. We're famous for our parties where people come from all over.

But, there are two real secrets to making good friends here. One is to help out with an event

or government activity -- people really bond that way and build a sense of community. A core group of helpers forms which is probably the nicest bunch of people you'll meet.

The second is to hang around a bit at events and try talking to some people instead of just taking the food and running. Watch out! Housemaster Roger might catch you if you do that.

--Joshua

Dear Baby Housemaster,

I am really enjoying orientation week so far. I am worried, however, about what I will do when the free food runs out. How can I make sure I am well fed next week?

--Stomach Brain

Dear Stomach Brain,

I have figured out if you say "More pleeeeeeze", people magically hand you food. You can try that out on any of the adult housemasters or hall councilors as they spend most of their budget on feeding residents.

Another tip is that housemaster Dottie always keeps a bowl of goodies outside her door for students who pass by. She changes the treats and decor according to the season. Apartment 568!

--BHM

Dear Baby Housemaster,

I noticed a lot of students volunteering at Sidney-Pacific's orientation events. What can I do to get involved in the building government?

--Eager Beaver

Dear Eager,

Yeah! Somebody who wants to help out! Welcome to SP! You have arrived at the best place to live on campus. And it's the greatest place because so many people volunteer.

1) One easy way is to show up to events and have a good time making the event a success. Also, if you see an event is going to happen, you can volunteer to help out the SP student government officer who is in charge by emailing them.

2) We the housemasters will host a welcome dinner for new students where you can find out about all the offices and volunteer to help out. There's tons of fun stuff you can do. This is the main way people make friends at SP. You can also find all this info on the SP website.

3) There is a SP helpers mail list that occasionally sends out emails asking for last minute help setting up and cleaning up big events like brunches, parties, etc. You can get on the list.

--JT



Courtesy of R. Tang

Baby Joshua says, "Here's a smile. Pass it on."

Baby Housemaster's responses are graciously translated by his parents, Annette and Roland.

Orientation Schedule and Information

Friday, August 24

6-9PM Outing to the Museum of Fine Arts (Meet in the Sidney-Pacific Lobby.)

Saturday, August 25

11AM-3PM Sidney-Pacific Orientation Information Booth

2:30PM Onward Sailing on the Charles (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney-Pacific.)

Sunday, August 26

11AM-3PM Sidney-Pacific Orientation Information Booth

2PM-5PM New England Aquarium Outing (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney-Pacific.)

Monday, August 27

8-10PM It's a Small World Welcome Reception (Sidney-Pacific Multipurpose Room)

Tuesday, August 28

6-9PM Rock N' Roast Orientation BBQ (Sidney-Pacific Courtyard)

9PM-12AM Outdoor Movie Screening - (Sidney-Pacific Courtyard)

Wednesday, August 29

6:30-9PM Prudential Skywalk & Ice Cream (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney-Pacific.)

Friday, August 31

9PM-1AM Return To Lythion Dance Party (Sidney-Pacific Courtyard)

Sunday, September 2

12-2PM Orientation Brunch (Sidney-Pacific Multipurpose Room)

Wednesday, September 5

6:45-10:30PM Improv Assylum Outing (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney-Pacific.)

Sunday, September 9

6PM Onward Dinner with Your Hall (Ask your Hall Councilor for details.)

Tuesday, September 11

6:15-8:30PM Housemaster Dinner (Sidney-Pacific Multipurpose Room)

Thursday, September 13

6:15-8:30PM Housemaster Dinner (Sidney-Pacific Multipurpose Room)



Courtesy of L. Waldman

Welcome to Sidney-Pacific! We are excited that you're joining the Sidney-Pacific Graduate Community!

We've put together a schedule of exciting events that will be held over the next couple of weeks. These events will allow you to meet fellow SP residents as well as graduate students across MIT's campus. We hope you enjoy yourself at these events and begin many friendships that will last throughout your MIT career and maybe even longer!

Also, please let us know if you have any questions about life here at SP as you settle into your new home. We'll be happy to help you.

Have a great time during Orientation and throughout your time at SP!

Lynne Waldman and Johnathan Lindsey
SP Orientation Committee Chairs
sp-orientation-chair[at]mit[dot]edu