

The SP House Council Welcomes Residents

By **SPEC**

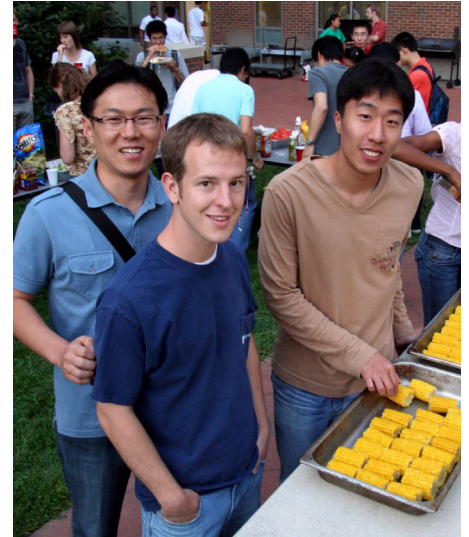
Greetings residents. On behalf of the Sidney-Pacific House Council, allow me to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our community. We look forward to meeting you over the next couple weeks at all of the Orientation events we have planned.

We have events planned nearly every day including a barbecue, dance party, several outings, some sporting events, and plenty more. I hope you'll take the time to attend and meet some of your fellow residents and the members of the government.

Throughout the year, there will be a vast array of events planned by the House Council, from our weekly coffee hours to monthly brunches, frisbee games, hiking trips, parties and lectures. Members of the House Council also support the infrastructure of the building like the inventory, house lounges, movie library, computer lab, and gym equipment. They're also responsible for keeping residents informed

through the web site, posters, and this newsletter. The 50 members of the House Council also include your hall councilors, who organize social events on each floor and represent resident interests at House Meetings. The officers are divided into five offices, each headed by one of the members of the Sidney-Pacific Executive Council.

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Residents enjoy courtyard dining at last year's Orientation BBQ

A Warm Welcome From the Housemasters



SidPac Housemasters Roger and Dottie Mark

By **Roger and Dottie Mark**

We are honored to be your housemasters, and we extend a warm welcome to all residents of Sidney and Pacific, especially to those of you who are joining us this year! We want very much to help build our graduate community into a safe, supportive, "family" where all feel at home, and where we can

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Inside the SPeaker:



- 2 Orientation Events
- 4 Add SPICE to Life
- 5 How to Recycle
- 7 Baby Housemaster

Did you know?

MIT first held classes on February 20, 1865, at the Mercantile Library in downtown Boston. Fifteen students were enrolled.

Sidney Pacific Orientation 2008

By **Lynne Waldman** and
Ana Luisa Santos

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

from more than 50 nations around the globe reside here at Sidney Pacific, known as SP for short. It's SP's talented residents that make this community so unique and special. Be sure to take advantage of your time here at Sidney Pacific to

meet your fellow residents. After all, some of your SP neighbors will become life-long friends!

We have prepared a guide to introduce you to the SP community and to let you know about the many resources that are available to you as

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Aquarium	23 Sailing, MORE
24 MFA, Frisbee	25 Welcome Reception	26 BBQ, Outdoor movie	27 Prudential Skywalk	28	29 Dance party	30 Game night
31 Orientation Brunch						

22

Friday, 10am-4pm: Trip to the New England Aquarium (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney Pacific; Contact sp-aquarium-chair@mit.edu to RSVP.)

23

Saturday, 2-4pm: Sailing on the Charles (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney Pacific; Contact newtoni@mit.edu and emichael@mit.edu to RSVP.)
4-6pm: SP MORE (Sidney Pacific Rooms 278 and 378)

24

Sunday, 11am-2pm: Trip to the MFA (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney Pacific; Contact sp-arts-chair@mit.edu to RSVP.)
2-4pm: Frisbee (Field next to Sidney Pacific; Corner of Sidney St. and Pacific St.)
3-5pm: Information Booth (Sidney Pacific Lobby)

25

Monday, 8-10pm: Welcome Reception (Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room)

26

Tuesday, 6-9pm: Rock N' Roast Orientation BBQ (Sidney Pacific Courtyard)
9pm-11pm: Outdoor Movie Screening featuring "21," after the BBQ (Sidney Pacific Courtyard)

27

Wednesday, 7-9pm: Prudential Skywalk & Ice Cream (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney Pacific.)

29

Friday, 9pm-1am: Return To Lythion Dance Party (Sidney Pacific Courtyard)

30

Saturday, 8-10pm: Game Night (Ping Pong/Foosball/Wii; Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room)

31

Sunday, 12-2pm: Orientation Brunch (Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room)

A Handy Guide to Events

an SP resident. Also, make sure to check out the Calendar of SP Orientation activities! We have planned a variety of exciting events that will be held during the next few weeks. These events have been designed to introduce you to your fellow SP

residents as well as to graduate students across MIT’s campus. We hope you enjoy yourself at these events! Have a great time during Orientation and throughout your time at SP!

—SP Orientation Committee Chairs



Lynne Waldman



Ana Luisa Santos

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Coffee Hour	4	5	6 Bike Outing Hall Dinner
7	8	9 Game Night	10 Volleyball	11	12 Open Doors Night	13
14 Arboretum	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Housemaster Dinner	23 Housemaster Dinner	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

3
Wednesday,
9-11pm: Coffee Hour (Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room)

6
Saturday
2pm-5pm: Bike Outing (Meet in Sidney Pacific Lobby; Email sp-bikes-chair@mit.edu to RSVP.)

6:30pm Onward: Dinner with Your Hall (Ask your Hall Councilor for details.)

9
Tuesday
8-10pm: International Game Night (Games from around the world; Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room)

10
Wednesday
6-8pm: Volleyball (Sidney Pacific Court-yard)

12
Friday,
8pm Onward: Open Doors Night (All Sidney Pacific Halls)

14
Sunday
3-7pm: Trip to Arboretum (Meet in the Lobby of Sidney Pacific; Email himanshu@MIT.EDU to RSVP.)

22
Monday
6:15-8:00pm: Housemaster Dinner (Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room)

23
Tuesday,
6:15-8:00 pm: Housemaster Dinner (Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room)

Questions? Comments? Email: [sp-orientation-chair\[at\]mit\[dot\]edu](mailto:sp-orientation-chair[at]mit[dot]edu)

SPICE Up Your SP Experience

By **Hila Hashemi** and
James Hong

As I opened the door to Housemasters' apartment, a myriad of thoughts flew through my mind. Would the people be friendly? What would we talk about? How would the food be?

I had come to dinner this evening on an invitation from Dottie Mark, one of the Housemasters, to join the Sidney-Pacific Inter-Cultural Exchange program. Coming to MIT marked the first time I was living alone, and my first few months here were filled with loneliness. Being away from my family only compounded the unpleasantness.

Not having many friends at the time, I would often retreat to my room after class. After spending a few months this way, I decided to find something to make my time here more enjoyable. Thanks to Dottie, I was introduced to SPICE.

Once I stepped through the doorway that first evening, all of my concerns immediately evaporated. The 10 people around the table were delighted to welcome me into their group. We spent the evening engaged in an enthralling conversation about the ways our different cultures view cross-cultural relationships. Everyone had a story or experience to share and I gained some valuable insights from their thoughts. Before I knew it, two hours had passed as if in the blink of an eye.

Over the next few months, we discussed a variety of different ideas and their contexts in our lives. In the process, we learned a lot about each other and the places we come from. Did you know that in China,

and had a girl instead, sometimes they would name the girl "hope for a son" or "next will be a son"? How about that in Brazil your race is decided based on a picture you submit? And that many people use the lighting or make-up to make sure that they fall in their preferred race category?

I had such a great time enjoying delicious food, good company, and interesting discussions that I could hardly wait for our dinners every other Tuesday. When I learned

before the one child policy, when a family really wanted a baby boy

there would be an opening for the SP Cultural Chair, who organizes the SPICE dinners, I jumped at the chance to join the government.

An Overview of SPICE

What is SPICE? SPICE stands for Sidney Pacific Cultural Exchange. We will form about 10 (diverse) groups of 10-12 people. Each group will meet separately every other week for a dinner and to discuss the topic of the night. Sometimes, a dinner may be replaced by an outing with a cultural theme.

How will discussions work? Dinner will center on a topic, such as inter-racial and cross-cultural relationships and marriages, holidays and ways of celebrating them, norms and taboos, or the role and position of women in the family and society. Each person will talk about their own experience, history, and point of view on the topic.



This fall, the SPICE dinners are going to be expanded to 10 groups to make more space available. More than half of Sidney-Pacific residents have an international background and over 50 countries are represented. This diversity gives us all a chance to learn about the different histories, cultures, and, of course, personal stories that we have to share.

To learn more about SPICE and the structure of it, the list of topics we will discuss, and the feedback we got from last years' participants, please visit the program's webpage:

http://s-p.mit.edu/about_sp/spice.php

And don't forget to join NOW!

Email: sp-cultural-chair@mit.edu

Recycling: Guide for the Perplexed

By **Wendy Gu**

Reduce, reuse, recycle: Think about ways to reduce the amount of trash you generate. While recycling is much better than tossing everything in the trash, reusing before recycling is even more environmentally friendly.

1. Do SP residents need to separate recyclables?

It would be best if residents took recyclables to the large bins on each floor and put them in the appropriate one. When they have time, our hardworking maintenance staff members separate the recyclables you leave outside your door. However, when they are too busy, especially during the summer when they clean the apartments, this might not happen. To ensure that items are recycled, please put them in the large bins. Paper must be separated from plastic. Plastic, metal, and glass can be mixed. Since we get only one recycling bin, one solution is to use a cardboard box for paper and the blue bin for everything else.

2. Which kinds of paper are recyclable?

Almost all paper is recyclable, including newspapers, magazines, cardboard, and cereal boxes. Paper clips, spiral binding, and staples are removed as part of the recycling process. Waxed cardboard is NOT recyclable but is seldom used for anything other than holding produce in grocery stores. Waxed paper used for cooking is also NOT recyclable.

3. Which non-paper items are recyclable?

Any plastic item imprinted with one of these recycling symbols (but not number 6 at MIT; see Question 7) is recyclable:

The symbol is small and is usually found on the bottom of the container. Glass bottles and metal cans are also recyclable. Labels are removed as part of the recycling process. Electronic equipment, including monitors and televisions, can also be recycled (see Question 8).

4. Do plastic bottles and aluminum cans need to be cleaned?

No, but they must be empty. Pour or scrape out any liquid or food so it doesn't leak into the receptacle and try to secure the lid. The goal is to keep away pests.

5. Are cardboard juice cartons recyclable?

These juice cartons are actually considered plastic for recycling purposes, and they can be recycled along with other plastics. They are made of paper that has been impregnated with plastic.

6. Which bags can be recycled?

Paper bags, if they are not contaminated with food or beverage, can be recycled. Plastic bags are technically recyclable but NOT at MIT.



Recycling symbols. Some of the symbols typically found on recyclable packaging.

Shaw's collects plastic bags for recycling; the bin is near the self-checkout area. Recycling plastic bags can often take more resources than disposing of them. The best solution is to use cloth bags or at least reuse plastic bags as often as possible. There will soon be a bin in the lobby for residents to put plastic bags for reusing.

7. Can styrofoam be recycled?

Technically yes, but NOT at MIT. Like plastic bags, styrofoam takes more resources to recycle than to dispose. The best solution is to use paper products instead of styrofoam. Anything with a recycling number 6 is styrofoam and cannot be recycled (see Question 3).

8. Where can electronics be recycled?

Electronics that are in working condition should be posted to reuse@mit.edu. The following information applies to unusable electronics. Televisions, monitors, and

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Housemasters Welcome Residents

Continued From Page 1

grow intellectually and socially.

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 students to the administration, and to communicate the policies of the administration to the students.



Roger greets new residents at last year's Orientation.

It is our great pleasure to support and advise the officers of the S-P student government, but your officers take full responsibility for policies, strategies, and programming in the dorm.

S-P is an unusually diverse and international community, and we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from each other during our time together! We are particularly excited about the new SPICE (Sidney-Pacific Intercultural Exchange) program that was piloted so successfully last year! Our small group of about a dozen residents from all

over the world met for dinner every two weeks and shared personal stories, family histories, and such subjects as intercultural dating, religion, finding a spouse, role of women, taboos, death and dying, etc. The subjects were fascinating, but more importantly we got to know and respect each other deeply, and many new friendships developed. We hope many of you will get involved in this new opportunity to build intercultural bridges!

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, social affairs, and 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, as experienced MIT faculty members, are always



Residents enjoy dinner and conversation at the Mark's following a CoSI Lecture last year.

available to residents for advice or counseling on academic and/or personal issues, and we are particularly pleased when individual students contact us for private discussions. Graduate school can be exciting and fulfilling, but there are also moments of high stress, loneliness, disappointment and uncertainty. Sharing a cup of tea over the good, the bad, or the ugly would be our pleasure – knock on the door (#568) or email (rgmark or dotmark)!



An Artist's Reception in Sidney Pacific's Multi-purpose Room in February.

Toddler Housemaster Explains

Note: Toddler Housemaster's answers have kindly been translated by his parents Annette and Roland

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

Toddler housemaster Joshua says: You'll often see me roaming the halls so be sure to say hi. I'll be your friend! My little brother, Samuel, will be born pretty soon too so you can play with him too. Also, I've noticed the way to make friends at S-P is pretty easy. We have tons of events in the dorm to meet people. And we're famous for our parties!

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.

Dear Toddler 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?

Toddler housemaster explains: I have figured out if you say "More peeeeze", 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. Also, this year is special in that the student government is launch-



Joshua, Toddler Housemaster

ing a new initiative called SPICE. Groups of around 10-12 students will be formed that will meet every other week for a sit-down dinner and great conversation about their backgrounds and their views on life's basic issues. Sign up to join one - you'll be coming over to

my house for some of the dinners!

Another tip: housemaster Dot-tie always keeps a bowl of goodies outside her door for students who pass by. Apartment 568!

Dear Toddler 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?

Toddler Housemaster grins: Yeah! Somebody who wants to help out! Welcome to S-P! 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 S-P student government officer who is in charge by emailing them.
- 2) The housemasters will host a welcome dinner for new residents. You can meet us, the officers, and other new residents and find out about all the offices and volunteer to help out.
- 3) There is a S-P helpers mail list that occasionally sends out emails asking for last minute help. You can get on the list. Check out the amazing S-P website!

Recycling Guide

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fluorescent lamps must be disposed of properly because they contain mercury and lead. Please take them to the SP loading dock (behind the courtyard) for recycling.

There will soon be a recycling bin in SP for small electronics and bat-

teries. Rechargeable batteries (Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Li, < 2 lb small lead acid) must be recycled. Other non-alkaline batteries should also be recycled. Alkaline batteries should be placed in the regular trash. Portable devices (cell phones, PDAs, pagers, etc.), media storage devices (CDs/DVDs and their cases, video tapes, floppy disks, etc.), and computer

periphery (mice, wires, external drives, etc.) can also be placed in the technocycle bin.

Special thanks to Justin Adams from the MIT Environment, Health, and Safety Office who helped answer these questions.

More recycling questions?
sp-environment-chair@mit.edu

House Council Welcome, cont.

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Separate from the House Council are the Housemasters. Roger, Dottie, Annette, and Roland are faculty and their spouses who live in the building and give their time to share their experience and support resident programs. You'll have a chance to meet them at the Housemaster dinners near the end of the month.

The House Manager, Jack Ahern, and his staff of mechanics and custodians keep the building in pristine condition. Help them out by reporting any problems you see and being careful with our infrastructure.

The programs and resources organized by the House Council are made possible with the support of resident volunteers like yourselves. I'd like

to invite you to get involved and meet some of the other enthusiastic supporters of our community. There are many ways to help out from cooking the food for brunch, to taking pictures, to writing for the newsletter. Any member of the government can help you find the right person to talk to, no matter what your interest. We look forward to meeting you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Executive Council at spec@mit.edu.



Associate Housemasters Annette Kim and Roland Tang with Baby Joshua

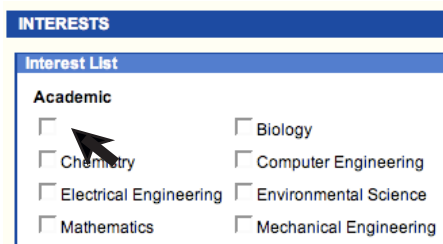
mit.edu. And finally, be sure to enjoy orientation before work sets in!

SP Executive Council
spec@mit.edu

Introducing A New Way for Residents to Connect

By **Hila Hashemi**, SP Vice President of Residential Life

As part of our new initiatives this year, the SP house council aims to help residents with common interest and hobbies meet each other in order to increase the level of social and intellectual interaction



within the community.

Therefore, we encourage and promote formation of groups of people with common interests. To do this, we have added a new section to "my account" on the SP website where you can check off your interests. If you have a unique interest that's not on the list, you can add it! If you enjoy rock climbing, web coding, or art galleries you will be able to browse and contact other residents in the building with those same interests. So, don't forget to update your account!



Sidney Pacific Speaker

Rebecca Perry,
Newsletter Chair

Do you have an interesting hobby, skill or passion? Have you seen a good or terrible movie, eaten at a great restaurant or dodged a bad one? Would you like to tell others about it? The Newsletter welcomes articles, photos and news of any events of interest to SidPac Residents.

The Speaker is published monthly for the Sidney Pacific Graduate Community. Send suggestions to sp-newsletter-chair@mit.edu