



New Baby Housemaster Arrives!



Joshua practices holding new brother Samuel as Roland looks on.

By **Annette Kim** and **Roland Tang**

Samuel Jia-Zen Kim Tang was born on September 7, 2008, weighing in at 7lbs exactly.

Roland nearly missed the delivery. While he was picking up grandma Kim from the airport, Annette called to tell him to hurry. He got back to the hospital just in time.

So far it looks like Samuel takes after his father. He eats and sleeps well and seems to have a good sense of humor.

Joshua has been handling his new role as big brother very well. Everyday he tells Samuel he loves him and gives him a gentle kiss on the head. It also helped that Samuel gave him a present when they first met (a toy train he's always wanted) and that we had a "Big brother party" when Sam and his mom came home.

Samuel's big introduction to Sidney Pacific happened at the Housemaster Orientation Dinners, but he is looking forward to meeting the rest of the SP community!

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Getting to Know Sidney Pacific's Inventory

By **John Z. Sun**, SP Inventory Chair

One of the best aspects of SP is our extensive inventory, which features hundreds of items including DVDs, sports equipment, board games, video games and

household essentials. With so many items, it can be confusing to find exactly what you want. This article aims to show you how to get the most of the equipment and how avoid those pesky late charges.

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Did you know?

MIT's first alumna, Ellen Swallow Richards, received her S.B. degree in 1873. Her thesis: "Notes on Some Sulpharsenites and Sulphantimonites from Colorado."

Sid-Pac's Inventory, cont.

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The easiest way to find what's available is to check SP's website (<http://s-p.mit.edu>) and click on the Resources tab. There, you will find links to both Movies (our film and TV DVD collection) and Inventory (other items). Each page has a list of items and with useful information like Checkout Time Limit and whether the item is available. The Movies page also has great features like links to IMDb and a list of movies sorted by popularity in SP. Be sure to browse the Recent Additions page regularly as new movies get added all the time.

While you are on the SP website, make sure to sign up for an account if you have not already done so. This is necessary for checking out items and keeping records of what you have borrowed and returned.

Also, adding a picture to your account gives you extra security as the front desk worker will be able to confirm your identity when checking out items.

When borrowing items from the inventory, please be sure to note the checkout time limit. If items are not checked in on time, you will automatically be assessed a fine. There are several misconceptions regarding fines that I wish to clear up. Firstly, it is your responsibility to ensure items are checked in. The

front desk workers are often busy and may not check in your items into the inventory system immediately. Please verify using your SP account that the returned items

can return items in the morning if it is within the checkout time limit. Thirdly, each late item is assessed a separate fine. For example, if four Wii remotes are returned late, then four fines are charged.

Please be extra careful if you are checking out multiple items. Finally, fines are automatically billed to your bursar near the end of the month and will not appear in your account until the following month. You may also be billed for any printing charges and will not be notified via email. If you see an unexpected charge from SP, it will be because of this more often than not. If you have any questions regarding fines or feel unfairly charged, please contact me at sp-inventory-chair@mit.edu as soon as possible to resolve any problems.

SP's inventory is designed to serve residents like you so feel free to contact me or anyone in house govern-

ment with a request or suggestion. The newly unveiled SP Community Forums is another excellent way to voice any ideas. We will add many exciting additions to the inventory in the coming year, as well as some structural changes to the website. If you have any problems, questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me at sp-inventory-chair@mit.edu. Enjoy your time at SP and be sure to take advantage of our resources!

Using the Inventory

Go to the SP web site at <http://s-p.mit.edu>, click on the Resources tab.

Sign up for your SP web account and upload a photo of yourself for extra security

Check out movies, browse the TV DVD collection, links to IMDb, and movies sorted by popularity in SP

Upload your photo, to protect your identity!

RESIDENT INFO

New: Update your interests!

Your Information

Name: Bitey Critter
Preferred Name: BT
MIT ID: 11101001001
Athena Email: Bitey@mit.edu (preferred)
Degree Program: Ph.D Candidate

Work Phone: N/A
Hometown: Planet Nictor

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are indeed checked in and contact the front desk at 617-452-4753 (x2-4753) if there are any problems. Another option is to enable automatic notifications whenever items are checked in/out under your name. Secondly, the front desk is open from 8AM to midnight, but may close early. Please return your items before 11:45PM to make sure they are checked in properly. Moreover, the period when the front desk is closed does not count towards hourly checkout time limits so you

Beijing's Olympic Beauty

By **Alexander H. Chan**

This is not my first visit to Beijing. Our last rendezvous was as recent as two years ago. This time, however, Beijing is different. In her sixes and sevens, she transformed from the welcoming and energetic young girl I knew into a glamorous lady worthy of any royalty in the world.

The Olympics is an experience of a lifetime. Each race, each match, each competition I watched was breathtaking. Athletes proudly wore their nation's flag and exhibit the aesthetics and mastery of their sport. The Olympics represent a kind of healthy competition where nations' representatives motivate each other to practice more, to work harder, to be better. As a result, all improve through this healthy competition to reach higher, to get faster and to be stronger.

Two events during the Olympics were particularly memorable.

In a group C match in women's table tennis, Hong Kong played against Poland. I watched the match to support my team, Hong Kong. During match two between Hong Kong and Poland, the Polish player Natalia Partkya played against Tie Yana of Hong Kong. Now, Natalis Partkya's right forearm is amputated. For a game which requires the use of both hands to serve and serving occurs almost every other point, her ability to play table tennis is

remarkable enough. More than that, she played so gallantly that she almost outshines every able-bodied player at the Olympics. Natalia shown us what kind of great deeds could be achieved with hard work and perseverance. And it got me



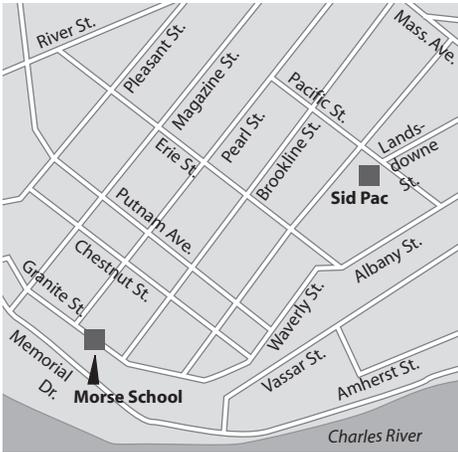
Alexander H. Chan at the Great Wall

thinking about how trivial obstacles I face in my daily life are.

In the women's air pistol final, while I celebrated the gold medal performance of the Chinese marksman Guo Wenjun, what left the deepest impact was a scene involving Natalia Paderina, the Russian silver medalist and Nino Salukvadze, the bronze medalist from Georgia. The event was held within days after the Russian-Georgian conflict broke out. But instead of looking at citizens of two nations at war, I saw mutually

respecting and admiring women exchanging kisses and congratulations. After being awarded their medals they held each other in a deep embrace. In their embrace, there seemed to be no concept of nation states, no hate between nations, only mutual appreciation of sportsmanship. The Olympians realized that they have a lot more in common like their drive, willpower and the countless hours they spent in perfecting their aim. These commonalities are much more important than petty differences that pitch one nation against each other in military conflicts. This is the Olympic spirit. I love Beijing. Although many complained that China is not really presenting its Capital as it really is, that all we are seeing is but a mask over the real Beijing. I would argue differently. True, the Beijing bustling with traffic and jammed with bicyclers is more real. However, just as

make-up does not make a beautiful woman any less gorgeous than before, Beijing in make-up and dressed for a party is just another way to appreciate her. Like the party scenes of Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*, or Charlize Theron in *Mighty Joe Young*, I in awe to see Beijing in party outfits. I have met Beijing both before and after she dressed up. I found her attractive in both images. For a beautiful woman shines through any eyeshadow and mascara, beautiful Beijing captivated my soul.



Get Ready to Vote!

When is the Presidential election? Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

How do I register to vote? Download the form from <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm>, or apply in person at any election office. The voter hotline is: 1-800-462-VOTE.

When is the deadline? Registra-

tion forms must be postmarked by October 15, 2008.

Where do I vote? Sid-Pac residents vote at the nearby Morse School, at 40 Granite Street.

At the poll: Give your address and name to the election official, and they will look for you on the voters list.

What if I'm not on the list? Ask the official to check whether you are registered in another precinct. If not, you may go to city hall to establish your identity or you may cast a provisional ballot.

I want to run! If you are thinking of running for President next time around, note that the U.S. Constitution requires a candidate to be 35 years old and a natural born citizen of the United States. Whoever wins this election will become the first President born outside of the Continental United States. Barack Obama, 47, was born in Hawaii and John McCain, 72, was born on a U.S. air base in the Panama Canal Zone. Sources: *The Massachusetts State Web site for voter information*, <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm>, and Wikipedia.

The Art of Hanging Pictures

Jack Ahern, SidPac Building Manager, offers a few tips (edited by **Rebecca Perry**)

So you all settled in to your Sidney Pacific room, looking at your walls and trying to decide where to hang your calendars, posters, bulletin boards and photos. But what is the best way to attach things to the walls? Jack Ahern, Sidney Pacific House Manager, offers some suggestions.

Avoid tape. Tape causes big headaches for the maintenance staff. When residents move out, and staff tries to remove the tape, it can pull off the paper that holds the plaster together, producing holes in the walls.

Repairing large holes can require several coats of patch compound with drying time and repeated sanding in between coats. Often the entire wall must be repainted to match the rest. So please avoid tape!

Nails are ok, but picture hooks are better. Jack suggests that while small nail holes are not as difficult to repair as tape damage, it is preferable to use picture hooks

whenever possible. Jack notes that John, Sid-Pac's house mechanic, is always available for consultation.

Bug fixes. Sidney Pacific has over 700 residents, and generates quite a pile of trash. Still, Jack notes that the building has had remarkably good luck with bug and pest control. He credits staff effort and a system designed to get trash and recyclables removed from the building quickly. The ability to do this depends on residents, too. Jack encourages all residents to continue placing their trash and recyclables out daily for collection.

Think recycling. While reducing the amount of trash produced in the first place is still best, reusing and being aware of packaging in the products you buy is another way to think green. Recycle as much of the rest as possible.

More information. Finally, Jack says that almost everything one needs to know for quality living at SidPac can be found on the web site. But he is always available to answer questions or to hear complaints. You can email him at jack@mit.edu



**Sidney
Pacific
Speaker**

**Rebecca Perry,
Newsletter Chair**

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