



## Housemasters Welcome the New Residents To Sidney Pacific

### Roger and Dottie Mark

We are honored to be your housemasters, and we extend our enthusiastic greetings 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 community into a safe, supportive, home where we can grow intellectually and socially. We strongly support the theme for this year – the Sidney Pacific be known as a “House full of Families”. We wish that each resident would experience connections with others through small group activities and the development of real friendships.

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

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

S-P is an unusually diverse and international community, with representatives from 47 different countries this term! As residents here, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from each other during our time together! We are particularly excited about the SPICE (Sidney-Pacific Intercultural Exchange) program that was so successful last year! We hope many of you will get involved in this unique opportunity to build intercultural bridges! There are other ways to connect as well: check out the interest groups, and take the initiative to propose an activity – subsidized by the house budget! And jump in with your colleagues in helping behind the scenes with the launching of programs. There is no better way to make friends than to work together. Join the SP-Helper email list to be in-

formed of opportunities to pitch in!

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 house-master 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 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 times 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)!

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# Sp Inventory Policy

**Rahul Kar**

Dear S-P Residents,

S-P has a wonderful assortment of inventory items that will make living here at once easy and a lot of fun. The items range from regular sports goods to the latest DVDs to floor vacuums! However, to assure that all the residents have equal and quick access to the S-P inventory, there are certain policies in place. Please be aware of these policies when you check out items so that you are not subsequently fined for knowingly or unknowingly failing to comply. If you have any questions please email [sp-inventory-chair@MIT.EDU](mailto:sp-inventory-chair@MIT.EDU) for clarifications.

Have fun!

## Getting Started:

1. Before you check out any items, you must accept the 'Terms of Service' agreement on the S-P website under MyAccount > Personal Info. This is also a pre-requisite if you want the front desk to receive and hold packages on your behalf.

2. You can use MyAccount on the S-P website to check and renew items currently registered under your name, including check-out/in times, late fines and/or rental fees. It is your responsibility to monitor your account for any erroneous charges and please bring it to the notice of the Inventory Chair immediately by sending

an email.

**HANDY HINT:** For your convenience, you may elect to have an e-mail sent to you as a written record of any inventory check in/out activity. We strongly ENCOURAGE you to use this feature to avoid any errors during check in/out.

3. You are accountable for all items checked-out under your name. DO NOT transfer responsibility of items to other residents, as YOU will be the one who is charged if the item(s) are returned late or go missing.

## The Front Desk:

1. The front desk is staffed between 0800 hrs to 2359 hrs. Items cannot be checked out or returned after hours.

2. During off-hours, please do not slip any items through the desk or return them to the security guard, as the items will not be entered as checked-in into the database system and a missing item charge may result if the item is not found. Leaving the items and a note for the desk worker DOES NOT constitute a legitimate return.

3. During staffed hours, please do not leave item(s) at the front desk without the desk worker on duty being present. It is your responsibility to ensure that your items get checked back in.

## Fines:

1. Each inventory item can be checked out for a limited time (some items – particularly DVDs can be renewed online). Items must be returned within that allotted time or else a nominal fee will be charged. Charges for individual items are included with the inventory list.

2. Fines will be added up on a monthly basis and billed through the resident's MIT Bur-sar Account.

3. The maximum overdue fine will be the lesser of one week's worth of fines or the cost of the item.

4. Items overdue longer than a week will be considered missing and the resident will be billed the cost of a replacement in addition to the overdue fine.

## The Fun Part!

Enough of being the mean ogre - we are actually really friendly! Keep checking the website and the S-P forums because we keep adding to the inventory!

We hope that you will enjoy the host of options that we have put in place for you!

## Questions?

Contact me:

[sp-inventory-chair@MIT.EDU](mailto:sp-inventory-chair@MIT.EDU)

# SPICE: Students Promoting Inter-Cultural Exchange

## Spencer Schaber

Here at MIT, students have an amazing breadth of cultural backgrounds. Most of us will continue to work with diverse people, but we may never encounter so many diverse people in one place as here at Sid-Pac. SPICE got started last year (as Sidney-Pacific I\_C\_E\_) to help us all take advantage of this amazing diversity. Groups of students are organized to be as diverse as possible, so everyone can have the opportunity to meet and learn from ~10 other

people from all over the world. Each group meets biweekly at a particular day and time, and discusses the topic of the week. Each person is encouraged to share her/his history of the topic and current perspective. Groups have the freedom to choose what topics they want to discuss during the year; some examples are relationships, birth, weddings, religion, and food. For some of the meals, some groups choose to have some of their members cook in order to share a variety of home-cooked dishes.

and meals will be generously paid for by the Housemasters of S-P, the Dean for Student Life, the Chaplain to the Institute, and the GSC. That's right, a free meal (not pizza!) every other week, while getting to know your housemates, right here at S-P! We would love to have every single resident of Sid-Pac sign up!

To sign up, please use the form at <http://tinyurl.com/spice09>. For more information, or if you are interested in coordinating a group, email Spencer: [sp-spice-chair@mit](mailto:sp-spice-chair@mit)

Last year we had six groups of 10 to 15 students. This year we hope to have even more groups,

## Sidney Pacific Speaker

Newsletter Chair  
Manya Ranjan

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](mailto:sp-newsletter-chair@mit.edu)



Courtesy of T.Curran

**Sidney Pacific Orientation Brunch was a huge success!**

# Get funding for something you like!

## Adrienne Li

Interested in going to a museum? Interested in trying out a restaurant? Want to see a movie/concert? Up for a game of chess/tennis? Something else that you can think of that the SP list of activities does not cover?

Find someone at SP who shares the same interest and have fun together! SP will provide a SUBSIDY to do what you like! With 700+ residents, the SP government is aware that our officers cannot cater to every interest among our residents. But luckily, with a big and diverse population, we believe that you can always find someone who likes the same thing as you do.

SP interest groups (abbrev: iGroups) is a new initiative to help you connect with residents who share the same interests. Every SP resident can sign up for interest groups simply by checking the appropriate boxes on the iGroups page. Go and check out the new iGroups page if you haven't already: [https://s-p.mit.edu/myacct/interest\\_groups.php](https://s-p.mit.edu/myacct/interest_groups.php). (You can also access the page by clicking the link at the SP homepage) Here you will find more information and email addresses to 200+ igroups!

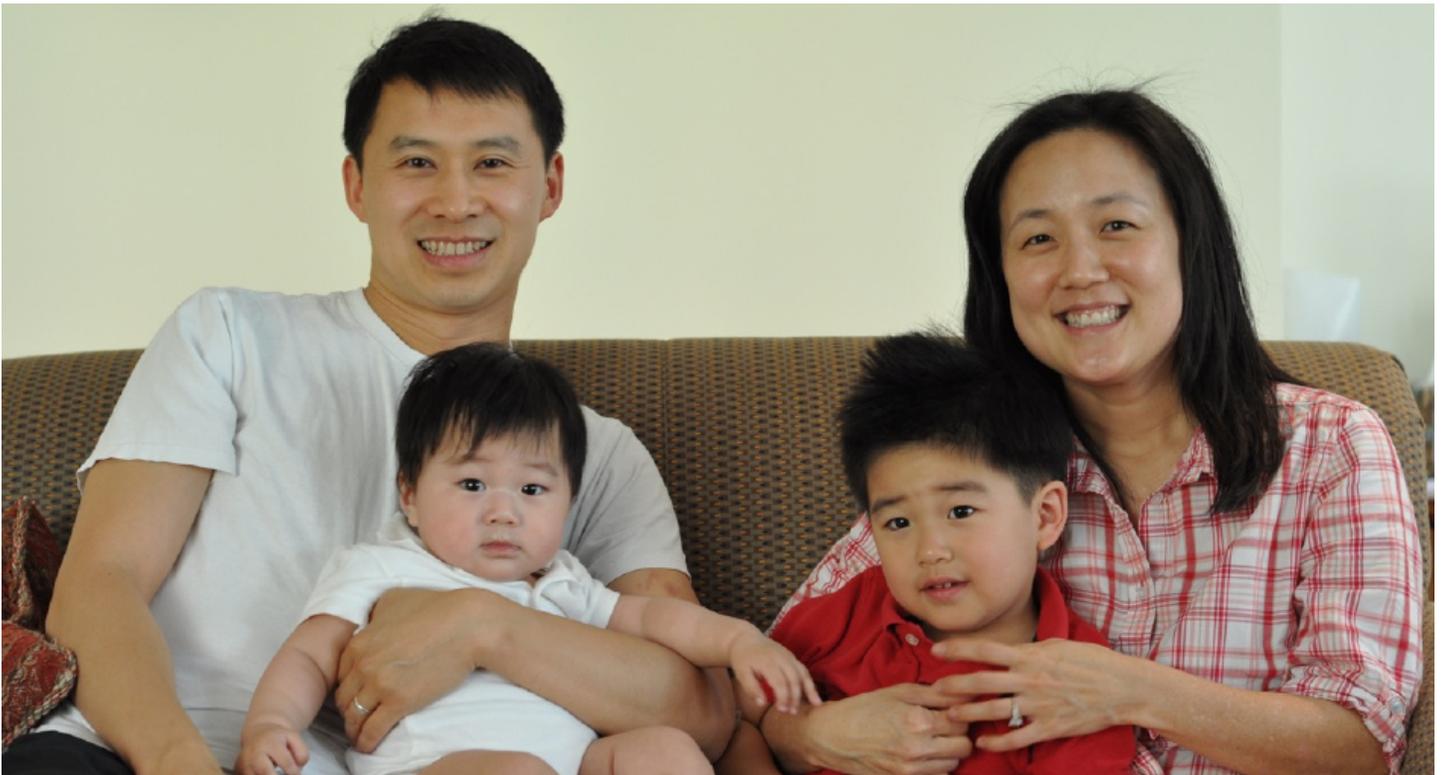
Now you don't need to wait for an officer to organize an event. If you think of something you'd like to do, let others know by emailing the relevant iGroups and have your

activity subsidized. INITIATE SOMETHING! INITIATE ANYTHING! Big or small!

We are giving residents the chance to do whatever they want to do. Seize this opportunity and start something fun at SP!

Remember to make use of iGroups to stay connected with people of the same interests, meet new friends, share your opinion/fun facts/information, carpool, or even learn something new from a fellow resident. The possibilities are infinite!

Feel free to email me at [sp-interestgroups-chair@mit.edu](mailto:sp-interestgroups-chair@mit.edu) if you have any suggestions or questions about iGroups at SP.



**Associate Housemasters Roland and Annette, seen here with Baby Housemaster Samuel and Toddler Housemaster Joshua, take active interest in the well being of Sidney Pacific Residents**