CoSI Lectures Attract Crowds

By Denis Loginov
CoSI Chair

This term, we had an opportunity to meet two famous MIT professors right here at SP, and two more to come on April 6 and May 5. Peter Diamond, 2010 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, talked about “Search Frictions, Unemployment, and Vacancies” – one of the most quivering topics of the present days. The lecture was followed by the dinner at the Housemasters’ apartment, where Roger and Dottie created a homey environment for a seemingly serious speaker. Consequently, Professor Diamond turned out to be a very down-to-earth person, and students enjoyed talking to him about virtually everything.

For the second lecture, we invited Professor Munther Dahleh, another extremely friendly faculty member and also a MacGregor dormitory housemaster, who was eager to tell us about his research. The topic of the day was “Learning in Complex Social Networks” – that applies to almost any of us nowadays (Facebook!). Even though the topic included some advanced math equations, Professor Diamond and S-P residents enjoy the dinner at Housemaster’s apartment.

See more in P2
Dahleh explained it in a very accessible way. During the dinner, Professor Dahleh was happy to also discuss many concerns of graduate community, including residential life and career paths for PhDs.

The third talk will be given by Professor Joshua Winn, an expert in the field of planetary sciences, who will explain how more than 1000 extrasolar planets have been discovered for the past few decades, what we have learned about the process of their formation, and whether systems like our Solar system are common or rare. He will also uncover the prospects for finding other Earth-like planets, including possible signs of extraterrestrial life. As always, the lecture is open to MIT community. If you would like to be invited to the dinner, please RSVP @ s-p.mit.edu. RSVP early, as spaces are limited!

For the last lecture we’ve invited Tyler Jacks, the Director of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research (!) Also, expect a nice surprise event in June (read: barbecue event), once again with an interesting faculty member.

Sidney-Pacific Lecture Series:
"Planets around other stars"
Special talk by Professor Joshua Winn

Within the last few decades, more than 1000 planets have been discovered around other stars.

In an exciting lecture sponsored by the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, Professor Joshua Winn will explain how they were found, what we have learned about the process of planet formation, and discuss the prospects for finding other Earth-like planets, including possible signs of extraterrestrial life.

6 pm on April 6
Sidney-Pacific (NW86) MP Room
Lecture open to the MIT Community followed by dinner: RSVP for dinner @ s-p.mit.edu
Interview with a YouTube Rock Star

By Yu-Pu Wang
S-P Resident, Music Lover

1. What usually inspired you to play music?

Oh well, everybody tells me I have musical talents since I was, like, 3! So if they say I can play it well, why not? Ha! And music makes me feel good.

2. How did you choose your song list in SP Resident Concert?

As soon as Taylor Swift’s Speak Now was released I rushed to Target to get the physical CD, and I immediately fell in love with it! Whatever songs I like I’ll play them acoustically, so I started practicing (almost) every single song from that album on my guitar like crazy, and when the concert was coming I was like “oh crap, which one I’m gonna do?” So I came up with the idea of making a medley by incorporating those songs that connect seamlessly, even if some of them are not the latest ones. Okay, I think you got the point!

3. What SP facilities have you ever used for playing music? or can you briefly introduce your instrument/equipment in music?

I occasionally use the music room, as my current roommate has words about me making noises (read: sounds) when he is present. As for my equipments, I have two acoustic guitars: One of them is a travel-sized guitar which I actually don’t use that much, and the other is a cheap normal acoustic guitar which I use very often. And I basically have almost everything for a busker: a karaoke-type microphone, a removable pickup for my guitar, a harmonica, and two 10-W amps! I just need a mic stand and modify my amps to make them work on batteries and I’m ready to hit Harvard Square! I also invested quite a bit on a studio microphone for recording CD-quality music, though I probably won’t bring it to the streets...

4. Do you have any future plans related to music that you want to share with SP residents?

Yup! Of course! As some (or a lot?) of you may know I own a one-man a cappella group, record songs and music videos, and put them on YouTube occasionally (checkout solobahn @ youtube). But the problem is that I want to perform on stage – apparently I cannot clone myself into 10 Yu-Pu’s and perform at SP Resident Concert! So I have a new plan for a physical band that will be a fusion of some vocals and some *random* musical instruments. I am also looking for people interested in music editing and production, especially electronic music!

5. Did you join any active music group around campus?

Currently: no. I tried to join MIT’s Chorallaries but didn’t get in. They don’t need my vocal type for now. So guys (and girls!) if you are interested in singing / playing / making music together you’re welcome to join me!

Personal Profile:
Name: Yu-Pu Wang
Interests: karaoke, bicycling, photography
Contact Info: ypwang@mit.edu

By Yu-Pu Wang
S-P Resident, Music Lover

1. What usually inspired you to play music?

Oh well, everybody tells me I have musical talents since I was, like, 3! So if they say I can play it well, why not? Ha! And music makes me feel good.

2. How did you choose your song list in SP Resident Concert?

As soon as Taylor Swift’s Speak Now was released I rushed to Target to get the physical CD, and I immediately fell in love with it! Whatever songs I like I’ll play them acoustically, so I started practicing (almost) every single song from that album on my guitar like crazy, and when the concert was coming I was like “oh crap, which one I’m gonna do?” So I came up with the idea of making a medley by incorporating those songs that connect seamlessly, even if some of them are not the latest ones. Okay, I think you got the point!

3. What SP facilities have you ever used for playing music? or can you briefly introduce your instrument/equipment in music?

I occasionally use the music room, as my current roommate has words about me making noises (read: sounds) when he is present. As for my equipments, I have two acoustic guitars: One of them is a travel-sized guitar which I actually don’t use that much, and the other is a cheap normal acoustic guitar which I use very often. And I basically have almost everything for a busker: a karaoke-type microphone, a removable pickup for my guitar, a harmonica, and two 10-W amps! I just need a mic stand and modify my amps to make them work on batteries and I’m ready to hit Harvard Square! I also invested quite a bit on a studio microphone for recording CD-quality music, though I probably won’t bring it to the streets...

4. Do you have any future plans related to music that you want to share with SP residents?

Yup! Of course! As some (or a lot?) of you may know I own a one-man a cappella group, record songs and music videos, and put them on YouTube occasionally (checkout solobahn @ youtube). But the problem is that I want to perform on stage – apparently I cannot clone myself into 10 Yu-Pu’s and perform at SP Resident Concert! So I have a new plan for a physical band that will be a fusion of some vocals and some *random* musical instruments. I am also looking for people interested in music editing and production, especially electronic music!

5. Did you join any active music group around campus?

Currently: no. I tried to join MIT’s Chorallaries but didn’t get in. They don’t need my vocal type for now. So guys (and girls!) if you are interested in singing / playing / making music together you’re welcome to join me!

See more in P4
6. How do you think of the SP Resident Concert?
I think we have far more musical talents than this. If we can set the date much earlier to allow more time (say, one or two months) for them to prepare, and maybe provide some prizes, this can potentially become a Cambridge-wide event and tradition!

Apply To Become an SP Officer

You don't need to be Superman to become an SP Officer. In fact, you don't even need to be a current SP Resident. Run for a Committee Chair position at Sidney Pacific, and...

* Gain leadership experience
* Get guaranteed SP housing for 2010-11
* Get priority on room selection

Open to the entire MIT graduate community. Contact spec@mit.edu with any questions.
Apply at http://s-p.mit.edu/apply. Applications for Committee Chairs open on March 16 and close on April 13, 2011. Applications for Hall Councilors open on April 5 and close on April 19, 2011.

DONATE TO THE JAPAN RELIEF EFFORTS

Coffee hour, Wednesday 3/16, 9:00 PM
Cash or checks payable to "Japanese Association of MIT"

Upcoming Events!

Don’t miss them!!
3/16 Cultural Coffee Hour/Indian (Fundraising event for the earthquake victims in Japan)
3/30 SP Officer Information Session Coffee Hour
4/3 April Brunch
4/5 House Meeting and SPEC Elections
4/6 Coffee Hour
CoSI Lecture - Professor Joshua Winn
4/13 Middle Eastern Coffee Hour
4/15 Waffle Day
4/22 NW Joint Event