



Bringing

March 2016

ASHDOWN

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IAP Adventures

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday 3/17: French Coffee Hour

Location: Hulsizer room, 9pm

Bonjour! Show up in stripes and enjoy a special Coffee Hour on 3/17 featuring French snacks and desserts.

Sunday 4/17: Ashdown Research Party

Location: Hulsizer room, 6pm

Ashdown's first Research Party will allow Ashdown residents to present their research in 5 minutes. There is a \$100 gift card for the top presentation which is determined by audience votes. All presenters will receive cool swag. Dinner is also provided for all participants and the audience. Please sign up if you are interested in presenting your work:

http://signup.mit.edu/ashdown_research_party

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Laundry Repairs

Thank you to those of you who are making use of the "out of order" magnets in the laundry room. This helps your fellow residents avoid the frustration of loading their clothes into a broken machine. However, to ensure that the broken machine is fixed, it is essential that you go one step further and report the *specific* problem that you experienced. When our mechanic is trying to fix the machine, it is of great help to know what symptoms you've observed, beyond that the machine is "out of order". This is too vague. The more detail your report, the more likely the machine will be fixed. You can report laundry machine problems by emailing dlan@mit.edu and cc'ing ashdown-inventory@mit.edu.

Hi Ashdowners!

Thank you to all who took the time to vote for the future of our House. Congratulations to our new AHEC Leadership Team for next year:

Malvika Verma - Chair

Alan Long - Vice Chair

German Parada - Treasurer

Rio LaVigne - Officer Coordinator

Govind Ramnarayan - Secretary

We would also like to thank Stephen Filippone for his submission about his IAP trip to Mexico City and Adrian Radzynski for his blog about Israel.

For next month, we would like to highlight any hobbies Ashdowners have outside of school or interesting activities you participated in during Spring Break. Please send your submissions (including photos) to ashdown-comms@mit.edu or tnguyen1@mit.edu to be considered for a \$50 gift card.

Your Communications Officers,
Tram Nguyen & Cody Karcher



Photos

On H₂O

During IAP, Xueying Zhao organized a fun fund event where nine Ashdowners went ice skating at the Z center. Some people ice-skated really well; some walked on the ice; some fell down, either accidentally or intentionally. The next day they had hot chocolate and talked about research together.



Broncos vs. Panthers

Decked out in our favorite jerseys, Ashdown friends, roommates and lab mates came to the Super Bowl watching party in the Hulsizer Room and Thirsty Ear pub. While enjoying pizza, ice cream, and snacks, we rooted, we cheered, and a few of us cried as the Broncos defeated the Panthers in this year's matchup.

Deconstructing Climaxes

Ashdowners participated in a workshop and live performance of the first movement of Sergei Prokofiev's Op. 94 Sonata for Flute and Piano. Marvento Duo led an engaging exploration of Prokofiev's rhythmic ideas and the ways they are layered.



Dumpling Festival

To celebrate the Chinese New Year and the First Full Moon Festival, Ashdown's events committee hosted a Dumpling tasting event. They served both steamed and fried dumplings from Patty Chen's Dumpling Room and offered a dumpling making showcase.

Mexico City and Blacksmithing Class

By: Stephen Filippone



Mexico City (CDMX)

This is me getting some last minute cooking done at home before going to CDMX. I'm toasting the chiles for a mole. I stayed in Mexico City with my uncle for two weeks. Highly recommend visiting I am happy to give travel tips to anyone who is thinking of going. Below are pictures from El Zócalo. You can see the Cathedral in both pics. In the foregrounds you see a temporary ice rink and Templo Mayor.



I made a quick trip to the beach in Zipolite, Oaxaca. It was my second time there it's a great place to decompress. There are no resorts here, but still really nice lodgings or camping on the beach. People come here to surf and you can be nude on the beach. The food is awesome if you think the texmex burrito is king then you've never had a tlayuda a traditional Oaxacan dish which is basically a giant taco.



Teotihuacan a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Teotihuacan is a city left behind by Teotihuacanos, a civilization that predates the Aztecs by about 1,000 years. The city is enormous. I took this picture standing atop the Moon Temple. The main road, the Street of the Dead, can be seen in the center and the larger Pyramid of the Sun, is seen to the left don't worry, I climbed to the top of that temple as well.

Blacksmithing class

Lastly I returned to Boston in time to take the Blacksmithing IAP course. This is the threelegged candlestick that I began during the class and continued working on for two sessions afterwards. It is standing for the first time. Of course, I also had plenty of time to work on my clawhammer technique.



Israel

By: Adrian Radzyski



Our Time in Tel Aviv and around

Upon arrival, we found ourselves very lucky with our apartment being centrally located in Montefiore street, Tel Aviv. A variety of bars, restaurants and clubs of all sorts as well as the recommendations given by our Tel Avivi friends in advance allowed us to enjoy a different spot in Tel Aviv every night.

During our stay, we also got to take part in a number of activities as part of the Israel Lab. This included a one-day trip to the Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial located outside of Jerusalem. For all of us, this proved to be an unforgettable experience demonstrating the importance of the Israeli state in the global community. We also visited the Technion campus located in Haifa. During a number of lab demonstrations, we learned first-hand why the Technion is often referred as the MIT of Israeli.

Post-IAP thoughts

Being back in Cambridge, the whole team had a chance to let the experience pass revue. Discussing the time in Israel, there are a number of pivotal thoughts that we share as a team.

None of us have worked in a start-up before and thus it proved to be a revealing experience for all of us, especially at such a great firm such as Windward. It is great to see so many gifted individuals from different backgrounds come together to build a phenomenal product. The dynamic everyday life at Windward is exemplary of the start-up nation and further encourages all of us to start a business ourselves at some point, following in the footsteps of the start-up nation.

A blogpost about Israel would not be complete without mentioning the culinary experience that this country offers. Working in Israel, the greatest challenge proves to resist the many temptations at lunch that will surely result in unproductive food-coma afternoons. It seems to us that a main attribute of Israeli training is to be able to eat kilograms of hummus while being to work on the most productive level nonetheless. Nevertheless, from day to day, we were able to improve on this skillset.

Finally, what makes Israeli so great are the people living there. Despite the immediate hostile environment faced by Israeli, from our experience the people are incredibly welcoming and open to anyone and are going the extra mile to get to know you. Being able to interact with so many great people, inside the firm as well as in the wider community, was an eye-opening experience and lifts Israel from a country frequently mentioned in the news to a place full of fond memories and friendly people. We are all looking forward to revisiting Israel soon.