





Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress,  
and working together is success

- Henry Ford

Let's make this year a success. With our many initiatives and resources, we (the Ashdown Officer Team) are looking forward to helping you make this happen!

What's in this issue? Updates from some of the officers on upcoming events (and a re-cap of events past); a letter from the Ashdown Housemasters and Resident Life Coordinator; an excerpt from one of the winners of the 2014 Ashdown Short Fiction Competition 2014; and more!

**Remember: This newsletter is for you!** Have an idea for a new section/ article? Love to draw cartoons/comics? Let us know (and you will receive TechCash for doing so!).

As always, if you have suggestions to improve the newsletter - please email me, I'd love to hear them!

Sara Dolcetti  
Ashdown Newsletter Officer  
ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu



Sara Dolcetti

## SEPTEMBER: UPCOMING EVENTS!

**1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>** MIT Graduate Orientation Events (see GSC calendar for more details!)  
<http://gsc.scripts.mit.edu/>

**Wed @ 8pm** Board Game nights in the Hulsizer Room

**Thurs @ 9pm** Coffee Hour in the Hulsizer Room

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **"A message from"** Housemasters , Resident Life Coordinator
- **September events / August re-caps +** Committee updates
- **Short Story Contest Winners!**
- **Ask the Kids Stuff**

..... and **MORE!**



## A message from ...

### Housemasters

Dear Ashdown Residents,

Greetings at the outset of the Fall 2014 semester. We hope everyone had a relaxing and/or productive summer. As the Housemasters at Ashdown we would like to extend a warm welcome to the many new residents of the community who have joined us in the past month. We are looking forward to this, our second year as Housemasters. We have enjoyed the quiet, relaxed pace of summer life at Ashdown but we are excited to welcome a new school year, a new group of residents, and a new slate of activities to share together.



The Berinsky Family

As Housemasters we have the privilege of living with you here at Ashdown. Allow us to introduce ourselves: Adam, a professor in Political Science, studies public opinion and political behavior. Deirdre is a licensed clinical psychologist who has worked at Boston Children's Hospital for eleven years. We have two children—Benjamin, 9, and Lila, 6. We are joined here in Ashdown by our Associate Housemasters, the Roman family. Yuriy, an assistant professor in Chemical Engineering, specializes in heterogeneous catalysis. Katie, an MD, teaches at Bentley University. Yuriy and Katie have six young children: Max, age 7; Dante, age 5; Apolo, age 3, and just this month they welcomed triplets, Stella, Bruno, and Xander. The 8 kids of Ashdown enjoy living with and interacting with our grad student residents, so we hope you will get to know them as well as the adults of the housemaster families.

As housemasters we strive to be a part of life at Ashdown in many ways. We host our own events to help foster the sense of community that makes Ashdown the special place that it is. We attend many of the other events that go on in the dorm so we can get to know as many residents as possible. We work closely with the Ashdown House Executive Committee (AHEC) to help them with the daily operations of life in this large student community. We are also here to help residents solve problems or crises, large or small, whether these are related to life at Ashdown or not. We are called upon by residents to discuss ways to live more peacefully with roommates, to help manage stress deal with academic challenges, or to help find resources on the MIT campus or beyond.



## A message from ...

### Housemasters (cont'd)

Be sure to join us every Thursday from 9 to 10 pm in the Hulsizer Room (First Floor) for Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour has been an Ashdown tradition for over 40 years, a time to meet other residents and socialize with friends. In addition, there will be many other special welcome events sponsored by Ashdown residents. To offer just a few examples, we are sponsoring a trip to Fenway Park to cheer on the Red Sox later this month, and Deirdre is working closely with our Wellness and Safety officer Alex Leder to begin a new series of wellness events focused on stress management and healthy living to be offered in the residence this year. At the end of each month we invite all who have celebrated a birthday that month to join us in our housemaster suite for cake and ice cream. We hope you will join us at these and other events so that we can get to know each other and we can serve as a resource for you.



The Berinsky Family

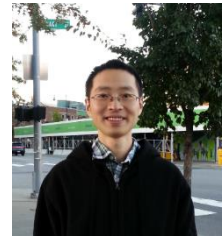
One of the things that makes Ashdown House feel like home is the active participation by so many residents in Ashdown House activities. We hope that you will become involved in the many social and cultural events here. Being an active part of the Ashdown community is the best way to help build that community and feel truly at home here.

Adam Berinsky



## A message from ...

### Residential Life Coordinator



Dear Ashdown Residents,

The residential life survey, as many of you have responded, provides valuable suggestions to Ashdown officers on their work. As new students are coming, the survey results also bring our attention to address the “classical” concerns of new students. This article provides a brief summary of the survey results, and answer main concerns raised by the residents.

Three quarters of the responses are from residents who have lived in Ashdown for over a year. Most people (over 80%) are satisfied with Ashdown events, among which outing events, world cup watching, cherry pie society discussions are among the most popular events. On the other hand, only about a half are satisfied with floor events, showing that the floor events still need more advertisement and interactions with the residents.

**Noise control.** Residents reported noise of singing in the TV room, basketball in the courtyard early in the morning, loud speaking in the hallway, and noise from neighbors. Please be aware that Ashdown quiet hours are from 23:00 to 08:00. During this time, please keep noise, music and any other activities to a low volume. Allowable hours of using the basketball hoop are from 10:00 to 21:00. If your neighbor continues to make loud noise, please leave him/her a note or report if necessary.

**Mice problem.** According to an email from house manage, an exterminator comes regularly to set traps in the mechanical spaces and anywhere mice enter the building. To avoid mice, please keep your apartments clean of food waste and crumbs, clean your stoves and counters after food preparation and don't leave food out overnight. If you have done all these and still find mice in your apartment, please report and door sweeps will be installed on your apartment doors after your room is inspected.

**Repair/mice report.** Please use the online service request form at <https://atlas.mit.edu>. This is the most efficient and effective way to report housing problems. Requests are reviewed weekdays from 7:00 to 16:30. For urgent repairs outside of these hours, please call 617-253-4948.

**Hulsizer room opening for study.** Most residents prefer the Hulsizer room to be open on weekends for study. The open hours are 14:00-18:00 every Saturday, starting from this week. We will listen to residents' feedback to change the hours accordingly.

Thanks again for your support and enjoy the summer and the coming new semester!

Jianan Zhang  
Residential Life Coordinator

## Looking forward/back: September & August events (& other updates)

### Cherry Pie Society

On August 3rd, the Cherry Pie Society (CPS) and Sidney Pacific's Committee for Scholarly Interactions (CoSI) met for their first joint event, which took place at Sidney Pacific. Adrian Slusarczyk introduced the topic of the discussion ("Gaza, Ukraine, and the challenge of quasi-state actors"), which was motivated by recent events in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Over dinner, the 16 participants then talked about various questions related to the fact that modern conflicts often involve parties which cannot be easily classified as "traditional" nation states.

Overall, it was very interesting to discuss with participants outside the circle of regular CPS attendees. The next joint CPS / CoSI meeting is going to take place at Ashdown some time in the fall.



Sai Gautam  
Gopalakrishnan



Ludwig Schmidt

### Art and Theater Events



Ina Kundu

#### September:

1. We are looking to beautify the walls of Ashdown. If you have any suggestions for acquiring art, please message Ina at [inak@mit.edu](mailto:inak@mit.edu)

### Inventory & Facilities Committee

To whoever has been helping me water the plants in the main elevator lobby: Thank you for your help, but let's coordinate so we don't drown the things. Please contact me: [gdowdy3@mit.edu](mailto:gdowdy3@mit.edu).



Garrett Ryan  
Dowdy

### Contribute to the next newsletter and **earn TechCASH!**

Went to an amazing restaurant / show / lecture / world-cup match etc. recently? Write about it in an **article / poem / short-story / review!** (300-500 words, \$10 TechCASH).

Any other contributions are also welcomed! Email us with suggestions / thoughts!

**Write-on!**



# Looking forward/back: September & August events (& other updates)

## Floor 3 Officer



Brian Seifried

This past August a team of 2nd and 3rd Flooridians banded to together to brave the trackless streets of Cambridge in search of good Chinese food. They discovered the oasis known as Mulan. There, they toasted their good fortune and consumed a bountiful harvest of Chinese delicacies.

To all 3rd Floor residents, keep your eyes on your email for updates about the upcoming events for this fall including food, ping pong, and more!



## Floor 1 Officer

A floor 1 brunch was held on August 16, Saturday. Food was bought from Flour Bakery, and we gathered at the second floor kitchen for a nice chat and food. It was good to see familiar faces as well as new ones, and we look forward to meeting the new residents at future events!



Jin Xue



## Ashdown Short Fiction Competition 2014 Winning Submissions!

**Congratulations to the winners of and all contributors to the Ashdown Short Fiction Competition 2014!**

Name	Title	Place	# Entries
Ritsu Chan	Carnation	1st	9
Gwendolyn Vines	Sagittarius	2nd	6

Name	Title	Place	# Entries
Jordan Romvary	Trajectory	1st	5
asdf	Aliens and computer viruses	2nd	3
Changhoon Oh	A story that never sold	3rd (tie)	2
Gwendolyn Vines	ITEMIZED INVENTORY OF JAMES MALONEY'S GREEN 1993 JEEP WRANGLER - OR - A CAUTIONARY TALE	3rd (tie)	2
Chronusfree	The Dark Side of the Moon: Confessions of a Scientist	5th	1

Name	Title	Place	# Entries
Jordan Romvary	Hands	1st	7
Petunia Weatherby	A masterpiece denied	2nd	4
Gwendolyn Vines	(t)his song	3rd	3

### Carnation (part II cont'd)

By: Ritsu Chan (1<sup>st</sup> place)

“But the car – ”

“How many times do I need to tell you: never let the world know that you know – ” Her sister's harsh whisper cut off, but her glare said the rest. Only the ruling class was supposed to know psychokinesis, not the commoners. Especially not the rebels bearing red carnations.

“Did you know her?” Faye asked, fixing her gaze on the dead woman whose skin was starting to corrode in the rain. Rain that ate away any unprotected tissue. When Faye didn't hear a response, she looked at her sister and found a closed expression.

“Let's go,” her sister said in a low voice and released her grip on Faye's wrist.

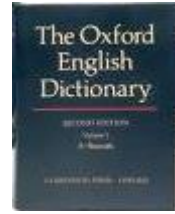
Shifting her umbrella from one hand to the other, Faye watched her sister pick her way through the crowd and tossed one last glance at the carnation and the woman.

*What do you see that I don't see?*

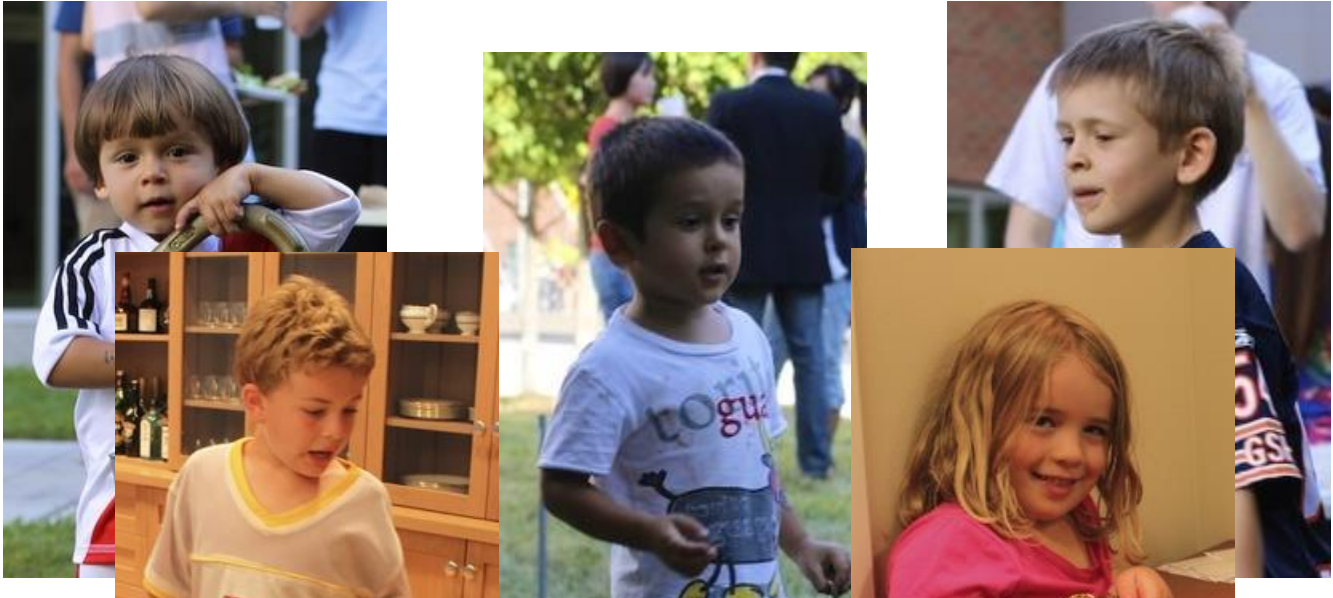


## Jokes at 3am ...

Knock knock .. Who's there?  
To ... To who? ...  
To whom!



## Kids' Corner (a.k.a. Ask the Kids Stuff)



**Got questions you want to ask Apolo, Ben, Dante, Lila, and Max?  
E-mail the Editor!**

### What are you looking forward to most about being back at school in September?

Max: Being in second grade and meeting and seeing more and new friends.

Dante: I will get to see my school friends again.

Apolo: I'm going to do nothin'.

### What was your favorite thing you did this summer so far?

Max: Going to the beach.

Dante: Staying at home and playing and doing sports outside.

Apolo: I'm not telling you.

## Contact the Editor!

Please direct any comments or queries about "3am" to Sara Dolcetti at  
ashdown-newsletter@mit.edu