

## OFF TO A GREAT START!



“Begin, be bold, and venture to be wise”  
 - Horace (~50BC)

And the year has begun! With our many initiatives and resources, we (the Ashdown Officer Team) are looking forward to helping you make this year a great one!

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, AHEC office hour updates, Alice’s experience in Jordan, an excerpt from Jordan Romvary 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

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>** Paint Corner Art Bar @ 6:30 pm
- Oct 5<sup>th</sup>** 4th floor event @ 12noon (4th floor kitchen)
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** Cherry Pie Society meeting
- Oct 26<sup>th</sup>** 4th floor event @ 2pm (4th floor kitchen)
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** Cherry Pie Society meeting
- Nov 14<sup>th</sup>** 4th floor event @ 7pm (Z Center Ice Rink)
- Nov 16<sup>th</sup>** Swan Lake @ 7:30 pm
- Nov 21<sup>st</sup>** Ashdown Art and Music Night @ 7 pm
- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.** Yoga in Hulsizer Room @ 11:15am (starting Oct. 4th)
- Wed @ 8pm** Board Game nights in the Hulsizer Room
- Thurs @ 9pm** Coffee Hour in the Hulsizer Room

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **“A message from”** Housemasters , AHEC (office hours!)
- **October & November events / September re-caps +** Committee updates
- **Short Story Contest Winners!**
- **Lila’s Corner (interview and Ashdownian!)**
- **Time for a Review** (in Jordan)
- **Ask the Kids Stuff**

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

## A message from ...

### Housemasters

Dear Ashdown Residents,

We hope everyone's semester has gotten off to a good start! We all had a great time at the orientation events and we hope you did as well. As we settle into our regular school year routine, we would like to remind you of the exciting events that are part of the regular Ashdown experience.



The Berinsky Family

As housemasters we strive to be a part of life at Ashdown in many ways – not just during orientation, but throughout the year as well.

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 our monthly brunches are a great time to see your fellow residents and graduate students from across campus. These events are also a great way to meet new friends by volunteering to help out. For more details, please see <http://ashdown.mit.edu/about-volunteering.php>. And if you volunteer for brunch, be sure to keep an eye out for Ben working the pancake griddle!

We are also looking forward to seeing you all in our home throughout the year. In a few weeks, we will be having a series of open houses in our apartment. Please watch out for the announcement regarding how to sign up for one of these events. In addition, 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 just had a party for the July, August, and September birthdays and it was a lot of fun. 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.

We look forward to seeing you all in the weeks ahead!

Sincerely:

Ada, Deirdre, Ben, and Lila



## A message from ...

### AHEC



Jess Hebert

Dear Ashdown Residents,

Welcome to the fall semester at Ashdown!

Orientation at Ashdown has now come to an end, and I hope you attended and enjoyed many of our fantastic events, such as our Dessert Night, Dance Party, Brunch and Coffee Hour! The success of these events is due entirely to the efforts of our tremendous officers and volunteers, and we thank them for all their hard work over the busy orientation period.

As we settle into the fall, I'd also like to draw your attention to some of our upcoming events. Coffee Hour continues its 40-year tradition at Ashdown every Thursday at 9 PM in the Hulsizer Room, with a fine selection of cookies, cake, salad, ice cream, chips and freshly-made guacamole, so please check it out and get to know some of your fellow residents. This semester, Ashdown is also hosting a biweekly yoga class, every other Saturday in the Hulsizer Room at 11:15 AM. The front desk also has several yoga mats available for checkout, so please give it a try!

Our biggest event this month is the Halloween Progressive Dinner, taking place on Friday, October 31st, which we are co-hosting in cooperation with the entire northwest graduate community. The evening will start at Edgerton with appetizers, proceed to Ashdown and the Warehouse for dinner, and then conclude at Sidney-Pacific with desserts and a dance party. It should be an exciting event, so stay tuned for details! Of course, we have many more excellent events planned for you, which you can read about in this issue of the 3am.

Lastly, we know that MIT can be a stressful place, so as the semester gets underway, please keep in mind the many resources that MIT has to make sure your time here is as healthy as it is educational. Check out MIT Medical's advice on stress reduction (<http://medweb.mit.edu/wellness/programs/stress.html>), as well as MIT's full suite of resources available at [together.mit.edu](http://together.mit.edu). The entire Ashdown community is also here for you, so please take advantage of the many opportunities to socialize with your fellow residents.

If you have any feedback for AHEC, we'd love to hear from you, so send us an email ([ahec-five@mit.edu](mailto:ahec-five@mit.edu)), visit our weekly meetings or stop by and see us at Coffee Hour!

Wishing you all the best for the fall semester,

Jess Hebert  
AHEC, Officer Coordinator

## A message from ...

### AHEC - Office Hours -

Dear Ashdown,

AHEC will be having “office hours” this Saturday, September 27 from 1 PM to 3 PM in the Ashdown Main Hallway. Please stop by if you have any questions about AHEC, concerns about house issues or just want to take a break from your work and chat.

Light refreshments of drinks and cookies will be provided.

We also have the upcoming AHEC “Office Hours” later in the semester, so please mark your calendars:

- Saturday, October 11 from 1 PM to 3 PM
- Saturday, November 22 from 1 PM to 3 PM
- Saturday, December 13 from 1 PM to 3 PM

See you on Saturday!

Sincerely,

Jordan Romvary  
AHEC - Chair



## Looking forward: October and November (& other updates)

### Cherry Pie Society

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, about 17 people assembled for the first CPS meeting of the fall to discuss on how political correctness affects public discourses. The discussion started with the definition of political correctness and how it varies among different societies. It then moved towards some examples from real life like Lawrence Summers (former Harvard President) and Thilo Sarrazin (member of the German Social Democratic party) and how their respective politically (in)correct claims were received by the respective audiences. We finally concluded the discussion debating on the claims made by the book, "The bell curve" and whether there were situations when it is ok to be politically incorrect.



Sai Gautam  
Gopalakrishnan



Ludwig Schmidt

**Next Meeting:** The topic that we will discuss in the forthcoming meeting will be on how sustainable the model of advertising in sustaining websites on the internet and the alternate options available. The discussion will be led by Michael Coulombe.

### Inventory & Facilities Committee

#### New Tennis Racquets

Purchased two new Head tennis racquets, available for checkout at the front desk. Give them a try!



Garrett Ryan  
Dowdy

#### Tagged Bikes

In preparation for Annual Abandoned Bike Cleanout

**New Yoga Mats ... rent them out at the front desk!**



### 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: October and November (& other updates)

### Art and Theater Events

There's a lot of artsy events this Fall!

#### Ashdown Writing Competition

Tired of writing research papers?  
Want an outlet for your creativity?  
The



Ina Kundu

Ashdown Writing Competition is now under way. Short stories (up to 1000 words), novellas (up to 500 words), poetry, and creative writing pieces (up to 5000 words) welcome. So let those creative juices flow and WRITE!

#### Ashdown Art Competition

Have a nice photograph lying around? Looking for an excuse to paint, draw, sketch, etc? The Ashdown Art Competition is now under way. Winners will not only get TechCash prizes, but will also have the opportunity to display their art around Ashdown walls. Calling on all you artistic residents to help beautify the walls of Ashdown!

#### Paint Night

Want to paint, but don't know how? Well, we're going with a group of 15 from Ashdown to learn to paint Monet's Japanese Bridge from the experts. Stroke by stroke, we'll all release the inner Monet within. Tickets only \$20. Sign up opens on Sep 25.

#### Ashdown Art and Music Night

Showcase your music, dancing, and art skills at our very own Art and Music Night. Come show your peers your talents or support your peers with theirs. Light refreshments and dessert will be provided.

#### Swan Lake Theater Outing

This year, instead of going to see The Nutcracker, we will be seeing Swan Lake! Sign ups open Nov 1!

# Looking forward: October and November (& other updates)

## Floor 3 Officer



Brian Seifried

### Table Tennis League (mid-October)

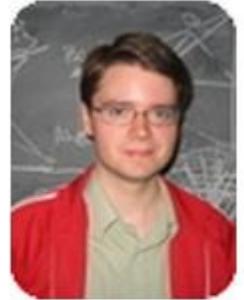
I will organize a table tennis event over the semester with prizes. The event formate will be dependant on the number of participants

### Dumpling Night (mid November)

I will be cooking lots and lots of dumplings in the 3rd floor kitchen for everyone to enjoy.



## Floor 4 Officer



Martin Copenhaver

### Lunch!

October 5, 12pm, 4th floor kitchen: Floor meet-and-greet over lunch. I will buy sandwiches from a local restaurant that we will enjoy together in the floor kitchen. I will also have desserts as well. This will be a good way to meet fellow fourth floor residents.

### Cooking class!

October 26, 2pm, 4th floor kitchen: The fourth floor will meet up to learn how to cook something new! I will send out a poll to the floor two weeks in advance so we can decide what we want to make.

### Ice skating

November 14, 7pm, Z Center Ice Rink

If it's already cold outside, why not stay inside and move around on a frozen block of ice? We'll make a trip to the ice rink for some ice skating fun.



# Looking forward: October and November (& other updates)

## Events Committee

A recap of September Events:

### Speed Friending



Lily Mwalenga

About 20 people showed up to meet their others in the Ashdown community at the annual Speed Friending event. Residents got to meet their neighbours rotating through introductory conversations--musical chairs style--while feasting on dinner from Cafe Luna.



### Crepes & Camaraderie

Undeterred by the sudden rain, 400 people were able to enjoy gourmet sandwiches & mouth-watering crepes with lots of different toppings and flavours catered by Paris Creperie. Tim, the Beaver also made an appearance, providing excellent photo opportunities with MIT's beloved mascot.

### Orientation Dance Party

### Volunteer Ice Cream Social



## 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

### Trajectory (part I)

By: Jordan Romvary (1<sup>st</sup> place)

**"...as I speak, Humanity is entering a new golden age..."**

He shuffled past the steel pipes, his tattered boots scraping on the chipped asphalt. The boom from the City's PA system echoed off the metallic skin of the air purifiers, reverberating around the passage like the surface of a just-struck drumhead.



Hunched over with arms crossed tightly across his chest, he did not welcome the interruption. Nor did he care for the intense cold. But he was used to that now. *Just wish I still had that jacket*, he thought to himself as, shivering, his gray eyes scanned the back corners of the alley.

## Time for a Review

### Adventures in Jordan

By Alice Kao

While in Israel for MISTI, I also embarked on a side trip to Jordan with four other MIT students. We took advantage of the Jewish holiday Shavout to visit Wadi Rum, Petra, Wadi Mujib and Amman.

Wadi Rum was simply amazing! We had a local Beduoin guide and our tour was a mix of Jeep drive through the dessert, rock scrambling/hiking, and an overnight stay in a Beduoin camp. Our guide, Omar, was very sociable and humorous. He had picked up 5 languages while growing up and doing the tours for tourists all over the world and also studied in Japan briefly.

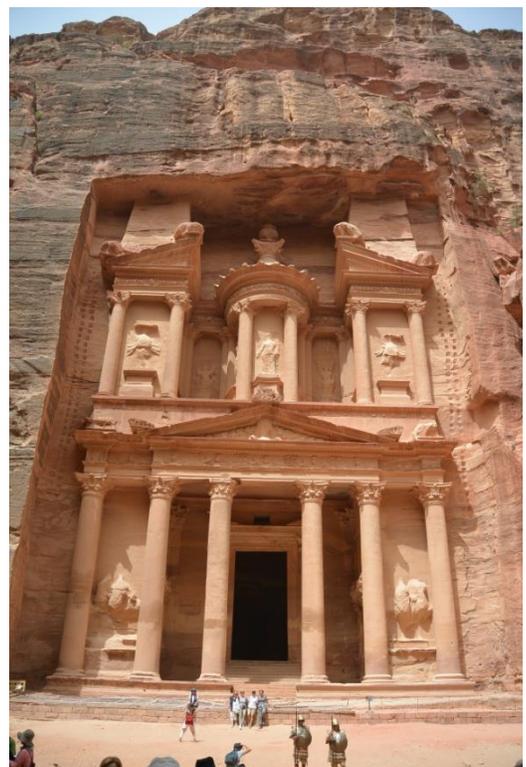
Petra, known as the eighth ancient wonder of the world, was also fascinating because all the buildings are carved out of the reddish stone, which is quite beautiful. The scale was astounding and architecture is interesting in that the Nabateans (ancient people who lived there) had combined multiple architectural styles into their own.

In Amman, the most fascinating thing for me was the stark contrast between men and women's dress. I think Amman is relatively more Westernized compared to other Arab cities, but all the local women was always fully covered and often escorted by a male relative who was in Western clothing (T-shirt and shorts). Some women were fully covered in black burqas; some wore hijab with traditional dresses, some with more colorful Westernized outfits. Since they can only expose their hands and feet, I noticed that footwear became a way to express their fashion tastes in public.

Overall, Jordan is a beautiful and fascinating country, and definitely worth a visit!



Wadi Rum



Petra, in front of the famed "Treasury"

## Interview an Ashdownian .. Lila's Corner!

This month, Lila interviews Ho-Jun Suk, a Mechanical Engineering graduate student concentrating on building tools for neuroscientists.

**Lila :** What do you like to do in your spare time?

Ho-Jun: I like playing basketball.

**Lila:** We have a basketball hoop outside

Ho-Jun: I like to play indoors, so I go to the Z-center

**Lila:** What do you do on AHEC?

Ho-Jun: I'm the treasurer. I handle the money in the house...I make sure we don't run out of money. I also work with treasurers in other dorms.

**Lila:** What is your favorite Ashdown event?

Ho-Jun: I like the Housemaster dinners. I like the food and the company. I like going as an AHEC member this year. Last year, when I was a new resident, I was nervous. But this year I'm having fun

**Lila:** What's your favorite book?

Ho-Jun: I don't read that much. I am trying to read more regularly. I like to read the bible.

**Lila:** What's your favorite food? Mac and Cheese is my favorite.

Ho-Jun: My favorite desert is ice cream.

**Lila:** I'm not allowed to eat desert all the time.

Ho-Jun: My favorite non-desert food is fried chicken.

**Lila:** That's weird.

Adam Berinsky: But you like fried chicken too. When we go out you sometimes have chicken fingers. That's fried chicken.

**Lila:** Oh. I guess so.



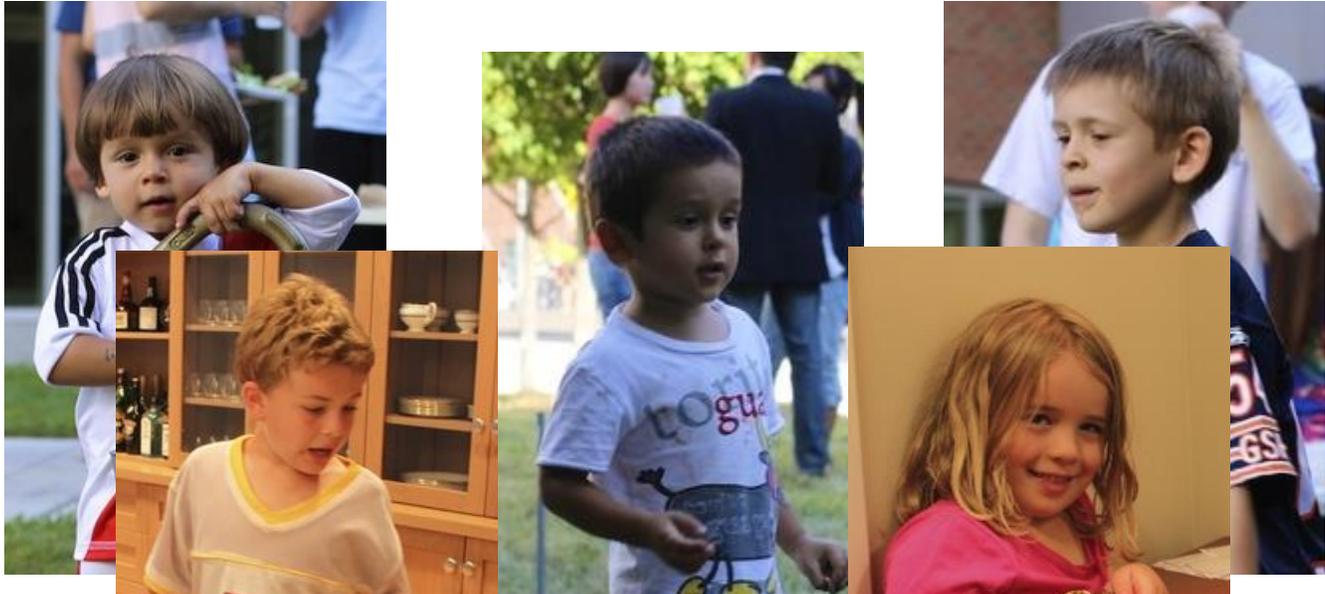
## Jokes at 3am ...



I used to be a banker ....  
but then I lost interest.



## 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 is the best part of living in Ashdown?

Max: It's a big place with lots of space to play, and I like to play soccer in the courtyard.

Dante: It has lots of space to play my most best sport, soccer.

Apolo: I'm not telling you. I've said that so much times, Mama!!!

### What do you think is beyond the stars?

Max: Lots of other stars.

Dante: Black holes and stuff.

Apolo: I'm not telling you. I'm still not telling you. I'm only not telling you. I'm not going to do it, Mama. I'm never.

## Contact the Editor!

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