Addir Fellows Interfaith Dialogue Program

Building bridges of understanding among individuals of different faiths.

Open-mindedness. Patience. Tolerance. Love. Compassion. Humility. Forgiveness. The Addir Fellows Interfaith Dialogue Program is illuminating these values by bringing together individuals of different faiths to engage with and understand those from whom they differ.

The Addir Program began at MIT in 2006, with a three year grant from the Department of Homeland Security’s Department of Academic Affairs.

Ora Gladstone, Addir Fellows Program Coordinator, says, “MIT is really the perfect place for this because the level of diversity is extraordinary.” Fellows encompass those of the Abrahamic faiths: Islam, Christianity and Judaism, but Ora hopes the program will soon be open to those of all faiths.

The mission of Addir, which means “bridge” in Ancient Sumerian, is to build bridges of dialogue and understanding among those of different faiths. The program prepares fellows to lead in a diverse global community, enhances inter-organization relations on the MIT campus, and deepens individuals’ self-awareness. Students describe it as an enlightening experience, both spiritually and emotionally.

“By putting people of diverse backgrounds and belief systems in a room and putting religion on the agenda, the Addir fellowship enables a far more comprehensive exploration,” said graduate student and Addir fellow, Erez Lieberman.

Addir Fellows enjoy dinner at one of the annual retreats. All meals are vegetarian and kosher to accommodate dietary restrictions.

The program consists of weekly, small group discussions, two annual retreats, monthly dinners and a lecture open to the MIT community.

The weekly, small group dialogue sessions are the heart of the program, allowing people to share the personal

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Community Giving is an important tradition at MIT and a way for DSL to show its dedication to others. This year, the DSL would like to highlight the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PCAN). The DSL community has directly felt the impact of pancreatic cancer as several members of our community have suffered from this disease. MIT Community Giving and DSL support outreach, research, and advocacy through donations to this cause. By supporting Pancreatic Cancer Awareness, we can advance research, support patients and create hope.

How can I help?
Community Giving at MIT has expanded services to make it easier to contribute. Donations can be made by check, credit card, with securities or via payroll deduction. If you choose payroll deduction, your donations will be deducted over the 2009 calendar year.

Where does my donation go?
You have the ability to choose how your donation will be used. You can choose to give to the MIT Community Service Fund, a general fund that supports community service projects undertaken by members of the MIT Community; the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley; or your favorite local 501(c)(3) health or human services organizations.

For more information, visit http://web.mit.edu/community-giving/

DSL Campaign Representatives:
Dining: Anne Wilson
DAPER: Carrie Sampson Moore, Tricia Cote and Sonia Raman
Residential Life/Housing: Scott Hewitt and Linda Patton
Student Life: Phil Walsh

“You can’t live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.” — John Wooden
in recognition

Division of Student Life

HOLIDAY PARTY

DSL Staff and their families enjoyed food, music, ice skating, Tim the Beaver and prizes at the 2008 DSL Holiday Party on December 17th. Thank you to those who brought donations for the Italian Children’s Home of Boston. Also, thank you to DAPER, Dining, MIT Card Office, CopyTech, MIT COOP and CAC for their donations and support.

For more information about this program, visit: web.mit.edu/dsl/spot.

If we missed your name, please email skeeler@mit.edu so we can correct it next time.

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As one of the most diverse universities in the world, MIT strives to develop a welcoming atmosphere for all. With the support of many, a new Freshmen Pre-orientation Program (FPOP) called F.A.M.E. (Freshmen Academic and Multicultural Enrichment) was piloted this year.

“F.A.M.E. was developed as a way for incoming students to learn how to find their way through many life choices and still be able to navigate their individuality, identity and culture within MIT,” said Sandra Harris, Housemaster and F.A.M.E. advisor.

Although F.A.M.E. has many goals, one goal is for students to engage in dialogue on diversity and dealing with differences.

In September, President Hockfield attended a F.A.M.E. meeting to speak with students about the importance of diversity at MIT, affirming that MIT’s strength comes directly from its commitment to diversity. “There is nowhere you can go that diversity has not built excellence,” said President Hockfield.

With 11 incoming freshmen and 15 upperclass mentors, F.A.M.E. students spent four days together in August, learning and sharing. The week was filled with exercises, team builders, ice breakers, and open discussions of how to be successful at MIT without losing one’s sense of self.

As a part of FPOP, F.A.M.E. helps incoming students develop a strong support system of mentors, friends, and “go-to people.” Through F.A.M.E., students have an opportunity to become ambassadors on campus. They understand themselves and others better and create their own goals for the first year as well as the rest of their time at MIT.

When F.A.M.E. Mentor Claudia Espinoza ’10 went through FPOP as a freshman, she didn’t want it to end once school started. A firm believer in helping those who come after you, Claudia was able to mentor others through F.A.M.E.

“It really excites me to be able to share knowledge,” said Claudia. “Knowledge is power, and you should always share power with your friends.”

As a F.A.M.E. Mentor, Claudia continues to be a resource for students, realizing the importance of building on the foundation that was started in FPOP.

F.A.M.E. participants will engage in diversity initiatives and dialogue throughout the year and invite others from the MIT community to join.

For more information on F.A.M.E., contact Sandra Harris at sharris2@mit.edu.
The Independent Activities Period (IAP) is a special four week term that runs from the first week of January until the end of the month. IAP has a history of almost four decades of providing members of the MIT community (students, faculty, staff, and alums) with a unique opportunity to organize, sponsor and participate in a wide variety of activities. These include how-to sessions, forums, athletic endeavors, lecture series, films, tours, recitals and contests. IAP 2009 takes place from January 5 through January 30. http://web.mit.edu/iap/

### IAP Classes

**I Live Here (A Human Rights Multimedia Project)**

“I Live Here” is a multimedia publication of first-hand stories of refugees and displaced people in four areas of the world, through their own words, photos and stories, in collaboration with artists of various media. In this two week course, cosponsored by iHouse and the Center for International Studies, participants will make their own video of stories that need to be told in the greater Boston community. The results will appear on the “I Live Here website,” which links to Amnesty International’s homepage and the MIT CIS website. They will also appear at an MIT event with author and actor, Mia Kirshner in late January.

**Instructor:** Mia Kirshner, Contact: Michelle Nhuch, 253-1965, nhuch@mit.edu http://www.i-live-here.com/

**Hula Hooping**

Need a winter revival? Hula Hooping, the activity many of us enjoyed as children, is now reappearing as a dance form and aerobic fitness routine for adults. Learn the basics of waist hooping and explore movement, tricks and your own hooping style.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 20  
**Time:** 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** MAC Court, Zesiger Fitness Center  
**Cost:** $15

**Retirement Workshop**

Want a review of the MIT Retirement Plan and the MIT Supplemental 401(k) plan? Attend this HR workshop and learn how these plans work, and the important provisions for each. Also, a brief overview of Retiree Health and Welfare benefits will be included.

**Date:** Thursday, January 15, 2009  
**Time:** Noon to 1 p.m.  
**Location:** W20-306  
**Instructor:** Ellen Cushman, Retirement Counselor, MIT

**Four Weeks for America**

The MIT Public Service Center (PSC) and Teach for America are offering MIT students an exciting opportunity for IAP. Students will work with current Teach for America teachers to develop more innovative ways to teach math and science. Students will have a chance to discover what Teach for America is like and have the opportunity to inspire and motivate kids about math and science. They can learn what it’s like to teach in a small, rural school or a big inner-city school or help rebuild New Orleans schools. Students can spend IAP learning about Teach for America and making a difference for kids. All expenses are paid by the PSC and Teach for America.

**Charm School**

Charm school, where MIT affiliates fine tune their charisma, will run for one afternoon at the end of IAP. Since its inception sixteen years ago, Charm School has become an important MIT tradition. Here are a few class examples: “Hello, world: manners for the traveler,” “Build your confidence,” “Cell phone, telephone and email etiquette,” and “Public Speaking.” So take a class and earn your degree in charm. Charm School is coordinated by MIT’s Student Activities Office (SAO).

**Date:** Friday, January 30th  
**Location:** W20, Startton Student Center  
http://web.mit.edu/charm/
In October, The Smoot turned 50 and needed a new plaque for its 50th celebration as the old one had been lost. Members of the anniversary committee felt it was important to create the plaque at MIT, so Bob Ferrara ’67 came to the MIT Hobby Shop. Ken Stone, Hobby Shop Director, said “Thinking of our talented student members who are both designers and machinists and the capability of our new milling machine, I said, ‘what a great idea.’”

Mechanical Engineering student Ilan Moyer ’09 designed and machined the plaque with artistic help from friend, Melissa Rothstein.

Deborah Douglas, Science and Technology Curator, also wanted a metal bar, engraved with the precise length of a Smoot, to be kept at the MIT Museum as the “Official Smoot.”

Dayán Páez ’09 agreed to help Ken with the bar. “Sharing knowledge and taking the time to teach what you’ve learned are distinctive traits that I most admire in our Hobby Shop community and at MIT,” said Ken. “It was a wonderful celebration and we were honored that the Shop was a part of it.”

Oliver Smoot, Dayán Páez, and Ken Stone next to the Smoot bar.

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Fellows become more aware that they are not alone in their zeal. “Two things come out of this,” says Ora. “Students gain an in depth appreciation of other religions and the experience tends to deepen their own faith.”

“In Addir allowed me to become aware of the similarities among Christians, Muslims, and Jews and the variety of groups in those groups,” said fellow Miguel Parades. “I learned much about my faith by listening to other people’s beliefs.”

The Addir Fellows is sponsored by MIT Hillel and the Office of the Dean for Student Life in cooperation with the MIT Board of Chaplains. All MIT students are welcome to be a part of it. Ora is happy to talk with anyone about the program. For more information, contact Ora Gladstone at ora@mit.edu.
DSL Green Initiatives: Endicott House

Endicott House “incorporates thinking green, acting green and proactive efforts to reduce their impact on the environment.” For more information, visit http://www.mitendicotthouse.org/

Here are a few of Endicott’s green initiatives:

- Sustainable and seasonal garden
- Reuse fryer oil as bio-diesel fuel
- Corn based compostable serving products
- Kitchen composting
- Food based, organic general purpose cleaner
- Reverse osmosis water fountains
- 100% organic candy
- Landscape and garden composting
- Non-potable water for irrigation
- Energy efficient treadmills

“The true meaning of life is to plant a tree under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”
- Norm Henderson

**tip:** Save 10 Cents

In an effort to reduce the number of paper or Styrofoam cups that go to landfills, MIT Dining gives customers a 10 cent discount for using a reusable mug for coffee or tea purchases on campus. Do something good for your wallet and the environment: use your reusable cup for drinks bought on campus.
Public Service Center Celebrates 20 Years

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
— Mahatma Gandhi

The Public Service Center (PSC) celebrated its 20th Anniversary in December with a reception open to the MIT community. What started in 1988 as a support for community service at MIT has grown into a center that supports over 15 programs. In 2008, students received over 150,000 in grants for service work. Since its inception, the PSC has motivated over 30,000 students to enact change in the world. For more information, visit http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/

Top Left: Sally Susnowitz, Associate Dean and PSC Director, and Linden McEntire, PSC, serve cake.
Right: Alicia Erwin, SAO, Paul Spangle, SAO, and Heather Trickett, PSC, enjoy coffee and conversation.
Bottom Left: Kristi Gundrom, SAO, helps Alicja Estabrooks, DSL Admin. Services, sign up for the MIT Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is Co-sponsored by the MIT Public Service Center and the Panhellenic Association.

Have a story idea or interested in writing an article for The Beat? Please contact skeeler@mit.edu.

Coming Up

January

5 1st Day of IAP
19 MIT Holiday (MLK Day)
21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
29 Last Day of IAP
30 Charm School

February

3 First Day of Spring Classes
5 Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration
9 3rd Quarter P.E. Classes Begin
16 President’s Day
19 MIT Holiday

March

23-27 Spring Vacation, No Classes

April

1 4th Quarter P.E. Classes Begin
16-19 Campus Preview Weekend
21 Patriot’s Day
MIT Holiday

To request that your events be included in the DSL calendar, please email skeeler@mit.edu.