

A monthly note about
campus resources and
Edgerton people

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Edgerton Bulletin

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Troubles with roommates? Try Peer Mediation!

Midterms (and stress!) are approaching yet again. And, unfortunately, this is the time that problems seem to crop up. The Graduate Coordinator (Kelly Klima) is always available to assist in peer mediation, or you can approach Mediation@MIT.

What is mediation? Mediation is a completely voluntary and confidential process that helps two or more people in conflict clarify their issues and goals, communicate about the situation, and try to reach a constructive resolution.

Why use Mediation@MIT? Mediation is separate from any formal disciplinary process, so no one gets in trouble. Mediation is private, confidential, flexible, and can help you reach creative solutions. In 70-80% of cases, people reach some resolution through mediation.

What issues can be mediated? Just about anything: noise, money, chores, group lab projects, privacy, interpersonal conflict, student group issues, violence, and racial, cultural or gender issues. The primary constraint is that both parties must agree to participate in the mediation.

Who can use mediation@mit? Graduate and undergraduate students, with conflicts involving other students or non-MIT people. Mediation for matters involving anyone employed by MIT is available from the Office of the Ombudsman, 253-5921.

Who mediates? MIT volunteers, a diverse group of MIT undergraduate students, graduate students, staff and faculty. All have completed a 36- to 39-hour training, certifying them as mediators in

Massachusetts. Mediators do not make decisions about who is right or wrong or how things should be resolved--all decisions are made by the parties. It's a process to help parties come to a mutual decision to resolve their differences.

How does it work? Briefly: one of the parties contacts mediation@mit, then the mediation@mit coordinator talks by phone with the requesting party, and also contacts the other party to see if he/she is willing to participate in mediation. Both parties participate voluntarily. At the mediation session, all parties sign a written request for mediation, which confirms the confidentiality of the discussion. Mediators and parties agree on ground rules, discuss what each party wants from the mediation, then discusses the issues, and possible ways of resolving the situation. A typical mediation lasts 2-3 hours. Either party can withdraw from the mediation at any point. A final agreement, if reached, can be written or verbal. MIT does not enforce the agreement, and there are no punishments or disciplinary consequences associated with compliance--not even any official record of the dispute. Mediated agreements tend to hold up well, because both parties have contributed to them, and no one needs to sign any agreement that he or she does not feel comfortable with.

How to request mediation, or find out more? To request mediation, or to find out more about the program and the mediation process, send e-mail to mediation@mit.edu, or call 253-7848. More information about the program and services: <http://web.mit.edu/mediation/services.html>.

Edgerton Events

After the intensity of orientation, events at Edgerton over the last few weeks have followed a more relaxed schedule including a dessert bake-off, apple-picking trip, and the regular bi-weekly socials. Upcoming events include a foliage hike and Halloween bash sponsored by Edgerton and the Warehouse, where prizes for the best costume will be given out. The foliage hike will take place this weekend, Saturday October 21, from 9 am until late afternoon. It will be at Mount Monadnock near Jaffrey NH which is 3165 feet in elevation and offers nice views of the surrounding area. The Edgerton house government is also continuing its effort towards obtaining a housemaster for the building next year. The housemaster will be a faculty member who resides in Edgerton and acts as a liaison between the house government and administration, provides residents with a faculty contact, and organizes social and educational activities.

Spotlight

House Manager Trudy Morris

What is your title, and what do you do? House Manager. I manage and have full responsibility for Edgerton House. Some of the responsibilities for example include: maintain apartment turnovers, establish and monitor budget, interview, select and supervise temporary agency, student, housekeeping, maintenance personnel. Most importantly I interact with neighboring departments within MIT such as Payroll, Student Employment, Procurement, Dean of Student Life, Telecommunications, Facilities, Grounds to achieve the best customer service to house residents and student population. I am committed to ensuring that all residents achieve their personal and academic goals while residing in Edgerton House.

What kinds of issues should be directed toward you? Inquiries related to the operations of the house ie. maintenance repairs can be directed to me. I exercise an open door policy, so feel free to stop by my office with any question or concern. I will be encouraged to accommodate you with any resources related as well as put you in contact with the appropriate individual, if the resource is not available in house.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I enjoy traveling, board games, reading and outdoor activities such as walking or riding a bicycle.

Anything else you'd like to tell the residents? I am an appointed public servant for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Justice of the Peace and Notary of Public.

