

Thoughts from Abroad!

MIT första intrycken...

Diana Malvius, November 2009



David and I in the lab
(David, as always wearing shorts – even in winter.)

Well! October and November have passed in a blur, filled by nothing but work to complete my dissertation, which has resulted in me not having space for much else to write home about. Although there is something ...

I got an invitation I could not turn down, and faster than I could have imagined, I became involved in teaching at MIT as a mentor in the product development course *Product Engineering Processes*. The course belongs to the Department of Mechanical Engineering and is held by Professor David Wallace. I can recommend that all PIEp people would be inspired by the rich course web site ¹ and the opportunity to participate on the course as a spectator and enjoy the energy and creativity that David radiates (which surely shows in the picture). Great to get to be part of this gang!

The Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Aero-Astro for short) where I work is included in the Engineering Systems Division (ESD ²) which is a coordinating organization here at MIT. ESD is an interdisciplinary unit where three schools are affiliated: MIT Sloan School of Management, MIT School of Science, and MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

In other words, including several key institutions and researchers – a glance at the homepage provides samples of many well-known names within the innovation and product development research - von Hippel, Utterback, Eppinger, Cusumano ... ESD enables a wide network of contacts, and meetings in our research group often include, in addition to engineers, behavioral scientists, economists and "practicioners", which gives a combination of many exciting perspectives for product development..

Oh! And I was also fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of President Barack Obama when he visited MIT in late October. In his speech at a seminar on innovative energy technologies, he called MIT "the most prestigious school ..." (A very good!) "... In Cambridge, Massachusetts." (Still successful) "... in this part of Cambridge, Massachusetts" (No comments, but remember Harvard is of course also in Cambridge, MA...).

I still have not had time to see much of the surroundings off-campus, but now, free of my thesis-writing duties, I will continue to explore and report back...

Greetings from an unusually warm for the season Boston, Diana

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Halloween Party with some newfound friends...

¹ <http://web.mit.edu/2.009>

² <http://esd.mit.edu/>