

## Thoughts from Abroad!

### MIT semester closing...

Diana Malvius, December 2009

The high point of December consisted of my dissertation. One of the goals of my year abroad has been to finish my PhD, and after an intense autumn, I was pleased to have the opportunity to hold my defense from MIT. For the first time in KTH's history, this was a long-distance dissertation where my main supervisor and the opponent sat in with me in Cambridge, while parts of the examination board were sitting in Stockholm and in Seattle. It was an exciting set up, with the defense broadcast via video link - a memorable event! I had a great time – and the defense went well too!



In December we marked the closing of the MIT 2.009 course. The final presentation was held in the Stata Center, Frank Gehry's spectacular building on the MIT campus. In front of an auditorium crowded with company representatives, relatives and friends, this year's students presented their integrated development projects and then the Christmas holidays began.

Christmas in Boston took place "the American Way" with well decorated Christmas trees and magnificent Christmas shows. We were even lucky enough to get some Swedish Christmas tradition by taking part in SWEA's well-visited "Swedish Yuletide Market". SWEA is a global network of female expatriate Swedes and the organization has an active node in Boston [www.sweaboston.org](http://www.sweaboston.org). Even though you don't come to the U.S. primarily to socialize with other Swedes, becoming a SWEA member gives you the chance to participate in interesting activities and get tips and advice on practical issues. My husband wants to set up "SWEN" for accompanying Swedish husbands!



Christmas and New Year greetings from Boston,

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