



# THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 2005

## Corporation Update

Brothers:

I hope this issue of *The Beaver Sig* finds you well and enjoying summer. Inside, as usual, you'll find the latest updates from the actives at 532 Beacon Street, as well as correspondence from your fellow alumni.

A great highlight of the spring term was our annual scholarship dinner, where this year we were honored by the presence of MIT's new president, Dr. Susan Hockfield.

The 2004-2005 academic year so far has been a good one for the actives and for the alumni corporation. Many of you have already contributed generously as part of our annual donation program—thank you. If you haven't had a chance to contribute yet, please consider doing so now, as additional contributions are critical to help the corporation and chapter maintain financial strength.

Finally, if you haven't yet, please check out the website, <http://sigmach.mit.edu>, that the chapter maintains. In particular, please visit the alumni section and make sure that your contact information, including your preferred e-mail address, is accurate. While you're there, consider posting a message to say hello and update your fellow alums on what you're up to these days! Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

In Hoc,  
Karl Büttner '87  
Corporate Board President  
[kbuttner@alum.mit.edu](mailto:kbuttner@alum.mit.edu)

## President Hockfield Attends Sigma Chi Scholarship Dinner

The annual Alpha Theta Sigma Chi Scholarship Dinner was held on Saturday, May 14. Joining the chapter at the event were MIT's newly inaugurated President, Dr. Susan Hockfield, her husband, Dr. Thomas Byrne, and their daughter, Elizabeth.



*President Hockfield speaks at the scholarship dinner.*

President Hockfield had just finished a whirlwind week of inaugural festivities; therefore the alumni and actives were very honored that President Hockfield and her family chose to give up their Saturday evening to join the chapter at its scholarship dinner.

President Hockfield, in un-scripted remarks, offered great praise for MIT's fraternity system and indicated strong support for it as an ongoing,

permanent part of the MIT community. Noting that fraternities are "a wonderful part of MIT," President Hockfield said, "Fraternities play a very important role in providing great living experiences and learning experiences for our students."

Commending the Alpha Theta actives for consistently ranking in the top set of living group GPAs, she commented, "I am very impressed and pleased at Sigma Chi's record of academic achievement. It is incredibly impressive that a group of people can come together and encourage one another—not just in how you live, but in how you study and learn."

President Hockfield did admit that from an external, public relations perspective, MIT and its fraternities are probably challenged by the existence of various stereotypes of fraternities—none of which apply to the fraternity system at MIT. Perhaps only half-joking, she noted, "I only wish we didn't call them fraternities," adding that she has to explain to her colleagues at other universities that, "Fraternities at MIT are really very different." As a possible solution, she joked that, "Perhaps we should call them numbers!" This MIT-style solution was greeted with great laughter.

Through the scholarship presentations and speeches given that evening, President Hockfield heard about what has made Alpha Theta Sigma Chi such an important part of all of our MIT experiences—both during our times at MIT and afterwards. It was clear that she enjoyed the opportunity to meet the actives and alumni and to learn more about Sigma Chi and its place at MIT.

*(continued on page three)*

# Alpha Theta Shines During Challenging Time For Fraternities Nationwide

The Alpha Theta Chapter began the spring term with what is becoming a usual display of energy. The nine members of the 2008 pledge class were initiated on January 29. Strong efforts by Magister Joseph Sikoscow '06 made for a smooth initiation. Through the pledge program, Joseph and Assistant Magister Christopher Savage '07 have developed what Alpha Theta believes to be one of the strongest and closest pledge classes in recent history. We look forward to having them move in next fall.

In late February, several brothers attended the annual Sigma Chi North Atlantic Province Conference. The main issues discussed were recruitment, hazing, and risk management. Trends show that over the past few years, membership is in decline for Sigma Chi nationally, much as it is for most other fraternities. Luckily for Alpha Theta, we have had a steady membership, but we know not to become complacent. Also, over the last year or so, hazing has become synonymous with fraternities in the media, especially after pledges of several fraternities died last year due to alcohol poisoning, including a pledge at the Sigma Chi Chapter at Oklahoma University. Hazing is something that we do not tolerate at Alpha Theta.

There have been an increased number of incidents in the Boston area that have reflected negatively on the fraternity

community as a whole. Several fraternities have been discovered serving alcohol to minors, and last December, there was an episode where three members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity were arrested.

With all the negative exposure, Alpha Theta has decided to shine a positive light on our chapter, at least. On March 5, roughly 20 brothers volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Bank, a distribution center responsible for sending food to all homeless shelters in eastern Massachusetts. We also plan on throwing a high-turnout faculty dinner this term to establish a rapport with some of the important names at MIT.

This spring marks the arrival of another rush retreat. The annual trip to Applebrook Bed & Breakfast in Jefferson, New Hampshire, provides great memories as well as time to hold recruitment workshops and develop bonds within the brotherhood. We believe that planning and preparation are the best tools for success in rush. Alpha Theta plans to forge ahead against the national decline in numbers and maintain our strong foundation to stay around for at least another 123 years.

In Hoc,  
Bryan J. DeLeon '06  
Consul

## Initiation Is A Huge Success

As the fall term wound down and all the brothers and pledges eagerly anticipated IAP this year, everyone was calling the pledge program a great success. The annual holiday dinner was excellently prepared by the pledges, and all of our guests and

brothers enjoyed the skit the pledges performed during the gift exchange. Only one thing still stood between the nine pledges and Alpha Theta brotherhood. Fortunately, after months of planning, I-Week and Initiation went off without a hitch this year. The

pledges enjoyed traditional events like a retreat to New Hampshire as well as line day and alumni tea, due in no small part to the help and advice provided by the local alumni.

The nine pledges were initiated as brothers of Sigma Chi on January 29. Afterwards, the brothers and alumni enjoyed a huge banquet cooked by our own brothers and celebrated the welcoming of our newest members. Congratulations to the class of 2008! They are Joshua Campoverde, Ian Wolfe, Nicholas Haschka, Kevin Krsulich, Stephane Essama, Ryan Dean, Jack Field, Asiri Ediriwickrema, and Benjamin Pope. They are now starting PIT training under our Pro Consul Brian Wilt, and they have already started taking active roles in the chapter, ranging from athletic chair to assistant rush chair. We look forward to many great things from them in the future.

Joseph J. Sikoscow '06  
Magister



*Alpha Thetas and sweetheart assemble on the first floor of the house at 532 Beacon.*

## Brotherhood Focuses On Philanthropy

Even before taking office, both the consul and pro consul stressed the importance of carrying out philanthropic activities during the term. Several officers thus set out to organize a major community service event that would be attended by the greater portion of the house. The pro consul and community relations chair worked together to combine this event with an alumni day, complete with dinner at 532 Beacon Street, line desserts, and sports at MIT's Z-Center. We chose to serve at the Greater Boston Food Bank (the only place that could accommodate a group as big as the one we hoped for) and set the date for Saturday, March 5. Invitations were then sent out to 100 or so alumni living within driving distance of Boston.

Despite there being no alumni present, over 20 actives headed over to the food bank on Saturday at 1:00 p.m., which seemed "bright and early" to many of us. There we combined with other volunteer groups and worked to sort food that had been donated to the food bank and would be distributed to various charitable organizations. Over

the course of three hours, we sorted 11,000 pounds of food, the equivalent of 143 meals per volunteer.

We returned to 532 Beacon, where we were joined by alums Herb Mower

soccer and basketball.

All who were present agreed that the event was a great experience and would love to repeat it more frequently. Many brothers are even urging the house to take its philanthropy to a higher level by being involved in more interactive service, such as a homeless shelter. We feel that our service has brought and will bring honor to our chapter and to Sigma Chi. Furthermore, the event had a very positive effect on our brotherhood, as we had a great time together.

Now that this task is done, our tribune is working on organizing a faculty dinner, and the community relations chair will be setting his sights on preparing Derby Days, which we hope to hold in the fall. All alumni are invited to inquire about and attend both of these events.

In Hoc,  
Stephane Essama '08  
Community Relations Chair



*Brothers of Alpha Theta gather for a picture after volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank on March 5. Stephane Essama '08 (front on ground) organized the outing, and more than half of the brothers from the chapter made time to volunteer. Alpha Theta helped move and sort over 11,000 pounds of food.*

and Adam D'Amico for dinner. Afterwards, many brothers went to the Z-Center to enjoy several hours of indoor

## President Hockfield Attends Sigma Chi Scholarship Dinner

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At one point during the evening, Rolf Brauchler '69 presented to President Hockfield, on behalf of the chapter, a book titled *They Made America* featuring stories of 70 inventors and entrepreneurs, including one MIT graduate, Robert Swanson '69, founder of Genentech and the biotech industry.

During the dinner, two alumni-funded scholarships were presented to Alpha Theta undergraduates: the Robert A. Swanson 1969 Memorial Scholarship and the Professor S. Curtis Powell Memorial Scholarship. Roughly 70 people attended the event, including actives, alumni, spouses, and MIT administration guests. The group spanned 60 years of Alpha Theta classes—from the class of 1949 to the class of 2008!



*Actives mingle with MIT President Susan Hockfield at the 2005 Sigma Chi Scholarship Dinner.*



## New Brothers Contribute To The House

The NIBs (“newly initiated brothers”) had plenty to do following their initiation in late January. After a few technical meetings on the Ritual and being a brother, they visited Herb Mower ’65, who graciously treated them to a lasagna dinner. The class of 2008 also undertook painting a Sigma Chi “No Parking” sign for the back lot. Actives are excited to have the class of 2008 as brothers; many of them have already assumed active positions as officers and have started to shape the house.

Alpha Thetas have been working hard this semester to improve alumni correspondence and community involvement. While many of the brothers are individually involved in service projects, we wanted to try a large event to involve the brothers as a house. Community Rela-

tions Chair Stephane Essama ’08 and Tribune Ian Wolfe ’08 organized an ambitious and successful community service event, held on Saturday, March 5. Brothers spent the day volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank and playing indoor soccer at the Z-Center.

I also personally oversaw a revitalization of the Alpha Theta Sigma Chi webpage, including a few new features such as a house tour. The website’s alumni sections, created by Mike Kahan ’03, provide many forums for alumni correspondence and updates.

The chapter is thriving, with each semester seeming to outdo the last. More than ever am I “Proud to be a Sig!”

In Hoc,  
Brian A. Wilt ’07  
Pro Consul



*The pledge class of 2008 gets rowdy before a chapter meeting. Eleven members from the pledge class hop on the couch for a quick durability and strength test. The couch survived; some of the brothers didn't.*

## Sigs Capture IM Dodgeball Championship

The Sigma Chi IM dodgeball team (25-1) won the first annual MIT IM dodgeball championship with an impressive showing on Wednesday, December 1. In front of a sold-out crowd at the MAC Court, Sigma Chi showed exactly why it was the number-one seed coming into the tourney.

“It’s a dream come true,” said Bryan DeLeon with tears streaming down his face. “We have trained for years to get to this point, and now we finally did it. What an amazing feeling!”

This was just minutes after Sigma Chi closed out DU in the championship match, three games to one. After winning games one and two of the series, the Sigs couldn’t register the sweep, but they maintained their momentum and won game four in decisive fashion. DeLeon made the final kill to seal the deal. Immediately following the final out, fans swarmed the champions on the court.

“It was emotional, very emotional,” rookie attacker Ryan Dean muttered. “I feel lucky to have been drafted by this great program. They really look out for the younger guys and show us the results of dedication and commitment to a common goal. I can’t believe that it’s really true!”

Dean and DeLeon were at the middle of the celebration. Other team-

### SIGMA CHI DODGEBALL ROSTER

Bryan DeLeon ’06  
Joe Sikoscow ’06  
Aaron Doody ’07  
Mike Fitzgerald ’07  
Joshua Lake ’07  
Dan Scolnic ’07  
Matt Williams ’07  
Ryan Dean ’08



*Not only did Sigma Chi clinch first place in the MIT IM dodgeball championship, brothers of the 2007 pledge class won the MIT class of 2007 dodgeball tournament. Team members received a \$50 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice. L. to r.: Edgar Torres ’07, Mike Fitzgerald ’07, Dan Scolnic ’07, Aaron Doody ’07, Matt Williams ’07.*

mates piled on just after the final seconds. Captain Matt Williams was at the bottom of it. “We’ve worked so hard this year—on and off the court. Our time in the weight room and watching game tape really paid off. This is unbelievable.”

Williams and second-year teammate Josh Lake tied for the most kills in the championship match. On the defensive side, sophomore Dan Scolnic was as solid as a rock. Even with doctors advising that he not play with his unhealed broken wrist, Scolnic would not give up the opportunity to play in the match of his dreams. “I’ve dreamed of this moment since I was 10 years old! I was going to play regardless of what the doctors said.” Scolnic finished the match with nine catches.

As the fans stormed off and rioted in the Boston streets, the teammates posed for a final picture. “This season will go down in history,” said attacker Aaron Doody, “25-1, it doesn’t get any better than that.”

“And the team will be back next year,” added Joe Sikoscow. “This was a great season, but I can’t wait for next year, as our entire team is returning.”

In Hoc,  
Matt Williams ’07

## Brothers Enjoy Tea And Dancing

Sigma Chi's social scene has thrived so far this semester. With packed parties, the brothers continue to show and have a great time.

This semester has been a revival of themes. Each Wednesday night, we have tea in which the brothers bake cakes and invite friends to come over and have a break in the middle of the week. We have had different themes for tea, like the "Multiple PersonalIT," "Groundhog Day Tea," the "Sesame Street Tea," "Valentine Fallout Tea," and the "Where the Wild T-ings Are Tea." Brothers dress up, and food is specially prepared around the theme.



*The brothers of Alpha Theta drop to bended knee while serenading the Sweetheart, Becky Idell.*



*The '08s pose with the Sweetheart at the formal Sweetheart Ball held in November 2004. Front: Sweetheart Becky Idell '07; left to right: Nick Haschka, Ben Pope, Kevin Krsulich, Stephane Essama, Ryan Dean, Asiri Ediriwickrema, Josh Campoverde, Ian Wolfe, and Jack Field.*

We have also had a performance tea in which many of the brothers performed different songs for a packed music room. Last month, we had a *Rocky*-themed floor party. Each room on the floor was one of the different *Rocky* movies.

This semester, we had a spring formal at the Boston Tremont Hotel. As the number of friends of the house keeps multiplying, the brothers of Sigma Chi look forward to many more great events and good times.

In Hoc,  
Dan Scolnic '07 &  
Mike Fitzgerald '07  
Social Chairs

### YOU FIND IT HERE!

Over the years, many of you have made the trek to the Mower residence, perhaps in Arlington, Andover, or Westford, for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and food. Usually, this has included ice cream, Moxie, and other items to be consumed. Years ago, one had to hand-crank the barrel to have some ice cream. Now we rely upon Kimball Farms. The result is equally good-tasting.

On some occasions, there have been other "tasks" associated with this fall outing. Usually, this has been in the form of furniture that needed to be moved or wallboard that needed to be transported up a couple flights of stairs and held in place while being tacked to the wall. This year, the fall trip became a February trip under the guidance of the Pro Consul Brian Wilt. No lifting involved! It was primarily an event for our newly initiated brothers to have a chance to do a "chapter meeting" on their own. This gave them an opportunity to slowly go through the process in order to have a better understanding of our ritualistic experience. It was a great afternoon and evening that, I hope, will be continued in future years.

—Herb Mower '65, '82



### THE BEAVER SIG

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# Alumni Send News From Far And Near



**Frank "Penny" Penn '40** was featured in the January 9, 2005, edition of *The Advocate* as a community leader of Darien, Connecticut. As vice president of property policies at the Darien Community Association, Frank has lent his expertise as an engineer and business executive to numerous community projects, including the renovation of Meadows, an historic home in Darien. Send congratulations to Penny at 46 Susswyck Rd., Darien, CT 06820.

**Robert W. Temple '55** writes, "How about an e-mail directory of Alpha Theta Sigs? **Joe Brazzatti '54** continues in his assisted living location for now but has bought a house nearby that is a one-story place instead of the two stories of his old home. Joe is hopeful of getting back on the computer shortly and is hoping many contemporaries will let us have their e-mail addresses. If you are not already on my e-mail list, then send me your e-mail so I can have it for when Joe gets up to speed. Our daughter, Jennifer, works for a San Diego-based non-profit called Project Concern International. She has been working with the tsunami relief efforts in the south of India. The company had had an orphanage and clinic south of Madras since 1997. Their work has been vastly expanded. Jennifer has been sorting out the projects they can and cannot handle and trying to sort out the various interests between India, the U.S. government, and the Swiss, plus a number of private funders. She has more diplomatic skill than her father. It's time for us to recognize how great this nation and its people really are. May those now at Alpha Theta perpetuate that strength." Bob can be reached at 14134 Bluebird Lane, Houston, TX 77079. His e-mail address is [angtemple@sbcglobal.net](mailto:angtemple@sbcglobal.net).

**John C. Linderman '59** writes, "I attended my 45th reunion at the 'Tute in June 2004, and I had an enjoyable time meeting old classmates, mostly from Course II. I missed fellow Sigma Chi classmates; particularly I thought I would see Hank Couch '59 and his sweetheart, Ann, who was also attending her 45th reunion at Wellsley. I encourage '59ers to plan on the 50th reunion a few years down the road." John is a managing partner at McCormick, Paulding & Huber, LLP. Get in touch with him at 28 Braeburn, Glastonbury, CT 06033. His e-mail address is [jlinderman2@cox.net](mailto:jlinderman2@cox.net).



*William Stern '40 and his wife, Helen, at the Massachusetts Senior Olympic Games, held at Springfield College on June 19-20, 2004. Bill competed in the age 85-89 category, and he placed first in the 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1,500 meter races.*

**Paul M. Raeburn '72** reports that this month, Broadway Books will publish the paperback edition of his book, *Acquainted with the Night: A Parent's Quest to Understand Depression and Bipolar Disorder in His Children*. "It's a memoir of my experiences," he writes, "raising a son with bipolar disorder and a daughter with depression—and a healthy older brother who had to learn how to cope with their illnesses." Say hello to Paul at 300 W. 23rd St., #7K, New York, NY 10011.

**David S. Brody '77** and his wife, Joanne Liegner, continue their volunteer efforts to bring medical and dental care to the indigenous Zoque people of Chiapas, Mexico. The Chiapas Project ([www.chiapasproject.org](http://www.chiapasproject.org)) travels to the mountain town of Ocotepeh each March and August. Groups of 30-40 volunteers treat over 2,500 patients during each week's effort. Fellow Sigs and their children are welcome to join in. Dave's son, Nick, now a freshman at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, spent a year after high school in Calcutta, volunteering at the Mother Theresa Home for the Dying Destitute. Dave's daughter, Kim, is a high school junior." Dave can be reached at 3 Romney Ct., Lafayette, NJ 07848. His e-mail address is [david@chiapasproject.org](mailto:david@chiapasproject.org).

**Peter R. Lippitt '78** recently moved to 5 Christmas Tree Lane, Milford, NH 03055.

Please note this new address for **Peter A. Ulrich '86**: 22150 Miller Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650. Send him e-mail at [peter.ulrich@navy.mil](mailto:peter.ulrich@navy.mil) or [ajulrich@juno.com](mailto:ajulrich@juno.com).

Stay in touch with **John W. Pelly '00** at 743 Waverley St., Palo Alto, CA 94301. His e-mail address is [jpelly@gmail.com](mailto:jpelly@gmail.com).

**Daniel R. Craig '03** reports a new address of 38 Cherry St., #1, Somerville, MA 02144. Reach him by e-mail at [dcraig@alum.mit.edu](mailto:dcraig@alum.mit.edu).

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of **Frederick Van Horne Judd '34** on March 25, 2003.

## Alpha Theta Sigma Chi Is Online!

<http://sigmachi.mit.edu> is a source of information and a communication hub for both undergrads and alumni. If you haven't yet visited, please do, and verify that your contact info is up-to-date. Please submit any suggestions or requests for enhancements through the website.