

THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

WINTER 2005-'06

Chapter Plans 125th Anniversary Reunion

Dear Brothers:

I hope this edition of *The Beaver Sig* finds you and your families well and enjoying the winter months.

As usual, inside you'll find the latest updates from the brothers at 532 Beacon Street, plus alumni correspondence and an update we've included from MIT's Director of Fraternity, Sorority and Independent Living Group (FSILG) Alumni Relations.

One new important item to start thinking about: Alpha Theta Sigma Chi's 125th Anniversary Reunion! In April 2007, a grand event in the style of our past five-year reunions will be held in Boston. Exact dates are still being finalized, but start contacting your pledge brothers and others from your era now, and make plans to be at the reunion in April 2007!

Finally, we're off to another good start with annual financial contributions. If you haven't had a chance to contribute yet this year, please consider doing so now, as annual contributions are critical to help Alpha Theta maintain its financial strength.

Wishing you and your families a great winter season,

In hoc,
Karl Büttner '87
Corporate Board President
kbüttner@alum.mit.edu
<http://sigmachim.it.edu>

OUR 125TH REUNION IS COMING!

Mark your calendars! Alpha Theta Sigma Chi will be commemorating its 125th anniversary with a spectacular reunion in Boston in April 2007. Exact dates and details will be forthcoming. This will be an event you definitely do *not* want to miss!

Alpha Theta Stays Strong

Alpha Theta began its fall term with a successful work week of projects ranging from the mundane to the ambitious. The actives redid the floor in the laundry room and dug a trench needed to replace the water main. Importantly, in connection with Boston Fire Department inspections, several loft beds were transformed into free-standing bunk beds in order to pass code. The success of that project figured heavily into avoiding excessive sprinkler work that is scheduled for later this term. In just five days, each active put in 40 hours of work on the house and helped improve the look of the house dramatically.

After the successful work week, the brothers rallied for yet another successful rush. Alpha Theta gave out its bids on Friday, September 9, and within days, the chapter had 10 new pledges. The pledges already look like they are transforming into a tight-knit pledge class and are integrating into the house very well. We are all very excited for the new guys, as they stand to be great new members and leaders for the future.

At the end of September, the chapter hosted Derby Days. This year's Derby Days kicked off on Thursday with a charity concert featuring six performing groups and a guest speaker from the Children's Miracle Network, who came to thank the attendees for the charity work they were doing. Alpha Theta hosted a party and date auction on Friday, with over 400 people coming through the door. Finally, on Saturday, we held a field day. Derby Days 2005 was a great success, raising \$1,000 for The Children's Miracle Network.

As the term continued, the brothers and pledges hosted a luncheon for their parents over MIT's parents weekend. The parents and families were amazed by the home-cooked food prepared by the brothers themselves, as well as the beauty of the chapter house. Overall, the chapter made a great impression.

As of this writing, the chapter is eagerly anticipating its annual sweetheart ball coming up in November, as well as its holiday dinner held after the end of classes. Both are always a source of great fun.

The brothers and new members have a busy schedule ahead of them, but are excited for the upcoming events and the end of the term, as they have the strength of a great brotherhood to keep them going.

In hoc,
Joseph Sikoscow '06

Derby Days 2005 Raises Over \$1,000 For The Children's Miracle Network

A Derby Days three years in the making: Alpha Theta brothers hosted Derby Days 2005 on the last weekend of September this fall. It was the first time Alpha Theta had hosted the festival since spring 2003. This year, leadership aimed to increase the size and scope of the festival to include other MIT fraternities as well as the general MIT undergraduate body. To accomplish this goal, Alpha Theta collaborated with Tau Zeta Epsilon Society from Wellesley, as well as Alpha Phi Sorority from MIT. We also received support from Weekends@MIT, the FSILG Office, the MIT Public Service Center, and Alpha Theta alumni.

Derby Days far exceeded our expectations. Over 150 people attended the kickoff concert to see performances by the MIT Chorallaries, Muses, Logarithms, Plush Daddy Fly, Roadkill Buffet, and the Wellesley Tupelos. Rachel Anderson from the Children's Miracle Network delivered a keynote speech on philanthropy opportunities in the Boston area. The event raised money, and those who attended had a great time listening to the a capella groups and laughing with the sketch comedy.

On Friday night, nearly 400 people converged on old 532 Beacon Street for a date auction, which by itself raised over \$600. Each team nominated a person to participate in the

date auction, with some teams even volunteering multiple people. The huge financial success of this event helped make Derby Days a great event for charity.



Derby Days Chair Brian Wilt '07 helps set up for a party with a brother from Waterloo.

the Boston food bank again this year. We are also looking for other service projects to help raise money for worthy organizations.

Eleven teams registered for the competition, which took place on Kresge the next day. The day started off with a barbecue where participants filled up on some good food before the competitions. For the actual events, teams participated in a water-balloon toss, dodgeball, and ultimate frisbee. At the end of the day, a team from Tau Zeta Epsilon Society won the festival.

We feel that we have established a firm foundation for future Alpha Theta Derby Days. Many lessons were learned over the past few months. As we recover from the exhausting weekend, we look forward to next year and future Derby Days festivals.

We hope to continue with community service events throughout the semester. Hopefully we can return to

In hoc,
Brian A. Wilt '07
Derby Days Chair

Alpha Theta Is Active On Campus

In its first semester living at the house, the 2008 pledge class has already been keeping busy with a myriad of activities both on and off campus. These activities include athletics, clubs, UROPs, and community service. In every case, brothers are going beyond school work to do something they enjoy, and with each endeavor, they are representing Alpha Theta Sigma Chi honorably.

Some activities are especially interesting or unique. In the world of athletics, Sigma Chi is excelling at a number of sports. Ian Wolfe '08 and Joshua Cam-poverde '08 both return to the soccer team for their second year. They are excited to be playing and are both contributing to the team's success. In addition, Jack Field '08 captains the sailing

team, while Ryan Dean '08 will lead the volleyball team during the spring.

Besides athletics, Alpha Theta '08s are involved with many other activities. Nick Haschka keeps busy with his business interests as president of the E-club. The E-club serves as an open forum for individuals to present concepts about start-up companies or business projects that they are involved with. Brother Stephane Essama was picked as one of five new members of the logs, and he has been doing a great job with this semester's concerts. Asiri Ediriwickrema continues to be busy with some very interesting UROP work that he started over the summer while at MIT. And outside of school, Kevin Krsulich continues to enjoy his new exciting home life.

But the most interesting activities might be of a brother who is taking this semester off from MIT. Ben Pope was selected last spring from a pool of Eagle Scouts around the country to do research in Antarctica. He is currently spending his semester at the South Pole, and we hope that he keeps in touch via e-mail. We hope to hear from him again soon.

Members of the '08 class hope to continue these activities throughout the year. They also are looking forward to taking more leadership roles within the house. December elections should be a fun time for the '08s, when many plan to run for important offices.

Ryan Dean '08
Chapter Editor

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.

Class Olympics Returns!

On Sunday, September 25, the Alpha Theta Chapter revived an old tradition by having the first class Olympics in three years. Each pledge class competed in basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball. The day turned out to be fun for all, with the '09 pledge class getting a chance to meet a lot of the older brothers and everyone enjoying the friendly competition. While only one pledge class could win, nearly all the active brothers participated and had an amazing time.

The day started with the class of '09 playing '07 in the basketball finals. In volleyball, pledges Scott Pollom and Eugene Jang led the '09 team with accurate passing and some big kills in a victory over the class of '08. In the last event of the day, the class of '07 won a decisive victory in dodgeball, with Dan Scolnic and Josh Lake leading the way.

The final standings ended up with the '09s winning the class competition. Second place went to the class of '07. The competition was good clean fun, and we hope to continue this tradition in the years to come. Already, the class of '07 is looking for redemption in next year's event, which might expand to involve other sports.

Alpha Theta is looking to have more intra-class competitions and gatherings over the next semester to continue building strong bonds within pledge classes and throughout the house. Other possible house events include attending a Bruins game or house dinners out in Boston. We feel that events like this add a lot to the brotherhood of Sigma Chi and are an important part of developing stronger bonds between actives.

Ryan Dean '08
Chapter Editor

You Find It Here!

Let us digress from our usual format here as we travel briefly with pledge brother Jerry Taylor during his first term at college. Jerry has pledged Sigma Epsilon Chi fraternity and shares with us his many experiences during his freshman year in the Cambridge/Boston area. Poor Jerry finds the challenges of school, the commitments to his pledge class and house, and his problems with a girlfriend who is anti-fraternity trying, but not as daunting as the body he and his pledge brothers find while on a scavenger hunt.

Whoa! How did this end up here? It is all part of a murder mystery written by Kurt Gerstner, a former Grand Praetor for the North Atlantic Province and well known to many of us. No, I won't tell you the ending. However, it is a great read, and you can see yourself relating to the various places in the Cambridge, Boston, and, of course, Somerville (my birth-place!) areas. If you are so moved, do get yourself a copy of *A Complex Solution*, published by Author House, and see if you can solve the mystery. Kurt informs me that the royalties are assigned to the Sigma Chi Foundation. Thus, you can have a good "read" and at the same time assist the charitable endeavors of the general fraternity.

Herb Mower '65, '82

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



Winchell T. Hayward '46 sends greetings from 208 Willard North, San Francisco, CA 94118. He writes, "Overall, it has been a good year for me, and I've managed to shed a few major responsibilities that were taking a lot of time so that I can now do some long-deferred things, like taking care of my house. My health is fine—no joints replaced or giving trouble, and I keep jogging and exercising about every other day in order to stay that way. And I only need one pill a day, for the usual affliction of older men. After all I've been reading about the catastrophic side effects of some pills, I'm thankful that I don't have to even consider the 'benefits' of such pills. I've been a member of the California Alpine Club since 1960 and just completed four years as secretary. I also finished serving a year as president of the Retired Employees of the City/County of San Francisco (RECCSF) in June. I am now into my second year as president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. I'm still an elder at the Mission Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, and I'm in charge of property. In other news, I went to Boston in June for a fraternity gathering. I ran the annual Bay-to-Breakers race in May with my brother, Warren. I also turned my garage into a polling place for my precinct last March. It was fun to meet my neighbors, but the Elections Department canceled my garage before the November election, saying it was not 'handicapped-accessible.' Call me at 415-386-6544 if you're ever in the SF Bay area."

"Chester Patterson '49 from Costa Rica and Howard Hendershott '49 from Henderson, Ohio, were our guests recently," writes James G. Veras '49, "and we had a wonderful time recalling our post-WWII Alpha Theta Chapter experiences. Chester was a member of the light crew, and Howie was the best all-around athlete in every intramural sport. As fate would have it, Chester and I were inducted into the U.S. Infantry on the same day in September 1943, and we were discharged in April 1946 at Camp Dix on the same date. We were in the Company C, 342nd regiment, 86th division, in Germany and the Philippines. The dropping of the atomic bomb diverted our ship heading for Japan. Chet and I passed 80, and 'youngster' Howie is following next year." Say hello to Jim at 3610 S. Ocean Blvd., #508, Palm Beach, FL 33480 or by e-mail at jim.veras@earthlink.com.

Keep in touch with W. Chandler Stevens '55 at 2617 State Rte. 97, Lexington, OH 44904.

"I am writing to report the passing of John L. Lunsford '53," announces Robert W. Temple '55 (angtemple@sbcglobal.net). "John worked his entire career at the Los Alamos nuclear labs in New Mexico. John's ashes were buried at a family site in Virginia Beach, Virginia. John had

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Rush 2005 Is A Huge Success

Sigma Chi rush 2005 was a success in a number of ways. Of course it was a success because of the great pledge class we got, but also of note is how smoothly rush went from a house perspective. Rushing as a house really brought people closer together and made the week much less stressful for all.

Rush started off with a day at the state beach where brothers and rushees participated in volleyball, soccer, football, ultimate frisbee, and swimming. The event was a huge success and a fun way of getting out of Boston. The next day, Sigma Chi played dodgeball in Killian court and went out to an arcade later that night. At the arcade, brothers pooled their tickets to get giant stuffed animals and over 50 bouncy balls. During the last day before classes, Sigma Chi held its biggest event by taking over 35 people to F1 racing. The event featured F1-style go-kart racing with top speeds of over 45 mph.

During the week, Alpha Theta also hosted a number of much smaller events that showcased some of the unique aspects of our house. Rushees were invited to attend dinner at the house, which included the ringing of dinner bells, serving, and "He's...UP." Stoop sessions were also held nightly, with brothers hanging out on the stoop of the house. These events were actually some of the most well-attended events and especially liked by the freshmen, who felt they were really seeing what Sigma Chi is like.

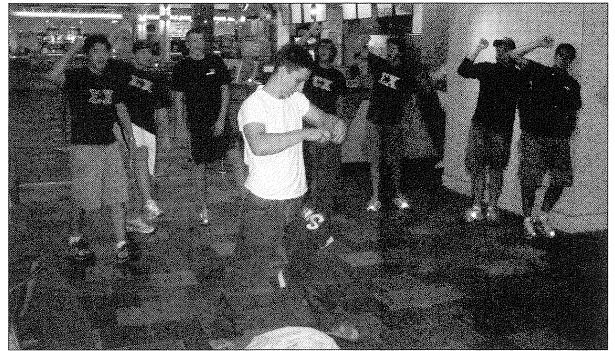
Within two days of bids being given out, Alpha Theta had 10 diverse pledges, each fulfilling the ideals of Sigma Chi while bringing new interests and talents to the house. The strategy of this year's rush—to recruit as a house instead of in small groups—proved to be a great success, as all of Alpha Theta was able to get behind a united cause.

While rushing as a house seems like the tried and true method of rushing, we worked on it so that when we gave out bids, we already knew who the pledge class would be and how they would fit into the house. Our yield for bids was the highest in years, and we only lost two cross-rushes while winning five of them.

More importantly, rush brought the house together. By rushing as a house during this stressful time for all fraternities, we were forced to really come together, and our house is more bonded because of it. By the time rush was over, we were already a strong house, and now we will only grow stronger during the pledge process. Rush set off a great start for the term, and the momentum will be carried throughout the year.

Alpha Theta is looking forward to next year's rush and has just elected Thatcher Clay '09 as the new rush chair. The house is looking to stay united throughout the year and into rush 2006.

Daniel Scolnic '07
Rush Chair



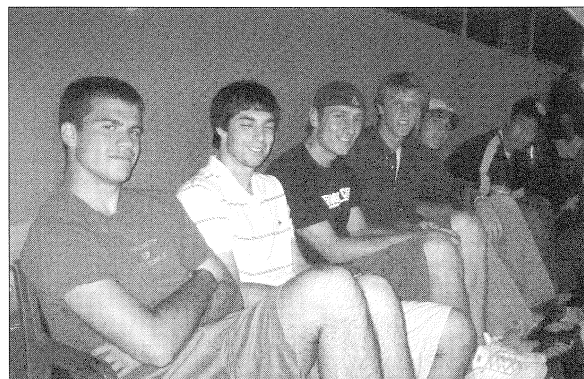
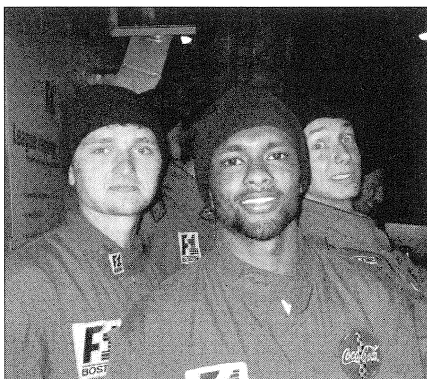
Doug Halket '09 pledges in the Prudential Center food court.



Eugene Jang '09 finishes helping throw Rush Chair Dan Scolnic '07 in the chapel moat.



Chris Bukowski '09 pledges in the frog pond.



Far left: Asiri Ediriwickrema '08 at Boston F-1 racing during rush.

Left: Joe Sikoscow '06, Phil Samayoa '09, Ryan Dean '08, Neil Zimmerman '09, Josh Campoverde '08, and Andrew Ji '09 attend a Red Sox game during rush.

Magister Introduces Alpha Theta's 10 New Pledges

This year, thanks to Recruitment Chairman Daniel M. Scolnic '07, Alpha Theta's rush was an enormous success. In late September, the Alpha Theta Chapter had the privilege of pledging 10 eager young men to the fraternity. In pledge order, they are:

Phillip R. Samayoa from San Antonio, Texas
 Douglas B. Halket from Larchmont, New York
 Thomas S. Pollom Jr. from Indianapolis, Indiana
 Gaurav Luther from Lexington, Massachusetts
 Christopher M. Bukowski from Chapel Hill, North Carolina
 Neil S. Zimmerman from Dallas, Texas
 Andrew Lin Ji from Madison, Wisconsin
 Peter T. Clay from Lutz, Florida
 Samir Zaidi from Riverdale, New York
 Eugene Jang from Bayside, New York

In conjunction with this, our pledge program is well under way. My assistant magister, Joshua J. Campoverde '08, and I are working hard to establish our new pledge brothers as central members of the chapter, as we teach them about the ideals and traditions of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi.

As of this writing, the pledge program will culminate with the pledge exam being on December 4, 2005, and following Independent Activities Period, we will hold I-Week from January 29–February 4, 2006. The ceremonies of initiation will be held on Saturday, February 4. We greatly look forward to seeing these young men become brothers of Alpha Theta, and we expect many great things to come from their involvement.

In hoc,
 G. Austin Ford '07
 Magister

Excerpts From A Recent Letter By Bob Ferrara, MIT's Director Of FSILG Alumni Relations

The vitality of the fraternity community at MIT was really in evidence during this fall's recruitment period. A successful fraternity lobbying drive—to move rush even earlier in the MIT freshman orientation period—allowed almost all of the activity to occur before the start of classes. This was a very tough year with but 530 males, the lowest number ever, in the incoming freshman class of 2009. More than 80 percent of the young men visited at least one fraternity, leading to 255 freshmen pledges and 30 more upperclassmen pledges, primarily sophomores or transfer students.

Plainly, the recruiting—and now retention of members who pledge as freshmen but live in dormitories for their

first year—is more complicated than when most of us alumni first joined our chapters. Today's fraternity members are really doing a remarkable job in a more challenging environment than prior years, and they are deserving of all the support we alumni and MIT can muster. MIT is continuing to step up its efforts; via the office of the dean of student life, the institute has recently committed a substantial sum to support a "recruitment and retention initiative" involving undergraduate training and direct FSILG support.

A little over a year ago, the executive committee of the MIT corporation voted to expand the charter of the Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF) to allow tax-deductible grants to chapters for annual operating expenses. So please consider designating "IRDF" on any gifts to MIT.

For more information about the IRDF or the educational operating grants program, please visit the IRDF website at <http://web.mit.edu/irdf/>.

Finally, I'd like to report on the recent recognition accorded Senior Associate Dean Steve Immerman. Last year, the MIT administration asked Steve to assume overall responsibility for securing the future of the FSILG community. Those of you who know him appreciate that he is uniquely equipped for this role, since his 25-year MIT career began as MIT's first dean of fraternities back in the late '80s. The MIT alumni association conferred honorary membership on Steve for his many years of service to MIT. Only 140 others have been so honored in the 125-plus year history of the association. Steve is a great believer in connecting with alumni all over the country.

Feel free to forward your ideas and thoughts to Steve at immer@mit.edu or to me at rferrara@mit.edu or by mail to Director, FSILG Alumni Relations, MIT W59-200, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139."



Brothers pose for a picture at the spring formal.

Thanks,
 Bob Ferrara, MIT '67
 Director, FSILG Alumni Relations, MIT

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



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been very active in a wide variety of acting over the years, including some parts on a western TV series, one movie, and onstage in many regional plays. Metallurgy and physics were his long suits, but he spent most of his last working years doing programming. **Joe Brazzatti '54** is still improving from his stroke in August 2002 and will be moving back into his own home in the next few months. Joe expects to be back on the computer shortly. I am fortunate to hear from many brothers from the '50s era." Drop a note to Bob at 14134 Bluebird Lane, Houston, TX 77079.

Please note this new address for **John A. Morefield '56**: 1 Woodstock Court, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

"Four guys from Sigma Chi got together for a golf outing in Phoenix in March," writes **Alan R. Brennecke '61**. "I flew in from Philadelphia, **Bruce Tarter '61** flew in from Miami on his way back to San Francisco, **Ken Mill '61** drove over from La Jolla, and **Bill Kendall '61** was the resident host. Between golf games where Ken managed to haul away most of the loot, Bill arranged a Hummer desert tour in the Tonto National Forest. The 'forest' consisted mainly of saguaro cacti, some beautiful blooming ground flowers, and rugged roads over the foothills that the Hummer negotiated at some alarming tilts, sometimes with one wheel far in the air. The wives joined us for really great dinner, and we all vowed to do this again soon, maybe even before the 45th reunion in Boston." Stay in touch with Alan at 865 Cathcart Rd., Blue Bell, PA 18422; abbottbrennecke@cs.com.

Robert M. Johnston '64 (teamliberty@rivnet.net.) recently moved to 515 Lee Dale Dr., Heathsville, VA 22473. He is a managing member of Team Liberty Investments, LLC.

"I was elected to become vice-chair of the American College of Medical Physics starting January 1, 2006, and then moving up to chair on January 1, 2007," announces **Herbert W. Mower '65, '82** (e-mail: herbert.w.mower@lahey.org). "The ACMP is one of our two national professional societies for those physicists working in clinical medical physics, primarily in diagnostic radiology or radiation oncology. My present position is as director of radiation oncology physics at Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Burlington, Mas-

sachusetts." Send congratulations to Herb at 25 Buckboard Dr., Westford, MA 01886.

"Kudos to the Alpha Theta Sigs," cheers **Christopher J. Davis '68**, "for their food bank work! After nearly 30 years in the E.R., I am winding down my career as an emergency medicine physician to pursue my interest in helping developing countries with health-care problems. My wife, Kathleen, is an internist and recently retired, too. We spent three months in Uganda this year teaching at that country's two medical schools and their hospitals. AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and a lack of resources present monumental problems there. In early 2006, we expect to spend several months in Southeast Asia doing similar work. I also work part time as a physician for the U.S. Coast Guard in Seattle. The demands of providing security to the huge expanse of the Puget Sound has their resources stretched to the limit." Get in touch with CJ at 9436 SW Harbor Dr., Vashon, WAS 98070; chrisjdav@aol.com.



Left to right: Gale and Ken Mill '61, Susan and Bill Kendall '61, Ginny and Al Brennecke '61, and Bruce Tarter '61.

Gregg K. Motonaga '92, whose new address is 2840 Pelican Dr., Anchorage, AK 99502, writes, "Amanda and I are now back in Alaska. I finished a cardiac anesthesia fellowship at Mayo Clinic in June and am now working in Anchorage. The flying is great up here and I recently got certified to fly float planes." Gregg's e-mail address is gkm@alum.mit.edu.

Colin B. McKee '94 has recently moved to 483 Hazelwood Dr., San Francisco, CA 94127.

Another brother reporting a new address is **Thomas J. Black '99**. Drop him a note at 8721 Little Laura, Austin, TX 78757.

Yu Zhang '04 is enjoying his new position at Mars & Co. His mailing address is 36-16 Ferry Hts., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. His e-mail address is ezhang17@yahoo.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

Joseph C. Jefferds Jr. '40 on February 11, 2005

Charles C. Gates '43 on August 28, 2005

John L. Lunsford '53 on March 27, 2005

THE BEAVER SIG

Published regularly by the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at MIT for its members and friends. Photographs and address changes may be sent to Sigma Chi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.