

# THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SUMMER 2006

## State Of The Chapter, Summer 2006

Dear Brothers:

It's hard to believe that, as of this writing, we're off and running for the spring term of 2006. Magister Austin Ford '07 oversaw the initiation of nine new brothers of the 2009 pledge class at the end of IAP on February 4. The ceremonies were attended by about a dozen Alpha Theta alumni. T. Scott Pollom '09 was pleasantly surprised by three of his cousins (also Sigs), who pinned his badge on him during the final ceremony! Brothers and alumni agreed that this was one of the strongest initiations in recent years.

I have the pleasure of reporting that the Peterson Significant Chapter Award garnered by Alpha Theta for the 2004-2005 academic year was the 30th for the chapter. Although headquarters has our total incorrectly tabulated to be only 27, careful checking of our records and *Beaver Sigs* confirms that our total is correct. Congratulations to the many generations of Alpha Thetas who have contributed to the chapter's excellence over the past four decades!

In sports, Alpha Thetas continue to thrive. Currently, we are represented in five varsity sports: soccer, volleyball, squash, sailing, and hockey. Ryan Dean '08 is currently a co-captain of the volleyball team, and Jack Field '08 is the captain of the sailing team. I am also proud to announce that Alpha Theta was the IM Soccer B League champion this fall, beating out the KGSA in the final in early December. The team was led by former varsity player Joseph Sikoscov '06. Alpha Theta also placed very high in

*(continued on page four)*

## Chapter Among First To Receive MIT AILG Accreditation

### *Alumni Corporation President's Update*

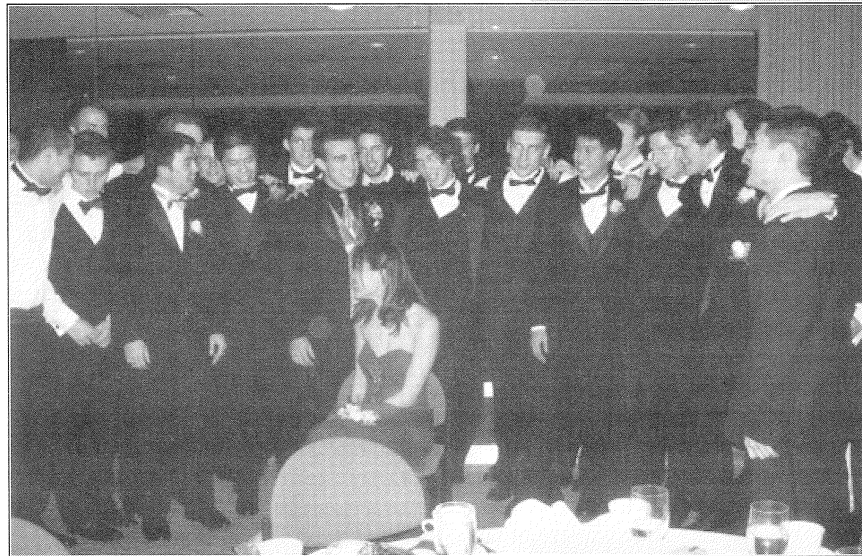
Dear Brothers:

I hope this edition of *The Beaver Sig* finds you and your families well and enjoying the summer months. As usual, inside you'll find the latest updates from the brothers at 532 Beacon Street, plus alumni news and correspondence.

I am pleased to report that Alpha Theta Sigma Chi has recently undergone an accreditation review process by the MIT Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) and is now among the first fraternities to have received AILG accreditation.

The AILG is the association of alumni house corporation members from MIT fraternity, sorority, and independent living groups (formerly the Alumni InterFraternity Conference, or AIFC). The AILG is independent from MIT and has started an accreditation process to help ensure that all fraternity, sorority, and independent living groups at MIT are meeting and maintaining high standards, with the idea that the strength of the overall fraternity system at MIT is very much dependent upon the

*(continued on page four)*



*Brothers serenade this year's sweetheart, Ji Zhang.*

## OUR 125TH REUNION IS COMING!

Mark your calendars! Alpha Theta Sigma Chi will be commemorating its 125th anniversary with a spectacular reunion in Boston on April 13-16, 2007. This will be an event you definitely do *not* want to miss!

## Brotherhood Focuses On Philanthropy

In keeping with the high ideals of our fraternity, Alpha Theta's community relation's program continues this semester. During the fall semester, Alpha Theta's did a lot of charity work, primarily through the enormously successful Derby Days festival chaired by Brian Wilt '07.



*Josh Lake '07, Aaron Doody '07, and Ben Pope '08 dig deep to do some yard work.*

This semester, we have more hands-on community service work planned. Continuing a tradition begun last year, we will be visiting the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) in order to help sort food donations before they are distributed. We plan on volunteering on Saturday, April 29. The GBFB distributes over 24 million pounds of food a year to area communities, the vast majority of which is sorted and packaged by volunteers such as ourselves. The trip to the Food Bank will be combined with our annual Alumni Day. This day will also feature a cookout and sports activities, among other festivities. We welcome any area alumni, friends, or parents who might

be able to join us!

In addition, the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay will be holding its annual "Alley Rally" on Saturday, May 6. Over the course of the morning, resident fraternity members, students, and families throughout the Back Bay will work together to clean up area side streets and alleys in order to make our community a cleaner and safer place to live.

Other events which we hope to help with include supporting runners during the Boston Marathon and aiding in the pre-race preparation and race-day setup for the annual Walk for Hunger, which is the largest single-day fundraiser of its kind in the nation.

All together, this semester looks like an excellent chance for Alpha Thetas to live up to the ideals that we profess, help the community that we are part of, and have an excellent time doing it.

In hoc,  
Benjamin Pope '08  
Community Relations Chair

## Sigma Chi Social Scene Continues To Thrive

The social scene at Sigma Chi has seen a strong rejuvenation. Weekly "tea" on Wednesday is consistently a success with all of our friends. We have had two mixers so far: one with the sorority Delta Delta Delta of Boston University, and the other with Kappa Alpha Theta of MIT. For the Theta mixer, we played the old television show "Singled Out" in which contestants answer questions until they are set up with one of the members of the opposite sex. We will also be having mixers with Sigma Kappa and Alpha Phi, both MIT sororities, shortly.

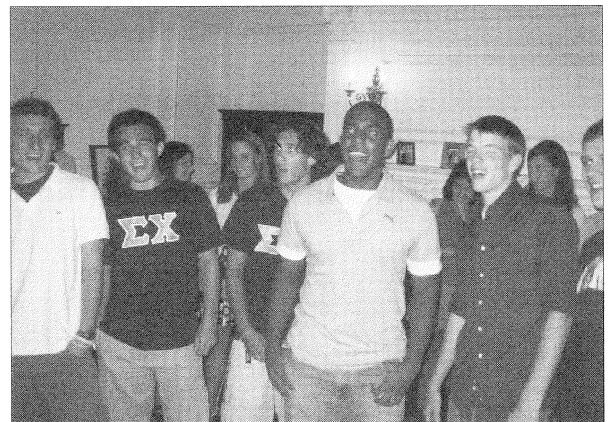
Due to our house's increasing popularity, there have been many questions about what type of parties to have. Sigma Chis feel most comfortable hanging out in the bar with our good friends,

but we have been trying out bigger parties, like our recent floor party; they have all been successes.

The social chairs have also been working on inner house events. We are trying to have competitions throughout the year between brothers and also between classes. We recently held a strongest-man competition at which we saw who could bench-press the most weight compared to his body weight. The winner of the competition was Bryan De Leon '06, who bench pressed 220 pounds while weighing in at 165 pounds. Soon we will be holding other contests, like a softball game and eating competitions.

Overall, Sigma Chi is very pleased with its social scene, and we only hope to keep our friends close and the good times going.

Dan Scolnic '07, Edgar Torres '07,  
Asiri Ediriwickrema '08  
Social Chairs



*From left: Ryan Dean '08, Josh Campoverde '08, Ian Wolfe '08, Stephane Essama '08, Ben Pope '08, and Kevin Krsulich '08 take a break from a party to smile for the camera.*

### 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.

## Pro Consul's Update

As of this writing, the spring semester is off to a great start, due in large part to the tremendous efforts of many house officers.

Consul Brian Wilt '07 has put a lot of time into overall improvements for the chapter. Alpha Theta has a very rich history, and he has taken the initiative to make sure it is preserved by scanning many of the more interesting pieces. These include the first ever *Beaver Sig* and periodicals dating back to 1914. He has also focused chapter meetings and has done a wonderful job motivating others in the house.

Magister Austin Ford '07 organized a very successful I-Week in which nine pledges were initiated into Sigma Chi. These NIBs (newly initiated brothers) are very excited about becoming even more involved in the chapter. They recently enjoyed a day at Herb Mower's, where they heard many interesting stories about Sigma Chi. The NIBs are well on their way to earning their badges and are looking forward to moving in next term.

Quaestor Nick Haschka '08 has already been very active updating the house books and filing taxes. He is planning to overhaul the budget and streamline house expenses. Nick is also working to set up a finance committee that can help him with the huge task ahead.

Also of note is the admirable work of house managers Jack Field '08 and Josh Lake '07. As the house gets older each year, it seems there are always things that need fixing. Jack and Josh have done an amazing job of staying on top of the house problems and getting them resolved as quickly as possible.

Overall, the chapter is in very good shape. Next semester, three more people will be moving into the house in addition to the NIBs, bringing us closer to capacity and allowing the house to run more efficiently. Chapter meeting attendance is extremely high, with nearly every brother in attendance. We are looking forward to a rewarding spring semester, and we hope to continue improving all facets of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi.

In hoc,  
Ryan Dean '08  
Pro Consul

## Brothers Play For IM Trophy

The Sigma Chi intramural sports season kicked off to a great start this year. After capturing the dodgeball crown last spring, we sought another championship in the fall. We were not disappointed as the Sigs soundly defeated the Korean Graduate Students Association 3-1 in the B League soccer finals after trouncing through the playoffs. Solid goal-tending by Matt Williams '07 throughout the season showed as we only gave up two goals all season. People who had never played soccer before even contributed to the team's success, and their improvement over the season was evident to everyone who watched the last game.

The dodgeball team returned this season to try to defend their small team championship. Unfortunately, the six-man squad fell before reaching the finals. The fifteen-man team, however, reached the finals after a thrilling semi-final match. Unfortunately, we were defeated in a series of tight matches. Although the IM dodgeball crown has passed on to another house, we plan on returning next year to try again.

For the rest of the year, the Sigs are looking for success in basketball, which is off to a great start already, as well as volleyball and softball. We have previously had great seasons in all three and look forward to continuing our recent surge of success.

With any luck, we'll bring home another trophy this spring, another tribute to Sigma Chi's growing prowess in intramural sports.

In hoc,  
Joseph Sikoscow '06

## You Find It Here!

Did you know that Alpha Theta has one of the best (of course, one always likes to say "The Best") undergraduate-alumni interaction records? We probably are **number one** on campus in this regard! Most of these activities have been going on for many years. These include, but are not limited to:

**Pledge Dinner:** each fall, the pledges are the guests of the Corporate Board for dinner. This occurs shortly after bids are accepted and right before formal pledging. Any alum is welcome to join the festivities of the evening. Select active leaders, usually those who are light eaters, are invited to join us on this evening. Attendance is usually in the 20s, with an equal number of undergraduates and alumni. It is a great way to show our support of the undergraduate chapter and for the pledges to meet some of the alums.

**Senior Dinner:** each spring, the seniors are guests of the Corporate Board for dinner. This evening of seniors and alumni serves as a reminder that, although the seniors are graduating, the commitment to Sigma Chi and Alpha Theta is a life-long one. The seniors share their goals with us. As a part of our sharing with the seniors, we inform them of our alumni relations program that includes reunions (next one in 2007), *The Beaver Sig*, and opportunities to support the chapter in future years. (Of course, I usually remind them that they better donate at least enough to cover the costs of their pledge dinner and senior dinner.)

**Corporate Board:** we are probably the only house on campus—and perhaps in the national organization—that has undergraduate voting members on our corporate board. Although other groups question our sanity in this matter, it provides a vital link in the overall concept of what the role of the corporation is and how it affects the undergraduate life on campus. In many MIT houses, the house corporation is virtually unknown to the undergraduates and they never meet at the house. How do you provide for your chapter in a situation such as this?

**Scholarship Dinner:** each year, as a major undergraduate/alumni event, we hold the Scholarship Banquet at which we remember Prof. S. Curt Powell and Bro. Robert Swanson '69. This event recognizes the recipients of these scholarships. This is always an exciting evening well-attended by alumni, companions, undergraduates, and representatives of the MIT administration.

There are many other alumni/undergraduate activities, including sports, outings, day trips, and work projects. We at Alpha Theta should be proud of this great relationship and the fact that our alumni provide such diverse, strong support to our active and pledge members.

Herb Mower '65, '82

# Alumni Send News From Far And Near



Say hello to **John T. Lumis '49** at his new address: 8109 Fellowship Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.

"I met with **Robert M. 'Reedhead' Hiehn '50** over the weekend of February 24-26, 2006," reports **Charles A. Dover-spike '52**, "at his daughter's home. Thank goodness, he has NOT joined the chapter eternal, as reported in the *Sigma Chi* magazine. He is still the same old Reedhead, thinking ten years into the future. I tried to encourage him to move back to the USA from France and help Dubya cover the country in modern, safe, non-polluting, infinite energy source nuclear power plants, for which he has many ideas. I hope to publish a DVD of video we took and will send to all brothers of his era." Chuck can be reached at 2516 Fox Glenn Circle, Bedford, TX 76021; cadoverspike@alum.mit.edu.

**Bruce R. Donath '69** writes that after 10 years of owning and running a small hotel and bar in the British Virgin Islands—"a most fascinating, life-enhancing experience"—he has successfully sold the business and is now hunting for new adventures. "Sure, we do plan to spend time with our seven grandchildren, but I'm just not ready for retirement. Our next step is to move to southern Maine. I'd enjoy hearing from brothers." Bruce's

new mailing address is P.O. Box 7115, Cape Porpoise, ME 04014. Drop him an e-mail at bruce@debbyandbruce.com.

Send greetings to **Herbert A. Stortz '79** at 157 Elmwood Ave., East Aurora, NY 14052. E-mail reaches him at stortz@adelphia.net.

**Richard C. Marboe '81** recently moved to 473 Hunter Ave., State College, PA 16801.

**Michael A. Kahan '03** is working as a quantitative analyst with Penson Financial Services in Austin, Texas. Get in touch with him at his new address: 3220 Duval Rd., #405, Austin, TX 78759. Send e-mail to him at mkahan@alum.mit.edu or mkahan@appliedquant.com.

Keep in touch with **Anthony H. Kim '03** at his new address: 312 E. 30th St., #12A, New York, NY 10016. His e-mail address is tkim42@alum.mit.edu.

We regret to report the death of **William T. Shuler '38** on December 29, 2005.

## Chapter Among First To Receive MIT AILG Accreditation

*(continued from page one)*

strength of its individual members.

The accreditation process takes into account all aspects of a chapter's health, both at the undergraduate level and the alumni corporation, and involves a "visiting committee" that performs a structured review of each chapter. MIT is in full support of the AILG's self-accreditation process, and it may at some point in the future require all houses to be AILG accredited. Six chapters underwent the accreditation review process this year, including Alpha Theta, and we should be proud that Alpha Theta has continued its leadership position on campus by becoming one of the first houses to receive accreditation.

On a separate topic, please remember to mark your calendars for Alpha Theta Sigma Chi's 125th Reunion, scheduled for April 13-16, 2007. This is going to be a huge celebration, and you'll definitely want to be there!

And one final note: We've included a letter from Bob Ferrara, MIT's director of FSILG alumni relations, with news of MIT's continued strong support for the fraternity system.

Wishing you and your families a great summer season—

In hoc,  
Karl Büttner '87  
Corporate Board President  
kbüttner@alum.mit.edu

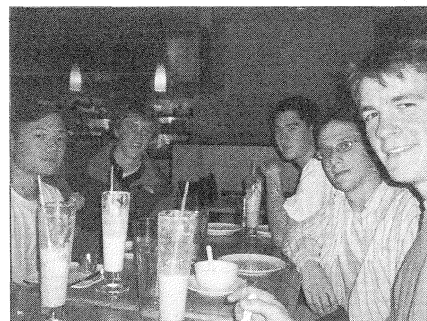
## State Of The Chapter, Summer 2006

*(continued from page one)*

both large-league and small-league dodgeball (led by Matthew Williams '07), but failed to reprise its small-league championship from last year.

The chapter's calendar is packed with events as usual. Brothers are looking forward to many spring-term traditions, including rush retreat at Applebrook Bed & Breakfast in Jefferson, New Hampshire. Community Relations Chair Ben Pope '08 is currently working with the MIT Public Service Center to find a weekly service commitment that would work best for our chapter. We also recently elected our Derby Days 2006 Chair, Eugene Jang '09, who hopes to host another campus-wide event to highlight Alpha Theta's and the MIT fraternity system's commitment to the community.

Alpha Theta continues to be one of the strongest Greek organizations on campus. Brothers are constantly taking on new responsibilities and implementing new ideas into the chapter to improve it. While the difficulties associated with freshmen living on campus and variations in rush continue to haunt us, we are confident that our brotherhood will continue to flourish in the future. We look forward to the next 124 years!



From left: Eugene Jang '09, Neil Zimmerman '09, Chris Bukowski '09, Doug Halket '09, and Thatcher Clay '09 have a nice night out to dinner.

In hoc,  
Brian A. Wilt '07  
Consul