

THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

[HTTP://SIGMACHL.MIT.EDU](http://sigmachl.mit.edu)

JUNE 2013

We Are Boston Strong

For the third time in my life I have had to reconsider what my favorite holiday is. First it was Christmas—I'll admit, the presents got me. Then it was Thanksgiving—turns out teenage boys love food. And now, in my first year at college, I may have stumbled across number three. As our lovely sweetheart, Alys-sa Musket, puts it, "it's like Christmas for college kids." Yes, I am referring to Marathon Monday. Not only do we get a day off from school so that others can torture themselves for 26.2 miles, but it is a day spent with all of our closest friends.

At the crack of dawn, brothers were awake and preparing the house for a day full of food and festivity. With the help of some wonderful friends of the house, we had a full hot-breakfast buffet out by 9:00 a.m., and then the day began.

The City of Boston comes alive with the Boston Marathon. As a native of Massachusetts, I have grown up with this quirky tradition that has become the oldest continuous marathon in the U.S., so I

understand why we become so excited for no particular reason. But what was stunning to see was the thousands of college students who inhabit Boston, from all parts of the world, become absolutely invigorated with the spirit of Boston. Everyone was outside soaking up the bright sunshine and basking in the spirit of the marathon. For that one day, there were no differences. We were "Boston Strong" before we knew it.

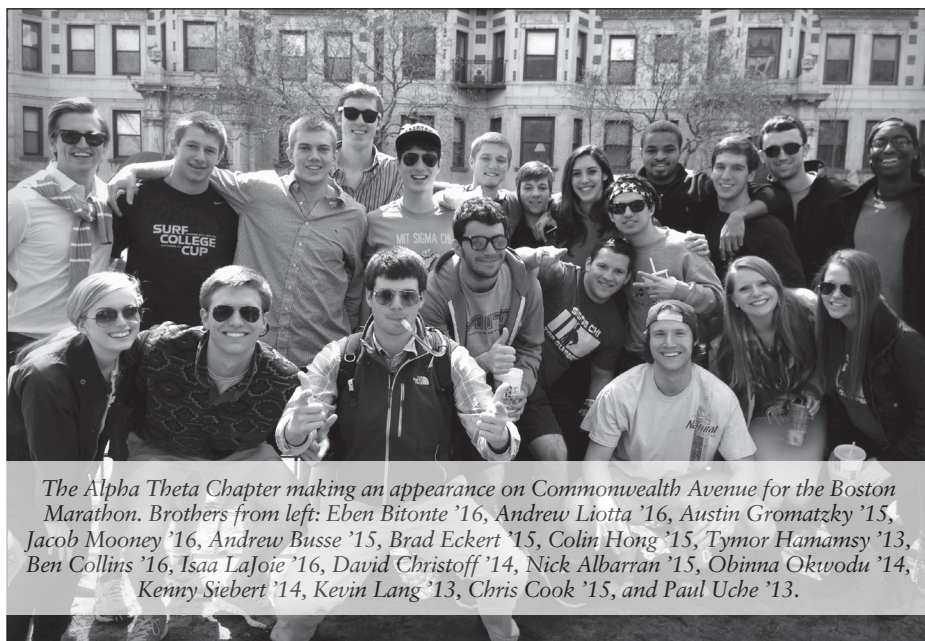
However, this year on this day the unthinkable happened when explosions went off at the finish line of the marathon. You may have heard the stories of runners continuing to run to the hospitals to donate blood or to operate as surgeons; and we witnessed for ourselves the heroism of the first responders who sprinted to the wounded immediately despite the known risks. That being said, I believe the admirable response of the general public in the immediate aftermath has been overlooked. In the days following the event, I read: "When Gotham needs a hero, they look to Batman. When Boston

needs a hero, they look to the person next to them." They picked the wrong city on the wrong day.

It wasn't long before runners and spectators began getting routed off of Commonwealth and onto Beacon Street, and I will never forget what followed. These people had just run more than 23 miles and were now stranded without food, water, phones, or even money. They had nothing, and no way of contacting anyone—so Boston adopted them. Strangers on the street started giving away anything they had, and the fraternities opened their doors to anyone in need. As soon as news of the explosions reached the house, we decided to stay outside. We felt we could not go inside and keep to ourselves; we wanted to provide a face of calm and a place of aid. Within minutes, the grill was at maximum capacity cooking food to hand out, water coolers were being brought out, iPhone chargers and phones for people to use wifi were put out, and the line for the bathrooms was out the door. The entire brotherhood quickly became involved and found their niche, even if it was just talking to people and providing people with the moment of calm that they needed in the aftermath.

If terror was the aim, it fell far short of that goal. I am filled with pride for Boston, MIT, and Sigma Chi. The Boston Marathon bombings brought together a city around a common sorrow and gave it a common pursuit for justice. And, with the murder of MIT police officer Sean Collier, MIT became "Collier Strong" and gave more than 4,000 of some of the most driven, passionate, and brightest young minds a reason to unite and a cause to fight for. When the bombs went off, brothers who had been gone all day came back to the house. It has inspired a number of brothers in the house to join together to run the marathon next year for charity. Terror and fear are only as powerful as the individual allows them to be, but the people of

(continued on page two)



The Alpha Theta Chapter making an appearance on Commonwealth Avenue for the Boston Marathon. Brothers from left: Eben Bitonte '16, Andrew Liotta '16, Austin Gromatzky '15, Jacob Mooney '16, Andrew Busse '15, Brad Eckert '15, Colin Hong '15, Tymor Hamamsy '13, Ben Collins '16, Isaa LaJoie '16, David Christoff '14, Nick Albarran '15, Obinna Okwodu '14, Kenny Siebert '14, Kevin Lang '13, Chris Cook '15, and Paul Uche '13.

Runner Appreciates Chapter's Assistance

The following letter was received by Executive Director of the Sigma Chi Fraternity Mike Dunn, sent by a marathon runner grateful for the hospitality of the Alpha Theta Chapter following the Boston Marathon bombings.

Hi, Mike [Dunn],

Yesterday I had the pleasure of participating in the 2013 Boston Marathon, a day marred with senseless acts of violence and terror. After the bombs went off, my girlfriend and I immediately decided to head out from our downtown hotel and by chance passed by the [MIT] chapter of Sigma Chi. On a day usually characterized by mass quantities of alcohol and partying, I was extremely impressed that instead, the fraternity brothers were offering food, water, chargers, internet access, and other accommodations to stranded runners and spectators. I know that "fraternity" is [sometimes] associated with "irresponsibility"; however this was one of the most responsible acts I've seen from such an organization. You should be very proud of this chapter's generous and supportive acts in the face of horror and tragedy.

Warm Regards,
Alan

Sigma Chi published the letter on its Facebook page, and it is reprinted here with permission.

In the following weeks, Dennis R. Santoli, the current Grand Consul and executive director of the Sigma Chi Foundation, came to the Alpha Theta Chapter to present the brothers with a special commendation for their actions on Marathon Monday.

We Are Boston Strong

(continued from page one)

Boston, MIT, and Sigma Chi are some of the most resilient and fearless people I have ever met. On Monday, April 15, 2013, I did not see terror or panic in the face of a single Alpha Theta. I witnessed instead compassion, concern, sorrow, and above all, the determined energy and drive to make a positive impact and help others. It is for this reason and countless others, that I am always proud to be an Alpha Theta Sigma Chi.

In Hoc,
Jacob Mooney '16

Brother's Experience Running the Marathon

With the "Loochstrong" logo printed on my tank top in recognition of Paul Uche '13, our fall 2012 Consul currently battling leukemia, I banditted this year's Boston Marathon. As I ran the 26.2-mile course, I was in a state of sheer bliss (and pain). This marathon exemplifies the best of Boston and the best of America. Hundreds of thousands of spectators, dressed in every color and outfit imaginable, shouted words of encouragement for hours. It was the intense energy, the uplifting spirit, and the Wellesley kisses that powered me up Heartbreak Hill and kept my legs pounding the pavement past dozens of our brothers in Kenmore Square. As I passed mile marker 21, hundreds of Boston College students started chanting "Loochstrong, Loochstrong, Loochstrong."

I crossed the finish line on Boylston Street with Will Gibson, a 2012 MIT graduate and close friend living nearby on the corner of Newbury and Exeter. As we ducked into his doorway for a post-race drink, I heard the first explosion. The ground shook. As I peered up the street toward Boylston, I saw hundreds of people sprinting toward me. White smoke billowed behind them, blurring my view of the Prudential Tower. We stopped a few of the terrified men

and women, asking them what they had witnessed. They could barely speak as tears streamed down their faces. A young girl had fallen on her knees while sprinting away. We brought her inside, away from the chaos, giving her water and comforting her. I hugged her and felt her heart pounding through her

(continued on page six)

Whereas the Boston Marathon is a symbol of human achievement and mastery of athletic dedication at the highest level and;

Whereas a senseless act of terror on April 15, 2013 attempted to undermine the commendable efforts from the courageous competitors from all over the world and destroy the spirit of the countless spectators, fans and citizens of Boston who cheered them on and;

Whereas that act of terrorism took the lives of three individuals, injured more than one hundred, and forever left emotional scars on countless additional people in Boston and around the world and;

Whereas the indomitable and extraordinary strength shown by ordinary citizens dedicated to kindness and compassion will always triumph over any actions taken towards others with intentional malice and;

Whereas the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology demonstrated the kind of thoughtfulness, care and generosity that best exemplifies the teachings of Sigma Chi through their actions taken to support those affected by the tragedy on that day and;

Whereas those actions taken by the Alpha Theta Chapter to offer accommodations to complete strangers in their greatest time of need represented brotherhood at the broadest level and is an exceptional example of ordinary men becoming extraordinary citizens;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Sigma Chi Fraternity hereby offers its wholehearted appreciation and commendation to the Alpha Theta Chapter and all of its members for living up to the high standards taught by and through our Ritual in a time when the city of Boston needed it most.

Resolved this day of April 20, 2013.

The Executive Committee of the Sigma Chi Fraternity

Grand Consul

Executive Director

Alpha Theta Doctors Treat Marathon Victims

April 15, 2013, will never be forgotten by the people of Boston. The incredible response by law enforcement officers and health care workers might only be superseded by the incredible spirit of the surviving victims, and those who are supporting them. Local hospitals were flooded with victims of the blasts by 4:30 p.m. I was working in the emergency room at Massachusetts General Hospital as the first five patients arrived—more than 30 patients injured by the bombings would eventually arrive. The scene was more viscerally jarring than any trauma scene I have witnessed during my training. Colleagues of mine at the other area hospitals all encountered a similar scene.

As a plastic surgery resident, I was not directly involved with most of the life-threatening injuries that were treated, and unfortunately many of the limb-threatening injuries resulted in loss of a limb. My colleagues, including Harvard

orthopedic surgery resident Aman Luther '07, and I were involved with some of the limb-salvage procedures. Our services included soft tissue reconstruction of large and challenging wounds in the preserved extremities of several victims. In the process, I've also had a chance to meet many of the victims' families, and I'm truly humbled by their attitude and perspective in the face of such an unexpected and life-altering event. Also impressive was the response of the greater community in supporting those who were injured. We had one patient for whom we reconstructed a large wound on his leg using tissue from his arm. Prior to his operation, members of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots personally visited his room. I've never been more proud to be part of the Boston community, or had more faith in its ability to respond to adversity.

Neel Kantak '05

A Battle With Leukemia

Monday, November 26, 2012, was the most emotionally turbulent day of my life. I woke up that morning with a 103-degree fever that had been bothering me since the Friday after Thanksgiving. My pledge brothers Joao Batalha '13 and David Rodriguez '13 had tried to patch me up with steady streams of Ibuprofen and Tylenol to no avail. I got ready for class that Monday, looking to tackle all of the usual things like schoolwork after first stopping by MIT Medical.

I didn't return to Sigma Chi for seven weeks.

I was put in a taxi and sent to Mount Auburn Hospital because my blood work had come back abnormal. I sat in a waiting room wearing a mask for my own protection, growing increasingly worried that something was seriously wrong. I texted many of the brothers and wrote an email out to the chapter after I was told that I would be riding in an ambulance to the emergency room in Beth Israel. I had leukemia.

The response from the chapter was heartfelt and immediate. Brothers scrambled to figure out where I was and how they could help. I received a platelet transfusion before being moved by ambulance again to the

hematology oncology ward at Beth Israel. I was finally admitted well after midnight, and I will never forget what greeted me when I arrived. After the longest of days, my brothers were waiting for me. They had been there for over an hour, taking over the ward in the process. The scene astounded the hospital staff, who wondered just who they were admitting that night. I had to explain to them that I was just a normal guy with a huge, quirky family.

In the days and weeks that followed, even as finals approached, brothers kept me company during the day and stayed overnight. In the midst of bone marrow biopsies, chemotherapy, and weird debilitating side effects, the chapter filled my days with positive energy. They made T-shirts that said "Loochstrong;" busied themselves with decorating my room; brought me snacks, movies, and videogames; lost to me in *FIFA*; helped my mum find her feet when she flew in; brought me Christmas dinner; and Skyped me into both elections and my Consul's party among so many other things. The support I received was boundless. I didn't feel like I was down on my luck. The fact that I live a great life stared back at me everyday.

In the face of adversity, Alpha Theta

displayed the true meaning of brotherhood. I have long since known that being a part of this fraternity was one of the best decisions I have ever made, but my recent experiences put this fact in crystal-clear high-definition. We have something remarkable in Sigma Chi, in this community that we have committed to, full of lifelong connections and the support that endures during the highs and lows.

I am still recovering from acute myeloid leukemia. I have been in remission since the middle of January, and I am now undergoing consolidation chemotherapy to remove any and all trace amounts of cancer. The chapter has continued to support me during this process, and I am forever thankful. I have managed to keep up with school, and I am excited that I'm on course to graduate this spring with my pledge class.

To all my brothers, thank you!

In Hoc,
Paul Uche '13

Brian D. Robertson '96 Memorial Solar Fund

Brian David "BDR" Robertson '96, before his tragic death a little over a year ago, was a leader and pioneer in the solar industry. BDR's passion for solar energy grew out of his commitment to leaving the world a better place for future generations, especially for his children. Brian thought big when trying to tackle problems, and he wanted to harness the power of the sun to help solve the global warming problem.

BDR's vision did not stop with his passing—he continues to inspire others. Brian's wife, Eileen Robertson, and some of BDR's fellow leaders and friends in the solar industry launched a fund in BDR's honor. The Brian D. Robertson Memorial Solar Fund was created to introduce students to solar power by installing a total of 20,000 solar-energy systems in K-12 schools across the nation by 2020. The "20/20 Vision of Solar in America" (TM) will put solar electricity within reach of millions of students across the country—a goal that embodies Brian's belief that education is critical for developing a green-energy economy and strengthening our

nation's future.

The BDR Memorial Solar Fund will work to streamline and aggregate equipment donations from the solar industry and financial contributions from the general public, as well as in-kind labor donations from local solar contractors. It will also help existing organizations across the country, like the Solar Schools Foundation and Grid Alternatives, by granting them access to the donated equipment and products. And it will partner with other organizations that provide teachers and schools with educational resources and curricula to ensure maximum educational impact from each solar donation.

Like Brian, the memorial fund is thinking big, and needs people to help achieve its 20/20 Vision. If you want to help with BDR's vision or are interested in learning more about the Brian D. Robertson Memorial Solar Fund, you can contact Jay Henderson '96 at rhj@alum.mit.edu, or Ken Dinovo '97 at kdinovo@alum.mit.edu.

In Hoc,
Kenneth Dinovo '97

Joining the Movement for Better Public Education

This spring, Alpha Theta partnered with a local tutoring organization, Cambridge School Volunteers, in an effort to give back to the local community and help instill a love for learning. In the past year, the Cambridge Public School Department restructured the district's middle schools and established four new schools. However, this change raised the average enrollment at each school, and consequently there was an increased need for tutors as the students received less individual attention.

With a large thanks to Kasey Appleman, the director of K-8 volunteers, the house rose to the call and was able to register six brothers as tutors at local middle schools. The brothers go on a weekly basis to their respective tutoring centers, providing academic support in a broad range of subjects as one-on-one and large-group tutors. Looking to the future, Alpha Theta is ready to expand this program in the years to come and continue to develop the strong relationship that has already been formed with the local public education system.

In Hoc,
Andrew Liotta '16

\$3.35M Raised So Far Toward \$4M Goal

As pre-construction work for the renovation accelerates, the capital campaign to fund the project continues as well. At the time of publication, the Beacon to the Future campaign has raised an incredible \$3.35 million in cash and pledges from 228 brothers, family, and friends. We thank everyone who has pledged a gift, large or small. Your support is bank-rolling the future of Alpha Theta for the next half-century and beyond.

But the campaign has not yet reached its goal. To fully fund the fifth-floor addition, the five-stop elevator, and myriad work needed to make 532 Beacon Street a first-class living and learning laboratory, we require \$4 million in funds raised, along with \$1 million in long-term debt financing paid by future generations through their house bills. With more than 600 living Alpha Thetas, there are still two-thirds of our brothers who have not yet offered support. Construction begins only months from now, in January 2014. Designs are going out for pricing this July, and a final budget by August is of the utmost importance. **Now is the time to pledge your support.**

Join with your fellow brothers to make 532 Beacon Street the premier house of the FSILG community at MIT.

Pledge your support online at sigmachi.mit.edu/renovation.

Seeking Old Photos of the Chapter House

The renovation committee is seeking photos showing conditions and details of the interior and exterior of the chapter house from the past. In addition to modernizing the house, we also aim to restore the late-Victorian/early-Edwardian splendor, especially in the first floor and library.

We have a few photos from the 1930-'40s, but could use more. Particularly useful would be color photos, especially early-color images.

Photos can be sent to Dan Craig '03 via email at dracraig@alum.mit.edu.

Renovation Preparation Nearing Completion, Construction Slated To Begin January 2014

Planning for the renovation of 532 Beacon Street has been proceeding vigorously in anticipation of construction, which is scheduled for January 2014. The Building Needs Committee, led by Mark Curtiss '87 and Mike Delaus '82, has been meeting biweekly for much of the semester, working through safety, accessibility, operational, and aesthetic design issues. The goal is to have sufficient detailed documents to submit for pricing by July, with value engineering and final details completed by the fall.

Hiring Kevin Maguire, Cornell '90 (and a fellow Sig!), to serve as our owner's representative has provided a jump start to this intensive design phase, bringing a professional's expertise and availability to the all-volunteer team. After laying out an initial budget, the team also hired Sea-Dar Construction to provide pre-construction services initially, and potentially serve as construction manager. Because cost is such an important constraint to the project, our contract with Sea-Dar incentivizes them to keep the committee's design decisions in line with our budget.

In February, just as the pace began to pick up, our long-time architect unexpectedly quit the project. Without delay, Kevin invited two impressive firms to interview, and the team selected LDa Architects of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Without a doubt, hiring LDa has been one of the best decisions the committee has made. The creativity and energy brought by the LDa team has contributed greatly to the overall progress and made design changes we thought would be impossible possible.

The most significant change to the design is the location of the elevator, which will now occupy the shaft currently housing the back stairs instead of the column above and below the mail room, and it will extend all the way to the fourth floor instead of stopping at the second floor. The elevator is required to meet accessibility standards, and moving the elevator to the back stairs frees up significant space on the lower floors. With the addition of standpipes and hidden fire doors, the main stair is now sufficient to serve as the fire stair. The basement will be accessible via a new stair constructed under the main stair.

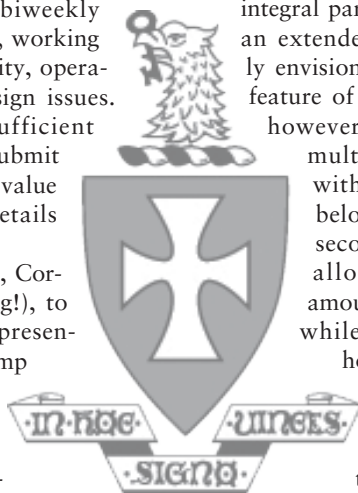
Having the elevator service floors 0-4 will not only make moving in and out, taking out the trash, and cleaning the house easier, but will also make the entire building handicap accessible.

The fifth-floor addition remains an integral part of the design, serviced by an extended main stair as previously envisioned to preserve this central feature of the house. The bedrooms, however, will now technically be multi-floor suites, connecting with internal stairs to rooms below on the fourth floor for secondary egress. This design allows us to maximize the amount of new bedroom space, while still keeping the entire house accessible.

With these main design elements in place, the committee has been hard at work on every element of the building: HVAC, electrical, energy efficiency, windows, bathrooms, kitchen, dining room and server, laundry, storage, waste management, furnishings, and more. The fall issue of the *Beaver Sig* will contain detailed descriptions, plans, and renderings, which will also be posted at <http://sigmachi.mit.edu/renovation>.

At the same time, the chapter has begun preparations for vacating the house for the first time in 95 years during the spring term of 2014 and through the summer. Work Week manager and renovation committee member Tom Altmann '15 is planning an extensive clean out and cataloging of chapter possessions. Herb Mower '65 ('82) has also volunteered to help coordinate the relocation of the actives during construction. The actives are justifiably uneasy about being scattered among the dorms or in apartments, so we are exploring the possibility of renting a block of apartments or an annex from another fraternity. Regardless of where brothers end up, the institute has offered to help arrange space on campus for meetings and events so that the business of the chapter can continue unimpeded. We are thrilled to be making such significant progress with the building plans and look forward to keeping you updated as the project moves toward construction.

Visit <http://sigmachi.mit.edu/renovation> to keep up with the latest news and details as this incredible project continues.



“We must learn to lift as we climb.”

I had heard these words long before coming to MIT, but never really thought much of them. It was not until my freshman year, after joining Sigma Chi, that they started to make sense. After spending every Thursday night at the house learning 7.012 from Paul Uche '13, and on one occasion, learning the entire 3.091 syllabus from Michael Gibson '13, on the night before the final, the concept started to become clearer to me.

My first year as a brother in Sigma Chi gave meaning to these words, and taught me the importance of empowering those who come after me. With this in mind, I became determined to do something to empower the kids in my home country, Nigeria, and at the beginning of my sophomore year, teamed up with a group of friends here at MIT to create the Exposure Robotics League (XRL).

XRL is a summer program that aims to teach kids in Nigeria how to think critically by immersing them into the world of robotics. We introduced this as a response to the lack of emphasis that Nigeria's educational system places on creative thinking and problem-solving skills. Students, instead,

go through cycles of cramming and regurgitation of information, which we believe is no way to learn.

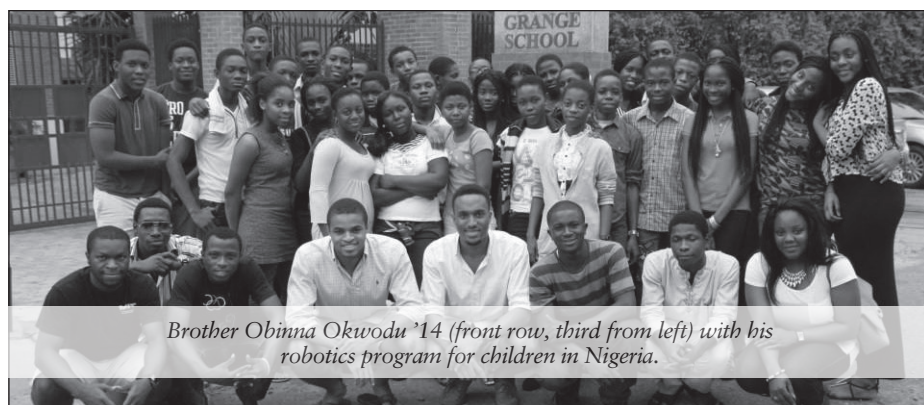
The pilot program ran in the summer of 2012, and we were fortunate enough to host a total of 35 kids, many of whom had never used a computer before. Over a five-week period, we taught them to write intelligent code and manipulate robots to perform complex tasks; by the end of the program, all 35 kids could do just that. So much so, that they were able to demonstrate these skills to more than 100 spectators, including family and friends.

Last year was a success, and we are looking forward to running an even better program this summer.

I believe that XRL is just one of the many indicators of the depth of the Sigma Chi brotherhood. The ability for us to come together from vastly different backgrounds, with different temperaments, talents, and convictions, and inspire one another to do awesome things such as this is one of the many reasons the brotherhood has, and will always, remain strong.

In Hoc,

Obinna Okwodu '14



Brother Obinna Okwodu '14 (front row, third from left) with his robotics program for children in Nigeria.

Alpha Theta Receives Honorable Mention for Alumni Relations Award

Alpha Theta received an Honorable Mention for this year's D. Reid Wheedon Jr. '41 Alumni Relations Award. The Wheedon Award was established by Mr. Wheedon, an alumnus of Phi Beta Epsilon Fraternity, to encourage Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group (FSILG) student outreach to the alumni at the institute. The award is given to the FSILG that has demonstrated the greatest effort in alumni relations for the academic year.

The selection committee was impressed with the chapter's great turnout for the 130th Reunion, and with the collaboration between

students and alumni that made the event possible. Also noted were the entrepreneurial focus of the chapter, alumni career nights hosted by Karl Büttner '87, and the work of the chapter alongside Paul Shay '98 to raise awareness of issues of sexuality and to eliminate derogatory and hateful speech.

Alpha Chi Omega received first place, Chi Phi received second place, and Sigma Chi and Kappa Sigma received honorable mentions. The chapter was awarded \$1,000.

In Hoc,

George Hartoularos '15

Crossroads Closes Its Doors

Crossroads Irish Pub, a staple of MIT and nearby college life for over a quarter-century, closed its doors on April 20, 2013. No word yet on what will become of the space. Scans of the Crossroads annual photos, featuring many Sigs over the years, will soon be available at <http://crossroadsirishpubboston.com>.

Fall Consul's Report

Brothers:

I am pleased to report on a great fall 2012 semester here at Alpha Theta Sigma Chi. The chapter started the year in strong fashion with a well-planned recruitment process coordinated by Rush Chair Kevin Lang '13. We had the honor of welcoming nine young men into both our pledge program and brotherhood under the tutelage of Magister David Christoff '14.

Alpha Theta continued to strengthen its connections within the North Atlantic Province again hosting our annual Province Conference. The event was attended by close to 100 Sigma Chis, and was both a learning experience and demonstration of the far-reaching nature of brotherhood. Stemming from Province Conference, the chapter was excited to help install the colony at the University of New Hampshire.

In addition, the chapter has maintained a well-rounded presence in our immediate community. Brothers play prominent roles on MIT's hockey, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball, rugby, sailing, and crew teams. Several brothers were active in the Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program as well, and an Alpha Theta once again served as the Student Leader of the MIT Gordon Engineering Leadership Program.

We have kept up our strong social traditions as well, such as hosting Wednesday Night Tea every week, and the chapter as a whole celebrated a memorable Sweetheart Formal in recognition of Alyssa Musket (Simmons '14).

I am proud to have been the Consul this past fall. The energy in the chapter is high with leaders emerging throughout. We look forward to the future, one that includes an exciting renovation, and much tinkering in the time beforehand.

In Hoc,

Paul Uche '13

Brother's Experience Running the Marathon

(continued from page two)

rib cage. She couldn't stop sobbing.

An hour after the two explosions, I nervously stepped out of the apartment. I took back alleys all the way home to 532 Beacon Street, curving large loops around each trashcan I passed. When I rounded the corner of Mass Ave and Beacon, I saw a huge crowd in front of our house. Patrick Vatterott '13 and Nik Albarran '15 stopped each person who was walking down Beacon Street. They offered burgers, hot dogs, water, phone chargers, Wi-Fi, and bathrooms. Tom Altmann '15 and Brad Eckert '15 manned the grill. Other brothers refilled water coolers, brought people inside for warmth and to queue for the bathroom, and comforted runners who were brought to a halt at mile 23.

Our brothers conducted themselves in such a way that day that they will forever be a credit to our fraternity, our school, our city, our country, and our world. I have never felt more proud to be an Alpha Theta Sigma Chi as I watched my brothers assist fellow humans in a time of great sorrow and need. I am grateful to my brothers for showing me what compassion truly looks like, and for showing me how leaders react in the face of terror and adversity. Our brothers are heroes. Although they are not asking for it, they deserve recognition for the way they responded with love, empathy, and courage to the shocking tragedy this fateful Marathon Monday brought.

Gabe Blanchet '13

James Reed 1907 & the Golden Gate Bridge

Last fall, I received an unexpected email from Erin Reed, great-granddaughter of James Reed 1907. Erin happened upon a mention of her great-grandfather on the chapter website, where he is listed among our notable alumni for his role in the construction of San Francisco's iconic Golden Gate Bridge. Erin was kind enough to share some memorabilia she had inherited that shed more light on this Alpha Theta great.

James Reed Jr. was born in Ashtabula, Ohio, on October 29, 1880. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1902 and cruised on the battleships Alabama and Scorpion before being detailed to the Navy's Construction Corps. It was in that capacity that he was sent to MIT in September 1904 for a master's degree in Course 13, then known as Naval Architecture, which he completed in 1907. MIT was a much smaller place at that time. Reed was one of only 15 students to receive a master's degree that year. Upon his arrival at the institute, he pledged the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi, and he was initiated on October 21, 1904. In spring 1907, shortly before completing his studies, he married his sweetheart, Laura Maltby of Jamestown, New York.

Following his graduation from MIT, Lieutenant Reed served at the Philadelphia, Puget Sound, and Mare Island Navy Yards, specializing in management and labor problems. For two years, while on special leave of absence, he acted as assistant director of Public Works for the City of Philadelphia, helping Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg reform the department.

Reed resigned from the Navy in 1920 and managed various California corporations until his appointment as general manager of the newly-formed Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District in 1933. Construction of the bridge began on January 5, 1933, and was completed ahead of schedule in April 1937 for a total cost of \$35 million. The bridge opened for public use on May 27, 1937.

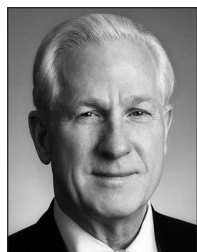
In 1937, Reed left the Golden Gate Bridge District, serving as a consulting professor at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, before returning east in 1941 to manage Cramp Shipbuilding in Philadelphia. Sadly, he only held that job for a few months before dying suddenly on July 23, 1941, leaving behind his wife, Laura, and two sons, James and Edward.

Shortly after the completion of the Golden Gate Bridge, his son, James, wrote to his father, "You should be very proud of it, Dad. Mother and I are. The millions who live merely leave a short memory; only to a few comes the reward of a lasting memorial—a memorial in the form of a new thought or better facility for others to employ. The bridge will continue to serve, and represent the conquest of thought and effort over opposing forces of both men and nature, long after those who made it possible have finished their work."

James Reed, like many Alpha Thetas before him and since, left a lasting impact on our world. May we all be inspired to follow in his footsteps and emulate his success.

Dan Craig '03

Doug Bailey '72 Honored With MITAA's Bronze Beaver Award



Doug Bailey '72 was awarded the MIT Alumni Association's highest honor, the Bronze Beaver Award, at the 2012 Alumni Leadership Conference. The award is given in recognition of distinguished service to the alumni association and the institute by alumni who have participated in most or all phases of alumni activity and who have been outstanding in at least one phase.

In addition to his service to the institute and the alumni association, Doug also sits on the Alpha Theta House Corporation board of directors, and is chairman and a lead donor of the capital campaign for the

renovation of 532 Beacon Street.

From the full award commendation:

"For the past 30 years, Doug's volunteer leadership and his passion for MIT have created a tangible impact on the institute. Doug led his classmates through two record-breaking Reunion gift campaigns (his 30th and 35th) and recently co-chaired his 40th Reunion gift committee. Under his leadership, the committee created the Class of 1972 President's Discretionary Fund, which is the first class-project geared solely toward raising unrestricted support. Doug has collaborated with staff as goals committee chair and annual fund board chair, where he focused on the graduate alumni community and encouraged a deeper emphasis on unrestricted support. He also served as the senior gift challenger in the record-setting Class of 2011 Senior Gift

Campaign, where Doug's ability to inspire students played an integral role in the class's fundraising success. He maintains a strong relationship with his fraternity, Sigma Chi, and he was a key fundraiser during its \$5 million capital campaign. Since 1998, Doug has been a member of the Corporation Development Committee (CDC) and currently serves as chair for the CDC's Metro New York region. In recognition of his fundraising efforts, he received the Henry B. Kane '24 Award and the CDC's Marshall B. Dalton '15 Award. The Bronze Beaver recognizes Doug's many years of distinguished service as a volunteer leader, an important collaborator, and an inspiring mentor to MIT students."

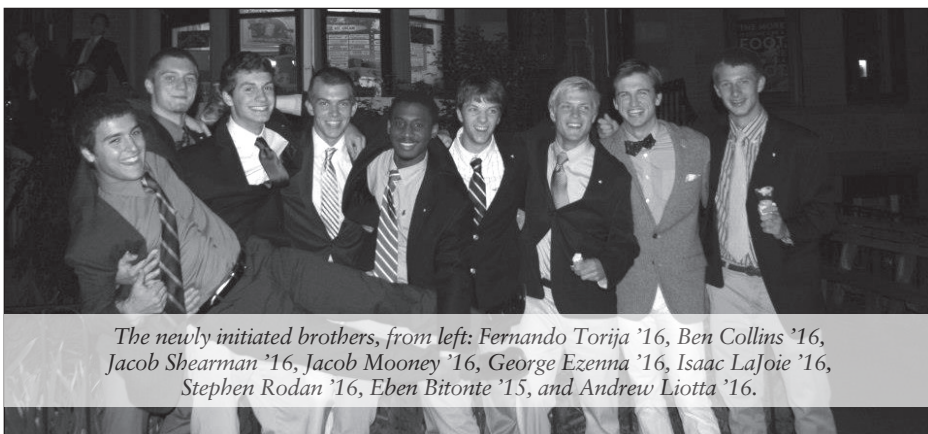
For the complete list of ALC award recipients, please visit <http://alum.mit.edu/pages/alc/award-winners/>.

Sigma Chi Adopts New I-Week Traditions

After a successful Rush this fall, Alpha Theta brought nine new pledges of different temperaments, talents, and convictions into the fold. The pledges were initiated this past February during Winter Storm Nemo.

As always, the Magister program's utmost priority was instilling the ideals of Sigma Chi brotherhood in the pledges, in addition to integrating them into the house and allowing them to feel truly at home at 532 Beacon Street. This year, a special emphasis was placed on personal interaction with the pledges, and my assistant Magister and I met with each pledge individually on multiple occasions throughout the semester to personally reinforce the teachings of Sigma Chi.

The Magister program benefited from additional support through a burgeoning Sigma Chi International pledge program that actively seeks to standardize pledgship between the chapters. Learning tools and



The newly initiated brothers, from left: Fernando Torija '16, Ben Collins '16, Jacob Shearman '16, Jacob Mooney '16, George Ezenna '16, Isaac LaJoie '16, Stephen Rodan '16, Eben Bitonte '15, and Andrew Liotta '16.

activities that were previously inaccessible to our chapter were brought right to our doorstep, and the new material greatly augmented our already fantastic house traditions.

This effect was best witnessed during our revamped I-Week. After long discussions with different alumni and longer hours of planning, the chapter voted to adopt a new form of I-Week this year that would maintain our long-standing traditions and incorporate activities and reading material of significant meaning, all with direct influence from the new provisions of the International Fraternity. I'm happy to say that, other than a blizzard, communication issues with the Kappa Eta

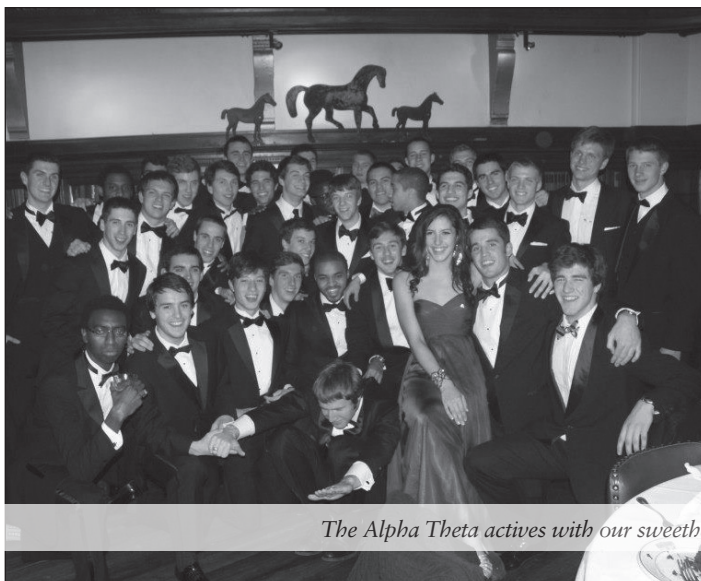
Chapter, a pledge suffering an athletics concussion, another falling ill, and our Consul contracting leukemia, things went off without a hitch. A development plan and instructions for the future Magisters will allow future Sigma Chis to build off of this year to improve upon the new events, so they may, too, become tradition.

Overall, the chapter could not be more proud of Jake Mooney '16, Eben Bitonte '15, Jacob Shearman '16, George Ezenna '16, Benjamin Collins '16, Isaac LaJoie '16, Stephen Rodan '16, Fernando Torija '16, and Andrew Liotta '16. The 2016s have already assumed major involvement in the house, including positions such as community relations chairs, chapter editor, social chair, UA and Corporate Board Representatives, and, of course, Kustos. They will serve the chapter well for years to come.

In Hoc,
David Christoff '14
Magister Emeritus



NIBs at the initiation party, from left: Isaac LaJoie '16, Stephen Rodan '16, Ben Collins '16, and Jacob Mooney '16.



The Alpha Theta actives with our sweetheart, Alyssa Muket (Simmons College '13).

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



Thomas L. Bell Jr. '47 misses his Sig brothers, **Ted Davis '47** and **Milo Wilson '44**, who joined Chapter Eternal in 2012. Get in touch with Thomas by writing to 3482 W. Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO 80236; joto3482@yahoo.com.

Austin F. Marx '49 is enjoying life in California, with his wife, Ruth, whom he met on a jazz cruise to Hawaii—he asked her to dance—six years ago. He also sees a bit of fellow Alpha Theta **George Hossfeld '48** and his wife, Mary Jo, who live in a nearby retirement home. Reconnect with Austin via email at amarxa@netscape.net.

“I have long been interested in the cause of gravitation, which is not well understood,” writes **David V. Stallard '49**. “This past April 15, I was fortunate to be the lead speaker in Session T10, ‘New Directions in Gravitational Physics,’ at the April meeting of the American Physical Society in Denver. My paper was titled, ‘A Proposed Model of Ordinary Gravitation,’ where ‘ordinary’ means far from a black hole. It attempts to explain the cause of gravitation in terms of graviton particles originating in dark matter, which is about seven times as plentiful as visible matter in our galaxy. The paper is certainly not complete or generally accepted, but I hope it is a contribution.” Write to David at 59 Heather Ln., Stow, MA 01775; or send email to dstallard@mindspring.com.

Raymond W. Sauer Jr. '53 is still alive and kicking at 82! He shot his first hole-in-one last summer and is considering joining the senior PGA tour. Send congratulations to 506 Wedgewood Ln., Canonsburg, PA 15317; hfrwsauer@onepostal.com.

“After another year at the Chemical Engineering Practice School in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and two years earning an MBA at Harvard Business School, my career spanned 37 years with three companies—Heyden Newport, Mobil Chemical,

and Olin Corporation,” reports **Robert F. Smith '58**. “My wife, Barbara, and I have been retired now for 13 years, living at The Landings in Savannah, Georgia. We’re enjoying the warm weather, golf, swimming, cycling, and volunteering. Our two sons, Daryl and Duane, still live in the northeast with their families, including our two grandsons, Brian and Charles, and our two granddaughters, Taylor and Keira.” Catch up with Bob by sending postal mail to 10 Cattail Ct., Savannah, GA 31411; or by sending email to smithrobertf@comcast.net.

Herbert W. Mower '65 retired on March 5, 2013, after 41 years as a medical physicist, and he will be moving to Charlton, Massachusetts. He is still active with the chapter as risk manager. Send congratulations to Herb via email at mover@alum.mit.edu.

Sherret O. Walker '93 wrote to us in October 2012: “I’m still celebrating my May 2012 graduation from the School of Law at Santa Clara University. I live in the San Francisco Bay Area with my wife, Monica, and children, Abigail (6) and Isaiah (1).” Keep in touch with him via email at buznaaka@yahoo.com. If you send him your address, they will mail you their annual holiday card!

“I’m a composite structures aficionado, working hands-on to earn an advanced degree in thermoplastics in the school of OJT University,” reported **Dustin L. DeQuine '01**. Stay in touch via his new address: P.O. Box 156, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602.

“My wife, April (Sweetheart '03), and I welcomed our second baby, Benjamin Daniel, on April 30, 2012,” writes **Matthew C. Sither '04**. “Everyone is healthy and happy. Lily (now 2) is an amazing big sister!” Send congratulations to the Sithers at 36 Barnstable St., Swampscott, MA 01907; sither@mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

Howard V. Shipley '23
August 6, 2012

Richard D. Gerges '40
November 9, 2012

Franklin E. Penn '40
January 9, 2013

Benjamin Parran '43
November 5, 2012

Stephen J. Knight '44
August 5, 2012

Winchell T. Hayward '46
October 2, 2012

Roy W. Simm '48
November 9, 2012

Gordon D. Shingleton '49
June 7, 2013

Forest C. Monkman '51
April 5, 2013

John A. Morefield '56
December 10, 2012

Owen C. Schlaug '58
April 5, 2013

Barton Sensenig '58
August 31, 2012

Thomas G. Unger '70
April 5, 2013

How Can We Email You?

Please visit the alumni section of the Alpha Theta website to make sure we have your most recent email address: <http://sigmachim.mit.edu/alumni>.

The Beaver Sig is published regularly by the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at MIT for its friends and members. News should be sent to Alumni Records Office, Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity Inc., P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.

