

# THE BEAVER SIG

*Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity*



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

JUNE 2014

## Renovation of 532 Beacon Street Is Underway!

Fifteen years ago, the house corporation set out to create a first-class living and learning environment for the next 50 years of Alpha Thetas. We considered many options, including selling the house and building new, but the consensus from actives and alumni was to renovate and restore the building that had been our home at 532 Beacon Street since 1919. Bursting tech bubbles, wars, and the Great Recession delayed the project, but it is finally happening.

The Monday following fall-semester final exams, we turned over the house to

Sea-Dar Construction. The undergraduates, led by relocation coordinator Jake Mooney '16, did an excellent job vacating the building and left it in exquisite condition for our contractors. Meanwhile, the Building Committee, led by Mark Curtiss '87 and Mike Delaus '82, devoted numerous late-night meetings throughout 2013 with Sea-Dar and the team at LDa Architecture and Interiors finalizing the design, all under the guidance of our owner's representative, Kevin Maguire (Cornell '90). This entire project was made possible

by the tremendous work of the Capital Campaign Committee, chaired by Doug Bailey '72 and Karl Büttner '87, and the generous support from hundreds of Alpha Theta alumni, family, and friends.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, money, and effort into this project. We are thrilled to see it all finally come together and look forward to sharing with you all the new 532 Beacon Street.

*In hoc,*

Dan Craig '03

House Corporation President

SEE PHOTO SPREAD ON PAGES TWO & THREE!

## Consul's Report: Looking Forward

Brothers, it gives me great pleasure to report the successful conclusion of another fall semester at Alpha Theta. Our chapter began the semester with an excellent successful recruitment, organized by Rush Chair David Christoff '14. This fall, we welcomed 13 young men into the pledge program run by Magister Andrew Busse '15.

Alpha Theta once again participated in the North Atlantic Province Conference, providing housing to brothers from the Gamma Rho and Rho Rho Chapters, and attending events hosted at nearby Bentley University. Our chapter also had the honor of installing the Lambda Upsilon Chapter at Bentley. For our work in the installation, we received a commendation from the Sigma Chi Grand Consul Michael Greenberg.

On campus, Alpha Theta has continued to maintain our well-rounded presence in the community. Brothers play strong roles in the varsity soccer, lacrosse, baseball, crew, hockey, and track and field teams. Continuing the tradition from last year, several brothers participated in the Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program. Additionally, a pilot program to tutor at Cambridge School Volunteers, led by Andrew Liotta '16 and Jacob

Mooney '16, showed exciting promise in the fall.

Although the entire MIT Greek community faced difficult temporary restrictions imposed on assembly occupancy by Boston Inspectional Services Division, Alpha Theta continued to keep up our social traditions, hosting reduced capacity teas on Wednesday nights. The chapter celebrated Sweetheart Ball on November 23 at the Hampshire House in Boston, in honor of Sweetheart Bari Rosenberg (MIT '14). Austin Gromatzky '15, who maintains a two-year streak as Sweetheart chair and will once again organize Sweetheart next year, flawlessly organized the ball.

Fall 2013 was an exciting time for the chapter internally, as the much-anticipated renovation began. Brothers under the direction of Jacob Mooney '16 cleared and prepared the house for Sea-Dar Construction to move in on December 23. As I write this, crews are busy bringing our beloved chapter house into the 21st Century, with exciting features such as an elevator and an



added fifth story. The undergraduates have all found housing either on campus or in apartments together.

I am proud to have been the Consul for fall 2013. Leading the chapter was an exciting learning experience for me, and I am glad to have given back to Alpha Theta in some way. The energy in the chapter is high now, and we continue to be blessed with strong leaders. We look forward to the future, one that includes a new house, and another great year for Alpha Theta.

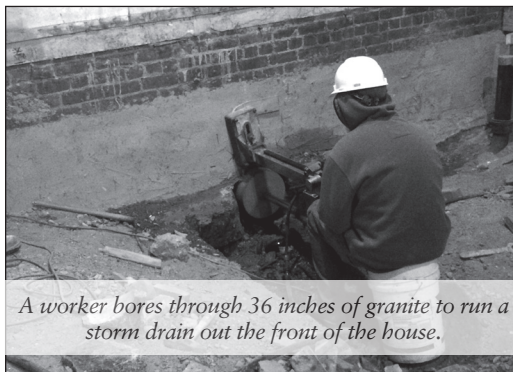
*In hoc,*

Thomas Altmann '15

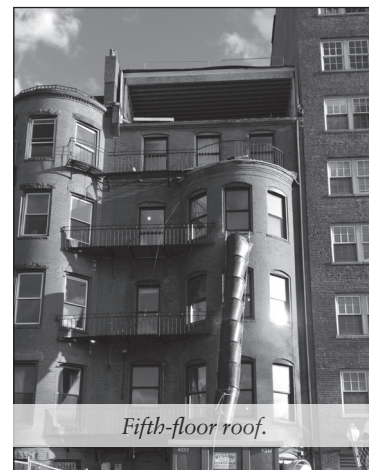




*4LF and 4SF after demolition.*



*A worker bores through 36 inches of granite to run a storm drain out the front of the house.*



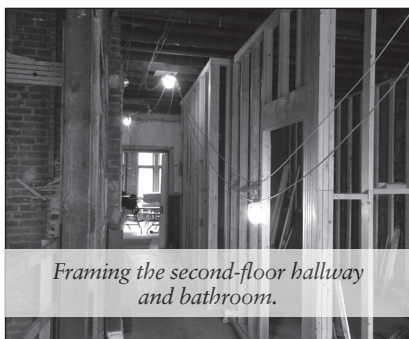
*Fifth-floor roof.*



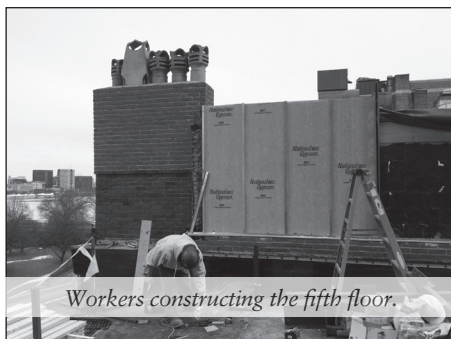
*Floor joists under the kitchen.*



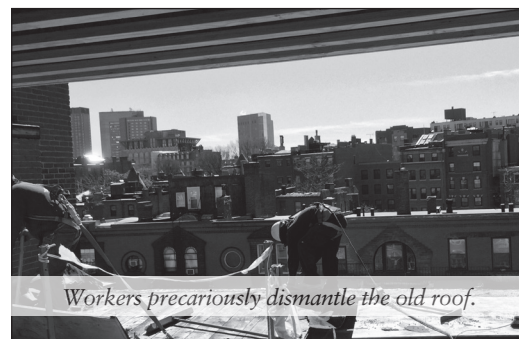
*Subbasement trench.*



*Framing the second-floor hallway and bathroom.*



*Workers constructing the fifth floor.*



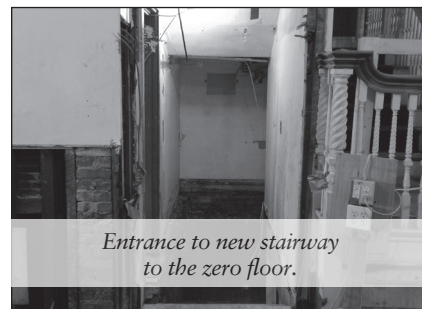
*Workers precariously dismantle the old roof.*



*Actives and alumni on a biweekly site tour.*



*Bob's Bar.*



*Entrance to new stairway to the zero floor.*

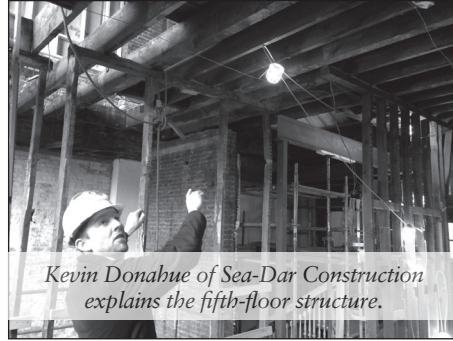


*5 large back*





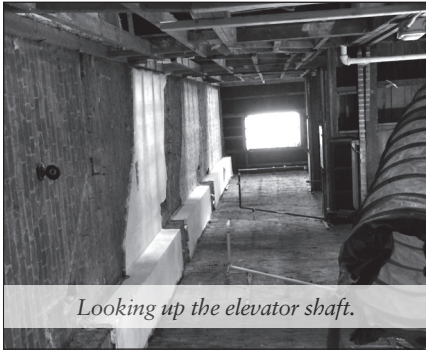
*HVAC duct work.*



*Kevin Donahue of Sea-Dar Construction explains the fifth-floor structure.*



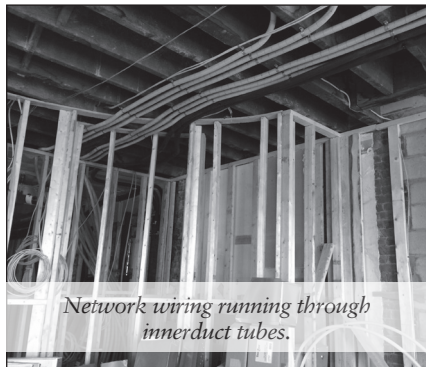
*Library wall.*



*Looking up the elevator shaft.*



*Zero floor hall.*



*Network wiring running through innerduct tubes.*



*New and old skylights.*



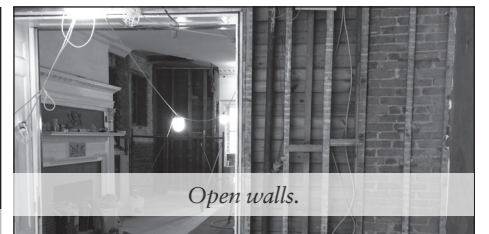
*Fifth-floor steel under the old roof.*



*The library as site office.*



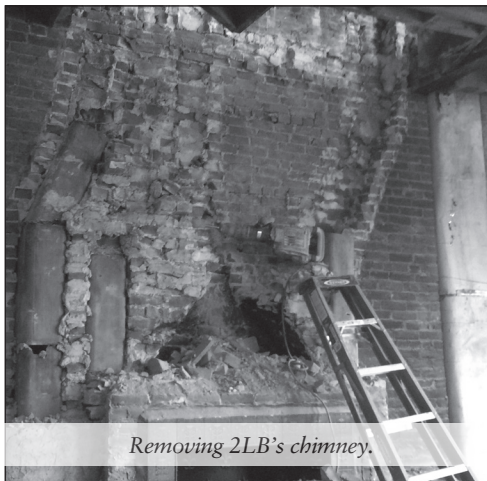
*New stairs to the first floor through the old boiler room.*



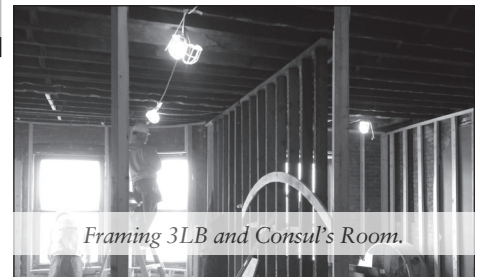
*Open walls.*



*Removed chimney in 3LF.*



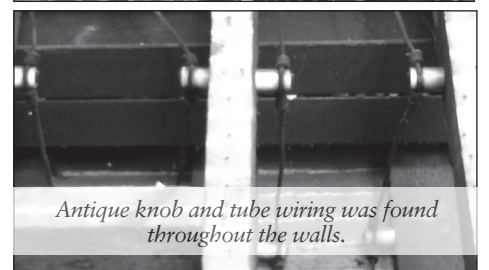
*Removing 2LB's chimney.*



*Framing 3LB and Consul's Room.*



*Music room.*



*Antique knob and tube wiring was found throughout the walls.*



## Visit the Construction Site

If you are in the Boston area, you are welcome to join the Building Committee on a tour of the construction site. Tours are held every other Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Contact Dan Craig '03 via email at [dracraig@alum.mit.edu](mailto:dracraig@alum.mit.edu) for details.

## Construction Status as of April

- Fifth-floor framing is in place and the new roof has been constructed
- Elevator shaft steel frame is in place
- Internal rough framing throughout is complete
- Rough-in for mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC is in progress
- Subbasement slab is poured and new zero floor joists are hung
- New staircase connecting zero and first floors is roughed-in
- Groundwater recharge tank is installed under the back lot

## Follow Renovation Progress Online

See photos, video, and more at [sigmach.mit.edu/renovation/updates](http://sigmach.mit.edu/renovation/updates). You can even watch progress in realtime on our webcams at [sigmach.mit.edu/renovation/cam](http://sigmach.mit.edu/renovation/cam). You can also see photos and videos by following us on Facebook; search for "Alpha Theta Sigma Chi Inc."

## We Still Need Your Support!

The renovation may be underway, but we have yet to meet the \$4 million fundraising goal. If you have not yet done so, make your pledge now to ensure your place on the honor roll of donors, which will be cast in bronze on the dedication plaque. If you have already pledged, consider increasing or extending your pledge to put your name next to your most generous and dedicated brothers. Any pledge that you can make now, for a contribution that you can make over the next five years, will directly support the renovation project. *Your support is vital to keeping Alpha Theta affordable for our diverse membership.*

## Detailed Overview of Our Renovation

Since the inception of this renovation, its high-level goals have been:

• **Dedworing the Bedrooms:** With freshmen living on campus and the current generation of students growing up in larger homes, having the smallest square footage per person would be a detriment to recruitment.

• **All New Systems:** All of the infrastructure of the house—electrical, plumbing, lighting, heating, bathrooms, kitchen, etc.—was at or beyond its useful life. We are installing modern systems for high reliability, maintainability, and energy efficiency.

• **Restoration of Historic Spaces:** Often renovations of this magnitude end up gutting the interior. But 532 is a beautiful home, and we want to preserve and restore the historic spaces so they are recognizable across generations.

• **Life Safety Improvements:** We want to bring the building up to modern standards to protect our brothers, guests, and the first responders who come to our aid in an emergency.

• **Accessibility:** We need to meet requirements set by ADA and state regulations, and to serve our disabled brothers, family, and friends.

Out of these goals came the major design elements:

### FIFTH-FLOOR ADDITION

Inspired by Phi Kappa Sigma's addition to 530 Beacon Street in 1999, we are building a fifth floor with two large bedrooms capable of sleeping a total of seven residents. With those additional beds, previous quads can become triples and triples can become doubles, but the total number of beds remains at our licensed capacity of 32.

### EXTENDING THE MAIN STAIR

Unlike Phi Kappa Sigma, our fifth-floor addition includes extending the main stair and preserving the skylight over it. We sacrificed potential space on the fifth floor, but felt that the openness of the stairs, natural light, and ease of communication between floors was fundamental to life at 532.

### FIFTH-FLOOR SETBACK

Boston's Back Bay is a historic district and building modifications must conform to the requirements of the Back Bay Architectural Commission. Additions like ours may be built, but they must be set back so they are invisible from the sidewalk across the street. The rule of thumb adopted by the BBAC is that the additions must be setback behind the forward-most chimney, which is why our addition is set

back further than 530. We were, however, able to convince the BBAC to allow the rear of the fifth floor to extend all the way to the facade provided that we enclosed the rooftop mechanical equipment. The result is a clean facade on both sides of the building without the noise and eyesore of chillers and condensers.

### BEDROOMS

The fifth floor will consist of two large bedrooms, 5 Large Front and 5 Large Back, following the traditional naming convention. 5LB and 5LF will be the only remaining quads in the house, but given their size and views (especially 5LB's spectacular river view), they will likely be the most desirable rooms in the house.

While the second- and third-floor bedrooms will mostly retain their blueprints, the fourth-floor bedrooms will be reconfigured. 4LB and 4MB will be reconstituted into a new, full-sized 4LB. 4LF and 4SF will swap positions, with the new 4SF becoming the single for the graduate resident adviser. The new 4LF and 4LB will connect internally with 5LF and 5LB, respectively, providing the second means of egress from the fifth-floor rooms. These 4LF/5LF and 4LB/5LB suites will give their occupants the interesting possibility of sleeping everyone in one room and using the other as common space, or simply treating them as traditional separate bedrooms.

The second- and third-floor bedrooms will remain largely the same. 3LB will see the most noticeable change with the restoration of its unique oval shape. All of the bedrooms will be refurbished with new desks, wardrobes, and bunkable beds with full-size mattresses. The city no longer allows built-in lofts, so all of the bedroom furniture will be free standing.

### RESTORATION OF COMMON AREAS

The common spaces on the first and second floors are being restored and will retain their existing configurations. On the surface, the library will look largely the same, but with significant enhancements within the walls. Sprinkler pipes will be embedded in the walls, new lighting will be installed in the coffers, and heating and air conditioning will be provided. We are particularly proud to announce that the pocket doors to the library will remain in place. Pocket doors pose a challenge to modern fire codes, but our architects devised an ingenious solution using a hidden fire door embedded in the wall. When the fire alarm sounds, the door will slide across the entryway, sealing the room from potential smoke and hazard.

*(continued on page six)*

## Alpha Theta Makes Significant Impact

My primary goal when taking over the role of community relations representative was to push the Alpha Theta Chapter to make a significant impact in at least one large-scale community service event. I believe we achieved this through our involvement with Relay for Life at MIT. We managed to surpass our original fundraising goal of \$1,000 by raising a grand total of \$2,040 for the Sigma Chi team.

Relay for Life is the most successful fundraiser and the signature event for the American Cancer Society. More than 5,000 Relay for Life events occur annually in more than 20 countries, and we are fortunate enough to have one take place on our campus. I have long been a supporter of the American Cancer Society and their work, and I thought the Alpha Theta Chapter had a great opportunity to make its mark on this event.

The actual Relay began at 6:00 p.m. on March 8 and ended at 5:00 a.m. on March 9. As a chapter, we had nearly 20 brothers walking around the track and taking part in activities for a majority of the night.

This event was especially important in

honoring one of our recent alumni, Paul Uche '13. Paul was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia and is currently receiving treatment in Toronto, Ontario. Around midnight, the Luminara event took place, during which each participant at the Relay received a glow stick. Participants were then allowed to place these sticks in a communal transparent container, or in paper bags that lined the track. Each of these bags were decorated in honor of someone who was fighting cancer, and a few members of our chapter decorated a bag in honor of Uche.

It was a night of emotional highs and lows, as we honored our loved ones who have battled cancer. It was truly an honor to be the community relations representative and see how great of an impact our chapter could make. I know Sigma Chi can continue to have this level of influence in our community for the remainder of the semester and for the years to come.

*In Hoc,  
Perry Ha '17*

## Magister Pleased to Announce 13 New Brothers!

After a successful Rush this fall, Alpha Theta welcomed 13 new pledges of different temperaments, talents, and convictions into the fold. The pledges were initiated the first week of December 2013.

Similar to past years, the Magister program prioritized teaching the pledges about the history and ideals of Alpha Theta and Sigma Chi Fraternity. In addition to the standard teachings, there was a special emphasis on personal responsibility and accountability. Beyond the weekly group meetings with the Magister, mid-semester personal meetings were conducted with each of the pledges to reinforce the teachings of the fraternity and to check up on their well-being. Personal responsibility was at the forefront of group discussions—each lesson related to how one's contribution can have an impact on the brotherhood. These discussions aimed to help integrate the pledges into the house and allow them to feel truly at home at 532 Beacon Street.

This year's program utilized the online learning tools and activities that were recently engineered by Sigma Chi headquarters. This new material was a compliment to the already fantastic house traditions.

For the first time in recent history, I-Week took place during the first semester of the school year. The reasoning behind this decision came with the desire to perform the ceremonies of initiation in 532 Beacon Street before it was closed for renovations. Using



the new form of I-Week from last year as a baseline, there were slight alterations to this year's schedule to account for the conflicts of a school week. The week maintained our long-standing traditions and incorporated activities and reading material of significant meaning, all with direct influence from the new provisions of the international fraternity.

Overall, the chapter could not be more proud of Matthew Kalinowski, Tyler Finckelstein, Martin Krasuski, David Sherwood, Thomas Cowan, Dominic Hansford, Alexander McCullumsmith, Matthew de la Ossa, Perry Ha, Henry Merrow, Keith Galli, Kareem Itani, and Gaga Attah. The 2017s have already assumed major involvement in the house, including positions such as historian, chapter editor, community relations, UA and corporate board representatives, and, of course, Kustos. They will serve the chapter well for years to come.

*In Hoc,  
Andrew Busse '15*



## About the IRDF

The Institute Residence Development Fund is a special MIT endowment fund that offers targeted grants and low interest loans to help FSILGs acquire, maintain, and improve their properties, make their houses accessible to students with disabilities, and weather continuing financial challenges. Gifts to the IRDF are tax deductible.

The IRDF offers three kinds of direct funding assistance for FSILGs: construction loans, educational project grants, and educational operating grants. In addition, the IRDF periodically supports FSILG community-wide initiatives such as the alumni-run Safety, Licensing, and Inspection program.

The IRDF was established on February 14, 1964, and is entering its 50th year of serving our FSILGs. A day of celebration was held on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at MIT.

## About the SPGH

The Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation chartered to educate the public about the historical and architectural significance of fraternity and sorority houses, and to preserve and document the unique architecture of these houses. Originally formed at the University of Illinois in 1988, the SPGH provides the ability to raise tax-deductible funds and provide grants for the preservation and renovation of chapter houses on the National Register of Historic Places or residing in historic districts like Boston's Back Bay. Grants can cover health and safety code requirements, major structural rehabilitation or restoration, and interior or exterior rehabilitation or restoration.

## Crossroads Reopens!

After closing last spring, Crossroads Irish Pub reopened under new ownership in January 2014. MIT students and alumni once again have a local watering hole to enjoy a drink and buffalo wings.

## Detailed Overview of Our Renovation

*(continued from page four)*

A swing-out door built into the sliding fire door provides the means for exiting the library into the stairway.

The first-floor foyer will mostly look the same, anchored by the grand fireplace. The mail room has been removed and in its place will sit a buffet table and the dinner bells. The elevator will occupy the former back stairs, so a new stairway will descend underneath the main stair from an opening where a side bench once sat.

The dining room will be unchanged except for new light fixtures, windows, and restored stained glass. The traditional tables will be surrounded by a full complement of 40 new, solid oak Sigma Chi chairs. The serving room, though, is being completely overhauled for improved dinner service and to act as a breakfast bar.

In recent memory, the music room has been underutilized, so much work is going into making it more comfortable and inviting. It will still house a grand piano and other musical instruments, but instead of a pool table it will be furnished with a rug and comfortable seating and will serve as the primary television room instead of the library.

The zero floor will undergo significant change but will still be recognizable. The bar will remain the bar, though it is being completely rebuilt. The kitchen is being enclosed to meet modern health codes. Bike storage will go near the back door where the dumb waiter and Coke machine once sat. The laundry room will remain on the zero floor, but repositioned so that the bathroom will be adjacent to the bar. The hallway will be widened, and the stairs from the first floor will descend through what used to be the boiler room.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The elevator will occupy the former back stairs and will service the zero through fourth floors. Due to the height of the elevator overrun, extending it to the fifth floor would surpass the 65-foot height limit imposed by the city.

The elevator is the cornerstone of a whole set of accessibility improvements. Accessible railing will be installed on the front steps and around the main stair. Bathrooms will all have wheelchair-accessible toilets and sinks and the second-floor bathroom will have a wheelchair-accessible shower. 2LB will have special fire alarms for hearing and visually impaired occupants. All of the bedroom doors will be wide enough to fit a wheelchair. The rear door to the house will serve as the primary wheelchair entrance, be covered by

an awning, and be well lit.

Together, these improvements will bring the house into 100-percent compliance with ADA and Massachusetts accessibility regulations, making ours one of only two FSILGs to be so (recently renovated Phi Beta Epsilon is the other). Most of us take our mobility for granted, but several Alpha Theta undergraduates over the decades have been wheelchair-bound. Accessibility features make an enormous difference to these brothers, not to mention friends, parents, and grandparents who visit the house.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

All of the underlying infrastructure of the house is being replaced. All new electrical and plumbing systems are being installed. Ethernet and coaxial cable is being run through flexible innerduct tubing so that, as technology advances, the network can be easily upgraded. The latest 802.11ac wireless ethernet hardware will also be installed.

LED lighting will be used exclusively throughout the house. LED technology is rapidly improving, and current LED fixtures are now sufficiently "warm" for a residential application with longevity and energy efficiency that are unmatched.

The bathrooms are all being rebuilt with the design focus on ease of cleaning and maintenance while still feeling residential. All of the bathrooms will be equipped with wall-mounted hand and hair dryers to reduce paper-towel waste. The bathrooms will also have adjoining cleaning closets complete with mop sinks, making it more convenient for brothers to clean the floors.

The central heating system will remain a hot-water-based system, but instead of bulky, noisy fan coil units, heat will be distributed to rooms using low-profile convective radiators along the baseboards. The radiators have no moving parts or filters to service. The house will also be fully air conditioned with a ductless split system. The condenser will reside on the roof, pumping coolant to the air handlers built into the ceilings. No longer will ugly, inefficient window units block egress paths in the warmer months.

### LIFE SAFETY

Old houses like ours continually struggle to comply with modern-life safety standards, but we are doing everything possible to bring the building up to code while retaining its historic features. Open stairways, in particular, pose a difficult challenge to fire safety. Our architects have devised a thoughtful solution that

preserves the openness of the stairway and hallways during normal operation, but can seal off the bedrooms from the stair in the event of a fire. In the library, the hidden fire door accomplishes that goal, allowing the pocket doors to remain. The bedrooms on each side of the house will share a small vestibule that can be closed off to the stairs with a fire door. During normal operation, these fire doors will be on magnetic hold-backs and recessed into the wall, allowing the vestibules to flow easily into the stair hall. When the alarm triggers, the doors swing closed, protecting the occupants of the bedrooms.

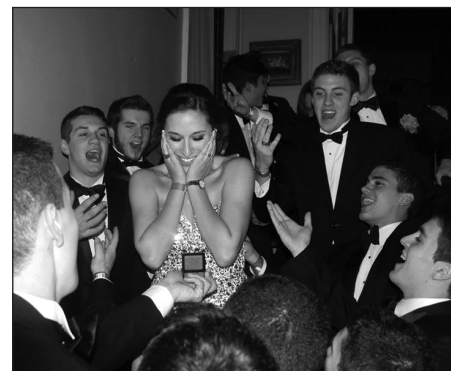
In addition to improved fire doors and fire-rated materials, the house will get new sprinkler and alarm systems. Standpipe access for firefighters will be at every floor. Exits will be equipped with crash bars to ensure that the house can be quickly and safely evacuated during an emergency.

Life safety is about more than just fire code. The masonry walls are being reinforced with steel straps to meet modern seismic code, making the house more resilient to earthquakes. While Boston has not been seismically active in our lifetimes, numerous earthquakes rattled New England from the 17th to 19th centuries, and buildings constructed on top of landfill are particularly vulnerable. Our house, like most in Back Bay, sits atop wooden pilings driven into landfill. These pilings must remain below the water table to prevent them from rotting. An inspection in 2007 found our pilings to be fully submerged and in excellent shape. To keep it that way, a groundwater recharge system will collect rainwater in a holding tank underneath the back lot and release it into the soil.

### COMPLETE PLANS ONLINE

These are only a few of the many details of the project. You may view the entire set of construction blueprints at [sig-machi.mit.edu/renovation/plans](http://sig-machi.mit.edu/renovation/plans).

Dan Craig '03





## Alumni Share Career Advice With Actives

On November 17, 2013, the actives had the opportunity to attend an Alumni Career Night in the library. Organized by recent alumnus Gabe Blanchet '13, with assistance from Karl Büttner '87 and Dan Craig '03, the event gave the chapter the opportunity to hear about the variety of career paths that Alpha Thetas have taken after graduation. In attendance were five alumni: Michael Gilman '76 and Jay Henderson '96 came in person, and Sam Towell '00, Nick Cohen '02, and Josh Lake '07 joined remotely via Skype.

This evening was extremely rewarding for the actives. Not only were we able to hear their exciting and often unpredictable career paths and professional development over the years, but we also heard various stories of the alumni's time in the house. We were given career advice and insight into the impact that 532 Beacon has had on the lives of our

alumni. Many of them are still extremely close friends. Josh told a story about reuniting with 14 other alumni, years '07-'11, who got together at the Sequoia & Kings National Park this past August in honor of their beloved Pitch-A-Tent-Committee.

Afterward organizer Gabe Blanchett said, "I'm thrilled with the alumni who agreed to serve as role models for the active Alpha Thetas. Events like this remind us young guys what the future may hold, and inspire us to lead rich and full lives after leaving 532 Beacon. I'm just happy to be a part of it." I look forward to having more events like this in the future. It is events like these that remind me how truly lucky and proud I am to be an Alpha Theta Sigma Chi.

*In Hoc,*

Matthew Kalinowski '17



## A Scattered Chapter: Bonding Under Many Roofs

Becoming an Alpha Theta Sigma Chi has been one of the most reflective and rewarding experiences of my life. I immediately connected with the brothers during Rush Week, and I enjoyed every minute I spent at 532 Beacon Street. Throughout the pledge program, I learned a lot about the fraternity, my pledge class, and myself. I was initiated as a brother in early December. All aspects of Sigma Chi—the brothers, the values, the fun—were becoming bigger and bigger parts of my life, until just two weeks later, when winter break came and our house went under construction.

Initially, I did not realize how different it would be without our chapter having a house. Perhaps that is because I am a freshman and have not yet had the pleasure of living there, or maybe it is because Independent Activities Period acted as a buffer period, as brothers may have been scattered, but the extra free time and absence of problem sets still allowed us to get together often. Although it was quite different hanging out in an apartment rather than at 532 Beacon, things did not feel drastically different throughout January.

Then came February. Although we

were without a house since December, this is when I truly began to realize how important it was. Classes started, and with them came piles of homework to be done and books to be read. Spring sports, which are a huge time commitment, began to enter their competitive seasons. Within a few weeks, I had already felt the semester taking its toll on me. But these obligations among others were affecting all of my brothers as well, and I had to take a step back to realize that I had gone nearly three weeks without really seeing any of my fellow Alpha Thetas outside of class.

You see, even as a freshman living in a dorm, 532 Beacon still acted as a common area where I would be able to see a majority of my brothers at any given time; it was a home away from home. With some of us living in various dorms, other living throughout three apartments at the 100 Memorial Drive apartment complex in Cambridge, still others living in apartments in Boston, and all of us trying to juggle life at MIT, spending time together does not happen as easily as it used to.

In the past several weeks, I have been doing what I can to combat this challenge.

I try to grab lunch or dinner with a brother a couple of times a week. Whenever we do have a social event, from hanging out in an apartment to watching a brother's sporting event, I do my best to attend. Perhaps most importantly, I have found myself looking forward to our weekly chapter meetings more than ever, eager to see everyone's faces and hear what is on their mind.

I will be staying in the Boston area for a summer internship, and it will likely be yet another quiet period for the Alpha Thetas, as many brothers have taken this summer without a house as an opportunity to take distant internships, travel, or simply go home. Not only are we all extremely excited and ever grateful for the generous alumni donations that have allowed such a fantastic renovation to take place, but we are also excited to simply be reunited under one roof. As the saying goes, good things come to those who wait. We have worked hard this semester to preserve our brotherhood; soon enough, it will be time to let it truly thrive once again.

*In Hoc,*

Matthew Kalinowski '17

## Moving Out & Moving Up

Relocating the brotherhood out of a house that we have occupied for the better part of a century was no small task. Actives worked the entire fall semester to clear out spaces that looked like they hadn't been touched in decades. It did prove to be an interesting lesson in house history as brothers uncovered all kinds of historical house artifacts. Accomplishing the move during finals week was only made possible by the cooperation of the brotherhood—because of it, we successfully moved everything to our temporary home at 100 Memorial Drive in Cambridge in a single day. All that remained was to demolish the bed structures, which proved to be a formidable task having been built by MIT Alpha Theta engineers! I now write this currently at 100 Mem Drive looking out my eighth-floor river-side view of the Boston skyline. We have quite literally moved up in the world, but I have never so desperately wanted to move down and back to our home at 532 Beacon.

*In Hoc,*

Jacob Moon

# Alumni Send News From Far And Near



After being initiated into Alpha Theta Chapter in 1947, **Martin T. Moul '47** attended Brown, MIT, and RPI during World War II in the V-12 Navy College Training Program. He was awarded B.A.E. and M.A.E. degrees by RPI. Martin retired from NASA (Langley Research Center) after 33 years as an aerospace engineer. He's been a member of the Presbyterian church for 55 years. Reconnect with him by email at [mtmoul@gmail.com](mailto:mtmoul@gmail.com) or by postal mail at 866 Denbigh Blvd., Apt. 417, Newport News, VA 23608.

Thanks to **Alan R. Brennecke '61** for sending along an entertaining write-up and photo of the class of 1961's "between-five-year reunion" held last October. He writes, "The brothers of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi '61 gathered at the mountain 'cabin' of Bruce Tarter and Gaby Odell at Tahoe-Donner near Lake Tahoe. Although they call it a cabin, it is really a three-bedroom home with a wooded backyard sporting a babbling brook and a tumbling waterfall. Bruce and Gaby were marvelous hosts and planned a busy schedule for us." Also in attendance with Al and wife Ginny were Gale and Ken Nill and Bill Kendall. Dinner conversation ranged over a variety of topics, prevalent among the group was the wish that more brothers and their wives could have made the trip to join them. Want to hear more? Contact Al by email at [abbottbrennecke@comcast.net](mailto:abbottbrennecke@comcast.net) or postal mail at 4304 Sea Forest Dr., Johns Island, SC 29455.

You'll also want to make note of **Bruce Tarter's '61** new address: 1591 Hillgrade Ave., Alamo, CA 94507. Email him at [tarter1@lnl.gov](mailto:tarter1@lnl.gov).

"The 50th MIT Reunion and reunion of Sigma Chi brothers were absolutely great," declares **Robert A. Johnson '62**. After working for 27 years in the chemical industry in many different jobs ("mostly technical"), Bob retired to a home on the water near Suffolk, Virginia, with his wife. In describing retired life, he writes:

"We've enjoyed several trips abroad; most enjoyable were the ones to our ancestral lands and more exotic ones where our youngest son studied and now teaches anthropology. My current interests in art and music come in part from college days in culturally rich Boston and vocal groups at Tech and at Alpha Theta. My older son, however, always shakes his head about my never having enjoyed a Red Sox game at Fenway Park." Keep in touch with him by email at [robertjohnson1018@gmail.com](mailto:robertjohnson1018@gmail.com) or postal mail at 5988 Bennetts Creek Lane, Suffolk, VA 23435.

After 22-plus years at Lahey Clinic (now Lahey Health Systems), **Herbert W. Mower '65** retired as director of radiation therapy physics in March 2013. He writes: "Moved into an independent living apartment at the Grand Lodge Masons Continuing Life Care facility in Charlton, Massachusetts. With the exception of more boxes and belongings than we could ever squeeze into our new digs, a great move!" Staying in Massachusetts keeps them close to their two daughters and three grandchildren, as well as Fran's sister. Herb remains active with the chapter as its alumni risk manager—and he's helped with living arrangements for the undergraduates for the house renovation. He adds his thanks for help with their own move: "Many thanks to the undergraduates and some recent alumni for their assistance in helping us prepare to move as well as the actual move to our new apartment." The Mowers' new address is 88 Masonic Home Rd., Apt. T106, Charlton, MA 01507. Email reaches Herb at [mower@alum.mit.edu](mailto:mower@alum.mit.edu).

We received an address update from **James W. Carter '67**, who's now living at 817 Woodside Pkwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910. Jim uses his MIT email address: [jimcarter@alum.mit.edu](mailto:jimcarter@alum.mit.edu).

**Robert S. Rea '67** has moved to 35 Cherry Ridge Rd., Middlefield, CT 06455. Bob's email address is [bobrea33410@yahoo.com](mailto:bobrea33410@yahoo.com).

from the closest ski resort, and they look forward to welcoming all Alpha Theta visitors. Iain is the owner of Ianovations LLC. Email him at [ihueton@yahoo.com](mailto:ihueton@yahoo.com).

Congratulations to **Joseph J. Sikoscow '06**, who recently got engaged to Jill Durso (Harvard '05). They look forward to celebrating their wedding in the fall in the company of many Alpha Theta brothers! Joe's email address is [joe.sikoscow@gmail.com](mailto:joe.sikoscow@gmail.com). He lives at 105 Thompson St., Apt. 10, New York, NY 10012.

"I was very impressed with brother **Jacob Mooney's '16** inspiring article on how Alpha Theta engaged with the community post-Marathon bombing," writes **Kenneth P. Morse '68**. Ken added that he's very pleased that **Doug Bailey '72** was honored by MIT with the Bronze Beaver Award for his good work. Catch up with Ken by email at [kenmorse2@aol.com](mailto:kenmorse2@aol.com) or by postal mail at 212 Quisset Ave., Woods Hole, MA 02543.

## DECEASED

*We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:*

**Frank E. Briber Jr. '43**  
August 14, 2013

**Robert S. Tamblyn '47**  
May 11, 2010

**Edwin A. McLeod '50**  
June 9, 2013

**Mark E. Jensen '60**  
May 30, 2013

**Fred W. Schaffert Jr. '64**  
May 10, 2012

**Clyde E. Rettig Jr. '68**  
September 23, 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://sigmach.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.



*Class of '61 alumni at their "between-five-year reunion" near Lake Tahoe last October. Left to right: Al Brennecke, Bill Kendall, Ken Nill, and host Bruce Tarter.*

"Lots of big changes this year!" announced **Iain H. Hueton '84**. "Jennifer and I got married on July 5 at the top of our local ski resort, with numerous Alpha Thetas in attendance. Much to their disappointment, the opportunity to roast me for past pranks and since was precluded by the presence of numerous impressive progeny." Their new home (1883 20th St., Ogden, UT 84401) is just 25 minutes