

THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU

WINTER 2017-'18

Mike DeLaus '82 Elected President of the Board

Mike DeLaus '82 was elected president of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the house corporation. Mike has served on the board since 2000 and was co-chairman of the Building Needs Committee, which orchestrated the award-winning renovation of 532 Beacon Street in 2014. In addition to being an active alumnus, Mike brings the perspective of being an MIT parent, with two sons currently at the institute: Mike DeLaus Jr., DKE '18, and Rob DeLaus '20 at Sigma Chi.

Dan Craig '03 steps down after seven years as president of the board. Dan has been involved with the corporation in general, and the renovation in particular, since his very first attendance of a corporate board meeting as a pledge in 1999. He will continue to serve remotely on the board, having moved to California in 2014, and plans to take an active role on the newly commissioned Engagement Committee, responsible for alumni communications and events.

Josh Littlefield '81 was re-elected vice president and treasurer and Mike Gibson '13 was re-elected clerk. Other directors elected this year are Tom Altmann '15, Mark Curtiss '87, Herb Mower '65 ('82), John Piotti '83, and Jim Wilber '81.

The board wishes to thank outgoing Director Peter Beebe '96 for his three years of service on the board and as alumni house manager.

For the past three years, the annual meeting and board of directors meetings have been available by videoconference. Recent meetings have had participants joining by WebEx from California, South Korea, and Germany. We invite any interested alumni who are not in Boston to join future meetings remotely. Look for connection information in the meeting announcements sent by email.

Alpha Theta Reunion Celebrates 135 Years



Cutter O'Connell '18 and Alexa Melhorn, center, enjoy the evening.

Over 300 people convened in Boston on the weekend of May 5-7, 2017, to celebrate the 135th anniversary of the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi at MIT. Spring rains dampened the skies but not the spirits of the numerous alumni, actives, family, and friends.

Friday night began with an open house at 532 Beacon Street, where alumni could meet and mingle, take a tour of the renovated chapter house, and admire the newly-installed

bronze plaques recognizing the hundreds of donors who made the renovation possible. Alumni from many eras held their own events around Boston, too, at homes in the city or suburbs or at local restaurants and bars.

On Saturday morning, the actives performed the initiation ritual of Sigma Chi to remind and reinforce the common bonds we share across the generations. A special guest in attendance was Grand Consul Mike Ursillo, whom many at Alpha Theta know from his years as Grand Praetor of the North Atlantic Province. Ursillo spoke afterward, presenting three awards: a Grand Consul's Citation to House Corporation President Dan Craig '03, the Significant Sig Award to Ron Norelli '67, and the Order of Constantine to John Piotti '83.

While Sigma Chi brothers were at the ritual, a group of families and friends rode a chartered Duck Boat around the city and on the Charles River. After the duck tour and the ritual, everyone reconvened at the MIT Sailing Pavilion for lunch. The weather wasn't fully



Recent alumni Isaac LaJoie '16, Kevin Lang '13, and Tom Altmann '15.

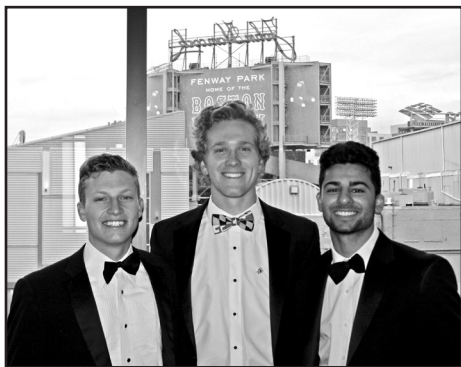
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Reunion

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cooperative, but the rain kept to a drizzle and most were able to take shelter on the indoor section along the docks and enjoy burritos from Anna's Taqueria.

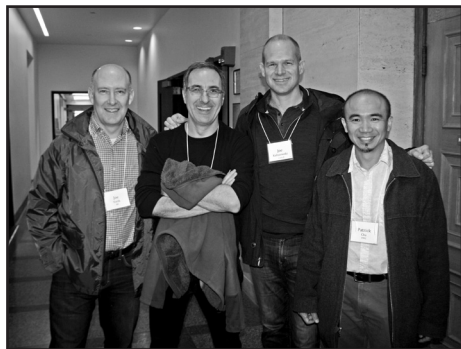
After lunch was the Alpha Theta Academy, with presentations from Gene Lee '89, Nick Cohen '02, Henry Merrow '17, and Jon ('80) and Jennifer Glaudemans in the MIT lecture hall room 6-120. Gene Lee is a senior software engineer at Walt Disney Animation Studios and presented on the technology behind modern digitally animated films such as *Zootopia* and *Moana*. After Lee, Nick Cohen, founder and principal of the consulting firm LobbySeven, waded into the political minefield of analyzing the nuances and challenges of health care in the United States. As might be expected, the discussion afterwards was charged.



Cutter O'Connell '18, Graham Davis '18, and Vick Goel '18.

Thankfully, brothers heeded the admonition we all recall from the Alpha Theta dining room to "strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends." After a brief break, presentations resumed with Henry Merrow relating his experience spending a semester of his junior year in Germany working for Porsche Motorsports. Finally, Jon and Jennifer Glaudemans told the tale of their two and a half year sailing voyage around the world in a 44-foot catamaran.

Having wrapped up events on campus, brothers, family, and friends arrived at the



Joe Vorih '89, Jeremy Verba '86, Joe Kaliszewski '90, and Patrick Chu '92 at Reunion 2017.



Jack Dulsky '19 and Billy Caruso '18, center.

Hotel Commonwealth in formal attire for the reception and banquet. Judy Swanson and Rolf Brauchler '69 presented the Robert A. Swanson Memorial Scholarship and S. Curtiss Powell Scholarship, this year both received by Matt Kalinowski '17. Significant Sig Ron Norelli '67 and Order of Constantine member John Piotti '83 were recognized again to the entire reunion audience, since the Grand Consul could not attend the banquet. Reunion Committee Chairman and self-proclaimed reunion songmaster John Piotti '83 led the group in several classic Alpha Theta songs, striving to rescue "Dear Brothers" from the chant it has evolved to and restore its melody. Finally, sweethearts, wives, and all of our special lady friends were serenaded with "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi."

As the 135th Reunion wound to a close on Sunday, brothers met one last time at the house for burgers off the grill and a chance to say goodbye for now before returning to their homes around the world. Much can change in



Graham Davis '18, right.

five years, but the 140th will be here before we know it.

Thank you to the reunion committee: John Piotti '83, Tom Altmann '15, Ben Harpt '18, and Dan Craig '03, to the actives for all of their preparation and for opening up their home to us all, and, last but not least, thank you to all the alumni, family, and friends who took the time to spend a weekend of joy and fellowship. Whether you were able to attend this year or not, we hope to see you at the 140th in 2022!



Reunion attendees enjoy a break in the rain after lunch on the MIT Sailing Pavilion.

Busy Rush Culminates in 13 New Brothers

The Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi's 2017 rush was, as always, extremely hectic. Despite the initial chaos of Kresge Kickoff, the incessant rain storm on the Sunday of our beach trip, and the constant lack of sleep that pervades that week, the Alpha Theta Chapter hosted a great rush. We went rock climbing in Everett, played laser tag in West Roxbury, went to the beach in Salisbury, and ended the week with our bid dinner at Eastern Standard in Boston. The culmination of our 2017 rush was very rewarding, as 13 young men accepted their bids to pledge Alpha Theta Sigma Chi.

The class of 2021 contains the diversity of temperaments, talents, and convictions that we so value at the Alpha Theta Chapter. Our newly initiated brothers hail from a variety of states, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and

Ohio. The 2021 class also consists of a wide range of athletes, with varsity members on each of the basketball, baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse, squash, and volleyball teams. Our newly initiated class's interests and commitments span from NAVY ROTC to Math Olympiad, musical composition, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, and more. Their academic pursuits at MIT include aerospace engineering, business analytics, computer science and engineering, mechanical engineering, and economics.

Speaking for the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi, we are proud of the efforts we put in during our 2017 rush to form this class of 2021, and we are extremely excited to see them continue to grow during their time as Sigma Chis.

In hoc,
Ben Kaplan '19



From left to right, back row to front row: Hamilton Forsythe, Evan Pasko, Oliver Heins, Sam Dorchuck, Van Coykendall, Brad Levin, Aaron Makikali, Mark Heatzig, Cody Durr, Rob Williamson, Paul Ruh. Not pictured: Patrick Ryan, Anurag Golla.

Accolades

Sigma Chi actives have continued to strive in and out of the classroom. Collectively, we achieved honor roll and have fostered a strong professional focus. The majority of our brothers are current varsity athletes spanning a wide range of teams; we have five varsity captains. Our Ryan Stuntz '18 was awarded an Academic All-American Award! Club memberships include Sloan Business Club, MIT Biotech Group, Outdoors Club, and the Asian American Association. Vedaant Kukadia '20 has pioneered a startup, CareMobile, which has advanced in MIT's 100k Pitch Competition. This startup mentality extends across the brotherhood with a large proportion pursuing innovation outside of MIT.

Skyler Kaufman



Philanthropy

Sigma Chi has continued to be an agent for good in our community. Keeping up with our longstanding tradition, we hosted Derby Days early in the spring to support Huntsman Cancer Institute. We were blessed with beautiful weather and lots of campus support, and the headline events were a bubble soccer tournament and hot dog eating contest! Our brothers didn't stop there: we've helped raise money and awareness for numerous other causes such as Alzheimer's, breast cancer, and cystic fibrosis Research. Our own Thad Daguihl '19 is a passionate leader for Camp Kesem, a summer camp for children of cancer patients.

Skyler Kaufman



New Standing Committees on House Corporation To Better Distribute Workload and Expertise

The house corporation has commissioned three new standing committees to better leverage the time and expertise volunteered by alumni. The committees are organized topically into finance and operations, leadership, and engagement. Their purpose is to allow more work to get done than is currently possible with just the board of directors, while spreading the workload across more brothers and enabling brothers to focus on the area(s) that they are most interested in.

Each committee is led by a chair with six to 12 undergraduate and alumni members. The committees will meet outside of the quarterly board of directors meetings, most likely by teleconference, and will present recommendations to the board for action as needed.

The Finance and Operations Committee, as the name implies, will manage the finances and physical plant of the corporation. This committee will be anchored by the treasurer, alumni house

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Alumni Send News From Far And Near



John Main '50 has a new address: 1213 Long Meadows Dr., Apt. 224, Lynchburg, VA 24502. Email him at conjon98@yahoo.com.

"Great issue of *The Beaver Sig*," writes **Ray Sauer '53**. "Keep up the good work." Ray adds that he's currently fighting ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). No doubt he would enjoy hearing from brothers at either hfrwsauer@onepostal.com or 506 Wedgewood Lane, Canonsburg, PA 15317.

Rob Johnston '64 sent this fun update: "Having spent the years 2011 to 2016 sailing to and from and around the Caribbean (twice), I have settled for life on land in western North Carolina. I'm now working part time as an ophthalmologist and traveling more to landlocked destinations." Drop him an email at sailorrrjmd@gmail.com. Rob's new address is 4029 Byrd Rd., Roaring River, NC 28669.

"Spring 2017 was hell," writes **Herbert W. "Herb" Mower '65**. "Early April was a new right knee. That went very well. May 1st—had to be revived from a blood sugar crash. Reunion weekend—there but really under the weather. Sorry for missing many of you. Couple of days later—admitted to the hospital for an 11-day stay. Serious prostate swelling and major urine retention. Temporary kidney damage, which is resolved.

New Standing Committees

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manager, quaestor, and house manager, and will be responsible for preparing the corporation's budget, work week plan, long-term capital plan, and for ongoing maintenance and repairs.

The Leadership Committee consists of the corresponding pairs of alumni and undergraduate executive officers. The committee will place a particular emphasis on mentorship so that each undergraduate has an alumni counterpart to provide guidance, advice, and long-term institutional memory. The committee will also be responsible for maintaining risk and crisis management plans.

The Engagement Committee includes the chapter editor, tribune, active and undergraduate webmasters, and reunion coordinators. The committee will be responsible

Month later had a TURP and now problems all resolved. Back to being my normal self, or as normal as I ever am." Check in with him at mower@alum.mit.edu or 88 Masonic Home Rd., Apt. T106, Charlton, MA 01507.

"Winning the IFC chapter of the year is an impressive success," declares **Ken Morse '68**. "I look forward to returning for the big reunion." In closing he adds, "Warmest wishes for 2017 and beyond." Catch up with him by email at kenmorse2@aol.com or 212 Quisset Ave., Woods Hole, MA 02543.

Sam Towell '00 reports, "In 2015, Sarah and I welcomed our first child, Eleanor Carol Towell. In 2017, I left my position as Virginia's deputy secretary of agriculture and forestry to become Virginia's deputy attorney general for civil litigation." Send congratulations to him at stowell00@hotmail.com or 2714 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23223.

Congratulations to Jill and **Joe Sikoscow '06**, who welcomed son Thompson to the family on October 25, 2016. Writes Joe, "We look forward to introducing him to our Sig friends and their current (and future?) kids!" Email him at joe.sikoscow@gmail.com. Postal mail reaches him at 57 Warren St., Apt. 8, New York, NY 10007.

for organizing active/alumni events, such as career nights, scholarship dinners, and sporting events, managing the website and social media presences, publication of *The Beaver Sig*, and maintaining mailing lists. The committee will facilitate annual Tech Reunion and other MIT community open houses as well as organize the major five-year Alpha Theta Reunions. It will also promote engagement beyond simply Alpha Theta, with other province chapters and the general fraternity, including Leadership Training Workshop and Horizons.

The board hopes that this new committee structure will allow us to better utilize the time and talents of our alumni. Since the committees will mostly work by email and teleconference, we hope to enable alumni beyond the Boston area to participate. The 135th Reunion Committee demonstrated this well, with core members in California, Washington, D.C., and Boston.

Alumni who are interested in participating at any level are encouraged to contact Dan Craig at drccraig@alum.mit.edu.



DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

William H. Horton '43
May 7, 2016

Thomas L. Bell Jr. '47
November 17, 2016

George J. Hossfeld Jr. '48
May 31, 2017

John T. Lumis '49
June 27, 2017

Andrew R. Pfeifferberger '49
September 27, 2016

James G. Veras '49
April 30, 2017

Casper John Jacoby III '50
June 28, 2017

Robert M. Kiehn '50
April 21, 2016

Joel B. Searcy '57
March 22, 2016

Edward T. Murray '59
November 14, 2016

Tadeusz J. Swierzawski '62
August 11, 2017

William E. Byrd Jr. '63
July 18, 2017

Lloyd D. Partridge Jr. '67
August 22, 2017

John F. Walters '69
June 18, 2016

John F. Martin '86
August 27, 2017

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:

sigmach.mit.edu/alumni