

THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU

SPRING 2018

New Corp. Board Structure Streamlined

Our new corporation board structure is now in full swing with three full-time committees: finance/operations, chaired by Josh Littlefield, engagement, chaired by Dan Craig, and leadership, chaired by Mike DeLaus. These committees, which generally meet over teleconference, conduct business outside of the quarterly board meetings, which are now shorter and more streamlined. Another important aspect of these committees is that they are more conducive to a broader participation. Let me or one of the committee leaders know if you would like to get involved.

In April, we had our biannual AILG accreditation review. In addition to a tour of the house, there were discussions on a number of topics including house governance, alumni involvement, recruitment, and finances. The review went very well with much positive feedback from the review team. With over 15 Sigs present, they appreciated our involvement in the process and were particularly impressed with the number of undergrads who participated. The review reaffirmed our belief that we have one of the best houses at MIT.

The MIT FSILG Facilities Assessment Program began this spring with a stated purpose "to advance a shared understanding of the needs for physical renewal of FSILGs to ensure they remain a vital and vibrant element of the MIT community." This new program was initiated in 2017 at the request of the MIT Dean for Student Life and is endorsed by the AILG Board as well as the AILG Facilities Committee. It primarily consists of inspections to evaluate and benchmark the physical plant and health and safety conditions of the houses and assist in developing plans to address deficiencies. Because of our recent renovation and the documentation that we were able to provide, our assessment went very well. We should receive the final report in a few weeks, but based on the initial draft report, only a few minor issues are expected.

In hoc,
Mike DeLaus '82

Year in Review; Chapter Wins IFC Risk Management, Alumni Relations Awards

My name is Ben Kaplan and I am the current consul of the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi. Our chapter had an incredible 2017-18 school year! Our brothers remained involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities and groups around campus, including the Sloan Business Club, Asian American Association, Dance Troupe, Jazz Ensemble, EMS, BioTech Group, Climate Action Team, First Generation Program, ROTC, UROPs, tour guides, and many more. Brothers also participated in a number of different sports on campus, such as sailing, rifle, soccer, basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, squash, and football. While five brothers captained varsity sports teams this past year, many other brothers held leadership positions in their respective extracurricular activities.

We made an extensive effort over the past year to address the extremely pertinent issue of sexual misconduct on college campuses in general, and specifically at MIT. We were the only fraternity in 2017 to receive the Consent Awareness and Prevention Education Gold Certificate

to continue to raise awareness for, educate about, and prevent sexual assault. Furthermore, we are beginning to develop an in-house training system for next year's pledge class to try to make lessons learned through official MIT programs as specific as possible to our chapter's experiences with sexual misconduct. The Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi has taken concrete steps to deliver positive impact in our surrounding communities as well. We have participated in a number of service opportunities, including Kappa Alpha Theta and Alpha Phi's annual philanthropy events, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Relay for Life, and MIT Orientation.

This year, we have implemented several new initiatives to further strengthen the relationships within our chapter. We elected a new position called brotherhood chair, whose responsibility is to plan events solely for the chapter's members. This new position ensures that some of our social events exclusively focus on bringing our brotherhood closer together. We have also introduced a new discussion series to the

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Philanthropy Update

Alpha Theta Sigma Chi has continued to be a driving force in helping the community. Respecting our neighbors and supporting various philanthropy are ideals we have continued to prioritize. This year, we were able to help raise awareness for Alzheimer's disease, women's heart health, children affected by a parent's cancer, and many more. Keeping up with our longstanding tradition, we hosted Derby Days this spring to support our own philanthropy—the Huntsman Cancer Institute. We organized a carnival-like afternoon and had a bubble soccer tournament as our headlining event, raising funds and awareness on our campus.

Thad Daguilh '19



DerbyDays (left to right) Cutter O'Connell '18, Christian Perez '18, and Ben Harpt '18.

Year in Review

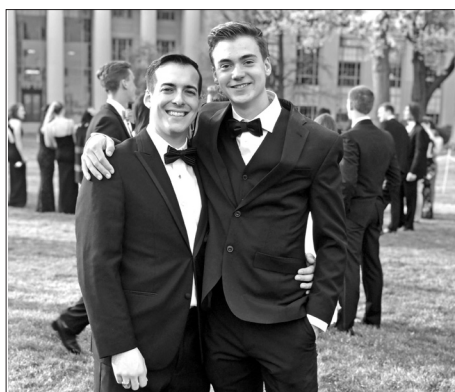
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chapter. Once a week, we ask one brother to lead an informal discussion about one of their areas of interests, with topics ranging from ethics to the future of human computer interaction to unsolved problems. Not only does this encourage brothers to discuss intellectually stimulating subjects with others, it also encourages members who do not speak up as often to participate in the discussion. These new initiatives have developed our bonds with one another in the chapter and brought the house closer together.

On May 2, our chapter received recognition for the year from MIT's FSILGs (Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups) Office. We won Risk Management of the Year and first place for the Weedon Award, which recognizes the house with the best alumni relations.

William Caruso '18 won Member of the Year for all fraternity members in the FSILG. We are excited about this year's growth as a chapter and look forward to the 2018-19 school year!

Ben Kaplan '19



Balfour Winner William Caruso '18 (left) and new member Cody Durr '21 (see bio at right).

Caruso Wins FSILG Member of the Year

They say getting an education at MIT is like drinking from a firehose. Students here are overloaded with amazing classes, challenging problem sets, weekly labs, daily seminars, countless research and work opportunities and so much more. The sheer volume of choice that MIT offers has been unmatched by any other institution I've been a part of. Looking back at my time here I can say for this, I am grateful, as it has allowed me to explore my wide variety of interests over the past four years and discover what I am truly passionate about. I knew four years of undergrad at MIT would provide a technical foundation unlike any other, but I didn't know it would launch me on a mission to fundamentally challenge the way humans interact with machines.

I started out at MIT as member of the Burton Third Bombers, hacking in my dorm room during the day and on the rooftops by night. As a first generation student from a large Italian American family on the Jersey Shore, I seemed to fit in with the loud, obnoxious personalities usually associated with the Bombers. It was difficult for me to see past the stereotype and I was constantly forced to reconsider the man I was becoming. I spent the following summer doing research at MIT and was ever so grateful to be a boarder at 532 Beacon Street, where I was first introduced to the amazing brotherhood that is Alpha Theta Sigma Chi. I pledged as a sophomore the following fall with complete confidence that becoming an active member of Sigma Chi would change my life for the better—and it did. I found comfort in my genuine relationships with the brothers and was proud of the platform for educated discourse provided by the fraternity. Finally, I was able to relax as my

moral compass pointed in the right direction.

Outside of Sigma Chi, I have been fortunate to take part in many of the opportunities MIT provides around campus, assuming the roles of captain of the varsity rifle team, student advisory board member of the First Generation Program, orientation leader, EECS tour guide and department liaison, teaching assistant for the graduate level course Intelligent Multimodal User Interfaces (6.835) and co-instructor of a two week IAP course, *Developing iOS 11 Apps with Swift*. The most impactful work I've done at MIT has been in my research projects at CSAIL and the Media Lab, where I study the synthesis of artificial intelligence and human computer interaction with a focus on affective computing and accessibility. It is here where I've been lucky enough to forge close relationships with two world class scientists: Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Rosalind Picard. They challenge me to think critically about the impact of technology on humans, from the global perspective down to nuances of a single interaction, and to use my skills for the betterment of humanity.

As I say goodbye to my life at MIT, I am excited to leave knowing that many of the opportunities I've devoted myself to here have helped shape me into the man I am today. I am forever grateful to my brothers who've helped me along the way and extremely honored to be selected as Alpha Theta's annual Balfour Award winner and MIT FSILG Member of the Year. It is with the utmost pride that I can say I have truly found paradise. For all these reasons and many more, I am always proud to be an Alpha Theta Sigma Chi.

William Caruso '18

New Member Bio

Cody Durr is pledge No. 7 of the Alpha Theta class of 2021. Cody is studying computer science, and hopes to enter the field of cyber security. This summer, Cody will be working at Raytheon BBN Technologies in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on a cybersecurity project with the Distributed Systems Group. At MIT, he is also involved in cybersecurity at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

Outside of academics, Cody is involved in numerous campus activities. Besides being actively involved in Sigma Chi as a brother and tribune, Cody is a member of the varsity soccer team at MIT. He is also involved in Camp Kesem, a student-run summer camp for children who have parents with cancer.

IM Sports Update

I'm Paul Ruh and I was athletic chair this past semester. This spring, Sigma Chi was involved in two intramural sports, volleyball and indoor soccer.

We decided to form a co-ed soccer team with our friends from the Alpha Phi sorority and compete in the most competitive "A" division. Due to this high level competition, we played some exiting games against some worthy opponents. In our first match against Team Africans, we were down big early, but made a valiant push to come back and almost won the game. We displayed wonderful teamwork and persistence, but unfortunately came one goal short. We bounced back in the following match, earning our first intramural win of the spring season. We played very well in our next matches, but unfortunately suffered some unlucky results. We have one match remaining, and we hope to finish our soccer season strong with the help of our APhi teammates.

Volleyball has also been a thrilling experience. In our schedule we have six total matches, playing DKE, PBE, and Skullhouse two times each. In our first match against PBE, we were heavy underdogs, playing with fewer players on the court. The freshman-heavy team gave a great effort and gave PBE a run for their money. After a comfortable victory against Skullhouse, more brothers started showing up to games, and our team got much stronger. Following a defeat at the hands of DKE, we won a couple of intense matches against PBE and Skullhouse. We await our last game of the season, which will be our rematch against DKE. Overall, this season brought great memories as well as some exciting sports moments.

Paul Ruh '21

Marathon Monday



Aaron Makikalli '21 (left) and Logan McLaughlin '19.

Monday, April 16, 2018, was no regular Monday for Aaron Makikalli and me. It was the day we ran the Boston Marathon! My name is Logan McLaughlin and I am a junior studying computer science and management science. Aaron is a freshman in my family line planning to study aerospace engineering.

Our day started off with a 7:30 a.m. wake up and 15-minute light warm-up jog from the house to the Boston Commons. It was dark and cold on our run to the buses that would take us out to Hopkinton, foreshadowing the 30-mph winds and heavy rains that were to come later on in the day.

Once at the starting line, it began pouring down hard. So much that each foot would sink about two inches into the mud when walking past the race day tents and port-a-potties. Aaron and I had to convert unused trash bags to ponchos in order to stay warm while waiting for our wave to be called.

Once the race started and we were on the road, we were feeling warm and strong. This was my first official marathon, so I was counting on Aaron to keep pace. We had set a goal to run the race in under four hours, a reasonable task for Aaron but no so much for me as I had gotten lazy in my race training over the past few weeks.

We continued to feel great as we passed Ashland, Framingham, Natick, and Wellesley. However, the duration of the race started to hit us as we entered into Newton and climbed two significant and unexpected hills. With the help of Cliff Bar energy gels we carried on. Luckily, Heartbreak Hill was not as tough as it was talked up to be and we continued to cruise through Brookline.

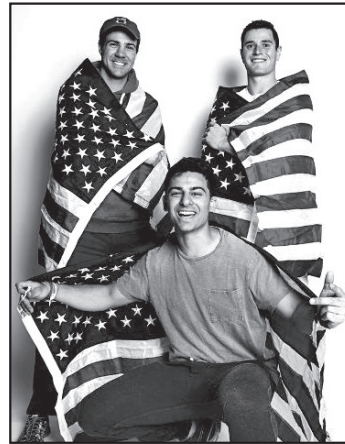
Around mile 24, the Citgo sign appeared as our shining star, washing our fatigue away. I think Aaron and I would both agree that running down Commonwealth and making the left hand turn onto Boylston was one of the most exhilarating moments of our lives. We felt like world champions, Olympians being welcomed home by thousands and thousands of electric fans. It was incredible.

We finished strong with an official time of 3:49, clearing our goal by 11 minutes. Following the medals and snacks, we happily climbed into a taxi back to 532 Beacon where we were greeted with smiles, hugs, and burgers! A great Marathon Monday indeed.

Logan McLaughlin '19

Brothers Take the Challenge Abroad

This past April, Jack Dulsky '19, Cameron Korb '19, and Vickram Goel '18 participated in Red Bull's *Can You Make It?* Challenge. They were flown to Stockholm, Sweden, where they had to race 200 other teams to get to Amsterdam. One stipulation though: they had seven days of no phone, no food, no wallet, no housing, no transportation, and only Red Bull as their currency. As one of 16 United States teams, they did make it to Amsterdam. Relying on the kindness of strangers, they were able to trade for everything. They visited 11 cities on their adventure: Stockholm, Linköping, Gothenburg, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig, Cologne, Brussels,



(Left to right) Cameron Korb '19, Vick Goel '18, and Jack Dulsky '19.

and Rotterdam before reaching Amsterdam. Altogether, they traded over 200 Red Bulls for a lot of bus tickets, falafels, and places to stay. Out of all the teams from around the world, they came in 62nd place based on challenges accomplished, social media points, and checkpoint cities reached. Some of the highlights were sleeping in strangers' attics, making new friends from around the world (such as professors, models, and people who worked for the EU headquarters), and getting a ride from a police officer. This once in a lifetime opportunity was life

changing for these three brothers, and it was definitely worth missing the required 10 days of school!

Jack Dulsky '19

Graduating Senior Shares Future Plans



It's hard to believe how four years of psats, Harvard Bridge crossings, and Wednesday teas fly by. As I write, my graduation is just around the corner (barring any catastrophic final exams). The ceremony on Killian Court will mark the end of the MIT chapter of my life and turn the page onto a new chapter. For me, that next chapter will be graduate school in physics, and I have spent a sizable chunk of my senior year thinking about how I want to write the narrative.

At every step of the graduate admissions process—researching, applying to, visiting, and deciding between schools—I have found myself posing the same set of introspective questions: Why am I doing this? What do I hope to gain throughout the process? What traits do I seek in my colleagues and mentors? What branch of research will sustain me and nourish my curiosity? How will my choices over the coming years lead to a happy and meaningful career? These are big questions to pose to oneself, and I do not take them lightly. I've spent many restless nights since August mulling them over.

Thankfully, my experience in Alpha Theta has well prepared me to think critically about the questions I've encountered. As a chapter, we are well versed in raising big, introspective queries. Meaning, happiness, and personal

values are topics of weekly discussion at 532 Beacon St. We ponder them both formally and informally, as a group during chapter meetings and in pairs late at night. Throughout my search for graduate programs, my brothers have been a constant source of support and rejuvenation. They are ever eager to hear about my progress and challenge my thinking with their own. I have been truly lucky to benefit from the collective wisdom of so many talented peers with interests and outlooks different from mine.

Supported along the way by my brothers, I was able to arrive at a decision in April that will shape the next six years of my life: I will begin studies this fall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in pursuit of a PhD in physics. During my graduate education, I hope to conduct research in quantum computing, a field that is currently seeing a flurry of exciting development. Recent breakthroughs in engineering delicate quantum bits have brought computers of unprecedented capability to within grasp, as scientists from industry, government, and academia race to claim quantum supremacy. I believe that quantum computing will become a transformative technology over the course of my career, and I am excited to make contributions in this field. With no small amount of assistance from my brothers, I feel fully confident in my graduate decision, and I'm looking forward to begin writing my next chapter this fall.

Ben Harpt '18

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



Robert C. “Bob” Dean Jr. ’48 writes that he is “90 years old; still healthy, still engineering, still inventing. No more hiking, biking, or canoeing: 76 years trans femoral amputee; 70 years since MIT/ME graduation, MS ’49, ScD ’54; Wellesley wife, five children, all healthy. Life has been superb!” Write to him at 5 Penny Lane, PO Box 318, Norwich, VT 05055, or rcdeanjr13@comcast.net.

Robert M. “Bob” Briber ’53 writes, “A year or so ago I self-published a book about my life experiences, starting with the fortuitous choice of Alpha Theta in 1948. The book, available from Amazon, is titled *Moments at Mid Century: a Memoir* and describes my experiences at Alpha Theta and then as 1952 student body president dealing with a student rally for an MIT professor whom Senator Joseph McCarthy accused of being a communist and advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government. After graduation, I worked at MIT and then at the White House with Dr. James Killian, Dwight Eisenhower’s ‘Missile Czar.’ After that I spent five years at Polaroid with Edwin H. Land, its founder and—some say—his generation’s Steve Jobs, and 17 years as director of a 15 college and university consortium in the Capital District of New York State, and 30 part time years as a lay member—and for two years as chairman—of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct.” Drop Bob a line at 23 Washington Ave., Schenectady,

NY 12305, or rbriber@aol.com.

Alan “Al” Brennecke ’61 writes, “Good work on *The Beaver Sig!*” Catch up with Al at 4304 Sea Forest Dr., Johns Island, SC 29455, or abbottbrennecke@comcast.net.

David S. “Dave” Brown ’77 writes, “Joanne and I are moving into the next phase of our lives. We have put our New Jersey home and my dental practice on the market in anticipation of our permanent move to Mexico. We will spend most of the year at our home in Merida (Yucatan) and the summers in the mountains of Chiapas. We can’t wait! We have continued ‘The Chiapas Project’ annually since 2001. We bring dentists and dental students to isolated Mayan communities for daylong free clinics.” Find out how the move went at #532 Calle 81, Centro, Merida, Yucatan 97000 Mexico, or david.brodydmd@gmail.com.

Charles “Charlie” Choi ’92 writes that “2017 was a big year for our family! Our oldest son started college, we took an epic family vacation before sending him off (Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii) and I changed jobs after seven-plus years at Da Vita. We didn’t need to move (still in the Philly area) but I took a CEO role with a smaller company—Axia Women’s Health. Happy 2018 everyone!” Congratulate Charlie at 24 Aldwyn Lane, Villanova, PA 19085, or cchoi@alum.mit.edu.



DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

Richard S. Leghorn II ’39
January 15, 2018

Leslie W. Cline Jr. ’49
November 14, 2017

Robert J. Gillmeister ’49
November 12, 2017

Blevins C. Dunklin Jr. ’55
November 5, 2017

Hobart W. Kraner ’55
January 11, 2018

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:

sigmachi.mit.edu/alumni

Consul

Ben Kaplan ’19

Pro Consul

Rishabh Yadav ’20

Annotator

Cameron Burnett ’20

Quaestor

Brennan Rosales ’20

Magister

Quinn Magendanz ’19

Recruitment Chair

Robert DeLaus ’20

Risk Manager

Aidan Einloth ’19

Assistant Magister

Francis McCann ’20

Tribune

Cody Durr ’21

Chapter Editor

Bradley Levin ’21

Historian

Mark Heatzig ’21

Kustos

Sam Dorchuck ’21

Sweetheart Chairmen

Graham Davis ’18
Fredric Moezinia ’19

Brotherhood Chairs

Aaron Makikalli ’21
Samuel Dorchuck ’21

Assistant Rush Chairman

Jack Dulsky ’19

Community Relations

Robert Williamson ’21
Thad Daguilh ’19

Social Chairmen

Cole Baker ’20
Jack Dulsky ’19
Mark Heatzig ’21

House Manager

Adam Gumbardo ’20

Assistant House Manager

Connor Bradley ’20

Steward

Vedaant Kukadia ’20

Assistant Stewards

Logan McLaughlin ’19
Skyler Kaufman ’19
Quinn Magendanz ’19

Network Admin

Charlie Nodus ’20

Songmasters

Cameron Burnett ’20
Harrison Kaplan ’20

Web Master

Yianni Giannaris ’20

Athletic Chair

Paul Ruh ’21

Concessions

Hamilton Forsythe ’21
Robert DeLaus ’20

Tea Masters

Samuel Dorchuck ’21
Quinn Magendanz ’19

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Hamilton Forsythe ’21
Mark Heatzig ’21
Paul Ruh ’21

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Ben Harpt
Ryan Stuntz

2019 JBoard Representatives

Aubrey Toland
Cameron Korb

2020 JBoard Representatives

Robert DeLaus
Yianni Giannaris

2021 JBoard Representatives

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Samuel Dorchuck

Jesters

Aidan Einloth ’20
Evan Pasko ’21
Nate Johnson ’18
Oliver Heins ’21
Robert DeLaus ’20

GZ

Jack Dulsky ’19

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.

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