

THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU

SPRING 2020

Institute Sends Undergraduates Home, Moves Coursework Online Due To COVID-19

As the scale of the coming COVID-19 pandemic wave became clear, MIT announced on March 10 that it was canceling the remaining days of classes before the upcoming spring break, and asking undergraduates to not return to campus after the break. Shortly after, the departure deadline was moved up to March 17. With only a week's notice, students were instructed to pack their belongings as if they were not going to return until the fall semester. Seniors were instructed to pack as if they were not returning at all.

MIT chose to take such drastic action because it would be unable to control the spread of the novel coronavirus among a population of students living and working in close quarters and sharing communal dining and restroom facilities. The Institute committed tremendous resources to facilitate and ease the burden on students and their families.

The Sigma Chi House Corporation held emergency virtual meetings to assist the active

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House Corporation Board of Directors

Board members and officers elected at the annual meeting of the house corporation on November 3, 2019.

MIKE DELAUS '82, President
JOSH LITTLEFIELD '81, Treasurer
MIKE GIBSON '13, Clerk
ALEX CAI, RPI '14
TOM ALTMANN '15
DANIEL CRAIG '03
HERB MOWER '65 ('82)
JIM WILBER '81
MARK CURTISS '87

Alpha Theta Leadership Guides Chapter Through Virus Crisis

By Aaron Makikalli '21 | GZ



On Tuesday, March 10, every MIT undergraduate received the fateful email instructing us to leave campus for the remainder of the semester. While administrators, professors, and student

leaders across campus scrambled to organize students' departures, our own house's leadership swiftly facilitated our move-out, ran our final chapter, and ensured the safety and wellbeing of each brother.

Hamilton Forsythe '21 and Paul Ruh '21 managed the logistics of moving brothers out and prepared our home for an extended period with no residents. Meanwhile, George Stultz '22 worked closely with MIT administration to secure housing and dining refunds for our brothers. Ben Wolz '22 took on the responsibility of communicating with prospective summer residents and planning a rush with no CPW. The initiative put forth by these brothers in particular, and the collective action taken by all our brothers, enabled us to return

to our families safely while leaving the house in good condition.

Unfortunately, our hasty departure means that we have not been able to properly recognize and celebrate our seniors' accomplishments. While we managed to hold a final chapter, the seniors have been robbed of their fledging, senior ball, and, possibly, commencement ceremony.

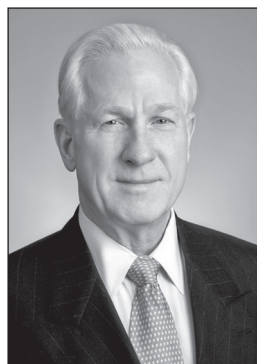
To the class of 2020: I cannot overemphasize how profoundly your class has influenced the current underclassmen. Your leadership, guidance, and dedication to Alpha Theta live on in the actions of the brothers you have impacted during your undergraduate time at the Institute. We sincerely hope that you will return home to 532 Beacon Street from time to time so that we may continue to create lifelong memories with you.

Seniors, we wish you the best in your future endeavors; to all brothers—undergraduates and alumni alike—we wish you health and comfort during this historic period of self-isolation and uncertainty.

Doug Bailey Named Significant Sig

By Jim Wilber '81

Doug Bailey '72 was named Alpha Theta's 11th Significant Sig in February. In addition to his successful business career, Doug has had a tremendous impact on MIT and Alpha Theta. For many years, Doug chaired the MIT Annual Fund. For Alpha Theta, Doug was chairman and lead donor of the *Beacon to the Future Capital Campaign*. We would not have the world class living and learning environment that is 532 Beacon Street without Doug's generosity and dedication to his brothers at Alpha Theta.



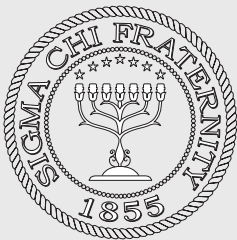
Doug Bailey '72

The ball started rolling on Doug's nomination the day after the November 2019 dinner that celebrated Tom Faust '81 receiving a 2019 Significant Sig award! (Lest these awards seem commonplace, Tom and Doug are only the 10th and 11th recipients in the chapter's 137-year history.) Jim Wilber '81 teamed up with Karl Buttner '87 to prepare and submit the nomination to Sigma Chi national. Karl had worked closely with Doug for years on Alpha Theta's

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2020 CHAPTER OFFICERS

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| HAMILTON FORSYTHE '21 | Consul |
| PAUL RUH '21 | Pro Consul, Assistant Steward |
| RAFAEL FERNANDES '23 | Annotator, Concessions Chairman, Jester |
| TIM KOSTOLANKSY '23 | Tribune |
| HARAN NADARAJAH '23 | Chapter Editor, Corporate Board Representative |
| DAN PILSBURY '22 | Historian, Community Relations |
| GEORGE STULTZ '22 | Quaestor, Judicial Board, Webmaster |
| GRANT MILLER '22 | Magister |
| DYLAN RYAN '23 | Kustos, Judicial Board, Social Chairman |
| BEN WOLZ '22 | Recruitment Chairman, Judicial Board, Social Chairman, Concessions Chairman, Jester, Assistant House Manager |
| ADAM GUMBARDO '20 | Judicial Board |
| CONNOR BRADLEY '20 | Judicial Board |
| EVAN PASKO '21 | Judicial Board, Assistant Steward |
| ROBERT WILLIAMSON '21 | Judicial Board |
| ELI KRAMER '23 | Judicial Board, Corporate Board Representative |
| PEYTON GREVE '22 | House Manager, Community Relations, Steward, Concessions Chairman, Athletic Chairman |
| TROY OLIVERA '22 | Social Chairman |
| JULIAN MANYIKA '22 | Risk Manager |
| KAEL KORDONOWY '23 | Corporate Board Representative |
| AARON FUCHS '23 | Corporate Board Representative |
| AIDAN EINLOTH '20 | Teamster, Jester |
| ROBERT DELAUS '20 | Jester |
| CHARLIE NODUS '20 | Jester, Network Administrator |
| ALEX MOSER '21 | Assistant Steward |
| CODY DURR '21 | Webmaster |
| AARON MAKIKALI '21 | GZ |



Honoring Sig Seniors As Year Is Cut Short

By Ben Wolz '22 | Recruitment Chairman, Judicial Board, Social Chairman, Concessions Chairman, Jester, Assistant House Manager

March 10th—the penultimate Tuesday of winter. I can vividly remember the pleasant walk across the bridge that morning. I remember watching Troy play spikeball on Kresge. I remember Hamilton inviting me to Killian, and, for the first time in months, meeting him on the court, not the dining room. For the first time in months, I relaxed on Killian Court, letting the nascent skin on my hands and feet rediscover the richness of the earth. After months of cold, bleak winter, spring crept in, filling us with a genteel and affable deportment.

At 5:12 p.m., an email from Rafael Reif came into my inbox, detailing a “significant new step” in response to the coronavirus outbreak. “Please pack as if you will not return to MIT for classes,” Reif asked of the seniors. Our dearest seniors—who had worked so hard to reap the benefits of their senior

spring—were being evicted after barely a month and a half. No more Teas, no more days on Killian, no more Marathon Monday, and no more chapter—to name only a few. We sent them off with an impromptu last chapter, where tears were shed and goodbyes were forced.

March 23rd—I’m sitting in my bedroom, watching the Texas sky. The last 13 days have been a blur to me, but I’ve put a few pieces together. The seniors are gone, but their legacy remains. Their Cooperesque display of self control will be the beacon of the seven lights for years to come. In the words of Dickinson, the absence of the witch does not invalidate the spell. To my dearest seniors—I salute you for your sacrifice, and I am always proud to call you my brothers. Bidding you godspeed my brothers, set forth and conquer.



The 2020 graduates (left to right): back row: Yianni Giannaris, Francis McCann, Aidan Einloth, Adam Gumbardo, Brennan Rosales, Cameron Burnett, and Connor Bradley; front row: Vedaant Kukadia, Charlie Nodus, Rishabh Yadav, Robert DeLaus, Cole Baker, and Van Coykendall.

Tsacoyeanes New Alumni House Manager

The recently-retired Bill Tsacoyeanes '84 has volunteered to serve as alumni house manager for the house corporation. Bill, who lives in Acton, will bring energy and expertise to his new role. He has stated that he looks forward to working closely with the undergrads on the maintenance of the house.

Bill replaces Tom Altmann '15, who recently moved away to New York. Altmann

served as alumni house manager since 2017, having previously been a member of the renovation committee as an undergraduate.

The role of alumni house manager is an important one as it provides an interface between the house corporation and the House Manager, ensuring continuity from term to term and focusing on the key infrastructure projects and maintenance of 532 Beacon.

Becoming MITish

By Timothy Kostolansky '23 | Tribune



Entering MIT, my mind was set on studying biochemistry/bioengineering. I had already done a couple internships with government labs that worked in synthetic biology. I was certain that this was my path. Yet, choosing classes for my first semester, I decided to try some subjects I wasn't so familiar with. I had heard a lot of good things about chemistry and decided to take that. With similarities and connections to biology, chemistry seemed like a tempting choice for my major. I also took a theoretical version of the introductory physics mechanics course. Although this class was my toughest and required the greatest amount of time, I enjoyed it a lot and learned a lot. Physics was not quite what I had thought, and that was a pleasant surprise.

When I began my first independent activities period (IAP) in January, I wanted to be

a physicist; studying the mysteries of reality, of the universe enamored me. During IAP, I took a monthlong programming course on the suggestion of some of my fraternity brothers, many of them being computer science majors. This small course again changed my view of the supposedly "default MIT student" course of study. I found that I really enjoyed the process and thinking that comes with programming and computer science in general.

Although this semester has been cut short due to the coronavirus, I have enjoyed, and will continue to enjoy, my fundamentals of programming course—my first foray into CS has flourished into a desire to major in both physics and CS. Although I am content with where I am in these fields, perhaps I'll try another course and find that I enjoy it, who knows. But one thing is for sure: MIT has offered me a place to explore and discover my interests in a way I wasn't able to do before.

The Evolution of the Second Floor Quad (2#)

By Rafael Fernandes '23 | Annotator, Concessions Chairman, Jester



First semester was great, I got the chance to explore and learn about the house, the most prominent rooms being those in the first two floors. Aside from the bar and dining room, 2# was definitely the place to be. Except, it definitely didn't look like a place to sleep.

Despite its flaws, 2# was still loved by all. It

wasn't until the beginning of the second semester that I saw the difference that the occupants of a room can make. An exceptional brother set his eyes on lighting candles and cleaning up the mess that the sophomores left behind. He did his all: he acquired couches (from a friend), bought a projector, and looked clean while doing it. This man transformed the delinquent den to a wonderful double.

Squash Team Succeeds in Pursuit of Top 16

By Eli Kramer '23 | Judicial Board, Corporate Board Representative

After winning the third pool and placing 17th in the country, MIT came into this year with what we hoped was a stronger ladder. The goal was to be ranked top 16 at the end of the season. The season started off really well. We beat Navy for the first time in 52 years, putting our record with them at a cool 1-51.

This feat bumped us into the top 16 rankings, since Navy had been ranked top 16. We then lost to Brown and Amherst, bringing us back down to the already conquered pool 3 (i.e. ranked 17 and below). We regrouped and made our way back up, beating Williams and Navy (again, now 2-51). We went to the nationals ranked 16 and we placed 16, reaching our goal, but losing every match at nationals.



Institute Sends Undergrads Home

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in making an orderly evacuation, to ensure the security and upkeep of the house while it is unoccupied, and to plan for the financial impact of having no brothers and, as it looks increasingly likely, no summer boarders. MIT has committed to refund student room and board expenses, including FSILG house bills, on a prorated basis from March 15th (61%), so the chapter and the house corporation will be in a stable financial situation despite the semester shutdown. The Quaestor is replanning a budget for the upcoming year assuming no summer house income.

A quick and generous gift from newly-minted Significant Sig Doug Bailey '72 gave the corporation a few additional months of runway to pay down the mortgage from the 2014 renovation.

Many of our alumni volunteers have helped, but we offer special thanks to Chapter Advisor Alex Cai, RPI '14, for his quick action and tireless efforts working with the actives during this unprecedented upheaval.

MIT has been incredibly supportive of all students, including those in the independent living groups. They provided cleaning supplies and boxes and tape for the move out and later picked up the boxes and took them to storage. The Institute reimbursed the undergrads for their transportation expenses and, as noted previously, they will be reimbursing a pro-rated portion of the spring term room and board expenses.

MIT is also providing security with neighborhood patrols of the houses. We are very thankful for all of the assistance provided by the Division of Student Life, the FSILG Office, and the AILG.

As of March 17, the chapter house was empty. The actives have been adjusting to the new reality of both learning and maintaining the bonds of the chapter remotely. Chapter Advisor Cai, Board President Mike DeLaus '82, and new Alumni House Manager Bill Tsacoyeanes '84 have been checking in on the house frequently, and plan to use its time being unoccupied to complete a few repair and upkeep projects.



Photos from move-out day.

ALPHA THETA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Emory “Fletch” Hosmer ’53 writes, “Am now supporting my daughter, who is teaching in Guatemala. No calc., just arithmetic and algebra via computer programs. She was a math major at Wellesley. Keep up the good work.” (326 Rivermead Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458 or efh814@aol.com)

K. Charles Oelfke ’56 writes, “I am here in Scottsdale, Arizona, retired, writing, painting, playing the native American flute, making, playing and selling Aboriginal didgeridoos, and singing in a male competition chorus. I entered MIT class of ’54, registered in mechanical eng., transferred to course 15, ending up in architecture (a five-year course) so graduated class of ’56. I was awarded a Fulbright Grant to Paris, France, where I remained for the next 20 years. I became involved in industrial design, and worked for 15 of those years in Paris with renowned designer Raymond Loewy. By that time I was fluent in French, and was the go-to American in the all French office as design coordinator for our multinational clients, such as British Petroleum, Shell International, VNITTE (Moscow), etc. Traveling regularly to London, Turin, Rio de Janeiro, Copenhagen, Japan, Moscow, and beyond was anything but boring. Since Raymond was in his 80s by then (*ouch! just like me now*), I thought it time to make a move, so I quit my job, crated my paintings, said goodbye to my ladies, put my ‘stuff’ on a ship in Cannes, and sailed to Rio de Janeiro. During the 12-day cruise, I met Josefa, my Brazilian soulmate. I learned Portuguese rapidly, and developed a clientele in graphic and

industrial design. After three years we came to Arizona, where I continued as a one-man design studio and consultant for the aerospace industry in the Phoenix area, producing printed marketing material, brochures, etc., and writing articles for a manufacturing magazine. We have three daughters, five grandchildren (three boys, one girl), and one great granddaughter—all living in Brazil. Josefa goes back almost every year, I go sometimes and daughters come here. When we came to the U.S. in 1979, I hooked up with brother **Bob Temple ’55** in Houston and we did a couple of agricultural projects in West Africa, where my French and Portuguese were most useful. (Bob since passed away.) I’m still in contact with brothers **Bob Jones ’54** and **Bill Bohnert ’54**. I am now 88, my beautiful Josefa is now 89. Good talking to all of you, stay healthy and hang in—we’re only here once.” (9013 N 87th Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85258 or kcoelfke@cox.net)

Robert M. “Rob” Johnston ’64 wrote in November, “Retiring at the end of the year for the third time. Moving to West Virginia.” (711 Griffith Creek Rd., Alderson, WV 24910 or appcountry@runbox.com)

Lon van Geloven ’91 wrote in January, “I just came back from an epic reunion of my pledge class brothers (**Dan Bevkery ’91**, **Steve Nicholls ’91**, **Seymour Ciao ’91**, and **Andrew Smith ’91**). We met in Miami and drove down to Key West. Spent four days playing like we used to 30 years ago, going on adventures, sailing my boat to the back country, catching and dining on fresh fish, anchoring out in the

Bailey Wins Significant Sig

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2014 \$6 million house renovation capital campaign and was familiar with Doug’s eminent qualifications for the award.

Here is a thumbnail excerpt of a longer profile of Doug that appeared in the June 2008 *Technology Review Magazine*:

“Bailey, a member of the MIT class of 1972, earned BS, MS, and engineer degrees, all in mechanical engineering. After working as an engineer with Foster-Miller, he earned an MBA from Harvard in 1978. He subsequently joined Corning, where he worked in manufacturing and marketing. Now, Bailey is president and CEO of American Bailey Corporation, a

private-equity firm that he co-founded in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1984 with his father, also a mechanical engineer. He is also deputy chairman of Fuel Tech, a public company that focuses on cost-effective and environmentally sustainable energy technologies.

For fun, Doug and Sara take ballroom dance lessons and participate in professional/amateur dancesport competitions in various cities.

In honor of Bailey’s 35th reunion, the couple provided matching funds to gifts made by members of the class of 1972. They also added to the Douglas G. and Sara G. Bailey UROP Fund, which champions the program that pairs faculty and students in research partnerships.”

Full article: <https://tinyurl.com/MIT-Bailey>.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

OSWALD CAMMANN JR. ’19
May 11, 1990

KENNETH M. LEGHORN ’42
February 28, 2017

BRUCE L. CALHOUN ’49
October 13, 2019

STANLEY S. DAVIES ’49
August 5, 2019

JAMES E. RYDER ’49
September 14, 2019

RAYMOND W. SAUER JR. ’53
August 19, 2019

RICHARD J. WEIDMAN ’53
December 25, 2019

HUBER R. WARNER ’58
September 12, 2019

wilderness, and walking a beach in the nature preserve. Best of all was catching up on the lives of my brothers!” (8375 N Dixboro Rd., South Lyon, MI 48179 or vangeloven@ccahq.com)

How Can We Email You?

Make sure we have your most recent email address!

Return the enclosed news form, or email Dan Craig ’03 with your updates at drccraig@alum.mit.edu.

Among Doug’s numerous awards from the MIT Alumni Association is the Bronze Beaver Award, the highest honor bestowed upon any alumni volunteer.

We asked Doug in March, after notifying him that he received a 2020 Significant Sig Award, if he would mind if we shared the news with all Alpha Theta alumni.

He said he would welcome that and provided this contact information: “My email address is dbailey@americanbailey.com as well as dougbaily@alum.mit.edu. My cell phone is 203-952-6042 and my home phone is 203-226-0840 with a home address of 30 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880-1334.”

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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