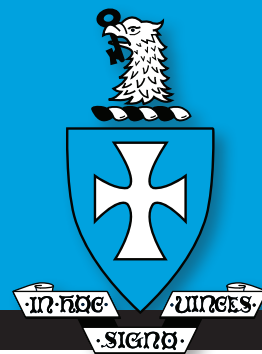


THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS | SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU | SPRING 2021

FROM THE HOUSE PRESIDENT



As of this writing, it appears that the house will be empty again this summer. While this is not the news we were hoping for, MIT is currently planning for 100% occupancy of the living groups in the fall.

MIT has been incredibly generous with its financial support during these unprecedented times. This has certainly made a huge difference in our financial stability and we are extremely grateful. The Fraternities, Sororities & Independent Living Groups (FSILG) community might not have survived without it. We encourage you to express your appreciation to the institute however you can, whether financially or by simply sending a thank you note.

We are hoping for an extended work week toward the end of August, perhaps with alumni helping out. It remains unclear how long before the term starts students will be allowed back in the house. There will be a lot to do to get the house back into shape after a long period of hibernation. Only the seniors have lived in the house during their sophomore year, so many of the brothers will need to learn about the responsibilities of maintaining our house.

After a very successful spring rush with 11 new brothers joining Alpha Theta, everyone is anxious to get back into 532 Beacon Street and functioning like the chapter that we all remember.

In hoc,

Mike DeLaus '82

House Corporation President

HOME ALONE



By Bill Tsacoyeanes '84

Alumni House Manager

billtsa@alum.mit.edu

Over a year has passed since Alpha Thetas shouted up and down the staircase, dined together, or sat on the stoop. Still, spring is popping in Boston. The magnolia tree next door, in front of the old Hotel Fensgate, is flowering; our small square of grass is greening; and the Sox are playing at Fenway—Boston seems to be steadily ramping up.

September will be a unique time as only the returning seniors will have ever lived in the house! While the exact MIT plan for the return of fraternities is unclear, it will leverage lessons from the three pilot houses that have been the only ones open this spring semester (WILG, No. 6 Club, Beta Theta Pi). We're involved with the Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) to identify best practices. Hopefully, we can have a regular work week and semester, but as of yet, it's all

"While the house will remain closed throughout the summer, MIT expects us to be back 100% next fall."

While the house will remain closed throughout the summer, MIT expects us to be back 100% next fall. Meanwhile, alumni continue to maintain and repair the house during the pandemic, including the doors, windows, and emergency lights.

undefined. Work week is always a great opportunity to familiarize everyone with the operations of the house.

The dining room tables have been delivered and they look terrific. The brothers all comment on their faithfulness to

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Alumni Board
of Directors

Elected at the annual meeting of the
house corporation on November 8, 2020.

PRESIDENT	Mike DeLaus '82
TREASURER	Josh Littlefield '81
CLERK	Mike Gibson '13
	Alex Cai, RPI '14
	Dan Craig '03
	Mark Curtiss '87
	Herb Mower '65 ('82)
	Bill Tsacoyeanes '84
	Jim Wilber '81

Fall 2020
Undergraduate
Officers

CONSUL	Peyton Greve '22
PRO CONSUL	Dan Pilsbury '22
ANNOTATOR	Ben Wolz '22
ASSISTANT QUAESTOR	Kael Kordonowy '23
RECRUITMENT CHAIR	Ben Wolz '22
ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT CHAIR	Haran Nadarajah '23
TRIBUNE	Timothy Kostolansky '23
CHAPTER EDITOR	Timothy Kostolansky '23
HISTORIAN	Dan Pilsbury '22
KUSTOS	Hamilton Forsythe '21 Timothy Kostolansky '23
SWEETHEART CHAIRMEN	Ben Wolz '22 Paul Ruh '21
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	Aaron Makikali '21 Haran Nadarajah '23 Rafael Fernandes '23 Aaron Makikali '21 Dylan Ryan '23 Brad Levin '21 Eli Kramer '23
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN	
HOUSE MANAGER	George Stultz '22
WEB MASTER	Peyton Greve '22
CONCESSIONS	Dylan Ryan '23
CORP. BOARD REPRESENTATIVES	Timothy Kostolansky '23 Kael Kordonowy '23 Rafael Fernandes '23 Matas Masys '23 Dylan Ryan '23
JESTERS	Ben Wolz '22 Rafael Fernandes '23
GZ	Ben Wolz '22 Hamilton Forsythe '21

The Highs and Lows of Virtual Rush

by Haran Nadarajah '23 | Assistant Recruitment Chairman



I rushed Sigma Chi during the fall of 2019 and absolutely did not anticipate helping lead the same event a year and a half later, let alone virtually. It brought about many challenges and obstacles; at times, it felt like Ben Wolz '22 (spring 2021 rush chair) and I were a marketing team for a startup company. Online rush forced us to create rush content, develop our Instagram following, and build up a communication system to facilitate brother participation. Despite these challenges, the virtual rush brought about a unique opportunity. We could reach a much broader and more diverse section of MIT's campus compared to years past. The barrier of entry to hop

Pandemic Pledge Program

by Grant Miller '22 | Magister



As the pandemic continued to rage on throughout the world, our chapter was faced with an important question: how do we recruit new members and ensure that they meet the Jordan Standard? To pull off the first virtual rush in our chapter's history, the whole active brotherhood mobilized to recruit MIT's latest and greatest; at the head of our recruitment was rush chair Ben Wolz and his assistant Haran Nadarajah. After several arduous days of endless FaceTimes and DMs, we were delighted to give 11 pledges the opportunity to join our order. Hailing from all across the world, this class brings intelligence, open-mindedness, and a very congenial collective disposition to our house.

As the chapter's Magister, I was equally ecstatic and concerned. Although I knew

on a Zoom call is much lower than attending physical events, so we ended up having a seemingly random assortment of students come to our events. I gained valuable insight into how to create welcoming and inclusive events as well as the best practices for managing brother participation in such a large undertaking.

A large concern widely expressed throughout rush was how the new class would bond virtually, with some brothers on campus and some at home. The class of '24 ended up impressing me with how they took ownership of their new brotherhood and made concerted efforts to spend time together however they could. Now that we are a few months past rush, it's amazing to see the brotherhood of our new class and it makes me excited to get the chapter back together.

these new members to be of great character, I was worried about my ability to pull off a virtual pledge program. It was no small task to educate these pledges about our history and traditions despite never having stepped foot in 532 Beacon. I am forever grateful for the plethora of brothers who volunteered to participate in our experiential activities and ensure that the pledges felt connected to the house. Furthermore, my job was made easy by the hard work and dedication of the newest class, whose unwavering commitment to learning about Sigma Chi reminded me of the sacred pledge that I too made when I joined this brotherhood. They completed the Preparation for Brotherhood program with great sincerity and appreciation and I can confidently say that Alpha Theta Chapter will be in great hands for years to come. I am proud to call these men my brothers and look forward to watching them mature as Sigma Chis.

One of Fourteen First-Years in the Fall

by Trey Gurga '24



In the summer before the fall semester during the pandemic, MIT decided it was best to only have the seniors return to campus until spring when they would invite first years, sophomores, and juniors to campus and send the seniors away. Due to my non-optimal living situation, I would not be able to study virtually from home. Luckily, MIT's SHARP (Student Housing Assistance Review Process) program allowed students to plead their case and explain why they need to return to campus. I was accepted and hopped on a plane across the country to go live at a school I had never visited, where there would be almost no one like me, and no introductions or tours to ease the transition.

When I got to campus, there was no welcome or orientation of any sort; they picked me up from the airport, dropped me off at MIT Medical to get COVID-19 tested, and expected me to find my way to my dorm and begin my quarantine. Since mostly seniors were on campus, they expected that everyone would know what to

do and where to go; I had never even been to the east coast before, let alone know the way around campus, and there was no one to help.

Shortly after arriving, I networked with other students and found that only 14 first-year students were living on campus. There was no normalcy on campus in the fall; with heavy COVID-19 provisions, almost nothing happening in person, and the only chance to socialize was on Zoom or six feet apart, with masks, with a limited pool of first-years. I had to put myself out there to make the experience worthwhile. I managed to get an in-person research position in the MIT Media Lab, get in contact with the one senior pole vaulter on campus to practice for track and field, and explore this unfamiliar city, mostly alone. Though it was not an optimal welcome to campus, this unique opportunity allowed me to explore my independence, get into research without competition for spots, and make myself at home here before everyone else in my class could. Life is very different and better in the spring semester, but I wouldn't change my unique first-semester experience on campus.

Saved the Date



2022 Reunion
It's Time To Get Together!

DATE April 29 - May 1, 2022
TIME TBD



After the challenges of this past year, how great it will be to revel once again in the bonds of brotherhood. Our 2022 reunion is scheduled for **April 29** through **May 1, 2022**. We will celebrate Alpha Theta's 140th anniversary in what has become the customary style, with an event-filled weekend that includes class dinners; a ritual exemplification; the ever-impressive Alpha Theta Academy, showcasing some of our amazing alumni; and a celebratory banquet at the **Hotel Commonwealth overlooking Fenway Park**. Mark your calendars now!

John Piotti '83 | Reunion Committee

Spring 2021
Undergraduate
Officers

CONSUL	Ben Wolz '22
PRO CONSUL	George Stultz '22
MAGISTER	
SPRING PLEDGE EDUCATION	Grant Miller '22
MAGISTER	
POST SPRING PLEDGE EDUCATION	Dylan Ryan '23
ASSISTANT MAGISTER	Tim Kostolansky '23
ANNOTATOR	Tim Kostolansky '23
QUAESTOR	Kael Kordonowy '23
RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN	
POST SPRING RUSH	Haran Nadarajah '23
ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT CHAIR	
SPRING RUSH	Haran Nadarajah '23
TRIBUNE	Matas Masys '23
CHAPTER EDITOR	Aaron Fuchs '23
HISTORIAN	Rafael Fernandes '23
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	Kael Kordonowy '23 Eli Kramer '23
RECRUITMENT CHAIR	
SPRING RUSH	Ben Wolz '22
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN	Dylan Ryan '23 Peyton Greve '22 Troy Olivera '22
HOUSE MANAGER	Kael Kordonowy '23
WEBMASTER	Ben Wolz '22
CONCESSIONS CHAIRMAN	Tim Kostolansky '23 Rafael Fernandes '23 Dan Pilsbury '22
WORK WEEK MANAGER	Kael Kordonowy '23
BROTHERHOOD CHAIRMAN	Julian Manyika '22 Eli Kramer '23
JUDICIAL BOARD	Julian Manyika '22 Peyton Greve '22 Mark Heatzig '21 Evan Pasko '21 Aaron Fuchs '23 Matas Masys '23
ATHLETIC CHAIRMAN	Troy Olivera '22
PHILANTHROPY CHAIRMAN	Rafael Fernandes '23
JESTER	Dylan Ryan '23 Peyton Greve '22 Troy Olivera '22 Rafael Fernandes '23
GZ	Peyton Greve '22

A New Approach to Preventing Violence: Pleasure@MIT

by Nikhil Kakarla '24



How do we establish or change a culture? Where does violence come from? Is it even possible for us to prevent what often appear to be completely random acts of violence? It was these questions and more that were addressed in our Pleasure@MIT training. Pleasure is an organization dedicated to ending sexual violence in and around campus. As a first-year, I was unsure of what to expect as I logged onto Zoom that afternoon. I had already attended a few sexual assault prevention courses for my sports team back in high school and was expecting something similar to those well-worn paths.

Pleasure, however, took a completely different approach. Hannah Collins and Valerie Chen, who taught the course, pre-

sented a new model of culture change. Instead of the usual calls to action, our instructors showed how if we shift our house culture toward one of respect towards all people, we could fully remove any chance of violence. Using potent anecdotes coupled with convincing diagrams, Pleasure linked everyday actions, such as swearing or objectification, to the seemingly random violent acts. My Pleasure training showed me that stopping sexual violence is not the work of just organizations and activists, but rather that there are tangible steps that I can take in my daily life.

Reflecting on the training, I had to distill all that information into the changes I was going to make. It was not easy. All of us have limited resources: time, energy, etc. To me, it often seemed infeasible to spend that energy on things like the daunting task of sexual assault prevention when the next Pset was always looming.

However, Pleasure showed me there is another way I can help. Instead of attending meetings, we can correct how we speak about women. I realized that actions that take only seconds out of my day can have drastic effects. This impact comes in the form of establishing a new culture. What I had not realized is that having the confidence to call out a fellow brother who is making a derogatory comment is very important. Ostracizing the seemingly harmless joke is not only possible but essential.

Especially in a fraternity, it's imperative that we establish a culture of respect towards women. If we set an expectation of respect, we can make the outliers of violence so far removed that they cannot occur. This mission is elegant in its simplicity and unique in its calling. Moving into my next three years as an active Sigma Chi, I will work to build a culture of respect towards women and towards all people.

Senior Travels

by Brad Levin '21



When the 2020 fall semester began, seniors were given the option to return to campus. However, FSILGs were not open, so all students would live in the dorms in small groups (pods) and remain socially distanced from the rest of the campus. Despite living on campus, students would not have in-person classes or be allowed to access labs and other facilities.

Around half of the senior class decided that coming back to campus was not worth it and used this opportunity to live in different places while doing virtual school. We started off staying in Boston in an apartment near Fenway. Here, we were able to (in a socially distant way) see other seniors who returned to cam-

pus and people from younger classes who decided to stay in the Boston area. Adjusting to virtual school wasn't easy but it was helpful to be living with a group of people in an environment similar to the house so we could still work together like we normally would. Of course, athletics were canceled, but some of the seniors on the lacrosse team were able to organize some team practices, and I was able to play squash with some of the other members of the team living in Boston.

After a month, we left Boston and went to Colorado. We spent a week there, hiking and mountain biking (for some this was their first time so it was fun to watch them learn a new sport). Next, we rented a car and drove to Newport Beach, California (stopping in Moab, Utah for a quick mountain biking excursion) where we would stay for six weeks. We found

a tiny Airbnb one street from the beach to stay at. This worked out perfectly as we were all busy with school and living this close to the beach meant it was easy to go hang out at the beach or surf for a few hours before returning home to do some work.

After leaving California, we all returned home for around a month before the next semester started. For the spring, seniors were not invited back to campus so we wanted to find a new cool place to live and do our school work. Luckily, we were able to stay at a friend's house (a year older than us from MIT) in Park City. We were a little less busy this semester as half had already graduated in the fall so we got in a lot of good days of skiing.

Throughout the two months, a surprisingly high number of MIT students

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ALPHA THETA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Robert E. Jones '54 sends this update: "After 1955 graduation, with MS, I was to serve in the U.S. Air Force, but the Korean War was over and the Air Force decided that it did not need a bunch of second looys, so we will forget about you and your commission and you can look forward to being drafted. Oops! Some serious rethinking and the Air National Guard was created. Me and about 12 other ANGUS looys were assigned to the NACA, later NASA, at the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory (later NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field) in Cleveland.

I was assigned to the combustion branch, working on jet engine combustion. I remained doing that until Sputnik was sent up. Combustion work ceased instantly and NASA determined that I was a physicist(?) and assigned to plasma propulsion. I continued various experiments in vacuum facilities. My last work was with the electro-plasma-dynamic-arc-jet (EPD) in a 6-foot by 65-foot tank. Tests using H, N, A, and NH₃ at pressure of 6 microns absolute.

Suddenly, I was recalled to be a supervisor in the recreated gas turbine engine division, to work again in combustion technology. I supervised a group of engineers who had done this work before, plus a few from closed work areas and some new hires. We began extensive contract programs with the various jet engine companies: GE, P&W, Allison, and others.

During this period we worked primarily on reducing engine pollutants. This brought me into contact with many other government agencies: EPA, DARPA, and the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force. Membership in the International Combustion Institute led to the meeting of worldwide friends. Our work led to significant reductions in engine pollutants, smoke, idle smell, and NOX.

Lastly, I was to supervise a group of engineers working on electric propulsion for the International Space Station. We had both contracts and in-house research. However, the 'powerful' decided that that kind of propulsion was too advanced for use in a practical application and instead would rely on older technology: hydrazine rockets. Our group became unnecessary and was disbanded.

I decided to retire in 1988. I continued my love for woodworking and, in particular, with exotic hardwoods. Dorothy and I decided that we would sell my work at fine art and craft shows. I broke down and bought a tent and we were off. We did many shows in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Virginia, and Florida. Did it pay? Only in fun and meeting other crafters. Finally, the work began to get the better of us and we slowed way down to local shows and galleries that sold my work. Recession dried up the market up and galleries were closing, so it was time to quit. My oldest son now has most of my tools and I am content to watch my robo mower take care of the lawn."



Historical pic of the chapter house.

John Linderman Sr. '59 writes: "I am still working on a plan for retirement. Adhering to the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines—including masking—seemed prudent in the past year (2020) and put my antique car hobby in hibernation. Hoping for a better 2021."

"Gosh, it hardly seems possible it has been 20 years ago that I sold my 20-year solo ophthalmology practice in Atlanta," writes **Julian Ayres '63**. "Second wife, Donna, and I bought a home situated on seven acres surrounded on three sides by Forest Service land in the Blue Ridge mountains of northeast Georgia. We love it here. We get along with our neighbors; they are all at a 'Goldilocks' distance.

My three daughters and their husbands, and my ex-wife, Nancy, live near one another in the Buckhead area of Atlanta—eight grandsons attended Westminster school in their 'hood and attend various colleges now. See little of them except in warm weather when they come up to second homes on nearby Lake Burton. Donna, 17 years my junior, has only a son, Bobby, a med tech, but he alone amongst our downlines lives nearby and we adore his 6-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son.

Our visitors here include black bears, raccoons, coyotes, and

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ALPHA THETA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

(continued from page five)



various other small creatures. The grandkids love to watch our trout 'boil' as they compete for the food pellets they throw in our pond.

At age 65, I decided to go back to college and took a two-year course in corporate networking and website design at nearby North GA Tech (tuition free for seniors at Georgia's colleges and universities). Loved being among young minds and getting my own stimulated again. My course 6 BS gave me a leg up on my fellow classmates. Spent many classroom hours regaling my classmates with war stories from med school days at Emory/Grady. The instructors were as entertained as the kids. Across the street, I taught a class in biology to a group of med tech wannabes.

After NGT I got a real estate license and developed a website offering to rent mansions on our lakes for mostly absent owners living in Atlanta. It was a disaster. Of the

1,000 direct mailings I sent out, three were returned indicating an interest. I should have realized one doesn't need rental income if one is fortunate enough to own a second home on Lake Burton.

Mostly I just cut grass on my John Deere farm tractor and keep medical appointments now. With old age came some mobility issues, which prevent me from keeping up with the excursion groups on the European river cruises we used to enjoy. So, we bought an RV and intend to go see the American west at our own pace come summertime. Advice from experienced RVers welcomed at jayresmd@aol.com."

Ronald Novelli '64 reports: "After 30 years and over 300 diversified clients, I was awarded a business method patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark office in November 2017. I have since offered minority segments to minority partners, of which

there are eight. The name of the file is 'www Entropy Links' under the title 'Rising to Greatness...and Staying There!'"

John Adger '66 reports that he "moved to 'the old folks home' in January."

Christopher Davis '68 writes, "Having completed a 35-year career as an emergency medicine physician, I took care of over 100,000 patients. I have published a book about my most memorable 30 cases, titled 'Compassion Amidst the Chaos.' It is available on Amazon and is a fast, absorbing read and is selling well."

"Retired from Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State in January 2020 after 34 years," notes **Richard Marboe '81**. "My wife, Rose, retired from there in July 2020. Still consulting for ARL on campus master planning. I am now serving on the corporate board of governors for American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)."

Home Alone

(continued from page one)

the original design, which served us for so many decades. We expect the new tables to last through many years of spirited chapter meals.

The first-floor wainscoting was not touched during the renovation and while it's full of character, the original panels' cracking has been a chronic problem. With the house empty, we're undertaking a project to professionally replace all the panels while keeping the rails and stiles original. The new panels will be much more robust yet look similar.

An MIT restoration fund will partially offset the wainscoting project but these times are challenging. Your support does matter!

Senior Travels

(continued from page four)

and alumni visited or lived in Park City and there were a couple of days on the mountain when we would have a group of around 30 MIT people all skiing together. When the season ended, we all went home and will return to Boston for our final months, as many seniors will be congregating there for their final months as students.

As cliché as it sounds, my favorite thing about MIT is the people, which is why I was glad to spend so much time with them this year. Something that makes MIT so special is that it's full of people that are able to turn what seemed like a ruined senior year into an awesome experience.



DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

WATT W. WEBB, '47

October 29, 2020

ALBERT R. SKANE, '55

February 23, 2021

THOMAS J. DEVINE, '49

October 28, 2019

MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS, '64

February 3, 2021

EVANGELOS PANERAS, '68

August 20, 2018