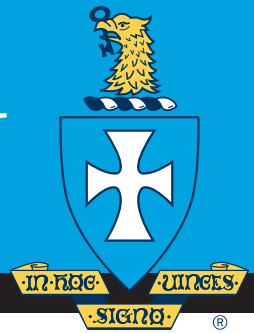


THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity

CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS | SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU | SPRING 2022



Join Us As We Celebrate Alpha Theta's 141ST REUNION



April 28–30, 2023

Due to uncertainty around the omicron surge, Alpha Theta's planned 140th Reunion in 2023 was postponed, and will now be Alpha Theta's 141st Reunion from April 28–30, 2023. Same schedule, same venue, same brothers, just offset by exactly one year. As always, brothers, sweethearts, family, and friends are invited.

Registration info will be posted in the fall at <https://sigmachi.mit.edu/reunion>. Please come only if you are fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19.

April 28 | FRIDAY

- Open house at 532 Beacon Street
- Class and era events and dinners around the Boston area

April 29 | SATURDAY

- Ritual exemplification and alternate family event
- Alpha Theta Academy
- Banquet at the Hotel Commonwealth in Kenmore Square

April 30 | SUNDAY

- Brunch or cookout
- More activities TBA

Rooms will be available at a block discount at the Hotel Commonwealth.

Congratulations to Alpha Theta's newest Significant Sig Charlie Wykoff '98

Charles C. Wykoff, MD, PhD, is director of research at Retina Consultants of Texas, chairman of research at Retina Consultants of America, and deputy chair of ophthalmology for the Blanton Eye Institute, Houston Methodist Hospital. He received his baccalaureate



Charlie Wykoff '98

from MIT, his PhD from Oxford University while on a Marshall Scholarship, and his MD from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Wykoff completed his ophthalmology residency and vitreoretinal fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute where he served as chief resident and co-director of ocular trauma and received a Heed Fellowship and the Ronald G. Michels Award. He is an active medical and surgical retina specialist.

Dr. Wykoff is passionate about translational research, clinical trial design, and accelerating drug-development programs. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts, serves as principal investigator for dozens of clinical trials, and frequently speaks at

national and international academic meetings. He serves on multiple scientific and medical advisory boards, safety monitoring committees, and global steering committees for endeavors spanning the innovative process from early to late-stage developments.

He is president of the Vit-Buckle Society (2021–2023), serves on the American Society of Retina Specialists Board of Directors,

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Wykoff Reflects on Alpha Theta

by **Charlie Wykoff '98**

It is a tremendous honor to receive the Significant Sig Award and my experiences at Alpha Theta Sigma Chi were foundational to my career and who I am today. The memories of friendships and traditions such as walk-outs, camping in Maine, our pirated Christmas tree, incredible, multi-level food fights, and weekly tea are some of my most enduring and meaningful memories. Never in my life have I been so privileged to share such a small space with so many incredible individuals who meaningfully impacted my life. For example, my Sigma Chi big-brother and I have remained good friends over the last 28 years; Dennis Hom and I have been doing hiking/biking/climbing trips to

Utah for the last few years and would welcome any additions this fall!

The Shakespeare quote on our Beacon Street dining room wall, "Strive mightily but eat and drink as friends," has stayed with me. I saw the importance of remaining true to one's principles while being open to new perspectives and always striving to be better. Collectively we demonstrated that together we can be so much more influential than as individuals.

Clinical research, the world in which I am immersed today, is very much a team sport. Through research beginning at MIT and extending through my PhD years, I knew I wanted to stay in science.

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2022 HOUSE CORPORATION

Board of Directors & Officers

Mike Delaus '82
President

Josh Littlefield '81
Treasurer

Mike Gibson '13
Clerk

Bill Tsacoyeanes '83
Alumni House Manager

Alex Cai '14

Dan Craig '03

Herb Mower '65

Jim Wilber '81

Mark Curtiss '87

Cary Gumbert '94
Alumni Risk Manager

From the House Corporation

While we decided to postpone our reunion that was scheduled for this year, everyone is looking forward to the event, now scheduled for April 28–30, 2023. As you will read in this issue, brothers still found ways to get together this spring.

With COVID-19 restrictions having been lifted by MIT earlier this year, life has finally gotten back to normal at the house this semester. This also means that there will be a summer house this

year for the first time in a few years. It is great to see all the undergrads, especially the freshmen. Planning for work week and rush are underway, which is another sign that life is getting back to what we all remember.

In hoc,

Mike DeLaus '82
House Corporation President
mdelaus2@gmail.com

Sigma Lifts

by **Aaron Fuchs**



Aaron Fuchs

Our house is made up of a lot of MIT athletes; however, once things went virtual in 2020, some brothers left their teams or couldn't practice their sports due to the ongoing restrictions. This led brothers to begin hitting the gym and working out as a focus rather than just as a way to help them get better at their sports. By the time we got back for the beginning of this school year, there was a group of brothers who were dedicated to the gym. As the fall semester went on other people in the house began to notice this trend. This

is where the term Sigma Lifts/Sigma Lifters was coined. Lifting, and going to the gym in general, have now become a part of the house culture. We motivate each other to stay consistent, give each other tips and ideas, and of course, see each other in the gym quite often. At this point in the year, people outside of the house have even begun to take note of how they will often see at least one Sigma Chi brother in the gym when they go. I believe Sigma Lifts helps push the ex-athletes and non-athletes in the house to stay active and keeps the house healthier altogether. The Sigma Lifts culture in the house looks to be here to stay, and I for one am glad to be a part of it.

Upcoming House Corporation Meetings

All alumni are welcome to attend board or annual meetings, either in person or virtually. This October's meeting will be the first meeting held at the chapter house since the pandemic began. Agendas and video conference information will be sent by email by Corporate **Clerk Mike Gibson '13**.

Board of Directors Meeting
October 2, 2022 | SUNDAY
Time: **5:00 p.m.**

Annual Meeting
November 13, 2022 | SUNDAY
Time: **5:00 p.m.**

Brotherhood, Barbecue, & Brews

by **Bill Tsacoyeanes '84**

Pandemic concerns and restrictions might have canceled our full reunion this year, but we can still gather to celebrate the eternal bonds of friendship, justice, and learning. Roughly a mile from the Wellesley campus, over 40 brothers and their partners gathered at the lovely home of **Tom '80** and Winnie Faust on Saturday, April 30. Members of the classes of 1976–1988 within driving distance were well-represented. The Sigma Chi flag was flying proudly in front, the weather was great,



and many tales of lore were spun. Tasty appetizers and a suite of barbecue meats and sides, followed by too many delicious desserts, provided a feast for all. We don't have to wait for full reunions to reunite with our brothers.

Role Models

by **Tom Hogan**



Tom Hogan
Alpha Theta Sigma Chi

The importance of the word brother tends to be overlooked when people talk about fraternities. A brother is not simply a friend that someone has for four years before graduation, not simply a roommate or a classmate. A brother is a lifelong acquaintance that stands with you in the toughest of times and cheers for you during your great-

est triumphs. A brother is someone who is not afraid to stand up for you as much as he is willing to tell you when you make a mistake. Throughout my short time in the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi, I have met and bonded with many men that I am proud to call brothers. Although all the members of this fraternity are my brothers, some especially distinguish themselves with the qualities listed above. Firstly, my brother **Nikhil Kakarla '24**, who I have known since the sixth grade, has always been a role model for me academically, socially,

and in his extracurricular activities. Our bond grew even deeper when I pledged Sigma Chi at MIT. Suddenly we were more than lifelong friends; we shared a bond that few share and, because of it, our friendship was strengthened. Next, my brother **George Stultz '22** has been a glowing example of an older brother. From the moment I met him, he was incredibly welcoming. Even now that we are officially brothers of Sigma Chi, he has not lost the mentality of making everyone feel like an important member of the fraternity.

2022 Senior Dinner

After a two-year gap due to COVID-19, the Alpha Theta house corporation members feted the graduating senior class at Bar à Vin 1855 on Newbury Street in Boston. Left to right: **Dan Pilsbury '22**, **Bill Tsacoyeanes '84**, **Peyton Greve '22**, **Mike DeLaus '82**, **George Stultz '22**, **Wes Woo '19**, **Julian Manyika '22**, **Alex Cai**, **Delta Psi '14**, **Grant Miller '22**, **Ben Wolz '22**, and **Josh Littlefield '81**.





Remembering Ron Norelli '67

by Rolf Brauchler '69

It is with sadness, but also with fond reflection and admiration, that we note the recent passing of **Ron Norelli '67**. Ron was one of the most notable Alpha Thetas of the '60s–'70s era: one of a small handful of Significant Sigs of that time, recognized for his lifetime of achievement in business and for his service to the multiple communities of which he was a part.

For those of other eras who didn't have the opportunity to know Ron, his essence is perfectly captured in this excerpt from his obituary, written by his son Andrew: "He was a polymath, excelling in engineering, business, music, and sport, all with a fierce devotion to God, family, and community. His family estimates that he read 3,000 books during his lifetime, which often included dauntingly dense war histories and biographies. Ron held a deep reverence for the sacrifices of our country's veterans, which include many members of his extended family of Norellis, Allens, and Blacks."

We '69 pledges who had the good fortune to be tutored by Ron in the core principles and values of Sigma Chi recall that experience with lasting gratitude. He was one of the most inspirational and impactful chapter leaders of our era and truly embodied the values of friendship, justice, and learning. Apart from fraternity life, and true to his mentoring skills, Ron not only played three years of varsity baseball but also served as MIT's junior varsity coach.



Ron and Nancy with their Grandchildren

His early business career included stints at the Chevron oil refineries in California and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Upon his return to the Boston area, Ron met the love of his life, the sister of fellow Alpha Theta Jim Black, Wellesley undergrad Nancy Lee Black. Ron and Nancy spent the next 50 years together, raising three children and enjoying seven grandchildren.

Later in his business career as a management consultant, Ron focused on advising closely held companies, with a special emphasis on improving the financial and management health of family businesses in transition. Among other accomplishments, he was selected to serve as the president of the Family Firm Institute, an international industry trade

group, from 2006 to 2007.

For all his career accomplishments and inspirational leadership, though, Ron didn't lack humor. During undergrad years and at alumni gatherings long after, he could be counted on to recall shared humorous anecdotes, always delivered with a twinkle in his eye and punctuated by his infectious laugh. As often as not, these moments also included a "lesson learned."

Ron will always be remembered by those who knew him as the finest role model, mentor, and coach we ever met. His positive attitude, contagious enthusiasm, and striving for excellence in all aspects of life enabled him to live the full life that we all aspire to. He will be greatly missed.

End to the Chaos

by Kael Kordonowy | Consul

This semester brought an end to the chaos that was COVID-19 protocols. We saw both the mask and testing mandates removed midway through the semester. As the mandates went away, we began to host more events, including a beer die tournament and

multiple trivia nights.

With the spring semester usually come the hard goodbyes with our beloved seniors. This year, however, we only have one true goodbye as six of our seven seniors will be staying in the Boston area next year for one more

year of school. So, we say a bitter-sweet goodbye to Ben Wolz, who has influenced the house in so many ways. He has seemingly held every position in the house at some point and I can truly say he has changed our brotherhood for the better.

The Return of In-Person Rush

by Jake Jones '24 | Recruitment Chair



Jake Jones '24

For MIT fraternities, rush week is a uniquely exhilarating period. Every fall, the newly arrived freshmen and broader community explore 26 chapters, gaining an appreciation for the principles by which each community abides and enjoying delicious food, exciting events, and engaging conversation.

This past year we saw the return of in-person rush, modified though it was by the wearing of masks around campus. Despite restrictive COVID-19 policies, the chapter had an extremely successful recruitment period. 12 more principled men now call Alpha Theta Sigma Chi their home, and we are looking forward to living with them at 532 Beacon Street this fall.

We have been thrilled by their determination, energy, and positivity this year. Some fun events they have participated in include serenades, in which the freshmen and sophomores perform

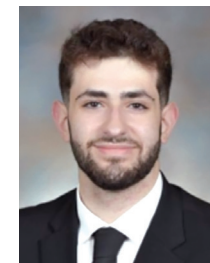
songs for a variety of sororities, and the upcoming Alpha Phi Heartthrob event, where one of our newest members will perform in a talent show.

Meanwhile, we have begun to turn our eyes towards this upcoming August when we will once again seek to welcome a new class of Alpha Thetas. On the weekend of April 9, MIT hosted over 1,000 admitted students for Campus Preview Weekend, or CPW. The brothers took this opportunity to invite potential students into our home, at one point hosting a pancakes and milkshakes event that saw Alpha Thetas cooking breakfast food until well after midnight, entertaining admittees all the while.

Turning our eyes towards August, we're excited to host several engaging events, including paintball, a beach day, and a boat cruise around Boston Harbor. Thanks to our larger freshmen and sophomore classes, we have the opportunity to balance out our house with a smaller incoming class. I look forward to leading our recruitment efforts and building new relationships with the MIT Class of 2026

The Spring '22 Social Debrief

by Eli Cuevas '24



Eli Cuevas '24

With the dawn of the spring semester bringing the twilight of MIT's pandemic restrictions, the other social chairs and I saw an opportunity to revamp the house's social capacity. Under Wolz/Hess/Cruz last semester, notable progress was made in this regard when brothers (spearheaded by Dylan) built a nice stage to elevate the DJ of the dining room, but Nikhil and I saw no reason to leave it at that. George handling much of the party

planning allowed us two to turn our attention elsewhere: the A/V (audio/visual) experience of our larger parties.

Clever budgeting produced a nice cushion of surplus social budget, and rather than buying more drinks or thematic props, Nikhil and I opted to upgrade more permanent fixtures. First came a professional DJ mixing table (the Pioneer DDJ-400) to allow for more creative disk jockeying up on our new stage. Then, came a restructuring of our dining-room/dance floor setup.

Hours of negotiating and perhaps a bit of stubbornness at the Fenway Guitar Center netted us a few new toys:

Significant Sig

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is a founding member of the Ophthalmology Retina Editorial Board, and is the chief medical editor for Retina Specialist. He has been awarded multiple achievement, honor, and senior honor awards including the ASRS Young Investigator and the AAO Secretariat Awards. His guiding philosophy is to build and strengthen innovative, ethical teams focused on developing new approaches to improving outcomes for blinding diseases.

Alpha Theta

(continued from page one)

In medical school and subsequent ophthalmology training, I realized that in addition to clinical and surgical practice, I wanted to dedicate my time to clinical research.

Through this, I have been fortunate to share my life with Samantha Chang Wykoff, my girlfriend throughout my years at MIT, my wife since 2003, and the mother of our three children aged 17, 14, and 10.

mainly, a brand-new Electro-Voice powered speaker. It's a pretty high-tech, Bluetooth-capable machine that is more than capable of manufacturing enough decibels for all of Beacon Street to hear: it got us a noise complaint only 30 minutes after bringing it home. No worries, we (sort of) know what we're doing now. We also walked away with some speaker stands to elevate our audio equipment to above crowd-head level, which fills up the dining room much more evenly and allows for a much better dance floor experience.

We also had a social media-sponsored

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ALPHA THETA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Gary Holland '73

Please note that I'm not retired from Price-waterhouseCoopers where for 14 years I was their global IT contract negotiator.

Now in my eighth year of retirement, I often wonder how I accomplished it all back when I was working; my days are so full of activity. This summer will mark 40 years in the same Connecticut house (albeit expanded and renovated way too many times) and 37 years of marriage (mostly blissful) to my wife Nancy.

Still active as an adult Boy Scout leader and getting increasingly involved in Braver Angels, a national organization focusing on bringing back civil discourse between people of differing views, especially in our political arena. Although I'm $\frac{3}{4}$ bionic (both knees and a hip), I still manage to get around pretty well. My son, David, just turned 31 and is well into his career and seems well satisfied with his life thus far (although no grandkids, yet...sigh). Happily, I can sum up my current status simply, "life is good!"

Robert Dean Jr. '48

Nancy, (my Wellesley student wife I met as a freshman Sigma Chi) and I are both 94. We are doing very well for such aged people. Our five children and seven grandchildren are well too (no great-grandchildren!) Our children are: the oldest (70), a retired high school teacher; a mechanical engineer, (68); a mechanical engineering professor at Rhode Island School of Design, PhD of environment (and MRA lawyer) (63); a Lt. Col in the US Army (retired) and vice president of sales and marketing (61); West Point and MIT - me. I am still trying to be an innovation engineer.

William Rowe '75

I stopped my conventional cardiology practice in 2018 and changed to doing locum (temporary) work as an interventional cardiologist. This means I travel for work and am typically working about half the time and home half the time. When traveling, I usually fly myself in my own plane. So I have finally figured out how to

combine my profession with my first avocation of flying. I'm having tons of fun!!

John McAllister '57

Retired nine years ago and now work in community theater and take my extended family on vacation: Spain and San Juan, Costa Rica in 2019. Organizing a vacation for 10, with grandchildren over a 10-year range, is a challenge.

Robert Johnston '64

Living quietly up a "holler" in Southeast West Virginia, on a small farm.

Terrence Sweeney '75

Trying to stay sane living with kids and four grandkids this last 18 months!

Iain Hueton '84

Looking forward to a big change in 2022. We bought one-way tickets to Hawaii! Jennifer has a teaching position through June, and we are trading in our skis for this season.

Social Debrief

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party, which brought in enough capital to invest in a powerful strobe light. Note that when I write powerful, I mean so powerful that we cannot turn it above 75% power or else we blow a fuse, which has happened multiple times at this point. However, we vaguely know the limits now and have been recently utilizing the strobe in the dining room at our parties with great success.

Overall, the Sigma Chi party atmosphere has come a long way since Sep-

tember 2021. Our dance floor is much more stimulating and changing our approach to obtaining party merchandise has led to more fun for everyone. I look forward to further improvements made by our (four!) new socials next semester.

Elie (MIT '24, Alpha Theta '25) was one of three social chairs this semester, along with **Nikhil '24** and **George '22**.



DECEASED

We regret to announce the death of the following alumnus:

CHARLES DOVERSPIKE '52

August 25, 2021