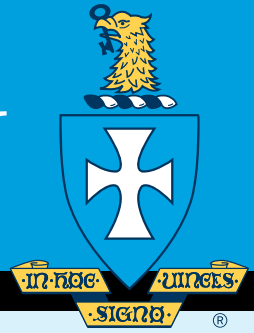


# THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity

CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS | SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU | FALL 2022



## SAVE THE DATE: 141<sup>ST</sup> REUNION

It's been too long since we all gathered. Reunion will be that much sweeter for the wait. We think the upcoming reunion will be one of the best and best-attended ever! Last spring's postponed event is now set for April 28–30, 2023, with accommodations at the Hotel Commonwealth in Kenmore Square and activities at both MIT and the chapter house.

The world has changed since last year, as have MIT's COVID-19 policies. There's no doubt the upcoming reunion will happen. What's needed to make it a great success is for all of us to be there!

Mark your calendars! Start bugging your pledge brothers! And think about scheduling a flight and booking a hotel. It's not too early. Please consider registering for the event as soon as possible. It helps us with our planning. It also helps us get other brothers to attend, because hearing that you will be there will get others to sign up.

Registration information is at [sigmachi.mit.edu/reunion](http://sigmachi.mit.edu/reunion).

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

For the Reunion Committee,

**John Piotti '83**

[jpiotti@farmland.org](mailto:jpiotti@farmland.org)

**Dan Craig '03**

[drccraig@alum.mit.edu](mailto:drccraig@alum.mit.edu)



## From the House Corporation—Finances

Ideally, the chapter rent would pay for all house operating expenses and the mortgage, as well as some savings for capital expenses. While we are fortunate to have a low, fixed-rate mortgage, many of our expenses have increased, and while we have raised rent, we are mindful of the financial burden that it places on the undergrads and the relative cost of living at 532 Beacon Street as compared to other housing options.

*While the finances of the corporation are in good shape, an increase in alumni donations and gifts would put us in a better position. Please consider helping us achieve this goal.*

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our reunion in April 2023.

In hoc,

**Mike DeLaus '82**

House Corporation President

[mdelaus2@gmail.com](mailto:mdelaus2@gmail.com)



Here are some of the house corporation expenses:

- Publishing of *The Beaver Sig* and alumni database management
- Capital expenses like dishwashers, washer/dryer, furniture, drapes, etc.
- Annual senior and pledge dinners
- Occasional alumni events
- Work Week expenses.
- Property taxes and insurance
- Repairs, maintenance, and inspections
- Fire alarm monitoring and other safety related contracts



## 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**

**open**

*Alumni Risk Manager*

## Consul's Update

by **Jake Jones '24**



This semester, I have been privileged to serve as Consul for the chapter. Thus far it has been an amazing and empowering experience, thanks to the hard work, dedication, and character of the members in the house.

As our active members embarked on a new academic year, we saw the second post-COVID-19 work week. Our brothers did an admirable job updating, fixing, and improving the house, and 532 Beacon looked great as classes began. Furthermore, we had a very successful recruitment, with 13 men accepting bids. Magister Jack Roberson has done an excellent job ensuring the new members understand the values and standards of our brotherhood.

Looking toward the remainder of

the semester, I'm excited to accomplish some of the goals I laid out for the chapter upon running for Consul in May. In the new few weeks, we will be ratifying an updated copy of the chapter bylaws to make important updates in elections, judicial proceedings, and housing.

We are taking the opportunity to clarify language and ensure that the house runs efficiently. Though it is not glamorous, updating the bylaws will continue to serve the fraternity in the years to come. We are also looking to remember and bring back meaningful traditions that were lost during the pandemic. Because we did not live in the house for over a year, many of the traditions that make our chapter so unique fell by the wayside, and we are proud about doing them again.

I look forward to continuing to serve the chapter this fall and seeing many of you at our reunion this spring!

## Fall 2022 Undergraduate Officers

Consul: Jake Jones '24

Pro-Consul: Nikhil Kakarla '24

Risk Manager: CJ Tummings '25

Quaestor: Bryce Hancock '24

Assistant Quaestor: Sanjay Long '25

Magister: Jack Roberson '24

Assistant Magister: Jack Grier '25

Recruitment Chair: Jake Jones '24

Assistant Recruitment Chair: Tom Hogan '25

Annotator: Elie Cuevas '24

Socials: Ian Gatlin '24; Trey Gurga '24; Aaron Fuchs '23; Tom Hogan '25

House Manager: Ben Sheres '25

Assistant House Manager: Kael Kordonoway '23

Sweetheart Chairs: Haran Nadarajah '23; Matas Masys '23

Steward: Matas Masys '23

Philanthropy Chairs: Ian Gatlin '24; Haran Nadarajah '23

CommRel: Haran Nadarajah '23; Ben Sheres '25

Tribune: Mike Higgins '25

Brotherhood Chairs: Kade Killeen '25; Ben Sheres '25; Preston Hess '24

Assistant Stewards: Chris Gaston '24; Elie Cuevas '24; Ian Gatlin '24

Historian: Kade Killeen '25

# Recruitment Update

by Tom Hogan '25 | Assistant Recruitment Chair



Fall fraternity recruitment started like any other year: packs of affiliated brothers scrambling around Kresge's lawn, pitching their chapters to hundreds of potential new members. The booths formed a pinched rectangle around the center of the lawn, where scouts from every MIT fraternity combed the area for students who fit the standard of their organization. The Sigma Chi table, unfortunately placed in the back corner, garnered a good amount of attention from all sorts of MIT students.

From Kresge Kickoff to beach day to mini golf, the Alpha Theta Chapter considered over 100 potential new members with only 12 to 15 available spots. Throughout

the week, we got to know these freshmen and sophomores during activities such as Sky Zone dodgeball, a boat cruise in Boston Harbor, and our signature "Hot Ones" event. In addition to large events, brothers treated interested parties to lunch almost every day. We also spent hours in meetings, attempting to decide who would be invited to events and who would receive a bid.

Eventually, Alpha Theta Sigma Chi offered 19 highly contested bids, and 13 were accepted. It was difficult to see potential new members who the chapter had bonded with join other fraternities, however, this pledge class of 13 is the exact size the fraternity wanted and needed with 12 spots coming available in the house next year. After a successful 2022 recruitment, the future of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi looks extremely bright.



Top left, top right, bottom left: Brothers and pledges at our big/little event at XXX.

Above: Brothers and PNMs on our Boston Harbor boat cruise.



# Life as a Student Athlete

by **Michael Higgins '25** | Tribune



In addition to excellence in our academic and service-oriented ventures, one characterization of our fraternity is the high prevalence of our brotherhood within MIT varsity athletics. We are home to varsity football, basketball, volleyball, squash, and crew athletes, and we seek to expand our brotherhood into other sports as well with future generations of members. Needless to say, it is a large achievement and a huge commitment to be a student athlete at one of the top institutions in the country, and it is something commonly seen at the Alpha Theta Chapter.

Personally speaking, coming into MIT as a football player was very intimidating. The academic challenge that MIT was known for mixed with the physical rigor and time commitment of college football seemed like a mountain I had no idea how to even start climbing. Last fall, I found it a little difficult to manage my schedule in a way that worked for me and allowed me to succeed in the classroom, on the field, and within my fraternity. With the help and advice of people who I trusted, mostly other brothers, I was able to find a routine that allowed me to fulfill my goals and succeed.

As a student athlete, I found that the time crunch associated with the season led me to develop time management skills. Before, I was a very big procrastinator, leaving things until the last minute, but here, I cannot get away with that anymore, so I

need to get ahead of my assignments before they catch up to me.

On an average day, I wake up around 8:00, walk to campus and get in a workout before my 10:00 class. I have classes until the late afternoon, practice between 4:00 and 7:00, and then go to office hours until around 9:00, after which I return home and enjoy time with brothers, since I have completed most of my work by then. Being a student athlete at MIT teaches you the importance of time management and builds good character.

Although it is not an easy task being involved in so much at such a prestigious institution, I am glad to have found a groove in which it is possible, as it is an extremely rewarding experience.



# New Member Spotlight

by **Kristian Praizner '26**

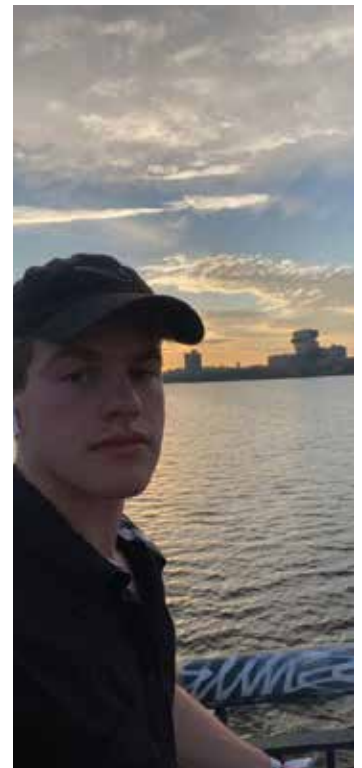
My name is Kristian Praizner and I was born in Estonia. My family, consisting of my American father and Estonian mother, moved to the U.S. when I was a few months old and I grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Having family in Estonia has allowed me to visit there every summer and immerse myself within the different cultures. An example of this would be my love for the sport of soccer. Soccer is an integral sport in Estonia, and going there increases my love for the sport every time. Growing up in Philadelphia also opened my mind to different cultural ideals.

Whether it be the obsession of putting cheese and steak on a sandwich, or tearing apart the city every time a sports team wins a championship, living in Philly has truly

helped me grow as a person.

Ever since I was a child, I have always been fascinated by computers and their capabilities. Learning to modify video games and explore blockchain technology as a child really helped me cultivate that passion into a desire for education. I am thankful to be attending MIT where I know the best research is being done regarding computer science.

Besides being a nerd, I also enjoy running track for MIT. As Socrates put it, "It is a shame for a man to grow old without seeing the beauty and strength of which his body is capable." I believe in reaching the greatest heights of my potential, both physically and mentally, and there is no better way to do it than by running track here.



# Summer Internship

by Julian Manyika '22

Throughout my time at MIT, my summers have always been structured around a software engineering internship. With Google, Planet, and Emerson Collective, I've been embedded in frontend, quality assurance, and full stack product teams, working on clearly defined, modular projects. My work from June through August of 2022 was fundamentally different in just about every way.

In the latter half of my college experience, I've been searching for ways to combine my STEM and humanities majors in order to take them from being separate lanes to one merged path. In the final months of the spring 2022 semester, I felt compelled to apply my computer science and philosophy background to research. At the time, I was taking a very interesting class on the philosophy of language as part of my philosophy degree, and I was constantly trying to connect what I was learning to the lofty and intimidating problems in artificial intelligence. This led me to the first phase of

the long project that I started over the summer, which attempted to evaluate state-of-the-art artificial intelligence models on their capacity to produce their chain of thought. In other words, I endeavored to analyze a powerful large language model, called GPT-3, to see how well it could explain itself when asked some relatively open-ended reasoning questions. Similar to the teachers and professors of our youth and early adulthood, I evaluated how GPT-3 showed its work, in addition to the correctness of its answers.

This project on chain-of-thought reasoning was extremely independent, and a steep learning curve for me on doing research well. While I knew how to dive into the software and technical side of the project, which involved writing programs to automate data collection and generation, I quickly learned the greater importance of thorough literature review and careful experiment design. Most im-



portantly, it highlighted the importance of failing fast and adapting to where the results take you.

Ultimately, this project has steered me toward a more linguistic evaluation on GPT-3, a project that I am still working on in this fall semester, with advisors in the Philosophy Department. I believe this work on evaluating artificial intelligence systems is not only interesting, but also extremely important. One would be surprised to learn how hard it is to truly explain and interpret what is actually going on in the underlying mechanisms of these incredibly advanced autonomous systems. One would also be encouraged to discover how much research is going into this field of system evaluation and interpretability, and how many innovative strategies are being developed at what seems to be light speed. My summer project was another step toward a commitment to a career of learning, and I hope to continue that spirit into my master's degree.

# Social Update

by Ian Gatlin '24

## Mixers, Upgrades, and Risks



The four new socials this semester have been a busy ride, and there were big shoes to fill following the popular socials last spring.

We've spent a lot of time bonding with one another, whether it be postering, driving to Total Wine, or brainstorming party ideas.

We started off strong with a great first mixer with Alpha Phi, right after rush, with an intense team competition. We had them do a wide set of tasks. For

the hour it was happening, the house was in a state of chaos with: teams trying to move couches up and down the stairwell, our favorite TikTok Kade Killeen leading teams through choreographed moves, and three brave teams that decided the best strategy was for all of them to jump into the river in order to get a staggering 1,000 points.

In addition to fun events, there have also been some upgrades to our dance floor. During work week, a group of brothers, led by Grant Miller, built a wooden stage for the DJ stand. They also did a great job painting it. It is stored, standing on its side, at the end of the dining room, when not in use.

Parties of course can have some risk,



Brothers mixing with Alpha Phi.

and to mitigate risk, we all have party jobs. And, sometimes all of us could improve. What happens if we don't do our assigned jobs? What happens if we don't do those jobs right? And, very specifically, what if people are trying to get past security? There are always some interesting people who will come up to you there. We all have to do our part to balance fun with risk.

This semester started off strong and we have even more planned.

# ALPHA THETA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



## Perry Nies '48

Alpha Theta was a vast growing experience for me. No SATs then (1944); my high school grades at Cleveland Heights High School were my admission to MIT in June 1944. I was odd, a nerd, but so was everyone else. Therefore, I was no longer odd! Progressed socially; earned a nickname, Uncle Wiggilgy, for various adventures, like tried to pick up a restaurant hostess; failed! Elected chapter social chairman; had two great parties, GIPPY and House of Blue Lights. Yes, your friendships will last a lifetime. Value them!

## Christopher Davis '68

I am pleased to report that my memoir of my 35-year career as an ER doctor has sold more than 3,200 copies. My son, Scott, has started his emergency-medicine residency at the University of Florida at Jacksonville. Amazingly busy, their ER has 130 beds and over 100,000 patients annually.

## Kenneth Morse '68

Retired? Heck no! Still helping MIT startups to grow and go global. Entrepreneurship keeps us young!

## Kirk Scattergood '79

So that time has come. As of February 2022, I am fully retired from my practice of ophthalmology with a subspecialty of retina and vitreous surgery in Green Bay. My wife, Donna, and I are now living full time in Sister Bay, Wisconsin, on a beautiful waterfront home. I hereby extend my invitation to any brothers in the area to call and stop by.

## Samuel Towell '00

After seven years in public service, first as Virginia's deputy secretary of agriculture and forestry, and then as Virginia's deputy attorney general for civil litigation, I have rejoined the private sector. I am currently the associate general counsel for litigation at Smithfield Foods Inc., the nation's largest hog producer and pork processor.

## Richard Y.P. Yeh '01

My wife, Alejandra, and I are moving to Lisbon, Portugal. Call it early retirement, a long sabbatical, or just a new life adventure. Look us up if in Portugal! Mailing address is my parents home.



## DECEASED

We regret to announce the death  
of the following alumnus:

**FRANK W. OSGOOD JR. '48**

**January 16, 2018**

## 120th Celebration—April 2002



This image is from the June 2002 issue of the *The Beaver Sig*, recapping the 120th anniversary of Alpha Theta. We love historical images. You can mail or scan and email images to us, and if we have a chance to use them in future issues, we will. Thanks to all our alumni for your support, and we hope to see you in April!

*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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