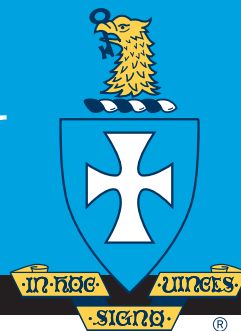


# THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity

CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS | SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU | SPRING 2023



## 141<sup>st</sup> REUNION *A Resounding Success*



After a year's delay due to pandemic restrictions, Alpha Theta celebrated its 141st Anniversary Reunion on the weekend of April 28–30, 2023 in Boston. 149 alumni, 10 sweethearts, eight friends of the house, and 87 other family members joined the 40 actives for a wonderful weekend of brotherhood and fellowship.

Friday night began with class and era dinners in and around Boston. There were at least nine separate events, spanning the mid-1960s to the late 2010s. The mid-1980s era held their dinner at the chapter house, and they were joined by many others late into the evening.

On Saturday morning, the undergraduates performed the ritual for the assembled alumni, while several family members toured the newly relocated and expanded MIT Museum in Kendall Square. The rain held off long enough so that we could enjoy a chilly picnic lunch outdoors. MIT's post-COVID policy of restricting public access to campus made getting around more difficult. Many alumni had difficulty getting their digital MIT IDs through their smartphones to unlock doors, but we managed to get everyone to the right place.

On Saturday afternoon, four alumni spanning four decades gave talks in 6–120 at the Alpha Theta Academy. **Craig German '87** led things off, demonstrating some of the digital visual effects that are possible now thanks to deepfakes and AI. This disruptive technology has many in Hollywood concerned it will put

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## Planning the Reunion



**Nikhil Kakarla '24**

Planning and attending the 141st Alpha Theta Alumni Reunion was challenging but also very rewarding. Starting in the middle of the fall semester, I, as the undergraduate reunion coordinator, met monthly with the alumni reunion committee to work out the details of the event. It was a logistical challenge to organize the many alumni, gather the funding, and ensure that all the physical props and supplies were in the right place for each weekend event. Coordinating with MIT Audio Visual, the catering companies, and the banquet venue added additional complexity. Also,

coordinating the deep cleaning of the house both in the weeks leading up to the event as well as in the mornings on reunion weekend was a challenge. I am grateful for the help of the house managers and consul to ensure that undergraduate attendance and effort were displayed throughout the weekend and the state of the house was maintained.

Despite the planning challenges, the event was an absolute success from an undergraduate perspective. Not only was it a pleasure to meet all the older Sigma Chis, but it was also inspiring to see their success and dream about what we can achieve in the future. Additionally, the event was incredibly fun, featuring both intellectual activities like the Alpha Theta Academy as

*(continued on page four)*

## Sally Kornbluth Inaugurated as MIT's 18<sup>th</sup> President

Sally Kornbluth was inaugurated as MIT's 18th president on Monday, May 1, 2023. She is a cell biologist whose eight-year tenure as Duke University's provost earned her a reputation as a brilliant administrator, a creative problem-solver, and a leading advocate of faculty excellence and student wellbeing.



**Sally Kornbluth**

Festivities celebrating the inauguration took place on the same weekend as Alpha Theta's 141st-anniversary reunion. The conjunction of events initially provided a scare for the reunion committee, when it discovered room reservations were blocked that weekend,

but the Institute Events office was gracious enough to arrange accommodations for us.





## 2023 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

Gerald Tourgee '76

*Assistant Alumni House Manager*

## Consul's Update: On Pride



Preston Hess '24

Two words that mean a lot more to brothers of Sigma Chi than anyone else are "always proud." There are memories tied to that phrase, reminders of people you listened to and times you had. It means a lot to us as a fraternity. Pride is not ego or narcissism. It is the feeling of being able to hold your head high while saying "I am a Sigma Chi," or "Did you meet my brother?" We are proud of the fraternity and our associations with it, and we are proud of our brothers. That is why, when I ran for consul, I said that I wanted more pride in the house at the end of my term than the beginning.

I am extremely proud to be a Sigma Chi right now, and I think the whole chapter is too. After a tough start to the semester due to new IFC policies, we had a conversation about where the house needs to be to bring about pride. At our rush retreat, we talk-

ed about the policies and ideas that would help us become a strengthened brotherhood. We talked about putting in the small amount of extra work to make the house clean. We talked about taking 10 minutes to help another brother get the groceries in. We talked about participation at all of our events, whether it be philanthropy or social. Every little action builds on the last and strengthens our bonds. Most importantly, we talked about the purpose of the fraternity, which is to have fun while doing all of that. It was with that mindset that we entered the reunion the following weekend. The alumni we met and the stories we told reaffirmed the purpose we felt. We were asking about old traditions, and seeing which ones we could bring back. We learned about lives in the house and after, and met all of the people that led us to being here. Most importantly, we had a lot of fun. I am truly honored to have had the chance to be consul at a reunion, and I can say that I am, and we all are, always proud to be Alpha Theta Sigma Chis.

## Engineers or Athletes?



Sean Huckleberry '26

Nothing comes easy. This was especially true at the 2023 NEWMAC Track and Field Championships last weekend where harsh weather beat down on athletes who scrambled to don their soaked warmups between events and attempts. Nonetheless, it was a successful weekend for the MIT track and field team, of which I am part, who dug deep to clinch the NEWMAC title.

Athletics at MIT is more than a pastime. Being a student-athlete here requires not only a keenness for a sport but also the capability to masterfully juggle this commitment alongside scholastic and social pursuits. On the track team, for example,

one should expect to spend anywhere between eight and 12 hours traveling or competing on the weekends. I know we would all love to sleep in until noon on Saturdays, but instead, we wake ourselves up at dawn to drive to another state. Why?

There's something to be said about the fact that nearly 25% of undergraduates here participate in a varsity sport. Playing a sport at MIT gives you the opportunity to join a vibrant community of athletes, with whom you will grow physically and mentally, feel ecstasy and sorrow, and probably puke a couple of times at the end of a hard workout. In short, athletics at MIT are an avenue to an entirely new world and community that can only really be perceived through experience. As I said, it's not always easy, but yes, engineers can be athletes, too.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT Tim Kostolansky '23

### LEARNING TO BE AN ALPHA THETA 101

Reflection was something I did seldom before coming to MIT. I was a busy person, and I didn't have time to think about things. Why think about things when you could do more things instead?

Coming into MIT, my life was always about the next thing: the next set of classes I would take, the next opportunity I could find, the next activity that I could put on my resume. I became obsessed with the future, with things that were not even happening, with a continual hedging of bets that I never really saw to completion.

Soon, I was overwhelmed with activities, information, and social pressures. The firehose was drowning me, slowly filling up the walls of my room in Maseeh Hall. I was afraid that I would see no end to the madness of this new life at MIT.

When I joined Sigma Chi, I did it primarily because I would be around many members of the basketball team, my social group at the start of school. I didn't think much of it; I didn't even want to move into the house, as I thought it would likely reduce my productivity and I didn't know very many people in the house. The house was a place to hang out and party, and then spend all Sunday evening at chapter and GTO.

At first, I'll admit that I thought chapter and GTO were time-consuming chores. Why should I be spending my precious time at MIT talking about the upkeep of a house? Why did everyone talk about their lives for sooo long at GTO? Ugh, if only I could get home and work on my psets! I'm at MIT for a reason! Well, at least Tea is fun and it's cool to be a part of something.

Cue Covid. Oh no! I was settling into such a good stride with my 009 psets and had just finished basketball! I was ripped away from the comfort of the life that I had created and so taken for granted. What am I to do at home? I don't have anything except



Tim Kostolansky '23

work now. Well, that and the virtual chapters and GTOs, as well as the Teas that we held on a virtual site called gather.town (what a fun mess). And my friends who I could talk to about classes and music and wanting to be back so so bad, of course.

I came back to campus in the fall of 2021 with so much

anticipation: I was moving into the house! All the guys I knew and some new ones from that odd virtual rush that we held were, too. Wow, it was so nice to see everyone again. How I had missed seeing people and attending Teas, and even chapter and GTO were such a pleasure, just to be with my friends again.

And then all of a sudden, I'm in my final month as an undergraduate at MIT. That was so fast, way too fast, but it also feels like I've done so many things. Now, I'm thinking about what I value, what times I cherish, what things I did that made the journey so fun. You know what? It was those late nights in the library listening to my friends at GTO and in 5# talking about nothing with Matas and Jack and Aaron and anyone else. THAT is what it's all about. How did I never see it? It all happens so fast and you have no time to...reflect.

As I sit here now, doing the reflective act which I often found so hard to find time for, I find myself smiling at how I found it so hard to stop and take a second to think all those days. So now, here are some things that I appreciate now that I've given myself some time. Grant's nonstop jokes that are somehow insightful, but never too much. Eli's switches from Socratic thinker to frat star. Lucky's wisdom which he shares so happily and generously. Dogger comm and UDWOTW comm. Rooming with Matas and Kael at the start and also in my last semester. Troy's time as annotator, which I thought was an act but just turned out to just be his goofy self. Monday lunches with Collin and Kade. Rafa and the Cube. The list truly goes on and on.

Today, I am truly proud to be an Alpha Theta Sigma Chi. In Hoc and on fonem.



## SPRING 2023 Undergraduate Officers

*Consul*

Preston Hess '24

*Pro Consul*

Trey Gurga '24

*Risk Manager*

Collin DesRoberts '25

*Annotator*

Jack Roberson '24

*Quaestor*

Sanjay Long '25

*Recruitment*

Tom Hogan '25

*Magister*

Jack Grier '25

*Kustos*

Sean Huckleberry '26

*Socials*

Jack Roberson '24

Ian Gatlin '24

Rome Delgado-Gonzalez '26

*House Managers*

Kyle Heinz '25

Ben Sheres '25

*Assistant House*

Nikhil Kakarla '24

*Steward*

Sanjay Long '25

*Philanthropy Chairs*

Ben Sheres '25

Dreese Fadil '25

Will Cruz '26



## Social Update



Rome Delgado-Gonzalez '26      Ian Gatlin '24      Jack Roberson '24

The three of us have gone through a lot this semester as socials, following a hectic semester in the fall. We spent a lot of time trying to get the best out of our parties/mixers while mitigating the risk that comes with them. Also, it has been a great time bonding over the work we had to do like writing TEA mails, going on supply runs to Costco, and simply going through the planning of our events.

We started the semester off with our weekly TEA party. The theme for that week was Birthday ParTEA, given that many of the brothers, including Benjamin Sheres, were celebrating past and upcoming birthdays around that time. It was a successful event, where we even bought some birthday cake and decorations to commemorate our aging brothers. We followed up with some small date events and a TEA party the following weeks leading up to our first big party of the semester, “Club Machi.” All the brothers were really excited and so were our guests. We posted our party on campus and through our individual social media and the turnout was great.

The following week was one of our best events of the semester: our Wedding Mixer with Alpha Phi. Brother **Kyle Heinz** was chosen as the one to get married and Consul **Preston Hess** served as the officiator. Ladies and gentlemen from both sides had a blast. The class of 2026 came up with a fun little dance on the spot to begin the event, which then led to the funniest vows from the two being wed. The vows were written by a consortium of Aphis and Sigs and the two being wed had to recite them in front of everyone. Overall, everyone had an amazing time full of fun, laughter, and love.

The rest of the semester followed as planned, and now that the



semester is coming to an end, our last big party was just this past weekend, called “Sigs and Stripes.” In our opinion this event was our best by far as people from all over MIT, Boston University, Wellesley College, and more came together to fill our house with amazing music and good times. We had almost 100% brotherhood attendance minus those who were not in town, and the commitment to our fraternity was on full display. As we did the entire semester, the risk was kept to a minimum and no signs of harm were shown. Each brother was responsible for their job, including Michael Kubera, who served as our internal risk manager for the party, sweeping the floors constantly and ensuring the safety of all who attended.

It was a very successful semester and one that we will cherish for our lives, getting closer and showing to the public how great Sigma Chi is. With that being said, we still have a couple more events that we are so excited for.

## Planning the Reunion (continued from page one)

well as networking events like the open house and banquet. Overall, it was a truly inspiring and powerful experience to see the legacy of Sigma Chi and the power of a brotherhood that stretches far beyond those living in the house currently. I remain grateful for the alumni for all they do for this house and, although it is early, am already excited about the next reunion.



## House Managers' Update

Over the past semester, the active brothers in addition to the alumni house managers have put in a lot of effort in keeping the house



Kyle Heinz '25      Ben Sheres '25

clean and preparing it for reunion. Assistant House Manager **Nikhil Kakarla '24** oversaw weekly work sessions and delegated out jobs in which active brothers cleaned different parts of the house. His diligence kept the house in order and free of messes. Aside from standard cleaning, the undergraduate house managers, **Ben Sheres '25** and I worked in conjunction with the alumni house managers as well as other alums to fix wear-and-tear around the house. Projects included installing a bathroom door on the basement stall, fixing shower heads as well as drainage issues, and mounting an address sign on the back door. Routine fixes of door handles and furniture also kept the house managers busy. Ben and I appreciate the hard work of the actives as well as the alums in keeping the house in order and looking presentable.

In the lead-up to the reunion, Nikhil, Ben, and I, with the guidance of the alums, ramped up cleaning efforts in order to give the house a deeper cleaning. The alums reminded us of how proud everyone was of the renovation and our duty



Pictured above: Our back door with the new address plaque addition

to maintain that pride. In addition to our deeper clean, we hired a cleaning service to put the finishing touches on the house. We were delighted to see the reaction of the visiting alumni at the reunion and are glad the effort paid off.

Thank you to all the brothers who helped out this semester! In Hoc.

## Upcoming House Corporation Meetings

All alumni are welcome to attend board or annual meetings, either in person or virtually. Agendas and video conference information will be sent by email by Corporate Clerk **Mike Gibson '13**.

## 141<sup>ST</sup> Reunion A Resounding Success

*(continued from page one)*

them out of work, but it also could enable huge artistic potential in film and television.

**Dan Craig '03** then presented an overview of the exciting growth in the space economy in the 20 years since he graduated from MIT. Commercial spaceflight is in its hockey stick phase, and we can look forward to a future of tens of thousands of satellites, in-space manufacturing, and multiple private space stations for business and tourism, all enabled by cheap and reusable access to orbit.

After a brief intermission, **John Demerly '92** gave a glimpse into the fast-evolving world of autonomous driving. We may be a ways from entirely autonomous robotaxis, but advanced driver assistance technology that can handle the mundane and stressful parts of your commute is here now, and rapidly gaining in both adoption and capability.

Wrapping up the Academy was **Bruce Kirch '79**, who recounted his trail of training and triumph as a triathlete representing Team USA at the World Championships in Abu Dhabi. Bruce put his skills as an engineer to work during his training by measuring, adjusting, and optimizing his way to an incredible performance.

On Saturday night, a banquet was held at the Hotel Commonwealth in Kenmore Square, filling the 250-seat Fenway Ballroom. While the sound system in the room may have been lackluster, Alpha Thetas filled the hall with songs, culminating in the serenading of our Sweethearts of Sigma Chi.

The rain could hold off no longer, but that didn't stop a lively afterparty at the house, nor a Sunday open house with burgers and dogs.

The 141st was sweeter than usual, since it came a year late, since the 140th was postponed last year due to COVID-19 restrictions that would have prevented the undergraduates from attending. The pandemic is still very much with us, though, as at least a dozen alumni and spouses came down sick or tested positive in the days after. Thankfully, all known cases were mild.

The reunion committee would like to express our deep appreciation for the active chapter for hosting us. And of course, thank you to all of you who attended. You are what makes reunion so special!

We will resume our regular schedule of reunions on “years ending in 2 or 7,” and look forward to seeing you all in four years at the 145th in 2027!

*In hoc,*

**Dan Craig '03** | Reunion Committee Vice Chair  
**John Piotti '83** | Reunion Committee Chair  
**Nikhil Kakarla '24** | Undergraduate Coordinator

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Sept. 24, 2023 | SUNDAY | 5:00 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting**  
**Nov. 13, 2023 | SUNDAY | 5:00 p.m.**



# ALPHA THETA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



**Robert White '60: Jim Long '60** and I get together every month and would like to hear from our '60 classmates.

**Herbert Mower '65:** Continue to provide organ accompaniments for various Masonic groups. Also, fill in at the console in the absence of our church organist. I continue as the director of our handbell choir at church and have added chimes to our instruments. After 45 years, stepped down as an educational counselor for MIT. Interviewing MIT applicants was an enjoyable and rewarding experience. After avoiding various ports of call for cruising over better than two years, we finally got in an Alaska inside-passage cruise this year; it was great! We have been residents at The Overlook, a Masonic continuing-care facility located in central Massachusetts for over nine years. We are in a neat independent living apartment but, if needed, we can progress into an assisted-living apartment or a nursing-home apartment.

**John Adger Jr. '66:** Carolyn and I moved to a continuing-care retirement community in January 2021. I am staying busy with community activities, some continuing consulting, and participating in the DC-area MIT Alumni Angels. I am looking forward to our '66-'69-era event at Alpha Theta's 141st reunion at the end of April. See you there!

**Douglas Bailey '72:** A highlight of 2022 was the celebration on campus of the 50th reunion by my class of 1972. It was great to see so many classmates in attendance. As I had done for four previous reunions, I again had the honor of serving as our reunion gift-committee cochair and am pleased to report that our class set several new reunion giving records. I was particularly pleased to additionally lead the fundraising for the renovation of the fourth floor of the Stratton Student Center. This is part of the master renovation in 2023 of the entire student center, which opened when I was an arriving freshman. The fourth floor will be the new practice home for the MIT ballroom-dance team and more

than a dozen other student dance organizations. After half a century, they will finally have all new sprung hardwood dance floors on which to practice. The fourth floor will also have a new student lounge named in honor of the class of 1972 for its generous support during our 50th reunion. Kudos and many thanks to pledge brother **Alan Henricks '72** and big brother **Jim Black '69**, who each generously supported this project. Construction is underway, and the totally renovated student center will be open again in September 2023 to welcome the newly arriving freshman class.

**Gary Holland '76:** 2022 was not a great year for the world, but life remains good for my family and me. I'm mostly retired, but still active in Boy Scouts and in an organization called Braver Angels ([braverangels.org](http://braverangels.org)), which has national programs to promote civility in discourse at all levels of society, but particularly targeting the political process and its participants. Have managed to avoid COVID infestations and frequently travel with my wife to various domestic and international destinations: most recently, a delightful trip to Rome, Florence, Tuscany, and Venice, Italy. I'm blessed by having my only son live within a 45-minute drive. I cross trails occasionally with brothers from the years I was at 532 (mostly over Facebook), but welcome contact from others at any time. Praying that 2023 is kinder to us all!

**Iain Hueton '84:** Lots of disruption; my wife, Jennifer, accepted a teaching position at Puna-hou School in Honolulu in Dec 2021. We had to quickly pack, put the skis in storage and move to Hawaii within six weeks. It's been a magical, tropical year...visitors welcome! Meanwhile I quit my job in September and took the plunge into the med-tech start-up space with fellow Alpha Thetas **Eric Raman '83**, **Jim Wilber '81**, **Kevin Peterson '88**, and **Laji Raman**. **Jeremy Verba '86** came on board recently, after helping orchestrate a funding round based on substantial brotherly support, and we are now officially in the cardiovascular space. More to follow...



## DECEASED

We regret to announce  
the deaths of the following  
alumni:

**ROBERT  
DEAN JR. '48**

January 7, 2023

**EDMUND  
BOLTON '49**

February 11, 2022

**JOSEPH  
GLASGOW JR. '50**

**JOHN  
MAIN '50**

December 19, 2022

**EMORY  
HOSMER JR. '53**

**RONALD  
NORELLI '67**

April 19, 2022