

THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

[HTTP://SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU](http://sigmachl.mit.edu)

JUNE 2009

Remembering Alex d'Arbeloff '49

The Alpha Theta Sigma Chi community was tremendously saddened by the passing of Alex d'Arbeloff '49 on July 8, 2008. Alex, an amazing man with extraordinary accomplishments in life, will be very much missed by his Alpha Theta brothers—of all generations—and by the entire MIT community.

Alex led a life of great achievement and served as a role model (whether he knew them or not) for many decades of Alpha Theta brothers. Among his numerous notable achievements was founding high-tech company Teradyne and leading it as CEO for over 30 years to become a global, multi-billion-dollar leader of the automated test equipment industry. Alex was also a great participant with his wife, Brit (MIT '61), in many aspects of the MIT community. Brother d'Arbeloff was a professor of practice at MIT's Sloan School of Management, teaching courses on management and entrepreneurship, and was elected to and held the position of chairman of the MIT Corporation from 1997 to 2003 (a great distinction he shared with another legendary Alpha Theta brother, James Killian '26). Together, Alex and Brit established the d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in MIT Education to support teaching innovations in science and engineering.

Alex was chairman of the Massachusetts High Technology Council, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and a board member for several private and non-profit institutions. Alex and Brit actively supported music and the arts in the Boston area.

In 2004, Brother d'Arbeloff was awarded the prestigious Significant Sig status by the Sigma Chi International Fraternity for his numerous life achievements. The Significant Sig Award recognizes "those alumni members whose achievements in their fields of endeavor have brought honor and prestige to the name of Sigma Chi."

Alex was proud to have missed only one Alpha Theta reunion—that one because he famously got on the wrong plane due to being in characteristically deep thought. And Alex was a keynote speaker and frequent attendee with Brit at the annual Alpha Theta scholarship dinners.

In addition to his accomplishments in business and beyond, Alex was also a friend and mentor to countless MIT students, including many Alpha Thetas. "Although it was hard not to initially be intimidated by such a great titan of industry, in actuality, Alex was incredibly warm, approachable, and thoughtful when I would seek his advice on



Alex receives the Significant Sig Award from Alpha Theta Consul Will Stockwell '05 at a ceremony on June 2, 2004.

entrepreneurship and business—he was a truly inspiring man," said Alpha Theta Corporation Board President Karl Büttner '87.

The MIT community held a special event celebrating the life of Brother d'Arbeloff on October 17, 2008. Members of the MIT community filled Kresge Auditorium to hear wonderful reflections on Alex's life and his contributions to MIT and society at large.

MIT President Susan Hockfield, among the many distinguished speakers including Brit d'Arbeloff, said, "All of us privileged to know Alex are deeply saddened by his loss. MIT has lost an extraordinary friend who paired his passionate devotion to the Institute with a brilliantly dispassionate, clear-eyed

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Consul Reports on State of Chapter

Dear Brothers:

Alpha Theta has returned from IAP eager to make the spring semester just as successful and memorable as the last. Many brothers spent their IAPs at the Institute taking classes or preparing for various varsity sports. Others ventured away to study geological formations in Mojave Desert, backpack in the Grand Canyon, or simply unwind at home with family. Despite our various experiences during IAP, we all converged on 532 Beacon Street feeling refreshed and

refocused.

On January 25, led by our Magister Eric Reuland '10, we initiated 10 new brothers into the fraternity and renewed our commitment to the ideals of Sigma Chi. We were fortunate to have a number of Alpha Theta alumni present for the ceremony. The new brothers have already taken active roles in various offices, from co-social chairmen to assistant quaestor.

The semester has proven to be a busy one for the brothers of Alpha Theta. On

Easter weekend, we made the three-hour drive to Bryant Pond in Maine for our annual rush retreat. Led by our Recruitment Chairman Mike Demyttenaere '10, we discussed our goals for rush and are optimistic that we will select another excellent group of men to make up the 2013 pledge class.

At the end of April, the chapter will be hosting Derby Days, our annual philanthropy event benefiting the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Derby Days Chairman

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Brotherhood Welcomes 10 New Members

After a pledge program aimed to educate, integrate, and inspire development of character, the pledge class of 2012 entered I-week on January 19. The energy in the house was high as the reflective spirit of I-week captivated the brothers. At alumni tea on Wednesday, January 21, we had the honor of presenting David Ashley '73 with a Significant Sig Award and the pleasure of witnessing a true example of the lifelong bond of brotherhood we aspire to when David's big brother, Doug Bailey '72, spoke at the award ceremony. All the events and traditions culminated in a wonderful presentation of the investiture

and the admittance of 10 new brothers into the chapter of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi on January 25: Charlie Raphael Bernstein, Andrew Warren Pierson, Jordan Todd Lopez, John Michael Walton, Bryan Matthew Beller, Eamon Michael Glackin, David Rees Thomas, Steve Matthew Zipparo, Ruairidh Reid MacDonald, and Scott Erik Sundvor.

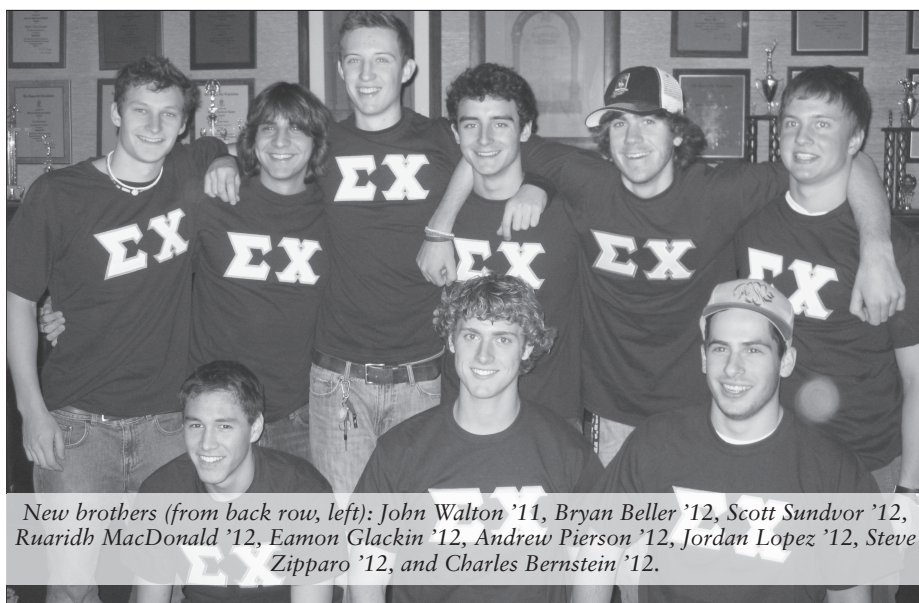
The NIBs (newly initiated brothers) have already begun to make a strong impression on the house. Despite their diverse interests and attitudes, they have bonded together rapidly and can often be found with one scheme or another for the

weekend; though there is often no end to the difference in opinions about how to do it. Hot off the success that was the Christmas dinner, they have recently helped the social chairmen run a very enjoyable spring semiformal and spent an afternoon enjoying the hospitality of Herb Mower '65 and his wife. All the '12s have participated in a varsity sports program this year, but some still found time to meet up in the spring break week, enjoying some time in Florida.

Many were elected to officer roles and have used this as an opportunity to integrate more into the running of the house, and we look forward to next year when they have the opportunity to move in. In addition, it has been enjoyable to have a new perspective at chapter and house meetings; though maybe it is just a relief for us old men to hear that others are going through the same problems we did. Pro-Consul Spencer Currie '11 has been leading them well through their PIT (post-initiation training) program, which is something we plan to continue building upon and developing.

This latest group of brothers to join the fraternity gives me faith in our rushing process, and I'm confident we will find another group of excellent young men turning up on our doorstep in just a few short months. I am very proud of these 10 men, and I am looking forward to watching them grow and lead with the ideals they have been taught and bring honor to our chapter and all of Sigma Chi.

In hoc,
Eric Reuland '10



New brothers (from back row, left): John Walton '11, Bryan Beller '12, Scott Sundvor '12, Ruairidh MacDonald '12, Eamon Glackin '12, Andrew Pierson '12, Jordan Lopez '12, Steve Zipparo '12, and Charles Bernstein '12.

Chapter Contributes to Wild Success of Men's Varsity Swimming

In recent years, Alpha Theta Sigma Chi has had a large number of student-athletes. This year, the house had a strong impact on the MIT men's varsity swimming team with three brothers and me competing, thereby becoming a part of the Alpha Theta tradition of excelling in many arenas.

Throughout the 2008-2009 season, the MIT men's team progressed through a schedule of nine meets, with the team pulling together to produce a very impressive undefeated season. We faced large teams such as Tufts and Amherst, as well as very deep teams like the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Brother Andrew Pierson '12 made an impressive freshman debut with two finals appearances, as well as competing on two of MIT's championship relay teams. Performances like these launched us into our first NEWMAC Conference win in four years.

At the NEWMAC meet, the MIT

men qualified eight swimmers for NCAA Division III Nationals, where the team scored its highest national finish in 27 years and second-highest finish ever. Of these eight swimmers, I am proud to be able to call two fellow Sigs. Brothers Luke Cummings '10 and Michael Dobson '11 both went on to NCAAAs and played integral roles in the team's most competitive national performance ever. Luke Cummings set an MIT record in the 100-yard freestyle with an impressive time of 44.89 seconds during the top 16 finals heat. Michael Dobson swam the 1650-yard freestyle, finishing in the top 25 in the nation.

Swimming on the varsity team while still maintaining a workload of classes at MIT is always a challenge, and it is in this description of my fellow brothers as student-athletes that I find a great sense of respect for my teammates. All four teammates hold officer positions in the

house yet continue to succeed both in and out of the pool. This year especially, with the extra dedication and focus required en-route to MIT's most successful season ever, the Sigs on the varsity team have demonstrated leadership on the team, in the chapter, as well as in their academics. All four of us will be returning to the team next year with an even greater enthusiasm for supporting one another and seeing the team move from strength to strength.

In hoc,
Eric Roselli '11

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Alpha Theta Sends Best Wishes to Departing Seniors

Just as we welcome our 10 new brothers from last semester, now we must say goodbye to our departing seniors—though, of course they will always be brothers, and we look forward to having them visit. What follows is a short description of their post-MIT plans, and we hope they enjoy every success in the future:

Phillip Samayoa: Phil is heading off to graduate school for a PhD in bioengineering with a focus on computational systems biology at either San Diego or here at MIT.

Doug Halket: Doug will be commodities trading in either New York or Chicago.

Scott Pollom: Scott will be in Chicago from next year, working for DRW Trading.

Chris Bukowski: Chris is utilizing his ROTC scholarship to stay at MIT another year and earn a second major in Spanish.

Neil Zimmerman: Neil is heading off to Stanford for graduate school to pursue an MS in bioengineering.

Andrew Ji: Andrew is going to medical school and plans on remaining active in research and the ultimate frisbee community here at MIT.

Eugene Jang: Eugene is in the process of deciding which master's program to pursue and plans to apply to medical school to study orthopedics within a year or two.

Remembering Alex d'Arbeloff '49

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view of how it could grow even stronger. We will sorely miss his warmth, charm, humor and remarkable gift for framing complex problems and inspiring visionary solutions." News coverage of the celebration can be found on the MIT website at: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2008/darbeloff-celebration-1016.html>

Alpha Theta pledge brother Jim Veras '49 wrote in remembrance, "As a Sigma Chi brother and a classmate, Alex was unique. His brilliance and entrepreneurship manifested into the establishment of a giant and highly successful corporation, Teradyne. His generosity and drive in the interests of MIT provided another forum for his leadership qualities. He was blessed with the perfect mate and partner, Brit. His memory will be everlasting."

We will greatly miss Brother d'Arbeloff and are truly thankful for his exemplary life and leadership. May we all learn by his example.

There is another goodbye we have to make:

At the end of this year, our residential adviser, Amon Millner, will be moving to new pastures, having completed his PhD here at the MIT Media Lab. Amon has been a tremendously positive presence in the house during his time here, giving us a helping hand or guidance whenever needed. Amon has been working in the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the media lab, which seeks to allow children to learn valuable skills in design and creativity by continuing the kind of active, hands-on learning we all had in kindergarten. Amon has worked to start the Hook-Ups initiative, which provides tools and activities to help young people learn as they design and

construct physical objects that control games, animations, and other computer programs that they have created. By giving children these opportunities to build and design, their education becomes more than just a case of learning and repeating facts.

Amon has always been a fantastic aid to the house. Many times he has been on hand to help brothers with UROP applications and other such things. He also made a very strong contribution to the IM basketball team, which many in the house have appreciated during our long campaigns for the playoffs. We are sad to see him go, but wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

In hoc,
Ruaridh Macdonald '12

Consul Reports on State of Chapter

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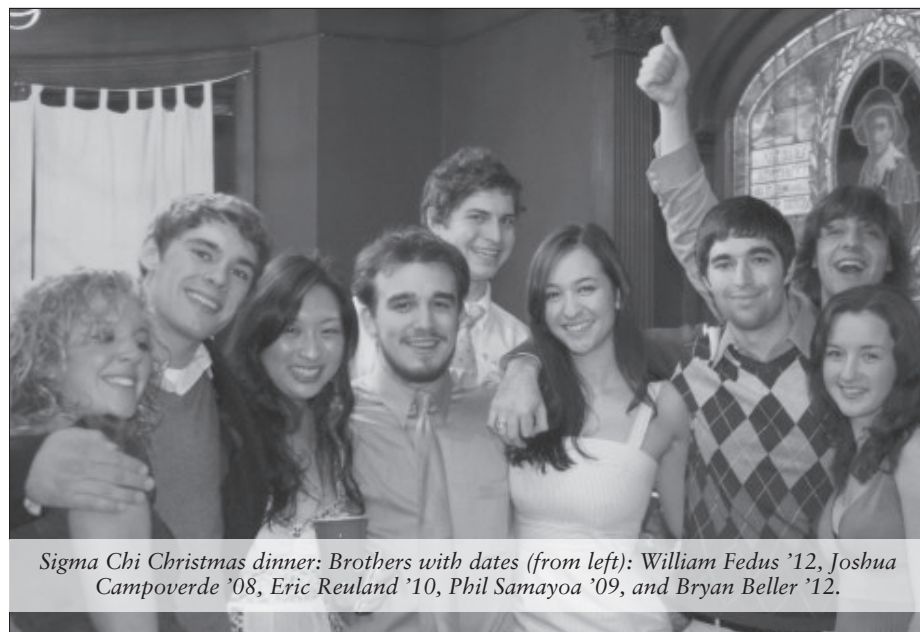
Dominik Kmita '10 has restructured the event to strengthen our bonds with the communities of MIT and other local colleges. Female friends of the house, accompanied by a brother, will form teams and compete against each other in a number of events for the title of "Derby Days Queens."

As the cold of winter gives way to cherry blossoms along Memorial Drive, we are all looking forward to summer with feelings of excitement and sadness. The spirit and guidance of the senior class will be greatly missed next year as they go on to work in industry or enter graduate school. However, summer also

brings the prospect of new experiences and perspectives. In spite of the economic climate, brothers have been particularly successful finding summer internships in industry and academia all across the United States and abroad in Germany, Japan, and Africa.

Despite their academic, athletic, and extracurricular commitments, the brothers of Alpha Theta continue to devote their utmost energy and enthusiasm to preserve our chapter's traditions and values and in the process forge lifelong bonds.

In hoc,
Jeff Mekler '10



Sigma Chi Christmas dinner: Brothers with dates (from left): William Fedus '12, Joshua Campoverde '08, Eric Reuland '10, Phil Samayoa '09, and Bryan Beller '12.

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



Martin T. Moul '47 writes that he retired from NASA Langley Research Center and remarried in 2007. "I traveled during the last two years to Israel, England, Alaska, and the Caribbean." Catch up with Marty at 866 Denbigh Blvd., #417, Newport News, VA 23608; mtmoul@gmail.com.

Herbert W. Mower '65 writes, "On February 27, 2009, **William R. Stern '40** celebrated his 90th birthday. Brother Bill is still very active and will be participating in three events in this year's Senior Olympics. He was very pleased that the actives forwarded birthday greetings to him, signed by all of the undergraduates. Fran and I joined with Bill and his family and friends on the 28th to assist in cele-

brating this great milestone." Herb can be reached at 25 Buckboard Dr., Westford, MA 01886; mower@alum.mit.edu.

"In the spring 2009 *Beaver Sig*, two items brought back related memories," says **Dean Sullender '71**. "The article about the two brothers bicycling across the U.S. and the notice of the death of **David V. James '71**. David was from Los Angeles, brought up as a Quaker, and quite a scholar-athlete. He was an excellent swimmer, math whiz (skipping the first year of calculus), and got his MIT PhD in EE in three years. After college, he ran sub-three-hour marathons and moved back to California to work at Apple. He was a kind, talented, humble fellow and committed

to a pacifist world. When school was out in May 1971, Dave and I bought Peugeot U08 ten-speeds, loaded them with about 50 pounds of camping gear from the (now-defunct) Cambridge Army-Navy Store, rode out Route 9, and headed west. Our goal was his home in LA. We took the northern route across New York, by Toronto, above Lake Huron, through upper Michigan, across the plains and the Badlands to Yellowstone. We had to conclude our journey in Salt Lake City since Dave had to start work at the University of Utah and we had lost time with heavy rains, broken mountain sprockets in Wyoming, prevailing headwinds, and a bout of food poisoning. But it was a great adventure with a lot of stories. I recommend this type of adventure to others—it is an eye-opening way to see the breadth of our land and an unforgettable experience." Dean is a software development engineer at Philips Healthcare. Get in touch with him at 64 Bayberry Rd., Concord, MA 01742; dean.sullender@alum.mit.edu.

Alumni Gather in McLean, Virginia

On Saturday, April 25, alumni from around the Washington, D.C., area gathered at the home of Andrea and **Dendy Young '70** for a special Alpha Theta event. The evening featured a spectacular meal prepared by Andrea, a tour of Andrea and Dendy's beekeeping operation, a talk by former NASA astronaut and Sigma Chi Foundation President Greg Harbaugh, and a presentation by Alpha Theta Corporation board members Doug Bailey '72 and Karl Büttner '87 on the planned renovation of 532 Beacon Street.

Alumni in attendance ranged from the class of '66 to the class of 2000, many attending with their wives, and the evening was filled with lots of discussions of Alpha Theta past and present. Dendy and Andrea were gracious hosts in their beautiful home overlooking the Potomac River, and they are sincerely thanked for hosting this wonderful event.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the death of:

James K. Pickard '44
November 25, 2008

My Escape from MIT: One Brother's Adventures at Cambridge

Toward the middle of my sophomore year, MIT started to weigh down on me. I knew I was working too hard when I started timing my dinners and budgeting time to socialize on Saturday. What first lured me to Cambridge was the prospect of spending a year away in Europe, and the prospect of pass/fail for a year and a pass out of J-lab sealed the deal for me.

Cambridge University is composed of 31 colleges, some dating back to the days when the earth was flat and the Bubonic plague was killing one-third of your friends; some are exorbitantly rich and some just scratch by; a few are extremely famous and prestigious, while others might not even be recognized by members of the university. After requesting Trinity, I landed at Robinson. To sum it up: It's the most recently added college, a big red-brick fortress built in the '70s that has no money and therefore charges the highest room rates.

Turns out Robinson was one of the best parts of my year abroad. I found the people at Robinson very genuine, welcoming, and interesting. It's true that almost everything you do, except for lectures, revolves around your college, but as an MIT exchange student I had great flexibility in moving between all of the colleges where the other CMEs are located. But moving beyond the individual colleges, the entire university and country is an interesting place.

On my first day in Cambridge, I found myself walking through pastures wearing my suit and a cape, quickly realizing that I was in a different world. The city of Cambridge basically revolves around the university, but it doesn't mean that it's boring. There are about four or five decent clubs, and people will go out on forgotten days like Sunday and Wednesday so you can always find something non-school to do.

The class schedule at Cambridge is

almost certainly the best of any legitimate university in the world. During the year, you have two six-week breaks, and last term, I had six hours of class *a week* with three day weekends. Almost everyone at Cambridge is very self-motivated and driven, and if you don't fit into this mode of learning, you'll soon find yourself in trouble. Also, you study your major exclusively, so you rapidly accelerate your understanding and proficiency in your field.

I do hope some of the younger guys will seriously look into an abroad program. My year in England gave me the opportunity to look up from my work and actually see where I'm heading. I've come away from the Cambridge-MIT exchange with new perspective, a lower stress level, and a lot of great stories.

In hoc,
William Fedus '10