

THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

JUNE 2010

Brotherhood Continues to be Strong

Dear Brothers,

Alpha Theta Sigma Chi commenced the spring semester at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with 41 active brothers, including 13 newly admitted members. The class of 2013's high level of enthusiasm and individual drive complemented the chapter's strong foundation, which has culminated in a successful semester both in and out of the house. I would like to highlight a few of the semester's main events.

On February 28, the first Alpha Theta alumni career night occurred. This event was organized by Corporate Board President Karl Büttner '87 and Alpha Theta Tribune David Thomas '12. Brothers had the opportunity to listen to five alumni speak about their careers and the experiences that brought them there. Listening to and learning from their successes was valuable and inspiring. The alumni who spoke are successful and happy, and they have encouraged us to set lofty goals.

In late April, Alpha Theta set out to raise money for various charities in our annual philanthropy event, Derby Days. Senior Troy Tamas, the elected Derby Days chair, organized a solid week of fun, philanthropy, and friendly competition between sororities. Troy did an exceptional job brainstorming new tactics and competitions, organizing each event to maximize both involvement and outcome, and motivating the chapter and participants to ultimately raise a lot of money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network. Some of the most visible and successful events included the chalking of MIT's campus, penny wars, baked goods sales, sumo wrestling, a watermelon eating competition, and a final BBQ and concert highlighting six local bands. The high participation level and competitiveness in

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Chapter Pilots "Alumni Career Night" Concept

On a Sunday evening during the spring term, the chapter held a pilot "Alumni Career Night" that proved to be a great success. A panel of five alumni from various industries, types of careers, and eras (ranging from the classes of 1970-2003) discussed their current jobs, their career paths to date, lessons learned over the years, and advice for the actives about ways to think about careers and what one wants to do in life.

Three of the alumni joined the actives in person in the library (Jay Wurts '70, Dave Pinsky '79, and Kevin Wang '03), while two of the alumni joined in remotely via video conference (John Martin '86 from Colorado and Jon Demerly '92 from Michigan). Each alumnus gave a brief presentation, and then a great question-and-answer session followed.

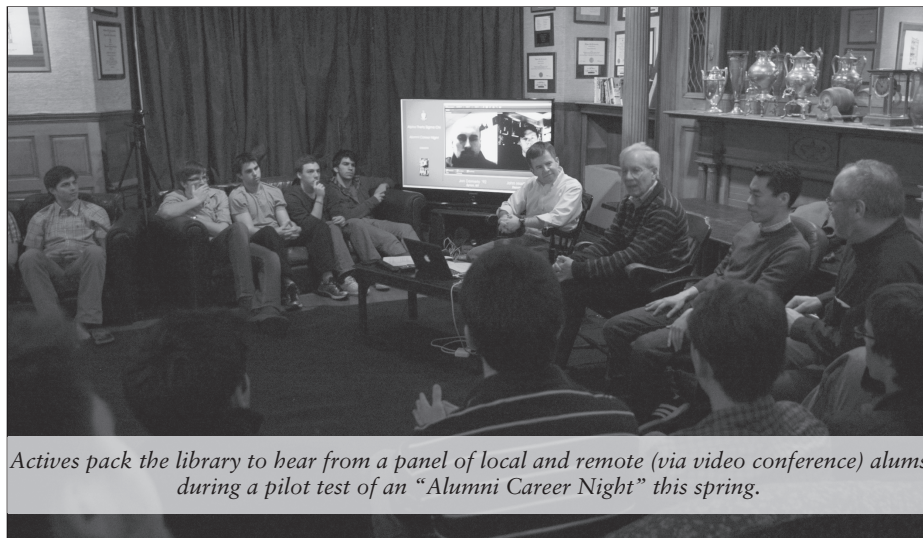
The library was packed with active brothers who thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the evening. It was particularly interesting to hear many common themes from the alumni—despite their varied industries, careers, and eras—especially regarding the significant role that Alpha

Theta played in their overall education, preparation for, and success in their various careers. Leadership development experience and the experience of working with others in general at Alpha Theta was something that each of the alumni independently called out as being a very significant part of their overall MIT education.

Dinner in the dining room with the local alumni followed the panel discussion, followed by a chapter meeting. Photos from the evening can be found on the chapter website under Brothers -> Photo Galleries.

Given the great success of this test pilot of the "Alumni Career Night" concept, the chapter is hoping to make it a regular event, with the next one planned for the coming fall term. It's hoped that this can help catalyze further career-related interactions, not only between actives and alums, but also between alums.

Alumni willing to be featured on such a panel (whether local or remote via video conference) should contact Karl Büttner '87, kbuttner@alum.mit.edu.



Actives pack the library to hear from a panel of local and remote (via video conference) alums during a pilot test of an "Alumni Career Night" this spring.

Pledge Flashback: Walkout is a Unique Experience

Give a group of 13 college freshmen \$100 each and a 14-passenger van for a weekend and see what happens. That's what Alpha Theta does for Walkout, our annual pledge trip in the late fall. The only requirements of the pledges for the weekend are that they pull some sort of prank on the brothers in the wee hours of the night and that they visit another Sigma Chi. Most years, the pledges visit the Gamma Lambda Sigma Chi at McGill University in Montreal. This year, we were forced to be creative since several of us are international, and border crossings with student visas would present a problem. After some debate, we chose to visit the Alpha Phi Chapter at Cornell University, stopping in New York City for a day along the way.

The pledges started the weekend off well in the wee hours of Saturday morning with a creative and humorous prank. The prank included "stealing" all of the house's toilet paper, placing goldfish in sinks, and hiding several live lobsters in strategic locations around the house. After this, it was off to New York City. Having started our drive so early in the morning, we arrived in New York around 9:00 a.m. with the whole day ahead of us. We made the most of our time in New York, seeing as much of the city as we could. We toured Central Park while throwing a Frisbee, visited Chinatown, strolled down 5th Avenue, ate lunch at the finest pizzeria in New York, and had dessert at one of the best bakeries the city has to offer.

After our whirlwind tour of the city, we piled back into the van to make our way to Ithaca, New York. Our voyage did not go as planned—after a series of wrong

turns, we found ourselves in Scranton, Pennsylvania—far off our desired path. Eventually, we rolled into the Cornell Sigma Chi's parking lot, eager to interact with the Alpha Phi brothers and explore a new campus. While at Cornell, we met many Sigs and explored a college unlike MIT: one with a big-school atmosphere and a more rural campus.

Walkout served as an excellent source of bonding for our pledge class. Sharing so many adventures and spending so much time together in the course of a single weekend served to tighten our bonds as soon-to-

be brothers. The spontaneous nature of the weekend and the freedom we were given allowed us to see each other's personalities in a whole new way. This is precisely why Walkout is such a valuable tradition: it gives each pledge class an opportunity to bond in a manner completely different from any other experience during the pledge process. While I look forward to creating many other memories with my pledge brothers, I will always look back fondly on my Walkout experience.

In hoc,
Mike Gibson '13



Members of the class of 2013. Back row, from left: Robin Demyttenaere, Jamie Byron, Sean Burke, Tymor Hamamsy, Kevin Lang, Paul Uche, Pat Vatterott, Peter Britton. Front row, from left: Brian Oldfield, Gabe Blanchet, Mike Gibson, David Rodriguez. (Joao Batalha is not pictured.)

Brotherhood Continues to be Strong

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each of the six teams left a lasting impression on MIT's campus even after the publicity from the chalking competition washed away.

Alpha Thetas are also making strong contributions to MIT on the athletic fields, the pool and ice rink, and on various courts. Currently, over half of our brothers participate in a varsity sport. The volleyball team, nationally-ranked no. 7 and receiving 16 honors from the North East Volleyball Association (NECVA), was lead by seven Alpha Theta brothers. The volleyball team has played the most successful season in the history of the program. Five brothers were leaders on the swim team, which also excelled by having its second-best finish in program history. Two newly

admitted brothers, Tymor Hamamsy and Brian Oldfield, play for MIT's tennis team and were major contributors to this year's NEWMAC Title. Eight other actives participate on the varsity lacrosse, sailing, crew, and hockey teams.

This semester has been exemplary both in and out of the house. I am extremely proud to have served as Consul during a semester in which Alpha Thetas have exemplified their strong leadership and commitment to academics, athletics, and philanthropy.

In hoc,
John Walton '11, Consul



Not a hack! As of May this year, Beacon Street is now officially just two lanes for cars, giving up one lane for a reserved bike path (pictured).

Best Wishes to Our Graduating Seniors!

Alas, the 2009-2010 academic year is coming to a close! Just as 13 new brothers join Alpha Theta Sigma Chi, we must also say goodbye to our departing seniors. A short description of the graduating seniors' plans is below.

Mike Demyttenaere: Michael will be moving back home to Brussels, Belgium. After completing an internship at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants last summer, he will begin working there full-time in September. Roland Berger is a leading European management consulting firm. As a junior consultant, Michael will be a member of project teams that help solve clients' problems. Mike says, "I'm definitely looking forward to starting my job and learning as much as possible about consulting. Living in Belgium and being close to my family will be a nice change, although I'll definitely miss Boston and living at the house a lot."

Dom Kmita: Dom will be working as a trader analyst for Madison Tyler Holdings (MTH) in Santa Monica, California. MTH is a high-frequency algorithmic trading firm that trades equities, derivatives, energy, and other commodities on all major U.S. electronic markets.

William Fedus: Liam will be a global equity research associate at Fidelity Management and Research Company in London. He will be directly advising several multi-billion dollar equity funds and will be responsible for determining which securities to hold using a combination of fundamental and quantitative strategies. Addi-

tionally, he plans to continue work with his startup company, which is primarily involved in targeting emerging markets, including India.

Jeff Mekler: Jeff will be staying at MIT to pursue an MS in the engineering systems technology and policy program. Through his research, Jeff hopes to address some of the technological, political, and social challenges surrounding the nation's energy and environmental resource usage patterns. Speaking about his decision to stay at MIT, Jeff said, "It's nice knowing that I'll be just a stone's throw from the house and all of the actives."

Eric Reuland: Eric will be working for Edwards Lifesciences, a global leader in heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring, in Irvine, California. He'll be doing R&D for their minimally invasive transcatheter heart valve. Eric says, "I'm very excited to be going into the medical device industry and, in the end, hope to find an opportunity for entrepreneurship within it. I'm also looking forward to living close to my family in beautiful southern California."

Troy Tamas: Troy will be working for Alphana in Fujieda City, Japan—a recent spin-off company of JVC and manufacturer of motors for hard disk drives. He will be working there as a mechanical engineer and learning the ropes of the small new business, with the hopes of helping to expand the company internationally as they aim to start a new engineering branch



in the U.S. in the next 3-4 years. Troy says, "I am excited to spend a few more years in Japan after spending a few months there this past summer. I think this will be a great opportunity to get to see how a small new business works, and I am excited to help them expand in the future. I am also excited to take this time in my life to try something new and do a bit of traveling."

Joe McCarter, Justin Sousa, Caine Jette, and Colin Taylor will be continuing their studies at MIT next fall.

Unfortunately, Ben Pope '08 will also be retiring from his post as Alpha Theta's chapter adviser. Over the summer, he will be finishing his MS in mechanical engineering. In July, Ben will be moving to the San Francisco Bay area, taking a full-time job doing product design for Apple's iPhone and using the weekends to explore the nearby Sierra Nevada Mountains.

We bid the graduating seniors farewell and wish them great success in their future endeavors.

In hoc,
Gabriel Blanchet '13

One Newly Initiated Brother's Path to MIT and Sigma Chi

I decided not to apply to colleges during the fall of my senior year in high school and instead try to experience the real world and enjoy my family during a gap year.

Seven days after graduation, as the festivities settled down, I began my hunt for a job. My first few inquiries were utterly unsuccessful. My parents concluded I was shooting too high and falling quite short. I pressed forward. Finally, desperate for something, I applied for a sales job at a local outdoor store, Adventure Outfitters. "Can you start tomorrow?"

I was thrilled—sort of. This was real life, with a real job. The first few weeks were tough. All of my colleagues had graduated from or were enrolled in college, which I found bizarre—they were being paid \$8/hour, just like me. After 40 hours that week, I earned \$296.12. My first paycheck had arrived.

I quickly pulled out my TI-89 Silver Edition. At this rate, I would make a bit more than \$15,000 if I worked full-time

for a year without any weeks off. *Fifteen thousand?* I stared at the eight-digit display. *Fifteen thousand dollars?* The number in dollar bills sounded huge. However, the number in college tuition sounded rather small.

A month into my gap year, I picked up another job in the emergency room at a hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts. I have always been interested in becoming a doctor, and I wanted real experience in a hospital. I became a medical scribe, which means I followed ER doctors as they saw patients and documented the patient's encounter for the medical charts.

As my friends matriculated in the fall, I grew more and more excited about the possibilities of my "time off." I began feeling right on track. Not my parents' track. Certainly not my college adviser's track. My track. With the exception of family commitments, I was doing exactly what I wanted to, when I wanted to do it. Other than the shifts at the hospital and adventure shop to

cover my costs, I was free to roam, to ski, to skydive, to author a piece now in a medical journal, to engineer an electric car, to coach a JV hockey team at my middle school, and to strengthen my bonds with my younger brothers.

With freedom comes new perspectives. Fifteen thousand dollars isn't much. Life is hard for a lot of people. There isn't just one right track—many can lead in interesting and rewarding directions. I'm lucky to have been accepted to MIT and to have found my niche so quickly at Sigma Chi. I realize now that going to college didn't necessitate severing my bonds to my family. Rather, I am the closest with my blood brothers that I have ever been, and I am thrilled to have 41 new brothers, each with wildly different temperaments, talents, and convictions—but all fun, ambitious, and of strong character. I sincerely look forward to the next three years of my life.

In hoc,
Gabriel Blanchet '13

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



"The Sigma Chi 1949-Era Reunion, June 1-3, 2009, in Cambridge was successful, enjoyable, and memorable," reports **David V. Stallard '49**. "Most of the credit goes to **Carl Bergmann '49**, who was assisted by **Karl Büttner '87** and **Bob Ferrara (Theta Chi '67)**. Our base of operations was the elegant Cambridge Marriott, with a private dining room, on Broadway in Kendall Square. Those attending for the whole reunion were: **Betsy and Carl Bergmann, Bob Drye '47, Win Hayward '46, Gordy Ingwersen '51, Ruth and Austin "Buffy" Marx '49, Jim Ryder '49**, and my wife, Betsy, and me. **Bob Dean Jr. '48** and his wife, Nancy, joined the group for lunch through dinner on June 2. **Barry Norris '51** visited with us at the Sigma Chi house on June 2. Other part-time attendees were: **Karl Büttner, Doug Bailey '72**, member of the Alpha Theta Corporation board, **Bob Ferrara, Jim Ryder's** vibrant daughter, **Neria Gay Doulass**, and her daughter, **Lauren Doulass**. The most joyful news was the wedding in March 2009 of **Buffy Marx to Ruth**, a charming and attractive lady, also living in California, whom he had met on a jazz cruise to Hawaii. Everyone seemed to be in good spirits. Regrettably, our chapter has lost some brothers since the last two reunions." Catch up with Dave at

649 Fearington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312; dstallard@mindspring.com.

"I'm enjoying life in New York City," writes **Leslie Cline Jr. '49**. Get in touch with him at 123 West 74th St., #9B, New York, NY 10023; clinenyc@aol.com.

"Made a major downsizing move from 2,400 square feet to apartment living at 1,000 square feet," reports **George Dickson '50**. "Had a great moving sale of all my stuff in storage." George's new mailing address is 1305 N. Highlands Pkwy., #A4, Tacoma, WA 98406. Drop him an e-mail at gandvdickson@earthlink.net.

"Enjoying four months in Ponce Inlet, Florida, for the tenth or 12th straight year," writes **Raymond Sauer Jr. '53**. "Loved reading **Jim Veras's ('49)** news in the February *Beaver Sig*. **Jim and Howie Hendershott '49** were my upperclass heroes when I was a freshman at Alpha Theta. If **Howie** reads this, he should know that I can still catch any football he can throw, no matter how deep. (When he says, 'Go long,' it'll be more like a slow walk, but his 80-plus-year-old arm can't throw it very far anymore.) Sorry to lose brother **Will Fiske '54** this past year. Good wishes and good health to all." Rebel's

new mailing address is 506 Wedgewood Lane, Canonsburg, PA 15317; e-mail is hfrwsauer@onepostal.com.

"I'm happily retired from Brookhaven National Lab in New York," announces **Hobart "Hobie" Kraner '55** (P.O. Box 1642, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576). "I'm enjoying the warm weather here, but not so much the culture. Fairly good health. Great wife of 54 years and eight grandchildren. Hope all is well at 532!"

"I'm a first-year law student at Santa Clara University," reports **Sherrett Walker '93**. "I got married to **Monica Lim** of Daly City, California, on January 22, 2010. Many Sigs wee in attendance." Send congratulations to **Sherrett** at 2200 Monroe St., #208, Santa Clara, CA 95050; sow@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the death of:

Paul E. Keitel '40
September 19, 2009



Can We Reach You via E-mail?

Please visit the alumni section of the Alpha Theta website to make sure we have your most recent e-mail address:
<http://sigmachi.mit.edu/alumni>

The Beaver Sig

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