



THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

SUMMER 2007

125 Years Of Sigma Chi Brotherhood

Alpha Theta Sigma Chi celebrated its 125th anniversary with a grand reunion April 13-15, 2007.

The spectacular event was by far our largest reunion ever, with 160 alumni attending and a total of 357 people—including guests and undergraduates—participating.

A complete recap of the weekend and an extensive photo gallery is available on the chapter web site at: <http://sigmach.mit.edu/reunion>. However, for those without easy web access, here is a summary of the key highlights of the reunion....

The weekend started on Friday evening with class “era” dinners, followed by a large gathering back at the chapter house. Saturday morning saw a wonderful Ritual Exemplification, put on in stellar form by the active chapter.

Saturday afternoon featured “Alpha Theta Academy,” with four brothers sharing some of the exciting things they have been doing with their lives: Ben Pope ’07 shared his trip to Antarctica; Pete Ulrich ’86 educated us on the challenges and dynamics of being a Navy test pilot and trainer; John Feland ’94 demonstrated some interesting new cell phone technology; and Heni Meerman ’84 replayed the amazing story of his preparation and successful swim of the English Channel.

Alpha Theta Academy concluded with a presentation on plans to renovate 532 Beacon St. More details on this important and exciting project will be forthcoming.

On Saturday evening, there was a huge reception, banquet, and ball at the Cambridge Marriott. MIT President Susan Hockfield joined us and gave some very warm welcoming remarks—clearly stating MIT’s strong support for the fraternity system—as she helped us celebrate not only 125 years of Alpha

Theta Sigma Chi, but, as MIT’s oldest continuously operating fraternity, 125 years of fraternities at MIT.

We were also honored to be joined by Judy Swanson, widow of Bob Swanson ’69, who assisted Rolf Brauchler ’69 in presenting the Robert A. Swanson Scholarship to two undergraduate brothers. Judy’s remarks were truly moving and left hardly a dry eye in the room.

The Professor S. Curtiss Powell Scholarship was presented by Jim Black ’69 to two undergraduate brothers and was followed by a very special presentation of a Significant Sig Award to Brother Richard S. Leghorn ’39 for his amazing life accomplishments. Brother Leghorn’s incredible biography is available on the reunion section of the chapter’s website.

Although heavy rain cancelled the

planned softball game and outdoor barbeque, a great time was had by alumni and their families at 532 Beacon St. on Sunday.

If you were able to make it to reunion and if you took any pictures, please do send them in! A bunch of photos are already posted on the reunion website, and we’d love to add yours. Send photos or links to photos to sc-reunion-coord@mit.edu.

Whether or not you were able to attend this reunion, it would be very helpful to receive your input and feedback to help in planning future reunions. Please take a moment to visit the website and fill out a very brief one-page survey.

Again, even if you weren’t able to attend this time, please send in your

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Roughly 200 brothers serenade our sweethearts at the reunion ball.

Undergraduate Chapter Remains Strong, Focused

Dear Brothers,

Frigid winter weather could not dampen the spirits within 532 Beacon St. As of this writing, the spring semester has begun in earnest, and our brothers have thus far been both successful and enthusiastic.

IAP saw our dispersal to a wide range of activities, from working in externships or UROPs to traveling in South America or skiing in the Rockies. At the close of January, Magister Stephane Essama '08 oversaw an exceptional I-week, culminating in the initiation of 11 outstanding men into our Order.

At the beginning of the semester, we received notification of our earning a spot on the fall 2006 FSILG honor roll, an honor conferred on those fraternities, sororities and independent living groups

whose GPA ranks in the top third. In addition, our academic success has continued with the acceptance of several of our seniors into prestigious graduate schools around the country.

Best of luck to Brian Wilt '07, Daniel Scolnic '07, and Austin Ford '07 with their studies!

Even as we reflect upon our successes, we are excited for our upcoming events. As of this writing, we eagerly anticipate the celebration of our chapter's 125th anniversary.

The weekend will be packed with excellent events highlighted by Saturday evening's formal ball. It is truly something special for the current actives to have during their undergraduate careers

Also, this spring has also seen our chapter's officers excel. Past and current Quaestors Nicholas Haschka '08 and Douglas Halket '09 have collaborated to

reorganize and streamline the house's financial structure. Community Relations Chair Daniel Scolnic '07 has mobilized our brothers to tutor underprivileged youth in the production and programming of autonomous robots with the Machine Science program. In addition, we are ramping up for a philanthropic date auction over MIT's Spring Weekend, headed by Eugene Jang '09.

I am proud to say that our chapter has distinguished itself through members that have become leaders on campus in both the academic and extracurricular realms. In addition, our house has established itself as a role model within the Greek community.

We refuse to rest on our laurels, however, and look forward to continued growth and development this semester.

In Hoc,
Benjamin J. Pope '08
Consul



125 Years Of Sigma Chi Brotherhood

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thoughts via the survey or simply send an e-mail to sc-reunion-coord@mit.edu.

A final thanks to our Reunion Coordinators John Piotti '83 and Brian Wilt '07, who did a splendid job, and a very special thanks to the undergraduate chapter for all of their effort in preparing for and hosting this wonderful event.

I think all of us who were able to attend the reunion this year were truly struck by how amazing and special Alpha Theta Sigs are as a group of people and what a special place Alpha Theta Sigma Chi was for us—and still is today.

It was great to see so many friendships rekindled as if not a day had passed, and many alumni have commented on the new friendships and connections they made, both with other alumni as well as with some of the incredibly impressive undergraduates who currently live at 532 Beacon Street and experience Alpha Theta today.

As sentimental as it may sound, at events like this, it is easy to understand why we are all truly proud to be Alpha Theta Sigma Chis.

In hoc,
Karl Büttner '87
Corporation Board President

"Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups play an important role in student life and learning at MIT, and Sigma Chi represents these traditions at their best."

—MIT President Susan Hockfield
at the Alpha Theta Sigma Chi
125th Anniversary Reunion Ball



Brother Richard S. Leghorn '39 receives the Significant Sig award, presented on behalf of the Sigma Chi International Fraternity by Alpha Theta Consul Ben Pope '08.

Chapter Website Gets New Look In Honor Of 125th

The Alpha Theta webmasters decided that the 125th anniversary celebration was a fantastic excuse to redesign the chapter website. We proudly unveiled the new look at the end of IAP, as we sent formal invitations for the reunion.

New features include a comprehensive 125th reunion section—<http://sigmach.mit.edu/reunion>—as well as a house wiki, much like Wikipedia, that is accessible to those who log in.

The website is complete with all the

old features of the site, including sections where you can update your contact information as well as post updates for your fellow alumni.

You may not know it, but every alumnus of Alpha Theta has an account with the site. To get your login name and password, all you need to do is scroll down on the login page to the alumni password reset and type in your information. If you encounter any issues, please e-mail the webmasters

using the links on the page.

For those technically minded, the website has finally migrated from Microsoft technologies (ASP, Access, ISS) to better-maintained open source technologies: Apache, OpenSSL, MySQL, MediaWiki, and PHP.

I hope everyone takes the time to visit the new site! If you have any questions or suggestions for new features, please e-mail Brian Wilt '07 at bwilt@mit.edu.

Alpha Theta Initiates Class of 2010

It is with great pleasure that the brothers of Alpha Theta announce the initiation of a class of a new class into our Order.

They are: Luke R. Cummings '10; Michael Demyttenaere '10; Joseph A. McCarter '10; Dominik Kmita '10; Justin W. Sousa '10; Caine L. Jette '10; William B. Fedus '10; Jeffrey S. Mekler '10; Eric R. Reuland '10; Troy V. Tamas '10; and Colin J. Taylor '10.

According to tradition, the pledge program started in early September and culminated with a week of introspection at the end of IAP, with the new members officially becoming brothers on February 4.

Introspection week included all of the usual events, as well as few new ones con-

ducted by the magister, and everything went off without a hitch. This year's initiation ceremonies were attended by a fair number of alumni, many of whom lent a hand and helped I-week run smoothly.

The mood was joyful that Sunday afternoon, when the brothers came together to celebrate their newest class over a banquet and later with house friends at our annual Superbowl party.

We are looking forward to living and bonding with this new class over the next few years and calling them brothers for years to come.

Stephane Essama '08
Magister



The newly initiated brothers celebrate with face paint by members of their line.

Brothers Continue To Enjoy A Full Social Calendar

As of this writing, the spring semester social events are off to a great start. We began with a combo newly initiated brother and Super Bowl party. The library was filled with brothers and house friends enjoying the big game and congratulating the NIBs. It was unfortunate that the Patriots did not make it, but Brother Scott Polom '09 was excited to see his hometown Indianapolis Colts win the game.

Tea is still going strong every Wednesday night, with a renewed vigor for hanging out and chatting. Although second semester is typically slower, we have still

seen excellent brother participation on most nights. Tea masters Luke Cummings '10, Troy Tamas '10, and Dom Kmita '10 are doing a great job of making cookies and tea. As the semester continues, we hope to continue to have a high participation rate.

As of this writing, social is teaming up with reunion coordinator Brian Wilt '07 to make sure that all brothers have dates to the 125th ball.

The weekend will also coincide with campus preview and marathon weekend. Alpha Theta will once again be co-hosting

the Phi Sig marathon barbecue on Commonwealth Avenue. We are also both excited and saddened at the prospect of fledgling. While we look forward to celebrating the pledge class of 2007, we will also be saddened as this class leaves the house.

The class of 2007 has left a lasting legacy at Alpha Theta and will be remembered by all the classes they have influenced.

Ryan Dean '08
Josh Campoverde '08
Dom Kmita '10
Social Chairmen

News And Briefs On The Alpha Theta Chapter

Alpha Theta's Reunion Featured on MIT Website

Acknowledging the significance of our 125th anniversary, the milestone this represents for Alpha Theta and fraternities at MIT, and the tremendous success of the reunion, MIT featured a story about our reunion on the MIT alumni association website in June.

The coverage included a picture of our roughly 200 brothers serenading our sweethearts at the Saturday evening ball, plus a summary of the reunion and a direct link to the chapter website for complete coverage and photos.

ΑΘ Wins Alumni Relations Award

In recognition of its alumni relations

program—including but not limited to the very successful 125th anniversary reunion—Sigma Chi was presented by MIT with a Reid Weedon '41 Alumni Relations Award for 2006-2007.

The award was presented to the chapter at the 2007 MIT Awards Convocation.

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



Walter E. Hildick '28 writes, "Thank you for continuing to send me *The Beaver Sig*. I celebrated my 100th birthday last August. Although it was a long time ago, I still have great memories of my days in Sigma Chi." Write to Walter at 5 Suburban Rd., #710, Worcester, MA 01602. Send him e-mail at walter@splusnet.com.

"Retired in 1992 after 34 years in service in various electrical engineer grades with the city and county of San Francisco," writes **Winchell T. Hayward '46**. "Except for seven years with the SF Port Commission, my city service was for the Public Utilities Commission and included work on hydroelectric power stations and transmission lines with water department pump stations and railway projects. Outside of work, I was active in the Naval reserve for 25 years, retiring as a lieutenant commander. Also very active in outdoor organizations such as the California Alpine Club and Federation and Western Outdoor Class, of which I've been president for a few years. Very active in historic preservation organiza-

tions here in San Francisco. Occasional political activity." Write to "Win" at 208 N. Willard St., San Francisco, CA 94118; winhayward@mailbug.com.

"I have been fighting colitis," writes **Robert W. Temple '55**. "A couple of hospital stays but now on the mend thanks to a newly approved FDA treatment. Talk to **Joe Brazzatti Jr. '54** often and hear from a number of Sigs all over the country. The local Sigma Chi alumni chapter is very active, and I attend their monthly luncheons." Keep in touch with Bob at 14134 Bluebird Ln., Houston, TX 77079; angtemple@sbcglobal.net.

"Big changes here," writes **Iain H. Hueton '84**. "I've moved from home-based engineering consulting business after 11 years of 'freedom.' Skiing has been a passion of mine since childhood, and I have a new job as VP of engineering/manufacturing at Goode Ski Technologies here in Ogden, Utah. We make carbon-fiber snow skis, ski poles, and water skis. My wife, Tori, has a new local business as well—having just opened

1-800-GOT-JUNK. She's the boss, has two dump trucks, and is ramping up quickly. Our 9-year-old daughter, Aiden, is excited about skiing and speed skating this winter and is hoping to teach her friends, too. She's hoping Alpha Theta's with kids of a similar age will come to Utah some day!" Keep in touch with Iain by e-mail at ihueton@alum.mit.edu. Send him postal mail at 1804 Ross Dr., Ogden, UT 84403.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

George E. Merryweather '34
September 15, 2006

Norman Meullen '48
February 7, 2006

Ricardo Haegler '52
September 26, 2006

Alpha Theta Brothers Continue To Excel Athletically

Alpha Theta's excellence in sports continued into the spring season.

Despite strong play by captain Matthew Williams '07, we finished the fall intramural season with a heart-wrenching loss in the small-league dodgeball championship in five games, as well as tough losses in the playoffs for flag football, large-league dodgeball, team tennis, and soccer.

However, we took home the Intramural Affiliation of the Year Award, which takes into account attendance, number of sports played, championships/playoff runs, and a team's record in each sport. Building on our strong fall season, we finished undefeated (8-0) in ice hockey—thanks to strong captainship by Aaron Doody '07—and, as of this writing, we look to have strong seasons in volleyball, ultimate, softball, basketball, and unihoc.

We also have a strong presence in varsity sports. Eddie Scholtz '07 had an amazing season in wrestling, starting out with a 15-1 record and finishing third in the New England tournament. Josh Campoverde '08 and Neil Zimmerman

'09 represent the house on the soccer field, while Chris Bukowski '09 plays for the ice hockey team and William Fedus '10 runs for the cross country and track teams. Ben Pope '08, Andrew Ji '09, and Jeff Meckler '10 play a part in a growing ultimate team with national tournament aspirations, while Colin Taylor '10 has taken up the call of crew.

Jack Field '08 has successfully captained the sailing team to numerous victories this season and earned the Brass Rat Trophy for being the best sailor in the MIT community. Luke Cummings '10 had a standout year in swimming, finishing the season by placing sixth in the NCAA Championships with the Men's 400- and 200-yard medley relay teams and took All-American Honors.

Thanks to strong recruiting by the house, we now hold claim to seven of the varsity volleyball players: Eugene Jang '09; Scott Pollom '09; Caine Jette '10; Michael Deyttenaere '10; Eric Reuland '10; Troy Tamas '10; and Ryan Dean '08, who serves as the captain of the team. What is more extraordinary, though, is the fact that the team is



Eric Reuland '10, Scott Pope '09, and Ryan Dean '08 represent Alpha Theta.

ranked number 10 in the nation and will most likely make a run in the DIII National Tournament.

In hoc,
Chris Bukowski '09
Joe Mccarter '10
Athletic Chairs