



THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

WINTER 2006-'07

Alpha Theta's Anniversary Celebration Slated For April

Alpha Theta's 125th anniversary celebration will take place this spring over Marathon Weekend. Since our Centennial Celebration in 1982, we've held a reunion every five years. This one promises to be the biggest and best ever. Make sure you reserve the weekend for a trip to Boston.

As in year's past, reunion will begin with class parties on Friday night. Saturday will include a ritual exemplification, where we'll renew our bonds of brotherhood, and the now-traditional

"Alpha Theta Academy," where we'll hear from some of our brothers who are doing fascinating things. We'll cap Saturday with a formal dinner and ball, and we'll regroup Sunday with informal activities at the chapter house and at MIT.

As the Boston Marathon is run on that Monday, some of you will undoubtedly want to extend your stay to take advantage of Boston during this festive and exciting weekend. Guest rooms have been set aside at the

newly renovated Cambridge Marriott, conveniently located next to the COOP and the Kendall T-stop.

Detailed information will be sent to you early in the new year. In the meantime, make sure you have the weekend blocked off!

In Hoc,
Brian A. Wilt '07
Undergraduate Coordinator
John F. Piotti '83
Alumni Coordinator

An Important Message From The Alumni Corporation

Dear Brothers:

I hope this edition of *The Beaver Sig* finds you and your families well and enjoying the winter. As usual, inside you'll find the latest updates from the brothers at 532 Beacon St., plus alumni news and correspondence. The chapter continues to do very well, as you'll read in these articles.

As described in the adjacent article, please remember to mark your calendars for Alpha Theta Sigma Chi's 125th reunion, scheduled for April 13-15, 2007. This is going to be a huge celebration, and you'll definitely want to be there! It's not too soon to contact your pledge brothers and others from your era and convince them to meet you at Alpha Theta in April.

Wishing you and your families a great winter season and hoping to see you in Boston for the big 125th reunion.

In hoc,
Karl Büttner '87
Corporation Board President
kbüttner@alum.mit.edu
<http://sigmachi.mit.edu>



Brothers gather in a line following formal pledging—(from left) Eric Reuland '10, Aman Luther '07, Matthew Williams '07, Ryan Dean '08, and Eugene Jang '09.

save the
date

125th ANNIVERSARY

Mark your calendars! Alpha Theta Sigma Chi will be commemorating its 125th anniversary with a spectacular reunion in Boston, **April 13-15, 2007.**

This will be an event you definitely do not want to miss! Stay tuned for more info as the date nears.

Consul Reports On State Of Chapter

Dear Brothers,

I am pleased to announce a great fall semester of the 2005-'06 academic year. We had an amazingly successful rush, and we now have 11 new genuine and talented pledges. The pledge program has begun, and the brothers can already see the great addition our new members will make to the house.

This past summer, several of our members attended the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop, an international Sigma Chi conference. We had an amazing time learning other chapter's traditions and sharing our own. We also discovered that we won our 31st Peterson Award, as well as the Legion of Honor Award for scholarship. The brothers were very proud to continue the excellent achievements Alpha Theta has come to be known for. Keith Krach, Grand Consul of Sigma Chi who delivered the awards to us, visited Alpha Theta on October 1.

Catching us back up to date, we recently held a 1965 Sigma Chi class reunion party. Many members of the class and surrounding pledge classes attended, and everyone was thrilled to reminisce about the good times shared in the house. The active brothers thoroughly enjoyed the many stories of the alumni, and these stories have become a subject of great amusement and inspiration.

All in all, Sigma Chi has enjoyed a fantastic beginning to what we expect to be an awesome year. As of this writing, we look forward to our annual Sweetheart scheduled for November, and in April, we will be holding Derby Days, our annual fundraising event for the Children's Miracle Network.

We are all very excited about the upcoming 125th anniversary of our chapter. The anniversary will be held over Patriot's Day weekend, April 13-16. Events will include pledge era night, "Alpha Theta School," and the formal ball.

All in all, this year promises to be an exciting one, and we can't wait to see you later this year at the 125th.

In Hoc,
Daniel Scolnic '07
Consul



What has Head of the Line Aaron Doody '07 done to offend his family of Colin Taylor '10, Scott Pollom '09, Michael Demyttenaere '10, and Benjamin Pope '08?

Productive Work Week Makes House Shine

Work Week at the Alpha Theta house got off to a blazing fast start on the morning of Monday, August 21. The majority of the brothers were back from their summer escapades, full of energy and ready to make the house sparkle once again. The work week mixed in a huge range of both practical and aesthetic changes, leaving the house cleaner and in better working order than most of us had ever seen.

The major improvement plan for the week entailed sanding, refinishing, and sealing all the wood on the first and second floors. We also repaired broken paneling throughout the house and installed entirely new light fixtures in a library, a project that had been in dire need of completion for almost a year. We replaced old desks in several of the rooms and completely transformed the consul's room by replacing the old built-in furniture, painting the walls a dark red, and refin-

ishing the wooden floor.

Though some of the major house systems are still ailing from years of operation, we finally were able to get the majority of the heating system functioning, at least for the time being.

We also repainted much of the white trim and patched holes in the walls throughout the house.

By the end of the week, exhausted from waking up early and staying up late to get the time sensitive project completed in time, we mustered everything we had left and began a thorough cleaning of the entire house. Walls were bleached, brass was shined, and floors were buffed. All of our hard work paid off, enough to impress a solid new pledge class, ready to continue improving the house into the future.

Nicholas Haschka '08
Work Week Manager



The Beaver Sig

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News and photos are always welcome and should be sent to: Alumni Records Office, Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity Inc., P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.

Strong Fall Rush Effort Nets 11 New Pledges

Sigma Chi's rush efforts this year added 11 new pledges to the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi. Each new pledge adds something different to the community in the house; however, they all are united in that they reflect the type of character we seek at Sigma Chi.

The recruitment efforts this year covered a wide range of venues and events. In the Sigma Chi tradition, we wanted to give off a genuine impression of what our house actually does, while at the same time having a little fun ourselves. Events included a trip to the beach, barbecues outside of the fraternity, hanging out in the house, F1 racing, and lots of small trips around Boston. The events were tailored to give brothers the brothers a chance to show the incoming fresh-

men what Sigma Chi was all about while having fun.

By far, the largest challenge to this year's rush was hurricane Ernesto. He breezed through early in the week and dampened out plans to head to the beach. We rescheduled our events and overcame the obstacle, however. The Interfraternity Council at MIT removed several existing rush rules and instated some new ones this year. As in the past, Sigma Chi continued to operate entirely

within the bounds of the rules, and the excellence of this year's pledge class gives credence to the notion that we do not have to break the rules to have a successful rush.

In short, rush this year was a successful venture. We hope to continue this trend in the coming years.

In Hoc,
P. Thatcher Clay '09
Recruitment Chairman

Pledge program helps integrate new members

Saturday, September 9 marked the end of a very successful rush and the pledging of 11 freshmen to our house.

Since then, the pledge program has been in full swing, introducing the pledges to our house, as well as preparing them for initiation into our brotherhood at the end of January. The pledge program includes all the traditional activities, such as formal pledging (which happened the night October 2), weekly pledge meetings, candlelight, and walkout, as well as a few surprises concocted by the magister.

In addition to teaching the pledges the history and traditions of the house and of the international Fraternity, the pledge program will attempt to instill in the pledges a sense of commitment to the



Troy Tamas '10 pledges on the roof of Baker House as brothers and pledges cheer him.

house, to each other, and to the ideals of our fraternity. The pledge program will also focus on helping the pledges get acclimated to life at MIT, as well as employing the fraternity's resources in ensuring their success at MIT.

The pledge class includes nine varsity athletes, one member of the MIT Logarithms, and one member of MIT's ultimate Frisbee team, and has already begun to make us proud by its presence on campus. We look forward to watching our freshmen grow at MIT and seeing the things they achieve.

The Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi proudly announces the class of 2010: Luke Cummings, of Sturgeon Bay, Wis-

consin; Michael Demyttenaere, of Brussels, Belgium; Joseph McCarter, of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Dominik Kmita, of Los Angeles, California; Justin Sousa, of Novato, California; Caine Jette, of Haiku, Hawaii; William Fedus, of Winslow, Maine; Jeffrey Mekler, of Gilford, New Hampshire; Eric Reuland, of Laguna Niguel, California; Troy Tamas, of Santa Barbara, California; and Colin Taylor, of Dallas, Texas.

We invite all alumni to come join us in January as we welcome these men into our brotherhood.

Stephane C. Essama '08
Magister



Brothers, rushees and friends gather for another feast at 532 Beacon St.

Restructured dinners boost attendance

In the past, Alpha Theta has hosted a catch-all faculty dinner once a term: a single date in which brothers could invite professors, faculty members, and administrators to dine with the house. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts and inflexible dates have always inevitably led to poor faculty attendance.

This year, we decided to have a continually running program under which we would extend flexible invitations to potential guests. As such, thus far, we have dined with David Rogers and Chris McGill (assistant dean of FSILGs and

principle fraternity adviser, respectively), Larry Benedict (senior dean of Student Life), and several members of the MIT police. Stephen Immerman, senior associate dean of Student Life and co-chair of the FSILG Task Force, has also expressed interest in having dinner with us in the future. We hope to continue this tradition through the spring term and into the future.

In Hoc,
Brian A. Wilt '07
Tribune / Scholarship Chair

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



Benjamin Parran III '43 writes, "Immediately after January 1943 graduation (along with some of the finest men/brothers that ever lived—**Howie McJunkin '43**, **Allen Kirkpatrick III '43**, **Whit Newton '43**, **Charlie Gates '43**, **Bud Meissner '43**, and **Frank Briber** to name a few), I immediately found myself in Parris Island Boot Camp. Commissioned in June (along with **Tyrone Power**, my bunkee). Marines needed electronics, so my brand-new wife set up the housekeeping in Boston, and I to the Cruft Lab, then Harbor Building, learning that E=IR and about vacuum tubes and the new-fangled marvels of mwave radar. A stint at Corpus Christie (airborne stuff) and off to SOPAC with an SBD dive bomber squadron in the lovely Philippines. Mustered out in December 1945. **Barney Oldfield '38** talked me in 1952 into General Electric Defense Electronics—Syracuse, Utica, Santa Barbara (think tank), Pittsfield. Retired early 1977 (wife with medical problems, time was her number-one priority to Cape Cod, where we basked in joyful indolence. Getting long in the tooth, we retrenched to Tidewater, Virginia, to be close to favorite (and only) daughter, her doctor husband, two granddaughters, plus a great grandson! We have a wonderful home aide, an old fashioned Eastern Shore lady who takes marvelous care of us both. Betty had a stroke 10 years ago, so alternates between bed and wheel chair, but has indomitable spirit and enjoys life. I had a large workshop built, where I do a little of everything—especially first-class wind chimes. I have such fond memories of Alpha Theta, **Jim Killian**, our faculty adviser and good personal friend. No liquor, women in music room only, but on special occasions, upstairs in the chapter room. I was there when we ripped out that beautiful pipe organ to replace it with a phone room." To hear more of Ben's recollections, write to him at 3020 Duke of York Ct., Chesapeake, VA 23321. E-mail him at bparraniii@cox.net.

Robert C. Drye '47 writes, "Very pleased to hear about **Bob Kiehn's** ('50) reappearance in last Beaver Sig. Almost dramatically, I survived a cardiac arrest in December 2005 (only 5

percent do) and am getting back to normal except for a built-in defibrillator and some stents. Still hanging out at the post office while hoping for a new teaching job at the about-to-expand Arizona Medical School here. Hope to see you in 2007." Write to Bob at 2620 S. Azalea Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282. Send him e-mail at robercdrye@msn.com.

Alan R. Brennecke '61 (865 Cathcard Rd., Blue Bell, PA 19422; abbottbrennecke@cs.com) writes, "Here is a photo of five members of the class of '61 that gathered for our 45th reunion. Ken and Earl are still in the Boston area, but Bill lives in Colorado, Eric in Arizona, and I live in Pennsylvania. Still good brothers all these years."

"From a business standpoint," writes **Ronald A. Norelli '67**, "the most significant initiative has been the foundation of the Norelli Group, which adds a fully staffed office in Beijing to the capabilities of Norelli and Company, my 25-year-old strategic and transition management firm headquartered in Charlotte. And Norelli and Company's historical experience with family companies has a new twist, as daughter Margaret (Davidson College '03) has joined Norelli as a financial analyst after two years in New York. Margaret will leave for a three-month assignment in Beijing in September. Personally, wife Nancy (Wellesley '72 and sister of **Jim Black '69**) will be reelected as a district court judge this November, as she

was unopposed. We both enjoyed attending the scholarship banquet in May 2006 and expect to be at Alpha Theta's 125th anniversary next April." To find out more about Ron, e-mail him at rnorelli@norelli.com. Send him postal at 954 Granville Rd., Charlotte, NC 28207.

Robert A. Sabo '86 writes, "Wife, Kim, and children, Kayla, Ande, and Scout, are all doing well. I just did another Ironman Triathlon at Lake Placid in July 2006 in a time of 11 hours and 20 minutes. I enjoyed crossing the finish line with my three daughters." Send Robert congratulations at 8703 Venter Ave., Margate, NJ 08402; rasabo@alum.mit.edu.

"Recently moved to Hong Kong (again!) and excited to be working in Asia," writes **David J. Day '98**. "Any Sigs living or traveling through the region would be great to see." Write to David at Manhattan Heights Flat, 28 New Praya, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong SAR. E-mail him at dday@alum.mit.edu.

Samuel L. Towell '00 writes, "I'm finishing up my clerkship with Justice Barbara Milano Keenan of the Supreme Court of Virginia (August 18) and start my job as an associate with the law firm of Williams Mullen in Richmond in the beginning of October." Keep in touch with Sam at 2100 E. Cary St., Apt. 140, Richmond, VA 23223. E-mail him at stowell@alum.mit.edu.



Bill Kendall '61, Ken Nill '61, Earl Van Horn '61, Eric Mudama '61, and Al Brennecke '61 pose for a photo at their 45th reunion. (See related news item, above.)