



THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

WINTER 2007-2008

Consul Reports On State Of Chapter

Dear Brothers,

Alpha Theta has returned from the summer break with renewed vigor. The fall term is off to an excellent start, with brothers actively taking on responsibilities within the house and in the MIT community.

Before the term started, Benjamin Pope '08 led a concerted and well-executed effort to clean the house during work week. Work week provided a time to rekindle our brotherhood after the summer recess. We reconnected with stories and learned from one another's samplings of the world outside MIT. Brothers took the summer to engage in a myriad of activities, ranging from treks up Mount Rainier to working in industry and academia.

The chapter's efforts during work week paid off during rush, when we happily selected seven freshmen for the pledge class of 2011. Led by Ryan Dean '08, this year's rush featured such activities as an exotic meats barbecue, F1 racing, and a trip to the beach. We feel that the members of the new pledge class all have excellent potential to become exemplars of the ideals of Sigma Chi in the years to come.

Continuing from our strong academic performance last semester, brothers are off to a great start in their classes this fall. Last spring, our chapter earned a spot on the FSILG honor roll. We look to keep the academic momentum going through the rest of the term, and we plan to continue our chapter's tradition of being among the top academically ranked fraternities at MIT. To this end, our chapter is organizing a new system of internal tutoring and management of academic resources. In addition, several brothers are using their subject expertise to be teaching assistants or tutors in their respective departments.

While our chapter was sad to see the

graduation of its senior class last spring, the new senior class is filling in where the recent graduates left off as role models for the house. Thinking about where they want to make their impact in the future, the new seniors are all currently engrossed in job, graduate school, and medical school applications. Proving themselves quite able, though, they have all helped in shaping the leadership and direction of the house thus far this term.

All of the brothers have taken on a renewed sense of responsibility in the house this fall. Pro Consul Chris Bukowski '09 has taken it upon himself to expand our chapter's presence in the greater Boston Sigma Chi community. We have had events with the Harvard Sigma Chi Chapter, and we look to reach out to the Boston University chapter as well. Social chairs Eric Reuland '10, Joe McCarter '10, and Michael Demyttenaere '10 have brought a great deal of energy to their office and have planned a number of successful events so far this term. Community relations chair Caine Jette '10 co-organized an event with Sigma Kappa to raise money and participate in the Alzheimer's Walk in Boston. These are only a few examples of the numerous exciting projects that the officers have taken the initiative to explore this term.

With the rest of the year lying ahead of us, we hope to continue to realize the full potential of our house. We hope to grow our brotherhood by broadening our horizons within the Boston Sigma Chi community and maintaining a high academic standard. In so doing, we look to strengthen the already outstanding reputation of the Alpha Theta chapter of Sigma Chi.

In hoc,
P. Thatcher Clay '09
Consul

A 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 Street, plus alumni news and correspondence. The chapter continues to do very well, as you'll read in these articles.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the alumni corporation or Alpha Theta in general.

Wishing you and your families a great 2008—

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



Pall Kornmayer '11 pledges on the Harvard Bridge after rush. Phil Samayoa '09, Stephane Essama '08, Andrew Ji '09, Troy Tamas '10 and Ryan Dean '08 cheer him on. (See related article, page three.)

Magister Pleased With Class Of 2011 Pledges, Program

Sunday, September 9, 2007, marked the end of a very successful rush for Alpha Theta and the commencement of the pledge program for seven outstanding freshmen. Since then, I am proud to report that the process of introducing the pledges to our house and preparing them for initiation into our brotherhood is well under way.

In addition to teaching the pledges about the history and ideals of both Alpha Theta and the international fraternity, the pledge program this year is focused on enhancing the pledges' integration into the house. A variety of inter-class activities, big brother-little brother events, and individual pledge-brother discussions have all supplemented the traditions already in place for teaching the pledges about Sigma Chi and fostering a strong bond among pledge brothers. Our hope is that both the actives and pledges will benefit a great deal from the cultivation of this relationship.

The members of the pledge class of 2011 have already demonstrated passionate leadership by joining committees, planning events, and maintaining a positive presence in the house, on cam-

pus, and in the community. As always, we as a house are committed to ensuring their success at MIT, and we know our pledges will accomplish many great things in the future.

The Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi proudly announces the Class of 2011: Spencer Currie, of Burlingame, CA; Garrett Winther, of Broomfield, CO; Brandon D. Briscoe, of Aspen, CO;

Pall Kornmayer, of Alpharetta, GA; Eric Roselli, of Plano, TX; Michael Dobson, of Houston, TX; and Matt Luchette, of Burr Ridge, IL.

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

Eugene Jang '09
Magister



Joshua Campoverde '08, Neil Zimmerman '09, and Dominik Kmita '10 welcome Spencer Currie '11 into the legendary Bunny-Monk Line.

Spotlight On A Mountain Man: Adventures Of A Sig In The West

"So, what year are you?" Most MIT students have no problem answering this simple question with a single word (freshman, sophomore, etc.), but my answer usually takes the form of a story that begins, "Well, that's a complicated question."

I began my MIT career in the fall of 2004, but unlike my fellow '08 pledge brothers, I won't be graduating this spring. No, I didn't get convicted of a felony or fail all my classes and get held back by the academic board. I took a leave of absence to become a mountain guide.

The full story begins back in the first term of my sophomore year. After struggling with depression, poor grades, and a substantial lack of motivation, I decided there was no point in attending a school like MIT without the proper motivation. I needed time off to collect myself. I also needed a goal. I decided to follow a passion I have had ever since childhood and take it a step further. I would become a climbing guide.

I began that January in Red Rock National Conservation Area. Red Rock

was ideal for me. There was everything from small bouldering problems, to single pitch sport climbs, to huge, multi-pitch traditional climbs on the canyon walls, whose sheer vertical sandstone walls tower up 3000 feet.



Eddie Scholtz '07, Josh Lake '07, and Aaron Doody '07 visit Ian Wolfe '08 (second from right) in Washington.

After my four months at Red Rock, I began taking an AMGA rock course at Eldorado Canyon in Colorado, one of the premier rock venues in the country. I then took a trip back into the Cascades of Northern Washington, the American Alps, including an expedition into the

remote Waddington Range of British Columbia, a twelve-hour drive north of Vancouver and a twenty-minute helicopter ride into the range. There I learned a critical lesson in patience, as we were forced to sit idly as the weather pounded us with five days of sideways snow...in July. Patience finally paid off as we completed a possible first ascent of a new route on Tellot Spire One, an imposing and overhung golden granite spire that sits amid the surrounding sea of glaciers.

Next it was back to school—a wilderness emergency medical technician school in Lander, Wyoming. During this intensive month-long course, I received news that I had been accepted for a position on the winter park professional ski patrol for the winter, one of the premier patrols in the nation, so I spent the winter as a ski patroller.

The culmination of my year's efforts began when Alpine Ascents International notified me that they would like to hire me for a full season guiding position with their company. I drove out to Seattle the day after the ski season ended and began

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Rush 2007: Seeking MIT's Finest Freshmen

Alpha Theta started the 2007 fall semester with another successful rush. Seven outstanding freshmen pledged Sigma Chi, each one looking to contribute significantly to the house. Despite a busy first week of school, both brothers and pledges made a good showing at all the rush events.

Rush kicked off with an exotic-meats barbecue that included ostrich, wild boar, rattlesnake, alligator, and even kangaroo. This unique rush event was

unmatched on campus and attracted many freshmen. The following day included a paint-balling outing followed by a few hours of hanging out on the stoop in front of the house.

The annual rush beach trip gave the brothers and freshmen a chance to show off their athletic skills in beach volleyball, baseball, and soccer, as well as have some fun in the sun. Go-kart racing and a show at an improv comedy club rounded out the rest of the week.

Everyone had a great time getting the most out of the end of summer before classes started.

The pledge class is now working closely with Magister Eugene Jang '09 and Assistant Magister Domink Kmita '10 to get to know their new brothers and learn the ideals of Sigma Chi.

In hoc,
Ryan Dean '08
Recruitment Chairman

Work Week 2007 Polishes House

The end of the summer was the beginning of a new year at Alpha Theta. The summer and previous year had taken their toll, and the house was in much need of cleaning and repair. The major task at the beginning of the week was the purging of the storage closets in the house. In the past several years, boxes and boxes of unclaimed clothing, books, and other bric-a-brac had accumulated. As a result, the actives had an ever-diminishing amount of space. By Tuesday afternoon, however, we had discovered more space

than we ever knew and had donated 12 50-gallon bags of clothing and several appliances to the local Salvation Army.

The week also held a few more "heavy duty" projects. The recent structural investigations by the architects in preparation for the future renovation left several holes in the walls and ceiling that had to be repaired. Also, water damage caused by leaks in the roof and gutter system was repaired, including cleaning and repainting ceilings on the fourth floor and replacing half of the

plywood and drywall in 3-Large-Back.

Finally, and certainly just as important, the entire house got a cosmetic cleaning and face-lift. Floors were refinished, the stoop repainted, walls scrubbed, and carpets steam-cleaned. By the end of the week, the house looked as good as new, and it was certainly ready to impress brothers and freshmen alike!

In hoc,
Benjamin Pope '08
Work Week Manager

Brothers Focus On Community Service

Sigma Chi has set high standards for community service this term. Monthly service projects seek to cultivate a deeper sense of brotherhood in the house. It's not only about brotherhood this term, though; we're striving to work together with as many other organizations as possible in order to broaden the scope of our work as well as keep brothers interested in a variety of different projects.

We've already raised over \$4,000 with Sigma Kappa Sorority in the name of Alzheimer's research by helping to organize and participating in an Alzheimer's memory walk in Boston. Plans are in the works with other Sigma Chi chapters in the Boston area as well. We're teaming up with Boston University's Sigma Chi to throw a concert and donate the proceeds to the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Following tradition, the house will also make its biannual trip to Rosie's Place to offer our services for a day.

Despite brothers' busy schedules, I hope that this term will mark an increase in our involvement in the community. My goal is to plan future



Caine Jette '10, Stephane Essama '08, and Dominik Kmita '10 participate in the Alzheimer's memory walk in Boston.

service projects that will be met with anticipation and elicit brothers' dedication.

In hoc,
Caine Jette '10
Community Relations Chairman

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



William S. Edgerly '49 recently moved to 32 Highland St., Cambridge, MA 02138. E-mail him at wsedgerly@aol.com.

"I'm still 100 percent involved in one business," writes **Chester M. Patterson '49**, "which builds service stations and part of marinas as well as selling boilers, pumps, etc., to industry. I don't know what I'd do without this fun business, as Trina is incapacitated and our traveling days are over. I am very active sailing and racing weekends on my Newport 30 or a great 46-foot ketch I built over 14 years ago! I check in on **Jim Veras '49** once a year and caught **Howie Hendershott '49** last year. I was upset about **Ricardo Haegler's** ('52) death in Brazil." Chester lives in Costa Rica, but he receives postal mail in the States at P.O. Box 25216 SJ0 760, Miami, FL 33102.

"I recently moved from Pennsylvania to a suburb of Detroit," reports

Alan Brennecke '61, "where four of our kids and 10 grandchildren are located. We figure it is time they started to benefit from 20 years of stored-up advice that we are willing to pour on them." Catch up with Alan at 2477 Winding Brook Court, Rochester Hills, MI 48309; abbottbrennecke@comcast.net.

James R. Cole '70, who is senior vice president at Legatt McCall, recently moved to 780 Boylston St., #20B, Boston, MA 02199. E-mail him at jrccole@yahoo.com.

"In August 2006, I joined Williams Mullen in my hometown of Richmond, Virginia," writes **Samuel T. Towell '00**, "as a litigator associate specializing in civil and administrative appeals. It was great seeing so many brothers at the reunion." Sam's current mailing address is 2200 E. Cary St., #140, Richmond, VA 23223. E-mail him at stowell@alum.mit.edu.

Daniel R. Craig '03 can be reached at 155 Summer St., #14R, Somerville, MA 02143. Drop him an e-mail at drcraig@alum.mit.edu.

Brian A. Wilt '07 is a graduate student in applied physics. Get in touch with him at 218 Ayrshire Farm Lane, #107, Stanford, CA 94305-7558; bwilt@stanford.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Robert E. Spoerl '46
August 8, 2007

E. Neil Helmers '48
May 5, 2007

Robert W. Temple '55
July 11, 2007

Scoreboard: A Fall Sports Update

The fall sports seasons are well under way, and the brothers and pledges of Sigma Chi have been a part of the successes of numerous varsity and club athletics programs on campus.

Jack Field '08 is leading the sailing team through another productive fall sailing season. Jack is the captain of the sailing team and was recently awarded the New England International Sailing Association Sportsman of the Year Award. The sailing team earned first place at the Smith Trophy Regatta at the end of September and has placed well in other competitions so far this year.

Neil Zimmerman '09, Joshua Cam-poverde '08, and Ian Wolfe '08 are also enjoying a successful fall season on the varsity soccer team. The soccer team currently has an impressive 7 (wins) – 4 (losses) – 2 (ties) record, and they are looking to make their mark again this year at the conference tournament.

Other Sigs involved in varsity programs on campus include Liam Fedus on the cross country team, Matt Luchette '11 on the lightweight crew team, as well as Luke Cummings '10,

Eric Roselli '11, and Mike Dobson '11 on the swim team. Track all of these Sigma Chi athletes' progress online at mitathletics.cstv.com.

T. Scott Pollom '09
Chapter Editor



Neil Zimmerman '09 with the ball during a soccer game this fall.

Spotlight On A Mountain Man

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to learn the intricacies of guiding eight people up the largest and most involved glacial mountain in the contiguous United States, Mount Rainier. I made 15 trips on Rainier this past season, each with a vertical gain of over 9,000 feet over three days. Rainier is the premier training ground in the U.S. for big peaks in the Alaska range and Himalayas.

While I may not have some of the valuable internship experience many of my classmates do, I have real leadership experience. I am brought back again and again to the story of the guide who decided to seek employment at an investment-banking firm. During the interview, the CEO said, "We deal with really large sums of money here; millions of dollars. Have you ever been in a stressful situation?" The guide thinks about it a minute and finally replies, "Well, have you?" He got the job.

So what year am I? I'm older than most of the seniors, this is my third year on the varsity soccer team, and I'm taking sophomore classes. That's the best answer I can offer.

Ian Wolfe '08