



THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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

SPRING 2008

A Message From The Alumni Corporation

Dear Brothers:

I hope this edition of *The Beaver Sig* finds you well. 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 be healthy and strong, 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 the best—

In hoc,
Karl Büttner '87

Corporation Board President
kbuttner@alum.mit.edu

Chapter receives Legion of Honor Award

In February, Shawn P. George, the grand praetor of Sigma Chi International's North Atlantic province, unexpectedly joined the active brothers of Alpha Theta over lunch to inform them that the chapter had been awarded Sigma Chi's Legion of Honor Award. Consul Douglas Halket '09 was presented with a certificate from the general fraternity to be framed and displayed in the chapter library. The Legion of Honor Award is bestowed upon chapters deemed to exemplify the highest levels of academic excellence among all undergraduate Sigma Chi chapters.



Over the past term, efforts to further the academic success of the active brothers have continued as Scholarship Chairman Caine L. Jette '10 fosters aca-

ademic interactions between brothers by archiving practice exams and problem sets and creating a chapter list of all classes taken by each brother. Brother Jette's continued efforts have increased the effectiveness of academic communication between brothers and allowed younger brothers to seek out advice and consultation more easily from the senior brothers.

The active brothers hope to continue and build upon Alpha Theta's long tradition of academic achievement in addition to our fraternal, professional, and social endeavors.

Guard well,
Joshua J. Campoverde '08
jcampo@mit.edu

Consul reports on state of chapter

Dear Brothers:

This spring has been a semester of new challenges and adventures for the chapter. Before it began, our brothers enjoyed their IAPs in various ways: From visiting exotic countries, to taking fun classes at the institute, to frequenting a boxing gym, to working at various companies for the month, many people used IAP to try something new. All in all, IAP allowed brothers to return to the chapter not only with fresh energy and determination, but also with new experiences and different outlooks.

At the end of IAP, the chapter performed a successful initiation week, led by Magister Eugene Jang '09. We initiated seven new brothers into the fraternity and renewed current brothers' dedication to the chapter. Through their participation in I-Week, the upperclassmen were reminded of what Alpha Theta and the Sigma Chi

Fraternity has brought to them through their years at MIT.

The beginning of the spring term saw the departure of two of our most involved brothers, Ben Pope '08 and Chris Bukowski '09. Ben graduated early and is spending the spring and summer working at Apple. He plans on returning next year to attend graduate school at MIT and has already accepted an invitation to be our new chapter advisor. Chris, on the other hand, is taking it easy in Madrid, Spain, for the semester with the MIT-Madrid program. He will also be returning next fall, and we wish him the best of times while he is enjoying his unique experience.

The brothers staying back in Boston for the semester have been participating in an unprecedented number of extracurricular activities, including 13 involved in spring varsity and club sports. As a result,

we have had to be flexible as a chapter to maintain brotherhood, sometimes having to move around dinner and other events to accommodate everybody. As consul, I have made it one of my goals to ensure that all brothers can attend chapter meetings and events, which I believe is essential to the purpose of our fraternity.

In March, we all took a three-hour drive north to Bryant Pond, Maine, for our annual rush retreat. The weather might have been cold, but spirits were high as we discussed rush strategies and took time away from school to relax. Recruitment Chair Andrew Ji '09 led us in discussions on how to have a successful rush and maintain the high level of character that has been associated with Sigma Chi over the years.

Throughout the spring, the chapter
(continued on page three)

A recap of the accomplishments of Brother James Rhyne Killian '29

James Rhyne Killian, Massachusetts Institute of Technology class of 1929, earned an S.B. in engineering and business administration. As we all know, he was an Alpha Theta Sigma Chi and a member of the 1925 pledge class. After his graduation, he remained at MIT as the assistant managing editor of the *Technology Review*, the well-known magazine of the alumni association. He became editor in 1930 and helped found what is now the MIT Press. He held the position until 1939, when he became executive assistant to MIT President Karl Taylor Compton. Killian took over directing MIT temporarily during World War II when Compton's involvement in the National Defense Research Committee kept him away from MIT for extensive periods of time. In 1943, Killian was appointed executive vice president, and then vice president in 1945. He served as the tenth president of MIT from 1948 to 1959, and then as chairman of the MIT Corporation from 1959 to 1971.

Killian supported the arts and believed "that the modern research university offers unique opportunities to cultivate many new integrations between the liberal arts and the sciences." It was during Killian's years that the School of Humanities and Social Studies

and the Sloan School of Management were added to MIT. The campus was transformed under Killian: Hayden Library was completed, Baker House was built, and Eero Saarinen designed Kresge Auditorium and the MIT chapel. It was said that Killian had a special love for the MIT chapel despite the controversial design. Killian also led MIT's movement into the era of digital computers during a time when their future impact on the world was not so evident. As chairman of the corporation, Killian organized the Second Century Campaign. In 1960, his initial goal was \$66 million, but by 1963, he had achieved \$98 million. He also increased annual giving from \$3 million in 1949 to over \$22 million in 1971. He was known affectionately to generations of students as "Mr. MIT."

Killian moved on from MIT to become the special assistant for science and technology to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1957, he formed and chaired the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), which later took on important roles in national educational reforms in science and technology and in establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Between 1950 and 1974, he served on dozens of national science boards, including

President Harry S. Truman's communications policy board, 1950-1952, the president's foreign intelligence advisory board, 1961-1963, and the general advisory committee of the U.S. arms control and disarmament agency, 1969-1974. Most notably, he came back to MIT in 1965 and began to work with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to help develop public television.

Killian was described as a man of enviable erudition who had a natural eloquence and charm, a warm and gracious manner, and a gentle, wry humor that was never unkind. In times of dispute, he was exceptional at resolving differences and achieving consensus, making advances possible. He was always courageous, and he spoke out at times when it might have been easier to remain silent. His words were always thoughtful, reasonable, and persuasive. It is no wonder that the Sigma Chi Fraternity awarded this great man the Significant Sig Award. We hope we can all learn from his character and ambition and make a positive difference in the world, no matter how small.

In hoc,
Dominik Kmita '10
Chapter Editor

Alpha Theta welcomes seven outstanding men

On February 3, 2008, the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi welcomed seven new members into our brotherhood. A very successful I-Week was concluded with the initiation of Spencer J.A. Currie, Garrett L. Winther, Brandon D. Briscoe, Pall M. Kornmayer, Eric J. Roselli, Michael J. Dobson, and Matthew F. Luchette.

Throughout the pledge program, these young men not only learned about the ideals and values of Sigma Chi, but also strived toward them diligently. They were well prepared for the challenges of I-Week, and the bonds of the entire chapter were strengthened

by guiding the pledges through their transition into brothers.

Spencer Currie '11, from Burlingame, California, has emerged as an enthusiastic leader in his pledge class and has taken on the position of tea master. Garrett Winther '11, from Broomfield, Colorado, is a starter on the MIT varsity volleyball team and serves as social chairman in Sigma Chi. Brandon Briscoe '11, from Aspen, Colorado, is a kung fu expert and also serves as tea master. Pall Kornmayer '11, from Alpharetta, Georgia, is actively involved in building racecars with Formula SAE on

campus and has been an outstanding historian for Sigma Chi. Eric Roselli '11, of Plano, Texas, has had great success on the MIT varsity swimming team and has taken on a multitude of leader's roles in the chapter, including webmaster, undergraduate association representative, and network administrator. Michael Dobson '11, of Houston, Texas, has had a record-breaking season on the swim team and has been a solid presence in the house. Matthew Luchette '11, of Burr Ridge, Illinois, serves as kustos and corporate board representative for Alpha Theta and is a great friend and brother to everyone in our house.

On behalf of the entire chapter, I would like to personally thank the alumni brothers who were able to attend the alumni tea to meet the newest class of Alpha Thetas, as well as those who were kind enough to assist with the ceremonies of initiation. We are certain that our new initiates will continue to exemplify the ideals of friendship, justice, and learning, and we are proud to call them our brothers.

In hoc,
Eugene Jang '09
Magister



Left to right: Garrett Winther '11, Mike Dobson '11, Pall Kornmayer '11, Brandon Briscoe '11, and Eric Roselli '11 celebrate their initiation with face paint.

Brothers support each other in sports

As a senior graduating in June, I have started to think back on the most memorable parts of my college experience. Of course, I remember my tests and classes (at least some of them), but one thing that will stay with me forever is volleyball and the support that the brothers of Alpha Theta have given me and the rest of the team. I have been a member of the volleyball team for four years now, and I can hardly remember a home game without a Sigma Chi in the stands. This may not seem like a big deal, but with all the problem sets and tests that students at MIT have to deal with, it is

truly special to see brothers take some time out of their personal lives to come support the team and their brothers.

As a freshman, I was the only volleyball player in the house, and I remember the joy I felt when the rest of my pledge class came out for my first game. Over the years, whether it was an easy home game or a big Saturday morning match, there were always friendly faces from my pledge class there to heckle the opponents and cheer on MIT.

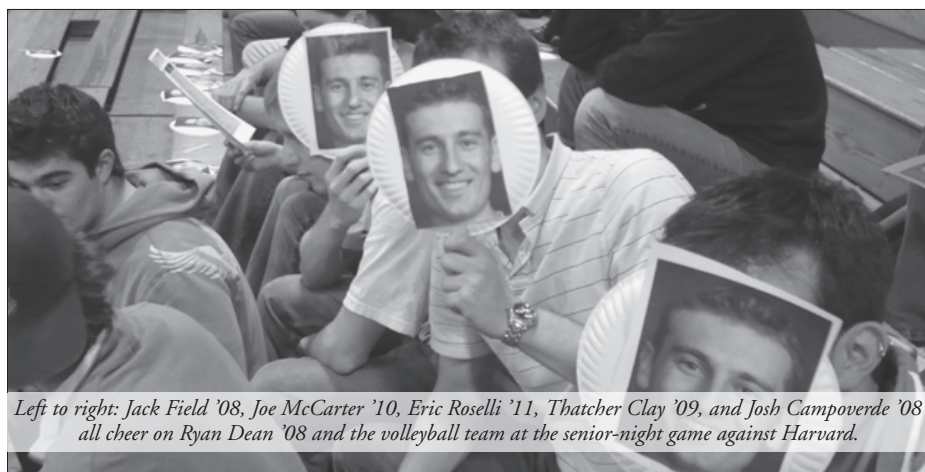
Fast forward to my senior year, and it still makes me smile every time I hear a brother yell my name with pride after an

especially well-played point. Today, there are seven actives on the volleyball team, and as we rush more and more volleyball players, the brothers' support and excitement about the team only increases. This support is so overwhelming that during our senior-night match when we beat Harvard, a Division I program, for the first time since 1999, dinner was spontaneously cancelled because too many brothers had decided to go to the game instead. The support has even extended beyond actives, as alumnus Herb Mower '65 has been spotted cheering us on.

I am also happy to report that this support can be found anywhere a brother competes. At the recent NEWMAC swimming championship, the stands were filled with active brothers to support the three swimmers in the house. The house was especially honored to cheer on two of the brothers, Luke Cummings '10 and Mike Dobson '11, as they qualified to go to nationals.

Likewise, when Ian Wolfe '08 solicited brothers in the house to donate money for a new ski timer, many actives stepped in without hesitation to help him out. It is great to look around and see all the support the brothers give to each other within the house, and I expect that this will continue for many generations of Alpha Theta brothers.

In hoc, Ryan Dean '08



Left to right: Jack Field '08, Joe McCarter '10, Eric Roselli '11, Thatcher Clay '09, and Josh Campoverde '08 all cheer on Ryan Dean '08 and the volleyball team at the senior-night game against Harvard.



Spencer Currie '10 and Eric Roselli '10 play in the snow at rush retreat. (See consul's report on page one.)

Consul reports, cont.

(continued from page one)

has been as close knit as ever. Even though the brothers are busy and almost everybody has commitments around campus and beyond, we still find time for all of the small things that our chapter values. Whether helping one another out with problem sets, playing pick-up games at the gym, or just hanging out in the library, our brothers still show the same level of devotion to the house and to each other as they would were Sigma Chi the sole focus of their lives.

In hoc,
Doug Halket '09

The Beaver Sig

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.

Alumni Send News From Far And Near



John E. Simonds Jr. '42 writes that he married Dorothy Clayton in 1940. "Dorothy just died on December 28, 2007. I lived at 532 Beacon Street. I did not graduate because of WWII and family financial problems. I will never forget walking across the Harvard Bridge to reach MIT. My daughter, Linda (never married), helps me maintain the bushes in my yard, etc. She went to UCLA and was copy editor of *The Daily Bruin*. She was always 'student of the year' in all schooling from first grade on. Our son, John, almost did not graduate from high school—barely made it. He now owns a 900-acre mountain in Montana. He and I make four or five trips a year to check on his property. I enjoy watching him play with his toys—a back hoe, two trucks, etc." Send condolences to Jack at 1419 Fulton Rd., San Marcos, CA 92069.

"I retired in 1992 after about 34

years in various electrical engineering posts with the city and county of San Francisco," writes **Winchell T. Hayward '46**. "My activities presently include: the Retired Employees of the City of San Francisco group; the Mission Presbyterian Church, in which I have been active for about 30 years; the California Alpine Club; two historic preservation groups; I play the piano for a singing group at a local hospital and for my church; the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (past president); and I attend symphony, opera, and ballet performances. Regrettably, I never did find my Sigma Chi sweetheart, so I've been a bachelor all my life. But I've had a lot of fun, and San Francisco and this area is a great place to live." Catch up with Win at 208 Willard North, San Francisco, CA 94118; winhayward@mailbug.com.

Jeffrey M. Burrows '79 reports that his daughter, Casey, is a freshman at

Tufts, and his son, Peter, is looking at schools in the Northeast. The Burrows moved in January 2008 and now reside at 5121 Mirror Lakes Dr., Edina, MN 55436. Drop him an e-mail at mb5121@comcast.net.

"I just bought a house," announces **Michael A. Kahan '03**. "And I recently got engaged to Minnette (Beth) Ferguson. We're to be married in October 2008 in Round Rock, Texas. All in all, life is good." Mike works as a quantitative analyst at Penson Financial Services in Austin. Send him congratulations at 3984 Lord Byron Circle, Round Rock, TX 78664; mkahan@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Franklin P. Parker '36

Bruce H. Mayer '44

Joseph Brazzatti Jr. '54

Brother writes about his ongoing experiences in Madrid

Before coming to college, I knew that I would be studying abroad. Although MIT doesn't have much to offer in the way of a study abroad office, it has been making an effort to improve through various programs such as the MIT-Madrid program. Being a student in the Spanish language, I decided that Madrid would be the ideal location, as I could receive credit for classes, improve my Spanish, and travel throughout Europe.

What a fulfilling experience it has been so far. I take only three classes, and the work required of me is a final in each class plus a paper for two of them. This leaves me with plenty of time to travel and explore. And since classes are in Spanish, it has forced me to try and interact with some of the students so that I can better understand what is happening. Not only does my Spanish get some work, but I've become a little more outgoing as a result.

Europe is so diverse and has so much to offer that it's difficult to decide where to go. I have taken trips to Cádiz, Jerez (home of sherry), Granada, Salamanca, Toledo, Segovia, El Escorial, Cuenca, and Valencia in Spain; Dublin and Cork in Ireland; Paris; Cambridge, England; plus Milan and some small coastal cities in Italy. It's amazing how much difference in culture, language, and scenery there is in such a small area.

Even in Spain, the harsh and scrublike trees and rocky soil surrounding Madrid give way to groves of olive trees dotting the hill-sides as you arrive in the southern cities of Cádiz and Granada. The language changes from the more pure Castilian to the lispier and faster version spoken in the south. Or travel east to the coastal town of Valencia and see the Castilian change to Catalan, a sort of mix between Spanish and French especially popular in Catalonia and its capital of Barcelona.

Perhaps my favorite part of traveling is the food. While the sights are breathtaking, from the giant Moorish fortress of La Alhambra in Granada to the natural beauty of the Italian coast juxtaposed with the bright colors of Mediterranean houses in Cinque Terre, I have a special spot for regional delicacies. Tapas is a popular tradition in Spain involving barhopping with friends to chat while drinking a caña (small beer) or wine and snacking on tapas. Tapas range from shrimp to ham to croquettes (little balls of meat fried like a jalapeño popper). Of course there's paella (rice and an assortment of other foods, normally seafood), which hails from Valencia; cocido, a type of stew with chickpeas and meat, from Madrid; and marzipan, a soft cookie-like dessert made of almond and sugar, from Toledo. Then of course, all of

Spain has its famous Serrano ham, which is sliced off the leg in front of you, chocolate con churros—fried dough that you dip into a thick chocolate drink, almost like chocolate sauce—and the tortilla (potato and egg, with the option of additions like onion). And that's just a small amount of what's offered in Spain.

And of course, there are all the new people you meet. Unfortunately, most youngsters in Madrid are pretty closed. They'll be friendly enough to talk for a bit, but none seem interested in friendship. There are a few who I hang out with every now and then whom I know through rugby, but for the most part, I hang out with other foreigners. There are networks for foreign students in the universities that make it easier to meet up with others and get to know other Spaniards. People head out to bars around 11:00 p.m. or 12:00 a.m. and stay until 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. Then it's off to the nightclubs, which close around 6:00 or 7:00 a.m.

There's so much more to talk about, like sports, politics, mentalities, cultural differences, fashion, hairstyles (the mullet is in for teenage boys), and the list goes on. In truth, to really learn about it all, you'll just have to experience it for yourself.

Chris Bukowski '09