



THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

FEBRUARY 2001

AΘ Earns 25th Peterson, Presents First Swanson Memorial Scholarship

The fall of 2000 has been a very eventful and transitional term for the active Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi. The MIT community has had to respond to a growing number of changes in order to equip itself better for the coming years, including the unexpected retirement of long-time Inter-Fraternity Council Adviser Neal Dorow, alcohol incidents at Next House dormitory and the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and the anticipated move to house all freshmen on campus in the school year of 2002.

Despite the somewhat tumultuous atmosphere on campus, Sigma Chi has continued to thrive. Sigma Chi pledged 10 exceptional young men in record time during rush, and the chapter was again awarded the Peterson Significant Chapter Award by Sigma Chi Headquarters, bringing the total number of Petersons to 25—the most of any active Sigma Chi chapter. Eight brothers attended the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop during August 2000 held on the campus of



MIT President Charles Vest, Mark Curtis '87, Richard Yeh '01, Ken Morse '68, Jim Black '69, and Fred Middleton '71 pose for a photo after they presented Richard with the Robert A. Swanson Memorial Scholarship.

Kansas State University. At LTW, Samuel Thurston Towell '00 was named the International Balfour, an incredible honor for him and for our chapter (see article below). The chapter participated in the City Days community service event at local YMCA chapters in the Boston and Cambridge area. Brothers,

pledges, and friends also made a camping excursion to Acadia National Park in Maine, and house events including parties, formals, and our tradition of Wednesday night tea have kept the social atmosphere at Sigma Chi alive and well.

The fall term was highlighted by the presentation of the Robert A. Swanson Memorial Scholarship during the chapter's Alumni Weekend. Spearheaded by Brothers Jim Black '69 and Rolf Brauchler '69, the scholarship was created in honor of Swanson, the founder of the biotechnology industry and their faithful pledge brother. Over 70 brothers and guests, including Alex d'Arbeloff, president of the MIT Corporation,

and Charles Vest, current president of MIT, were in attendance during the weekend, which culminated with a dinner at the University Club in downtown Boston, honoring the first recipient of the scholarship, Richard Y. Yeh '01. With heartfelt and often humorous stories, brothers shared their memories of Swanson throughout the night, allowing us all to understand Swanson as not only a brilliant businessman but as a loyal and worthy husband, father, and brother to us all.

On a personal note, as consul and a graduating senior, I have seen both the changes that can occur in a chapter as well as the consistent and everlasting meaning of Sigma Chi. I have found our current brothers and pledges to be a very diverse group of men in temperaments, talents, and convictions, in many ways vastly different from those brothers with whom I lived as a pledge and a younger brother. However, while talking with various alumni during Alumni Weekend, I was reminded of how sustaining a force the ideals of friendship, justice, and learning can be in our lives, in spite of all of our differences.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Albert Chan '01, Consul

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Samuel Towell '00 Wins Balfour Award

Samuel Thurston Towell '00 was recently awarded the International Balfour Award, recognizing him as the model Sigma Chi undergraduate senior for the past year, at the 53rd Annual Balfour Leadership Training Workshop at Kansas State University.

Sam graduated with 4.6 GPA and a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a freshman orienteer, an IFC new member counselor, and a member of the varsity indoor and outdoor track and field teams, the Sigma Xi Scientific

Research Society, the Order of Omega, the Freshman Leadership Program, and Richard C. Maclaurin Lodge of American Free and Accepted Masonry.

Sam held many offices in the house including consul, pro consul, annotator, tribune, alumni chair, scholarship chair, and historian. He is currently working at Chase/JP Morgan.

This is a great honor and adds Sam to a distinguished list of Alpha Thetas who have advanced far in the International Balfour process. Congratulations, Sam!

Mark your calendar:

Alpha Theta's 120th Anniversary Reunion, April 12-14, 2002 (Patriot's Day Weekend)



From left to right: Jason Poff '02, Peter Hadley '72, Dennis van der Staay '04, Christie and John Wyatt '68, Sara and Doug Bailey '72, and Kevin Wang '03 dine at the University Club in Boston at the presentation of the Robert A. Swanson Memorial Scholarship in October 2000.



From left to right: MIT Chairman of the Corporation Alex D'Arbeloff '49, MIT President Charles Vest, and Herbert Mower '65 enjoy the reception in the chapter house library during Alumni Weekend.

Plans Under Way To Create "Model Fraternity House For The 21st Century"

Continuing the effort begun last year, the building needs committee has made strong progress over the last few months. In late November, the committee selected Hecht Scherding Architects Inc. from a strong field of candidates to explore possible renovation/expansion options for 532 Beacon Street. The firm has extensive experience with adaptive reuse of older university structures and with the strict summer timetables associated with collegiate projects. Last year, they planned the highly successful renovation of MIT's senior house dormitory. In addition to institutional projects, the small firm also has completed many restorations of historic brownstones much like 532 Beacon Street. Such a combination of experience bodes well for our project.

In December, we selected Shawmut Design and Construction as construction manager out of another very strong field of candidates. Shawmut has considerable experience in residential and commercial renovation projects, with a special focus on dormitories and historic renovation work at places like Harvard and MIT. They have an excellent reputation for coming in on time and within budget on building projects. As the construction manager, Shawmut will work together with the architects during the design phase to determine the most feasible approach to the renovation of the house, will help us to develop accurate cost estimates for the project, and then will hire and oversee the subcontractors during the construction phase.

Our goal for this project is, quite simply, to create a model fraternity house for the 21st century. Probably the most significant need of the chapter is to increase the amount of functional living space in the house. Our chapter currently has the least amount of living space per man of any fraternity at MIT. Since freshmen will be required to live in dormitories beginning in 2002, and MIT is investing heavily in the dormitories to improve the living environment there (includ-

ing the construction, now under way, of a new undergraduate dormitory), it will be critical for us to expand and improve the living space in the house in order to continue to attract the best undergraduate men to Alpha Theta.

Currently, we are exploring the feasibility of adding a fifth floor, as was done successfully next door at Phi Kappa Sigma two years ago; upgrading all the major physical plant systems, such as heat, electrical, and plumbing; renovating the interior spaces; making the building handicapped accessible; and bringing the house up to current building codes. If the renovation plan proves feasible, major construction is slated to take place dur-

ing the summer of 2002.

The interest and financial support that our brothers show for this project will determine whether proceeding with these plans is possible. We will provide you with further information as the plans become more developed. Please be sure to check the house Web site, <http://sigmachi.mit.edu/>, for the most recent developments.

In Hoc,
Mike DeLaus '82
Chair, Building Needs Committee
Daniel Craig '03
Renovation Coordinator

Brothers Balance School And Sports

At Sigma Chi, brothers have always been able to establish a healthy balance of school and sports. Of course, this year was no exception. Nearly half the house participates in a varsity sport, and the rest of the brothers are sure to be found on one of our many IM sports teams.

Of the fall IM sports, we are most passionate about soccer and take it quite seriously. This year we had a heartbreaking finish as we were stopped in the semifinals, being robbed of a chance at the championship. Led by the play of our revered captain Robert Finn, aka "Turbo," rough-and-tough English-style soccer always came to the pitch.

Sigma Chi's IM hockey team turned out another successful season. Led by junior goalie Nick Cohen, aka "The Integrator," the Sig hockey team shut down opponents. Rich Obert, aka "The Enforcer," held the team together by scaring away opponents with his brutal checking.

The Sig house also fielded IM sports teams in basketball, foosball, and volleyball. Plans exist for extending our IM dominance

into the realm of bowling as well.

Our varsity athletes are a special breed. These Sigs are able to balance hefty schoolwork with the commitment of daily athletic practices. Here is a roster of Sigma Chi brothers playing varsity sports:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Jon Coe '02..... | Baseball |
| Jason Poff '02..... | Baseball |
| Robert Finn '02..... | Squash |
| Nicholas Kulkarni '02..... | Alpine Skiing |
| Nicholas Kulkarni '02..... | Rugby |
| Kevin Wang '03..... | Track and Field |
| Woojin Choi '03..... | Lacrosse |
| Joshua Soong '04..... | Crew |
| Benjamin Wang '04..... | Crew |
| Eric Zhang '04..... | Lacrosse |
| Tae Kim '04..... | Crew |
| Rory Foster '04..... | Soccer |
| Nick Powley '04..... | Sailing |
| Dan Kim '04..... | Crew |

In Hoc,
Nicholas A. Kulkarni '02
Jock Chair

Class Of '04 Comprises 10 Unique Individuals

In hoc, brothers! The Alpha Theta pledge class of 2004 is growing smarter and stronger as the bonds (and brains) of our fraternity reach out to them. The pledges have just returned from an enjoyable walkout experience to Montreal, and we treated them to a nice return dinner, recalling our own walkout memories as we heard theirs for the first time. Since rush, when we closed in one hour and 19 minutes, we knew a special pledge class was in our midst. Yes, indeed, they are quite "special." Others call it challenged. Like every class, 2004 has a unique character that I'd like to share with you now:

Joshua E-kwin Soong is one of our new elite members of the MIT crew team. You will never find him in low spirits.

The unquestioned dictator of his class, **Devjit Chakravarti** has legendary powers. He can often be found holding down the fort in the library.

Excelling at computer games and dressing with the best, you would never guess that **Benjamin Luke Wang** is the baby of the class, entering MIT at the ripe age of 16. Ben is also on MIT's crew team.

Few people place food as their number-one priority. **Eric Yu Zhang** is one of them. One of two New Jersey natives, he adds a lot of athleticism to our house.

Studious and career-minded, **Dennis Gene Van der Staay** is a great friendly addition to the house. He is quick to join in conversation and is well trusted.

Tae won Kim has added some desperately needed basketball skills to the house's intramural team and is often found helping



From left to right: Brothers Daniel Craig '03, Rory Edwards '03, and Woojin Choi '03 enjoy a scenic view during our camping trip to Acadia National Park.



Nicholas Ransom Powley '04 pledges in front of the MIT boat house.

out his pledge brothers with their work.

If there ever was an "enlightened one" among us, it's **Rory Ehren Foster**, who hails from Wisconsin. Rory started for MIT's varsity soccer team this fall, and I'm sure they were as grateful as our IM soccer captain was for his talent.

One of two Boston locals, **Roy David Gross** is famous for his courting of women.

The other Boston area native, **Nick Ran-**

som Powley loves sailing and socializing, and he is quite adept at both.

Daniel Dongjin Kim is another outstanding MIT crew member. His carefree attitude and unparalleled strength can take you by surprise.

I've enjoyed every moment of serving as magister this fall. We've traveled to Wellesley for an afternoon picnic, to Maine's beautiful Acadia National Park for a weekend, and to

Walden Pond for an end-of-summer swim. Most importantly, we've had some inspiring pledge meetings, and the candlelight tradition is alive and well. As you can see, we have continued the tradition of getting a diverse and active Alpha Theta pledge class, and I look forward to greeting them as brothers.

In Hoc,

Jason A. Poff '02, Magister



Above: The pledges enjoy a free meal before embarking on the boat cruise. Right: A great pledge class tradition continues, as the pledges shower their magister, Jason Poff '02, at the Wellesley big brother/little brother picnic.



Our Alumni Write

GEORGE E. MERRYWEATHER '34 reports a new address of 750 S. La Posada Circle, Suite 51, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (g-merryweather@email.msn.com).

While attending their 60th reunion, JOSEPH C. JEFFERDS JR. '40 and three of his Sig classmates—SAMUEL CARD, FRANKLIN PENN, and GEOFFREY ROBERTS—visited 532 Beacon Street. "We were well received!" writes Joe. "Thanks to the brothers who showed us around." Mail reaches Joe at 3 Scott Rd., Charleston, WV 25314 (xtree5@aol.com).

Writes THOMAS L. BELL JR. '47, "Joanne and I celebrated our first wedding anniversary August 29 by going out to dinner with fellow Denverite and best man TED DAVIS '47 and his wife, Nancy. We happily get together frequently with Alice and MILO WILSON '44 and Bubbles and ANDY PFEIFFENBERGER '49. All of us enjoyed recent visits of BILL CLARK '44 from Texas and Carol and FRANK KENNETT '49 from North Conway, New Hampshire." Write to Tom at tombell@bwn.net, or stop by at 3482 W. Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO80236. "The welcome mat is always out for visiting Alpha Thetas."

"For five years I have seen my dear (and brilliant) wife slip away with Alzheimer's," writes CHESTER M. PATTERSON JR. '49 (P.O. Box 25216, Dept. 760, Miami, FL 33102; mail@setec.co.cr). "I am 'president' of at least eight companies and keep active in all, partly as an escape from the anguish at home. My latest and least productive venture is a tree plantation and sawmill. I knew nothing, but I sure am learning!" Chet keeps physically fit and sails a couple of weekends a month. He designed and built his own 46-foot ketch, "which, when the inevitable comes, I may sail to New Zealand, where my eldest son and family are."

WILLIAM T. BRANDON '57 is a principal engineer doing military communications

work for the Air Force at Mitre Corporation. "Work and two soccer-playing sons, ages 11 and 12, keep me too busy," writes Bill, who makes his home at 113 Jennie Dugan Rd., Concord, MA 01742. E-mail reaches him at wbrandon@mitre.org.

ROBERT F. SMITH '58 and his wife, Barbara, retired at the end of 1999 and built a new house at The Landings on Skidaway Island in Savannah, Georgia. They left Connecticut in October 2000 and are now fully engaged in life on the island, which includes lots of golf, swimming, running, and socializing. Their two sons, Daryl and Duane, remain in Connecticut, but Bob expects them to visit often—"unless they get married and settle down!" The Smiths' new address is 10 Cattail Court, Savannah, GA 31411 (robertfsmith@att.net).

When we last heard from GREGORY C. DALEY '73, he was in the process of moving from Dallas to Los Angeles, where he's the GM for Sapient. Until we have his new home address, write to him in care of Sapient at 300 S. Grand, 17th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071 (gdaley@alum.mit.edu).

BASIL C. SAFOS '80 and Liliana are pleased to announce the arrival of Simon Vasilis Safos "and the departure of any vestiges of sleep and sanity." Send your best to Basil and his family at 34-50 87th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372 (safos@ldt.com).

"I finally finished my PhD in acoustics, graduating in August 2000," reports RICHARD C. MARBOE '81 (1321 Charles St., State College, PA 16801; rcm4@psu.edu). "I am still managing marine vehicle acoustics research at Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory. I recently took on the added position of assistant director for computing services for ARL, which now employs about 1,000 faculty and staff."

The president and COO of Hear Me, JEREMY E. VERBA '86 lives with his wife,

Wendy, and their 19-month-old son, Emmett, in Burlingame, California—not far from Kerry and SCOTT WILLIAMS '83, whom they see often. Jeremy also sees ARIEL POLER '88, KEVIN PETERSON '88, JOHN WEISZ '85, JOHN MARTIN '86, and JOHN SAPERSTEIN '86. Stay in touch with Jeremy at jverba@alum.mit.edu or at 1548 Ralston Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010.

Send e-mail to BRIAN J. FOX '88 at bjf@ctri.medicine.wisc.edu and "snail mail" at 4114 Chippewa Dr., Madison, WI 53711.

MATTHEW EDSTROM '95 and Jennifer Harris (Wellesley '97) were married on July 22, 2000, in La Jolla, California, after which they honeymooned on Maui and Kauai. In August Matt started a leave of absence from Colgate-Palmolive to work on a master's degree at the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern. Meanwhile, Jen is teaching fourth grade at a public school in Glencoe, Illinois. Visitors to the Chicago area are welcome at 1596 Oak Ave., #2, Evanston, IL 60201 (or drop a line to Matt at mee@alum.mit.edu).

An associate in the automotive practice at A.T. Kearney, DALE M. CHON '99 lives at 340 E. 29th St., #7F, New York, NY 10016 (e-mail: dmchon@alum.mit.edu).

Stay in touch with KUMAR DAS '99 at kdass@alum.mit.edu or at 275 Hawthorne Ave., #146, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

TYLER POPE '99 wrote in August, "I recently left Flyswat.com, which was founded by brothers JOHN RODKIN '95 and LEO CHANG '94 in 1998. After a great year working there I have decided to work and travel in Australia for the next five months. I then plan to return and work for a major-league baseball team. Please drop a line and let me know what's up with you." Tyler can be reached at 3960 San Leandro, San Diego, CA 92130 (pope_tyler@hotmail.com).

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

WILLIAM M. HALL '27
August 3, 2000

FREDERICK C. HOPPER '64
May 11, 2000

RICHARD M. WILSON '30
August 1997



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The Beaver Sig is published regularly by the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at MIT for its members and friends. Photographs and address changes may be sent to Sigma Chi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0007.