



# THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 2001

## Building Needs, Reunion Top Corporation Agenda

These are truly exciting times for Alpha Theta. At the last corporation meeting on May 18, alumni and actives received full updates on the status of the building needs project and planning for the 120th anniversary reunion in 2002. Both projects will have a profound effect on the chapter over the next year and, we hope, well into the future.

The Building Needs Committee, which has been meeting for over a year now, is nearing the end of its feasibility analysis of the substantial renovation of 532 Beacon Street and will make recommendations in July to the corporation for proceeding on the project. A conceptual design and more information about the project can be seen at <http://sigmach.mit.edu/>.

The current plan significantly increases the living area of the house, fully updates all of the major systems, brings the house up to current health and safety codes, and makes it handicapped

accessible while preserving the essential historical character of the house. The plan fully achieves the vision of the Building Needs Committee, chaired by Mike Delaus '82, to make 532 Beacon Street into a "model fraternity house for the 21st century." Renovation Coordinator Daniel Craig '03 is doing much of the legwork for the committee and authored the committee's initial report, also available on the Web site. More details about the project will be available online in the coming weeks, and a full update about the project will be sent out later this summer. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the project, please e-mail Mike Delaus at [Mike.Delaus@analog.com](mailto:Mike.Delaus@analog.com), Danny Craig at [dcrcraig@mit.edu](mailto:dcrcraig@mit.edu), or me at [mcurtiss@mhpfund.com](mailto:mcurtiss@mhpfund.com).

Planning is now also fully under way for the 120th anniversary reunion, which is scheduled to take place on Patriot's Day Weekend, April 12-14, 2002. John

Piotti '83 is leading the reunion planning effort, with Roy Gross '04 ably assisting him as reunion coordinator. This promises to be an especially memorable and fun weekend, with activities that will allow plenty of time for you to renew old friendships, learn what other Alpha Thetas are doing to change the world, and acquaint you with the chapter, MIT, and the Boston area. This may also be the last opportunity for you to see the "old" fraternity house and to see firsthand our plans for meeting Alpha Theta's future building needs.

If there are any special reunion activities that you'd like us to consider, please e-mail John at [piotti@uninets.net](mailto:piotti@uninets.net) or Roy at [royg@mit.edu](mailto:royg@mit.edu). It's not too early to start talking to your pledge class about returning to Boston next April!

In Hoc,  
Mark A. Curtiss '87  
Corporation President

## Alpha Theta Initiates Class Of 2004, Hosts North Atlantic Province Conference

The spring semester of 2001 has been another one for the books at Alpha Theta. Despite the fact that our chapter is about to undergo a period of great trial and change, we all feel that we are ready to meet these challenges. Our chapter is thriving in what is a new and exciting era for Greek life at MIT.

The term began with our welcoming 10 new brothers into our ranks. Under the guidance of Magister Jason Poff '02 and Assistant Magister Chris Johnson '03, the class of 2004 strived to learn the ideals of Sigma Chi, and we welcomed them into our brotherhood wholeheartedly.

I would personally like to thank all of the alumni who helped with this year's I-Week; without them, it could not have been a period of true introspection for all

of our brothers. Next year's class will be in the hands of Magister Daniel Craig '03 and Assistant Magister Raudel Rodriguez '03, who are more than up to the task of preparing next year's pledges for the challenges of being a Sigma Chi.

The month of February also provided the three chapters in the Boston area with their first opportunity in three years to host the North Atlantic Province Conference. Over the weekend of February 24-26, we welcomed active and alumni brothers from all seven chapters in the North Atlantic to MIT's campus for a chance to build the bonds of brotherhood among our chapters during an unforgettable weekend. A good time was had by all. Conducting the weekend was Grand

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*Benjamin Wang '04 looks strong at the 25th mile of the Boston Marathon (see story on page two).*

## Hosting Province Conference

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Praetor Shawn George, whose planning and execution ensured the success of the event.

The spring has also been a time for some great social events. During the annual Campus Preview Weekend (CPW), Alpha Theta hosted a party featuring an up-and-coming band. Many who attended considered it one of the premier events of CPW. However, the foremost event for the term was our spring formal.

This year, we revived the tradition of taking the formal on the road, traveling to Saco, Maine, for the evening's festivities. After a fine meal, Sigs and dates relaxed at a local inn for the evening. The entire event was a great success.

The following weekend, we again traveled to New Hampshire for our annual rush retreat. Under the direction of Rush Chair Kevin Wang '03, we prepared for the final year of rush as we know it, getting a well-deserved break from MIT in the process.

With all of the standard events at the end of the year still to come, it has certainly been a fun and exciting term for our chapter. However, even larger and more exciting events loom in the near future. By this, I am referring to our upcoming renovation and the 120th reunion. The renovation will be the largest in the history of Alpha Theta.

In addition to updating various systems and making our house more handicapped accessible, we hope to add a fifth floor to the chapter house. Needless to say, this is an incredible goal, which will result in a house that provides an even greater living environment. The actives are excited about this, as well as the chance to meet alumni from all eras at the reunion next April.

In the background, however, looms the time when freshmen will no longer be permitted to live in fraternities at MIT. This term we have begun working in earnest to prepare our recruitment and pledge programs to work within the structure with which we will soon be faced. It will not be an easy time for fraternities: nearly everybody predicts that some houses will not survive the change. However, because of the strength of our principles, as well as the great benefit we offer to all who come to Alpha Theta, I am confident that we will continue to thrive in this new era.

That being said, spirits are high in the house. This is especially true for our seniors. Six seniors will graduate this year, as will Richard Obert (Delta Psi '99), who has served as resident adviser for the previous two years. We cannot thank Rich enough for what he has done for our chapter. He has been a source of information and advice for all of our brothers and a star of our IM hockey team besides. On behalf of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi, I would like to thank him for his efforts for the chapter that were far beyond the call of duty. Our graduating seniors and Rich have been a big reason for our chapter's current strength, and we all wish them the best for the future.

In Hoc Signo Vincens,  
Nicholas Cohen '02  
Consul



*Alpha Thetans pose at the spring formal, held in Saco, Maine.*

## Sig Athletes Stand Tall

This year seven actives and one alumnus ran in the 105th Boston Marathon held on April 16. Representing Alpha Theta Sigma Chi were Larry Aller '00, Dusty Dequine '01, Josh Soong '04, Ben Wang '04, Devjit Chakravarti '04, Danny Craig '03, and Rory Foster '04 (in finishing order). Congratulations to all seven runners!

Spring IM sports took a hard hit with a disappointing finish to the IM hockey season. Alpha Theta usually plays C+ (checking)-league hockey; however, due to a shortage of teams this year the C+ teams were moved up to B-league. Although playing out of their division, the Sigs fought hard. Richard Obert (Delta Psi '98), the house's undisputed MVP, was allowed to play for the team once again with the reversal of a new imbecilic play-restriction rule. However, without key players Mads Schmidt ('98), Adam Kropp, ('99), and Joe Dacey (Gamma Rho '97), the Sigs had a tough time producing two solid lines for every game.

Despite the adversity, the Sigs did manage to win several games and send an opponent to the hospital. Obert and graduating senior Dusty Dequine ('01) would have liked not to have lost their last game ever 1-14, but sometimes that's just the way it goes. The team, trusting in the abilities of captain and goalie Nick Cohen ('02), is still positive for next season. Cohen quoted President George W. Bush to describe the team's faith in him, saying, "There's a huge trust. I see it all the time when people come up to me and say, 'I don't want you to let me down again.'"

Leaving the hockey season behind them, the Sigs attacked the



*Nicholas Cohen '02 swings for the fences during an intramural softball game.*

new spring sports with vigor. Rory Edwards ('03) is captaining a unihoc team that comprises brothers and KAΘ sorority sisters in addition to the IM volleyball team. Both of Rory's teams are maintaining winning records.

This year's IM ultimate team has grown in size from last year, thanks to several additions from the 2004 pledge class: Juju "Ju" Soong, Devjit "Splinter" Chakravarti, Ben "Starcraft" Wang, and Dan "Ralph Wigam" Kim.

The season has been promising so far, with a decisive win against the department of urban studies and planning and an unfortunate tie with MacGregor. The tie resulted from the ridiculous wind that prevented either team from scoring into the wind. Sigma Chi is looking to bring home the B-league championships this year. For future information, check our Web site at: <http://sigmachi.mit.edu/>.

Softball has swept over Alpha Theta like the plague. Much of the house's burst of passion for this previously looked-over sport is the result of the enthusiasm of captain and utility player

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## Boston Serves As Host For Province Conference

This term, during the weekend of February 23-25, the three Sigma Chi chapters in Boston hosted the province conference for the North Atlantic Province of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. It was a great opportunity for us to build our bonds of brotherhood and to remember the true nature of the international fraternity.

Attending the conference were delegates from Alpha Theta (MIT), Beta Nu (Brown), Gamma Rho (Dalhousie-St. Mary's), Kappa Eta (Harvard), Iota Upsilon (Boston University) and Rho Rho (University of Maine). The Gamma Rho Chapter brought 19 brothers despite the fact that their trip included nearly 30 hours of driving through Maine blizzards. Their dedication to the North Atlantic Province is truly incredible. Many alumni from all chapters in the region were also present

both to help run the event and to attend the meetings.

The province conference began Friday with a ritualistic opening with Alpha Theta, the oldest chapter in the province, presiding. After a short explanation of the week's events by Grand Praetor Shawn P. George, the conference adjourned for the evening.

On Saturday, all of the delegates participated in activities directed toward team building, leadership, communication, and chapter assessment. Eddie Greim, the 1999 International Balfour Award winner and current Kappa Eta Chapter Balfour fellow, gave a presentation on risk management followed by a presentation by executive committee undergraduate representative Mike Hausman (Kappa Eta) and a discussion on alumni relations led by Tony Sanderson and David Finlayson (Gamma

Rho). After a ritualistic closing, a banquet was held at which the Beta Nu Chapter Balfour nominee was named Province Balfour winner by Shawn George.

Overall, the province conference was an excellent opportunity for all of the members of Alpha Theta to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood beyond our chapter and to learn how to improve our chapter internally. The conference took a lot of work to set up, and I would like to thank Mike Hausman, consul of Kappa Eta, and Jared Slade for their organization of the social events, as well as all of the alumni who attended, especially Eric Thomas, Dr. Dan Harrop, and Shawn George, who was so very important to the event's success.

Nick Cohen '02  
Consul

## Derby Days Returns

On April 14, 2001, Derby Days was held at MIT for the first time in over three decades as Alpha Theta teamed up with the Harvard chapter to host over 300 Sigs and sorority women in a fund-raising effort for the Children's Miracle Network. The event was held on Kresge Oval and Killian Court on a beautiful spring afternoon. Games of football, ultimate Frisbee, tug of war, and pass the orange pitted teams of Sigs and sororities against one another as they vied for points in each event.

Alpha Theta proved strong in the athletics even though divided into two teams. Entering the ultimate event, the bachelor/bachelorette auction, Team Caldwell (Alpha Theta and Harvard Kappa Alpha Theta) was in third place, trailing by less than 100 points. In an act that will be disputed over the next century as either sheer genius or utter stupidity, Consul Nick Cohen spent over \$500 on Amy Wagner, from Kappa Alpha Theta. The expensive date catapulted Team Caldwell into the winner's circle and brother Cohen into the poor house.

In the end, over \$5,500.00 was raised for the Children's Miracle Network during an afternoon that was best described by brother Taewon Kim as "flipping amazing."



Team Caldwell competes at Derby Days.

## Sig Athletes Stand Tall

*(continued from page two)*

Raudel Rodriguez, who began our conquest by purchasing gloves, organizing practices, and talking up the games. Slow pitch softball appears to be made for Alpha Theta because of its similarity to America's pastime, the limited amount of required athleticism, and the ability for much participation.

The season started with a bang as the Sigs walloped the Tang grad students 25-12. First baseman Dusty Dequine '01 looked like a promising power hitter in the first game, having gone 5/5 with a grand slam, a three-run homer, a solo homer, a triple, and a single. He has apparently lost his ability, however, and will sit the bench until he regains his confidence. Look for Rob Finn '02, Chris Johnson '02, and the Chois ('02/'03) to put the ball out of the park, as their hitting has been improving hyperbolically.

Pitchers Rich Obert '02 and Nick Cohen '02 are performing on the mound, and infielders Finn, Eric Zhang '04, Jonathan Coe '02,

Jason Poff '02, and Jack Gallagher '99 are becoming a finely tuned machine. Outfielders Gregory Edwards '03, Criswell Choi '02, Johnson, and Woojin Choi '03 are getting used to catching long bombs and high bounces on the turf.

The Sigs grabbed two more wins over ZBT (20-17) and the Pi Lams (28-12). Injuries and several tragic fielding errors are to blame for the close loss (17-16) against Phi Sig. "This close loss has humbled us somewhat," said Rodriguez, "but now we know where we need to focus (our practice) going into the playoffs."

The Sigs are the most prolific run scorers in all three IM softball leagues, having scored 89 runs in just four games—20 more than the next most prolific team. Rodriguez hopes the team will break the 162-run barrier and finish this season with a 16-2 record. The house plans to form a summer softball league and completely dominate next fall.

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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.

## Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

“Great to read that JOE JEFFERDS ’40, SPEC CARD ’40, and FRANK PENN ’40 are alive and well,” pens ROBERT O. DAVIS ’42 (1200 Lexington Farm Rd., Apex, NC 27502; rodavis104793880@cs.com). “Joe first brought me to Alpha Theta—a great bunch of guys and great meals. Sorry I didn’t get back after my first year. After service in World War II as a navigator in the 8th Air Force out of England, I graduated from St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1948. Most of my professional career was with Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratory, as technical historian, and with U.S. Steel Research, where I retired as chief editor in 1982.”

Writes WINCHELL T. HAYWARD ’46, “I’ve been retired for nine years now and love it and keep very busy. I’m in excellent health.” Send Win best wishes at 208 Willard N., San Francisco, CA 94118.

“I had a nostalgic and bittersweet reunion with HOWARD HENDERSHOTT ’49 and BOB JENKINS ’48 in Atlantis, Florida last February,” pens JAMES G. VERAS ’49 (33 Graham Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583; jim@wec.org). “Bob lost his dear wife, Ann, recently, and we provided some comfort and support. Our recollection of the unforgettable post-World War II years at the Alpha Theta house provided us with true joy.”

The president of Gulfcrest International, Inc., ROBERT W. TEMPLE ’55 keeps in touch with JOE BRAZZATTI JR. ’54 and BARNARD SILVER ’57, who has initiated an effort to help those in the developing world with his foundation, called the Defenders of Truth, Freedom, Justice, and Mercy. “Barney spent more than five years

in West Africa, so he knows the world he is trying to help.” Drop Bob a line at 14134 Bluebird Lane, Houston, TX 77079; rwt225@aol.com.

Pens KENNETH P. MORSE ’68, “We finally found our dream home, and we’ve moved in a few blocks from the old frat lodge. We will *never* move again. Here’s the address: 36 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02116; kenmorse@mit.edu.”

Reach JOHN F. WALTERS ’69 at 525 Shadow Oaks, Irvine, CA 92618; e-mail: jfwnew@cs.com.

Reports GREGORY C. DALY ’73, “We’ve moved to California and love it here (13036 Mindanao Way, #4, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292; gdaley@alum.mit.edu). I finished a sailboat race from Marina Del Rey to Puerto Vallarta. We won six trophies—the experience of a lifetime. I wish I’d moved to California 20 years ago!”

“Jennifer and I celebrated 20 wonderful years of marriage last September and at the same time took advantage of some opportunities to change jobs,” writes ALDEN H. DRAKE ’76 (53 Pleasant St., Wenham, MA 01984; ahdrake@alum.mit.edu). “Her change was from part-time teaching to being a speech and language assistant, and my change was from the non-profit housing development sector to private sector real estate development. Once settled into our new jobs, we realized that it was time to move as well. Through some close friends in Wenham, Massachusetts, we ended up buying and moving into their neighbor’s house. Moving after 18 years in the same house was a challenge, but it’s over, and we’re very happy.” He adds, “I

also went back to school a few years ago and last year became a licensed certified financial planner. It’s something that I wanted to do for myself, but it has evolved into a small practice on the side that I enjoy for the satisfaction it gives me of helping people make decisions and handle money at critical times in their lives.”

Writes STEPHEN W. KEITH ’77, “We’re returning to Seattle and salmon, coffee, and good beer. My new assignment is chief of staff at Naval Surface Group Pacific Northwest, the staff in charge of the ships homeported in Puget Sound.” He adds, “Brother and brother-in-law TERRY SWEENEY ’74 is in charge of his group of neonatologists and is busier than ever.” Stephen invites brothers to visit him at 7711 Forest Dr. NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (e-mail: stephenkeith@alum.mit.edu).

BASIL C. SAFOS ’80 lives at 34-50 87th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372, and sends regards to DAVE GAILUS ’80, STEVE MORRIS ’82, and JIM WILBER ’81.

After finishing his PhD in biochemistry, SHANE P. B. CROTTY ’96 planned to move with Anna to Atlanta, where he will do his postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University. He writes, “My first book, *Ahead of the Curve: David Baltimore’s Life in Science*, is finally coming out. Be sure to check it out. It may be the first book to have a cryptic reference to 532 Beacon Street in the text.” Keep in touch with Shane at 2183 31st Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116; shanec@alum.mit.edu.

Drop DENNIS H. SON ’96 a line at 4778 Gainsborough Court, Apt. B, Columbus, OH 43220.

Writes SAMUEL T. TOWELL ’00, “I am at J.P. Morgan, primarily involved with mergers and acquisitions of consumer product companies. My former roommate, BEN HELLWEG ’97, has been transferred to London, and my current roommate is a high school friend of STEVE HUANG ’99. I am nearing the completion of my first year on the Sigma Chi executive committee, and I am looking forward to my second. If anyone is in the New York area, drop me a line: 43 W. 16th St., Apt. #9A, New York, NY 10011; stowell00@hotmail.com.”

### DECEASED

We regret to report the following deaths:

JAY R. BONNAR ’57  
EDWIN L. LORD ’49  
RICHARD E. LYKE ’54  
EUGENE A. OSTER ’51

S O Z O H A C H A R Z O O

to the graduating  
pledge class of  
2001!

