

# THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 2002

## Alpha Theta Celebrates 120 Years At MIT

It was truly a weekend to remember. In the chapter's biggest reunion ever, over 150 brothers gathered on a beautiful spring weekend in Boston to celebrate Alpha Theta's 120th anniversary at MIT. Brothers from all over the world and from classes back to the 1940s returned to 532 Beacon Street to meet old friends and revisit old memories.

The reunion began on Friday, April 12, with a series of class dinners held throughout the Boston area. Following these dinners, brothers all met for a reception at 532 Beacon Street that afforded brothers from all classes the opportunity to meet with one another, share stories about what they had been doing since they graduated, and reminisce about life when they were undergraduates at MIT. Brothers of the active chapter also got the opportunity to learn about Alpha Theta's rich past and

to share with alumni the current traditions and stories of the chapter.

The following morning, brothers met to witness the active members' performing part of the ritual, bringing back that common bond that Sigma Chis from all over share and confirming the bonds of true friendship that hold us all together. A picnic lunch outside followed the morning's activities, and then brothers met for the Alpha Theta Academy.

The academy was intended to be an exposé of some of the more interesting pursuits by brothers after their graduation from MIT. Iain Hueton '84 led off the academy by describing his involvement in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City as the director of competition for the fine and ancient sport of curling, entertaining the audience with a discussion that ranged from

the physics of the sport to his dealings with the national press.

Shane Crotty '96 followed with the refreshingly candid story about the publishing of his first book, *Ahead of the Curve: David Baltimore's Life in Science*, including his battle with an editor over the inclusion of a reference to 532 Beacon Street in the book.

Pete Warren '87 concluded the academy by demonstrating his work for a consulting firm on a number of very cool technologies, including rugged remote-controlled robots for use in hostile environments (complete with videos of the robots deployed in Bosnia and at the World Trade Center), pop-up motorized tank decoys that can fool so-called smart weapons, and deployable space structures.

The academy ended with a bang  
*(continued on page two)*

### Reunion: A Great Time To Renew Bonds And To Build Anew



Brothers and their significant others gather for a group shot during reunion. See many more photographs inside.

## Social Program Goes Well

Once again, the brothers of Alpha Theta are enjoying a full social calendar. Spring term 2002 began with a spirited initiation after-party, featuring our newest brothers clad in lettered shirts and decked out in full face paint.

The fun continued with an open party featuring a "Patriotic" theme following the New England Patriots' unlikely Super Bowl victory. Brothers dressed up in anything red, white, or blue and danced the night away amid a packed house of

people.

As always, excursions into the community have provided enjoyable weekend gatherings. This term has also featured a floor party, in which each room on the third floor picked its own theme. Upcoming events include Campus Preview Weekend, 120th Ball, Marathon Day, Derby Days, and Consul's Room Party, among others. Details about our events can always be found on the chapter's Web site at <http://sigmachimach.mit.edu>.



*Sigma Chis celebrate the Patriots' Super Bowl victory.*

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## Alpha Theta Of Sigma Chi Celebrates 120 Years At MIT

*(continued from page one)*

when Pete, in a live demonstration, was shot by a net gun that is designed to trap would-be assailants in a tangled web of Kevlar thread (think Spiderman here). This was a truly memorable end to a fascinating set of presentations.

Saturday evening, over 250 people attended the 120th anniversary banquet and ball at the Kendall Square Marriott. Brothers dined and danced late into the night to the songs played by a live band.

During the banquet, Rolf Brauchler '69 gave a warm tribute to Robert Swanson '69 and presented the second annual Swanson Memorial Scholarship Award to Jonathan Coe '02. Jim Black '69 followed by making the first-ever public presentation of the Professor S. Curtis Powell '37 Memorial Scholarship Award to Eric Zhang '04, recounting Professor Powell's extraordinary involvement with the chapter in the '50s and '60s. MIT Chairman Alex

D'Arbeloff '49 then made a surprise presentation to Rolf and Jim of a Presidential Citation Award, the MIT Alumni Association's highest honor, for their work in establishing the Swanson Scholarship.

On Sunday morning, alumni and their families met at the house for brunch, which was followed by a stand-



brothers came back to a barbecue held at 532 Beacon Street, the last organized event of the weekend. Sitting outside and enjoying the amazing weather, alumni and actives took up this last opportunity to catch up with one another, swap a few more stories, and make plans to meet up in the future.

In all aspects, the success of our reunion this year exceeded everyone's highest hopes. It was by far the largest and most involved reunion held by our chapter, and that things went as well as they did is a great credit to all of those involved. A special thanks is certainly due to the reunion's organizers, John Piotti '83 and Roy Gross '04, for their amazing efforts. The reunion provided the unique opportunity for friends to come together, for brothers to share in the rich history of Alpha Theta, and for alumni to gain an understanding of what the chapter is today and what its plans are for the future.

Al Dahya '05



ing-room-only information session on the status of the planned renovation of 532 Beacon Street (see related article on page seven). Then everyone set off for the playing fields for some softball and a Koob tournament, a Viking game introduced to everyone by Iain Hueton '84. At Iain's invitation, National Public Radio was there to do a story on Koob for its nationally syndicated sports show, *Only A Game* (check out the archives at [onlyagame.org](http://onlyagame.org) for 4/20/02, or Iain's Web site: [getkoob.com](http://getkoob.com)). After sweating on the fields,



## Our Consul Provides An Overview Of Spring 2002

The spring semester of 2002 was as busy and exciting as ever. Filled with class work, sports, and activities in and out of the house, Alpha Thetas made the most of their time here at the institute.

The semester began on a high note with the initiation of the class of 2005. That same week, the entire city celebrated the victory of the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl. Alpha Thetas cheered in the streets with the masses. In honor of the victory and of America in general, the chapter hosted the Patriot Party, which attracted students from all over the area.

Shortly following the initiation ceremony, the province conference was held at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. In addition to several upperclassmen, most of our newly initiated brothers attended for a weekend of meeting brothers from the various chapters, as well as learning a great deal of Sigma Chi history. Grand Historian Eric Hansen taught the conference about our ritual's evolution and gave a stirring speech as Constantine Chapter founder Harry St. John Dixon.

In an attempt to recover some of our own lost history, the chapter has embarked on a campaign to retrieve items stolen over the years by other chapters or sororities. So far, the results have proved outstanding, producing old awards and artifacts from the bar. In fact, an updated Peterson Award count at headquarters revealed that the chapter has actually received 28 Petersons instead of the 25 listed in the Norman Shield, placing us five

awards above the second-place chapter.

Our alumni are also a vast repository of Alpha Theta history. In order to reach out to our predecessors, the chapter participated in the MIT alumni phonathon, during which brothers spent an evening visiting with our predecessors. The chapter is also very excited about the upcoming 120th reunion, and looks forward to meeting alumni to share history, memories, and brotherhood.



*The newly initiated class of 2005.*

The chapter has also been making strong gains in the culinary arts. After our most recent chef left us last fall, we began experimenting with brothers doing the cooking, and it's turned out to be a remarkable success. Food quality has skyrocketed, while costs have plummeted. Many brothers are cooking hometown recipes, anything from Korean barbecue to southern-style chicken fried steak, adding a nice variety to Sigma Chi dining.

Our officers have been performing outstandingly. Pro Consul Tony Kim '03 has taken his office to a level unseen in recent history, reorganizing officer accountability, keeping track of each officer's performance, and rewarding outstanding service. Our finances are sound, the house is in good order, and the chapter GPA is on

the rise, currently tied for third among fraternities.

In particular, the chapter has been focusing sharply on rush. Next fall, MIT will begin forcing all freshmen to live on campus and will delay rush until October. In anticipation of this change, the chapter held a spring rush to attract potential freshmen we may have missed in the fall and to get practice for next year.

The chapter is eagerly looking forward to the upcoming renovation. Brothers turned out en masse to the recent building needs discussion forum, webcast live from campus, to articulate their opinions about the future of the house. The chapter gave overwhelming support for keeping our treasured home here at 532 Beacon Street. One feature of the renovation has already begun: construction of more dining room chairs. Over the January independent activities period, Devjit Chakravarti '04 and Danny Craig '03 built four new replica oak chairs to replace several that were beyond repair, and over the next year they will finish enough to fill all of the tables in the dining room.

In the coming days, the chapter has several exciting events planned, including Campus Preview Weekend, which is a time to meet incoming students. In the following weeks, the chapter will jointly host the third annual Derby Days, which benefits the Children's Miracle Network; the event is jointly hosted by the Kappa Eta Chapter of Sigma Chi at Harvard. A faculty dinner is also in the works and will be attended by such notables on campus as the dean for student life, Larry Benedict, and the new chief of campus police, John DiFava.

Not all of our activity is concentrated here in Boston. Over the course of the summer and next year, many of our brothers will be living all around the world in places such as China, Spain, and London through internships, summer schools, and exchange programs.

Each traveler will bring back a unique experience to share with the chapter, broadening our horizons and putting our time here at MIT in perspective.

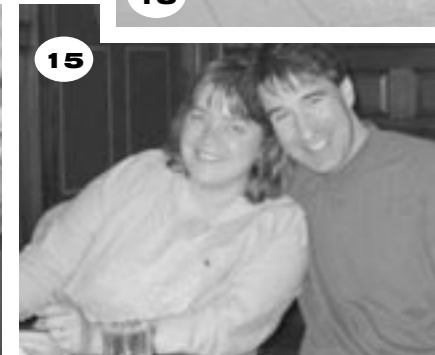
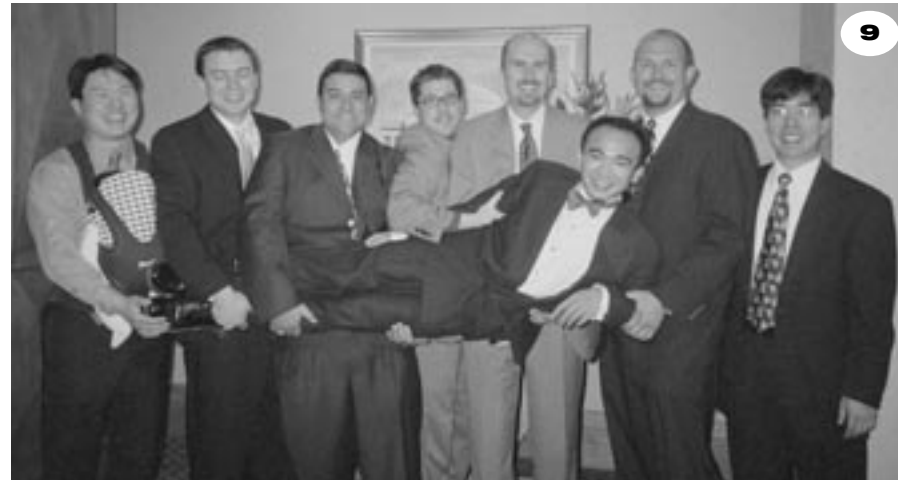
It's been a great year so far, and I eagerly await the remainder of it as we continue the great tradition of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi. I look forward to meeting many of you in the days ahead.



*Left: Mads Schmidt '98, David Day '98, Sean Beckett '97, and Adam Kropp '99. Right: Brothers take a time out.*

In Hoc,  
Daniel R. Craig '03  
Consul





1 Friday night dinner with the classes of '49-'53 at Legal Seafoods: Carl Bergmann '49, Helen and Ray Sauer '53, Conrad (Bob) Frey '52, Ed McLeod '50, Shirley and Janet McLeod, Ann and Bob Gillmeister '49, Sylvia and Les Cline '49, and Betsy Bergmann. 2 Friday night reception in the library: Jim Orr '48 looks at some old Beaver Sig editions with Helen and Ray Sauer '53, Betsy Bergmann, Jeremy Verba '86, and Dave Pehlke '86. 3 Presentation by Rolf Brauchler '69 of the Robert A. Swanson Memorial Scholarship Award to Jonathan Coe '02. 4 All but two of the pledge class of 2000: John Pelly, Joe Cheng, Sam Towell, Sean Fabre, Nick Bogovich, and Larry Aller. 5 Two alumni take it easy. 6 Pete Warren '87 (in full body armor) gets shot by a net gun as part of the Alpha Theta Academy. 7 Brothers danced with their dates. 8 Many children attended the reunion, as well. 9 The reunion class of '92. HORIZONTAL: Patrick Chu. VERTICAL: Charlie (and baby Luke) Choi, Dave Chase, Mike Olivas, Chris Young, Jon Demerly, Geoff Deane, and Gregg Montonaga. 10 Sunday afternoon barbecue at 532. 11 Friday night dinner with the classes of '78-'82. 12 Two brothers take time out for the camera. 13 Susan Piotti with the next generation of Alpha Thetas in front of 532. 14 Josh Soong and his date, Mindy Ju. 15 Mark and Debbie Curtiss. 16 Tae Won Kim and his date, Bo Kim. 17 Eric Raman demonstrates his Koob technique. 18 Eve Dotson and Amy (Malay) Ulrich ('79 sweetheart). 19 Herb and Fran. 20 Ben and Mindy. 21 Jennifer Peterson and Cecile Major ('85 sweetheart).

## Alpha Theta Stands Ready For New Structure Of Recruitment In Fall

Until now, MIT's recruitment period has been limited to three days before orientation for the fall term. As a result, pledges moved into Alpha Theta from the day they pledged, thus facilitating a close brotherhood from the very first day of school. Under new changes required by the administration, however, the structure of recruitment and pledging will be radically different. Starting in the fall of 2002, freshmen will not be allowed to move into fraternities until their sophomore year, and the recruitment period will last one month during the fall term. Many other fraternities will have trouble adapting to these new changes in recruitment. However, the brothers of Alpha Theta Sigma Chi are more than ready to meet and surpass the challenges that these changes bring.

We have already begun preparing for the new format of rush by holding on-campus study breaks with freshmen in the dorms to measure the level of interest in Sigma Chi that a freshman living in the dorms has. Judging from the marginal success of these forays into the non-affili-

ated environment, we are prepared to recruit even harder than we have before and make Sigma Chi the ideal fraternity to join. Even now, we are preparing for the challenge by planning new event ideas and methods of recruitment and by strengthening our brotherhood. Our brotherhood, however, would not be as strong without you, our alumni.

In the past, alumni living in and out of Boston have traditionally aided with recruitment and as a result have contributed greatly to our success. It is innumerable how many potential pledges were convinced to join Sigma Chi because they talked to alumni and realized the lifelong memories, lessons, and joys of our brotherhood. With your help, Alpha Theta can have the best recruitment possible, even with the changes in the recruitment system. We hope that you will again help Alpha Theta continue our proud and glorious tradition in the fall of 2002.

In Hoc Signo Vinces,  
Joshua Soong '04  
Recruitment Chair

## Sigma Chi Welcomes Seven New Men

On Saturday, February 9, Alpha Theta welcomed the pledge class of 2005 into the brotherhood. In pledge order they are as follows:

*Al-Hussein Dabha*  
*Manoj Viswanathan*  
*Brady William Young*  
*Soojin Lee*  
*Neelesh Anand Kantak*  
*Leonard Younmo Chung*  
*Will Christopher Stockwell*

Although I-week consisted of much thoughtful introspection, it was interrupted briefly early in the week for joyous celebration in the streets following the Patriots' victory in the Super Bowl.

We had a great showing during the initiation ceremony. Many thanks to all of



*John Martin '86 and Dave Pehlke '86 at reunion.*

the alumni who attended. Special thanks to Peter Hadley '72, Herb Mower '65, Ian Sigalow '01, Nick Bogovich '00, David Day '98, Rakesh Shukla '87, Charlie Wykoff '98, Rich Obert (SM '01), Nick Cohen '02, and Assistant Magister Raudel Rodriguez '03 for their help and participation during the week.

The chapter is in good hands with the class of 2005. They have already taken and excelled in positions of responsibility and show great promise for the future. It has been a pleasure and a great honor to guide the next generation in Alpha Theta.

In Hoc,  
Daniel R. Craig '03  
Magister

### Actives Playing Varsity Sports

Chester K. Bai – Lacrosse  
Nicholas A. Kulkarni – Skiing  
Jonathan A. Coe – Baseball  
Robert A. Finn – Squash  
Kevin J. Wang – Track and Field  
Rory E. Foster – Soccer  
Brady W. Young – Skiing  
Soojin Lee – Crew

## Our Athletes Taste Much Success

Sports have played an integral part of the everyday life of the actives. Alpha Theta has been involved in many intramural sports year-round. In the fall and winter, we participated in IM soccer, basketball, and ice hockey. The spring-time beckoned teams in softball, squash, ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball.

IM basketball was captained by WooJin Choi '03, and the team enjoyed its most successful season in recent history. With a 4-2 regular-season record, the Sigs entered the postseason as the 14th seed, but upset the third and sixth seeds en route to a semifinal three-point loss to eventual champion Theta Chi.

Exploiting our outstanding height, the team regularly sent out Choi, Manoj Viswanathan '05, Tae Won Kim '04, Will Stockwell '05, Hao Zhu, and Vikram Gottam '01. Our primary offensive threat was Manoj, who has an amazing three-point shot that is unstoppable. He averaged four three-point baskets a game and hit seven for eight one night.

Defenses were easy to break by our quick passes and off-the-ball movement. Our big men down low—Vik, Hao, and Will, who are 6'4", 6'3", 6'2", respectively—had a huge impact on rebounding. We dominated the offensive board and were able to score almost every possession. It was a disappointing loss against Theta Chi, but with our entire roster returning next year, our team is focused on winning the championship and bringing home the trophy.

IM ice hockey also enjoyed a successful season, posting a 6-1 record and tying for the best record in C-league hockey with Alpha Delta Phi. Captained by goalie Nicholas Cohen '02, the team improved enormously through the season, finishing with a 4-3 victory against heavily favored archrival Alpha Tau Omega. Rory Edwards '03, WooJin Choi '03, Brady Young '05, and Chris Johnson '02 made impressive showings in their first full season on the team. Strong contributions were also made by Eric Zhang '04 and iron man Joe Dacey (Gamma Rho, Dalhousie-St. Mary's), who played an entire game this season with a dislocated finger.

Next year we will be without the services of Jon Coe '02, who has been an incredible member of the team over the last four years. Next year, Raudel Rodriguez '03 will be taking the reigns of the team from Nick Cohen '02, who has been captain of the IM ice hockey team for the past three years. Thanks to everybody for a great season, and best of luck next year!

## Building Needs Committee Recommends Expansion Of 532 Beacon Street

After more than two years of work, the Building Needs Committee has recommended that the corporation pursue an estimated \$4.3 million renovation and expansion of the existing chapter house at 532 Beacon Street. Board President Mark Curtiss '87 announced this decision to thunderous applause at the 120th anniversary banquet during Reunion Weekend in April.

The Building Needs Committee con-

sidered input from the architects and construction management firm hired by the corporation as well as from the more than 70 brothers who responded to the committee's building needs survey this past winter. An update on the building needs project, with additional information about the committee's decision and the plan for moving forward with this project, will be mailed to all alumni in the weeks ahead.



*More scenes from reunion.*

## An Alumnus Writes Of His Appreciation For The 120th Celebration

Hi John.

I want to add my personal thanks to you and to the other organizers of the 120th reunion.

The members of my class ('69) and adjacent years had a great time on Saturday night spotting everyone else at the banquet who had gray hair, and, sure enough, it was always someone we knew. It was a bit disconcerting to be the old men of the group, until we saw a table of guys who had no hair left at all, and then we felt better.

Despite the lousy sound system, the Saturday night affair at the Marriott showed us why the fraternity system, and particularly the Alpha Theta Chapter, has been important in the lives of many students at MIT. The fraternity house was not a club we joined, but a collection of values we aspired to.

Only 40 men or so passed through that house at any one time, often fewer than 10 per class, but that was sufficient (surprisingly) to pass along songs to eight subsequent generations of fraternity men since my day, with only a few mutations. There are probably some songs that the house has lost over the years, with opening lines like "Gather round lovers and listen to me, I'll tell you a tale that will fill you with glee..." or "There once was a man named McNameter..." And the Sweetheart song sounded better when we sang it in four-part harmony. But the continuity of the old fraternity songs suggests that there has also been a continuity in the value of friendship and in the search for excellence (not always with success) that marked the Alpha Theta house during my tenure.

The gathering at the banquet showed vividly that the values of fraternity transcend the institutions that initially foster them. In my day at Alpha Theta, the national fraternity was

a lily-white, racist organization that had no members with a Black, Jewish, or Asian heritage. But Alpha Theta was among the first chapters in the country to inform the national that we would no longer adhere to exclusionary rules. Today, questions of race or religion in fraternity membership don't even arise. The ideals of friendship have held the fraternity together, rather than the other way around.

We joked among ourselves at the banquet that none of us would be able to pass the admission requirements at MIT these days (except Rick Karash '68, who graduated with a 5.0). What is certain is that without the fraternity, our college days would have been a dismal time, and some of us would never have graduated at all. Although I dislike cliches, the fact remains that my three or four closest friends in life are fraternity brothers. It may be that we were at Alpha Theta at a particularly turbulent time (Bobby Kennedy, Martin Luther King, the draft, the war, Kent State, the Beatles, marijuana, the pill, the '68 Democratic Convention, Watergate), but I'm inclined to think that the support of friends in the crucible of MIT is as much a critical factor today in encouraging emotional maturity and academic achievement as it was in those years.

The large turnout for the presentation of scholarships named after men whom most of the attendees never knew, and on the occasion of an event that is now ancient history, is an indication of the strength of feeling we have for the values that the fraternity encouraged us to develop. And it indicates that time has not eroded their worth. I thank you for making this reunion possible.

In Hoc,  
Ingo Winzer '74

## Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

Greet GEOFFREY D. ROBERTS '40 at Apt. C101, 23033 Westchester Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

Keep in touch with WINCHELL T. HAYWARD '46 at 208 Willard N., San Francisco, CA 94118.

Writes STANLEY W. MOULTON JR. '51, "You certainly do a great job of keeping us all informed, and, as you say, modern technology is amazing, but I bet the January walks across the Mass. Ave. bridge are just as cold and blustery as they always were. It is interesting to read about the changes starting next year, but being the 'Old Curmudgeon' that I am (my children and grandchildren call me 'The Yankee Curmudgeon'), I can't help but wonder if we shouldn't spend more time instilling in our youth and families love, care, compassion, responsibility, ethics, morals, and just being a 'good' person rather than try to set up controls to 'make it happen.' My freshman year at Alpha Theta was a very formative year for me, even after two years in the USAAF. The brothers had a big impact on me, and I still remember every brother I roomed with, the evening meals, the attention to many types of social values, and the constant emphasis on knowledge. (I still cringe every time I see the word 'frat' in an article about fraternities, and I also cringe when I read some of the stupid things other fraternities do.) We had a

good mix of ages at our time, but as I look back, there was a lot of maturity regardless of age. The white cross is very important to me." Write Stan at 40428 Poppy Dr., Hemet, CA 92544, e-mail: doultmgt@aol.com.

Keep in touch with JULIAN A. AYRES '63 at P.O. Box P, Mountain City, GA 30562; jayresmd@aol.com.

Send best wishes to JOHN M. HOLZER '65 at 248 S. Post Oak Lane, Houston, TX 77056; e-mail: macholzer@worldnet.att.com.

"I have become the medical director of the emergency department of the St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma," writes CHRISTOPHER J. DAVIS '68 (9436 SW Harbor Dr., Vashon, WA 98070; e-mail: chrisjdav@aol.com). "St. Joe's is one of the largest and busiest hospitals in Washington State, with a very intense ER that hospitalizes about 30 patients per day. It's a great and demanding job and will be a fine way to finish off my nearly 30 years in emergency medicine."

The managing director of Crossroads, LLC, JOHN F. WALTERS '69 resides at 7 Hawthorne Lane, Coto de Caza, CA 92679; jfwnew@cs.com.

A captain in the U.S. Navy, STEPHEN W. KEITH '77 receives mail at 4066 NE 86th St., Seattle, WA 98115; e-mail:

stephenkeith@alum.mit.edu.

Greet DANIEL J. BERKERY '91 at 106 Adele Garden Way, Herndon, VA 20170; danberkery@alum.mit.edu.

"I have moved!" pens LON VAN-GELOVEN '91. "I'm back in the U.S. now, living in Michigan on a mini-farm out in the country (5037 Five Mile Rd., South Lyon, MI 48178). "I'm still working at Ford at the Michigan truck plant, and I'm looking to settle here for a while."

DAVID A. CHASE '92 is a regional manager with Sweetland Engineering and Associates, Inc., and resides at 108 Vallilee Place, Sayre, PA 18840 (e-mail: dchase@sweetland-eng.com).

Write ANTHONY CHANG '95 at 931-C N. 35th St., Seattle, WA 98103; tchang@u.washington.edu.

BRIAN N. HUBERT '95 is founder and chief technology officer of Nanotecnica, Inc., and receives mail at 1670 El Camino Real, #360, Menlo Park, CA 94025; bnhubert@media.mit.edu.

### DECEASED

We regret to report the following deaths:

HAROLD G. ELROD '42  
ALBERT C. WARNER '26



Vikram Gottam



Chester Bai



Jason Poff



Nicholas Kulkarni



Jonathan Coe



Nicolas Hernandez



Nicholas Cohen



Robert Finn



Thomas Quealy



Criswell Choi



Christopher Johnson

Congratulations

*To the graduating class of 2002*