



THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

LATE SPRING 2004

You Find It Here!

Well, here we are in “catch-up” mode. The “late spring” issue is indeed a little late, but, by fall, we should be back on track.

What is a fraternity? What is Sigma Chi? More specifically, what is Alpha Theta? I am sure that each of you has different answers to these questions. I would like us to look at the last question. I come up with three basic concepts:

- It is a place to live.
- It is a group of people to live with and grow with while in college.
- It is a set of ideals that will mold us as we continue through life.

All of these are important. As the MIT fraternity system evolves into the new system of rush and freshmen not living in the various houses, I am sure that many of you are faced with questions and concerns about the future of Alpha Theta and 532 Beacon Street. We have reached the stage where all of our living alumni “found it here” at 532 Beacon Street. The current undergrads are “finding it here.” The question is, will future generations of Alpha Theta Sigs “find it here?” Or, some of you ask, will there be future generations of Alpha Thetas?

Yes, the fraternity system at MIT is reaching the crossroads where some of the houses will probably go dark. However, as I watch and listen, I find that Alpha Theta is positioned strongly for the future. We have had strong pledging experiences during the past two years. House occupancy is growing closer to being full. The chapter is strong

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Highlights Of The Semester

Twelve strong, the pledge class of 2007 was initiated without a hitch in late January. The upperclass brothers were somewhat undermanned to handle this particularly large pledge class, but strong efforts by Magister Mark Vodhanel '06 led the chapter to success. The class of 2007 is incorporating well despite living on campus away from the chapter house. During their initiation week, many individuals within the pledge class, led by Brian Wilt '07, contributed to the creation of a terrific new sign for display at recruitment and other chapter events.

In conjunction with the Boston University and Harvard chapters, Alpha Theta hosted the 2004 Sigma Chi North Atlantic Province Conference this past February. Brothers from the Boston area, Rhode Island, Maine, Quebec, and Nova Scotia were all present for the weekend. The chapters gathered to discuss recruitment strategies, issues affecting the greater Sigma Chi organization, and socialize with other actives and alumni.

Alpha Theta welcomed the return of rush retreat, an annual trip to the Applebrook Bed & Breakfast in Jefferson,

New Hampshire. Last year, brothers were disappointed by the absence of the event, which had provided so many fun times and great memories in the past. The Applebrook house, set in a beautiful country landscape, is well-suited to house the entire chapter for a weekend. The retreat provides an opportunity for recruitment workshops, relaxation, and bonding within the brotherhood, which has become particularly beneficial for incorporating the non-residential freshman members into the chapter.

At the end of April, Alpha Theta hosted its annual Derby Days philanthropy event for the benefit of the Children's Miracle Network. Last year's Derby Days, a first attempt at scaling up participation by opening the event to a greater section of the MIT community, was rained out. The Derby Days committee, led by Soojin Lee '05, worked hard to make this year's event live up to the promise of last year's vision. More information about Derby Days is available at <http://derbydays.mit.edu/>.

Will Stockwell '05
Consul



The new pledge class. From left: Mike Fitzgerald, Josh Lake, Matt Kaser, Aaron Doody, Leopold Parts, Austin Ford, Brian Wilt, Chris Savage, Dan Scolnic, and Edgar Torress.

Sigma Chi Adds 12 New Members

Alpha Theta Sigma Chi had an enormously successful rush this year. As rules for the MIT fraternity rush continue to change, it was difficult to adapt our methods to apply to an ever-changing rush. Nonetheless, Alpha Theta rose to the challenge and succeeded beyond expectations with the acceptance of twelve new members—a higher number than many years—as the pledge class of 2007. They are, in pledge order: Matthew Daniel Williams, Edgar Torres, Glenn Austin Ford, Aaron Lee Doody, Daniel Moshe Scolnic, Joshua Robert Lake, Michael John Fitzgerald, Edward Anthony Scholtz, Christopher Ryan Savage, Leopold Parts, Brian Allen Wilt, and Matthew James Kaser. Each pledge, now a brother, has a different story for how he was rushed, but all of them are thrilled with their choice.

Eleven of the twelve new brothers live in dormitories. Most of them live in different dormitories, so living with each other in the house next fall will be a new experience for many of them. One of the pledges, Leopold Parts, lives in the Student House. Originally from Estonia, Leo adds an international dimension to the great diversity of personalities and opinions within our pledge class.

Initiation of the new pledge class took place at the end of January right before the new semester began. The upperclassmen already feel the contributions of the class of 2007 as the new members continue to grow within the fraternity. This new pledge class will carry on the strength of Alpha Theta for years to come.

Brady Young '05
Assistant Magister

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The class of '07 celebrating after initiation week.

You Find It Here!

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and meeting the challenge. Sigma Chi is recognized by the administration as being the number one house on campus.

Conclusion: we were there for you, we are there now, and we will be there for years to come. The challenge is there; are we are prepared to meet it? In the past our alumni provided us with the resources to make our undergradu-

ate experience a meaningful one. As the undergraduates meet the challenges of the future, I am sure that I can count on you, my fellow alumni, to support them in fulfilling our lifelong commitment to Sigma Chi and specifically to Alpha Theta.

In hoc,
Herb Mower '65 ('82)



Sigma Chi rejoicing at Fenway after the Patriots' Super Bowl victory.

Why Alpha Theta Sigma Chi Continues To Strive

Every year we report to you that Alpha Theta Sigma Chi is striving at MIT. Yet MIT is one of the toughest schools in the world, so how is it that Sigma Chi continues to succeed at a place where it is so easy to fail? I have to tell you the truth: I don't know. I don't know how Sigma Chi remains one of the most active, well-liked, and successful fraternities at MIT. I've been trying to figure out, but I can't.

I figured it must be to the credit of the pledge process. Most people say that the purpose of the pledge process is to learn the ideals of Sigma Chi. When we go through the pledge process, we learn about history. We remember great Sigs and all of the ideals they possessed. We learn about the past, but when we come to Sigma Chi, we see this great future ahead of us. We see years to live with each other and lifetimes to get to know each other. For all the memories

we gain from learning about those before us, when we come to Sigma we want to make our own memories. We learn about the past when we look at the future because by learning about the past we are also learning about our present and future. By remembering others, we learn how we want to be remembered.

But as much we learn to make our own memories, there is still something deeper than that. It is simply a spirit. The more time goes by, the more this spirit rubs off on you. It has been there for centuries before us and will be for centuries after us. I can say what I do know, that this spirit of Sigma Chi remains strong. It continues to build memories. I don't know how to explain it, but whatever it is, it's still here and will be for a while.

Dan Scolnic '07, Chapter Editor

Derby Days A Success

Derby Days, our annual fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network at the Children's Hospital Boston, took place this spring on the weekend of April 30 to May 1. It featured a pot-pourri of music, food, athletic and non-athletic competition, parties, and other entertainment and was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Planning for Derby Days 2004 began in the winter under the direction of Soojin Lee '05. Also involved were Brian Wilt '07, who chaired the committees on corporate contributions and publicity, and Brady Young '05, who chaired the events committee.

The project gained momentum after IAP, with the committee on corporate contributions being particularly active. During February, the group oversaw the redesign of the Derby Days website (<http://derbydays.mit.edu>) and the printing of official letterheads and a

promotional brochure. At the end of the month, representatives from Alpha Theta began contacting local and national companies to request donations of prizes for events and raffles as well as monetary donations.

The events committee worked closely with MIT's UA, Weekends@MIT, and facilities to gather both funding and spaces to facilitate the events and crowds expected. The central event of the weekend was a competition between registered teams competing in a few events for the Derby Days trophy. Music, food, and other events rounded out the weekend.

The committee enjoyed working on Derby Days 2004 and thank those alumni who came out to support it. Hope to see you again next year!

Brian Wilt '07
Community Relations

Sigma Chi's Future Is Bright

Article VIII, Section 1(b) of the 1959 Sigma Chi Fraternity Constitution read as follows:

"No person shall be eligible to membership in the Sigma Chi Fraternity who is not a bona fide white male student in the college or university in which the chapter proposing his initiation is chartered."

This clause, when judged by today's standards, is undeniably immoral and unjust. But rather than stay bitter over the mistakes of a past generation, let us reflect upon history and learn from it. Where might Alpha Theta be able to improve itself today, so that the pledge classes of tomorrow can be proud of what we as a chapter are doing now?

With respect to diversity of backgrounds, Alpha Theta has no peer. Our chapter is comprised of brothers with origins in nine different countries, whose families do everything from own an ice cream shop to grow yogurt bacteria. At Alpha Theta we pride ourselves that prospective brothers are judged solely on the content of their character.

But while brothers of all races are unequivocally accepted at Alpha Theta, the same is not necessarily true for brothers who are openly gay. I know that the day will soon come when a brother or recruit's sexuality means nothing more to the chapter than does his race. Alpha Theta Sigma Chi has a tradition of doing what is noblest and best, and I firmly believe that this tradition will continue.

Manoj Viswanathan '05
Resident Advisor

DON'T GET LOST!

*If you're moving, send us your new address right away so that we don't lose track of you! Write to us at
Sigma Chi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office,
P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.*





Sigma Chi with Scottie Pippin.

ALUMNI MAIL



Because our last issue of The Beaver Sig was so recently published, there's been little time to accumulate news from alumni—but we happily share this one news note, and look forward to publishing many more in the next issue.

Immediately after graduation, BENJAMIN PARRAN III '43 found himself in the Marines, while his brand new bride set up housekeeping in Boston. When his service was concluded in 1945, Ben pursued a civilian career in electronics, retiring early to Contuit, Cape Cod, where he and his wife "basked in joyful indolence." They've since relocated to tidewater Virginia to be close to their only daughter, son-in-law, two granddaughters, and a great-

grandson. "We have a wonderful 7/24 home aide," writes Ben, "an old-fashioned Eastern Shore lady who takes marvelous care of us both. Betty had a stroke 10 years ago, so alternates bed and wheelchair, but has indomitable spirit and enjoys life. I had a large workshop built, where I do a little of everything, especially first-class wind chimes, perfectly designed and executed, aluminum and lexan, and warranted for life (mine). I have gifted about 30 sets. I like a pentatonic scale, so each of the six or eight tubes vibrates in harmony with each other." Ben adds that he has many fond memories of Alpha Theta. Share yours with him at 3020 Duke of York Court, Chesapeake, VA 23321, or at bparraniii@cox.net.

SEND IN YOUR NEWSFORM!

The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of our alumni. Please take a moment to fill out your newsform and return it to the address on page two. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest memories of life at Alpha Theta or thoughts on what Sigma Chi means to you. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of *The Beaver Sig*.

Sigma Chi Excels In IM Sports

The brothers of Alpha Theta have taken time from their busy schedules to participate in intramural sports. As the basketball and hockey seasons progressed, the participation remained high. These friendly but competitive matches have been a welcome distraction from classes.

We were lucky to have enough interest to field two basketball teams this year, in the B and C leagues. Both teams performed well, with the B-league team making it through the first round of the playoffs. They then lost in a close match in the second round. Several freshmen contributed to both teams, helping to unite the younger brothers with the upperclassmen.

Our intramural ice hockey team, which competed in C-league checking, enjoyed a competitive and fruitful season. Several friends of the house and alumni helped the team by playing in many of our games. We finished with a positive record, and the team showed steady progress throughout the season.

Our brothers are currently registered to compete in softball, unihoc, ping-pong, ultimate, and pool. The number of teams that we have successfully garnered is an indication of the excitement and commitment of our brothers. In addition to our intramural participation, we are also organizing an ongoing in-house pool tournament. We look forward to a competitive season with excellent participation among the brothers and alumni.

Aaron Lee Doody '07
Athletic Chair



Matthew Sither '04 with sweetheart April at the sweetheart formal.