

THE BEAVER SIG

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 2004

You Find It Here!

OK—you find it here, but a few weeks (months) late. Yes, you are reading the fall 2003 material for The Beaver Sig, and it is indeed the spring of 2004. The actives had all of their material in on time, but our alumni review process stumbled along the way. Now that I have my act together in this new role, I felt it only appropriate to publish the articles that were written for the fall issue. Anyway, as one who took 20 years to get through the initiation process, what's a few weeks?

With this said, sit down, relax, fill another glass of Moxie, and read on. The chapter is alive, well, and meeting the demands of the "new" Greek system at MIT.

In the next edition of The Beaver Sig, watch for this column and see what trouble we can get into as we help you relive some of those things that make Alpha Theta Sigma Chi so special to all of us.

Herb Mower '65 ('82)

Amid Changes, Alpha Theta Forges Its New Path

The Alpha Theta Chapter began the term with a welcome burst of positive energy following one of the most successful rush campaigns in recent history. Twelve young men donned blue and old gold as Recruitment Chairman Daniel D. Kim '04, along with Assistant Rush Chairs Mark E. Vodhanel '06 and Matthew C. Sither '04, led the brotherhood through yet another new rush system. Although we had to make many adjustments during the intense one-week recruitment period, the brotherhood once again proved that our energy, dedication, and creativity are unrivaled. As if we weren't feeling strong enough, Alpha Theta brought home yet another Peterson Significant Chapter Award.

Despite living on campus, the new pledges are deeply involved in the house. Brothers, pledges, and some recent alumni attended the annual fall retreat on Cape Cod, which was a huge success. In addition, Magister Mark E. Vodhanel '06 has not only led our award-winning pledge program, but has also worked closely with Social Chairs Adam A. Miller '06 and Ethan G. Rigel '06 to ensure a schedule full of social and brotherhood events that help the pledges become better acquainted with the brotherhood.

I would like to note that the chapter's multimedia capabilities improved dramatically this term, as Sigma Chi's second-place overall finish in Greek Week 2003 won the chapter a DVD player and a full speaker set, and Rory E. Foster '04 organized a capital campaign

resulting in a new wide-screen television for the library. Our upgraded entertainment systems provide a welcome respite from our studies, which we take very seriously: our house GPA is currently second-highest of all fraternities.

As we enter the second half of the term, we look forward to a number of exciting events. Aside from our annual Sweetheart Ball and holiday dinner, we anticipate a series of alumni dinners, a revamping of our community service program, and a full calendar of social events.

The fate of many other fraternities at MIT is, by contrast, very uncertain. Due to a recent violation in which alcohol was served before orientation period, Delta Kappa Epsilon faces an IFC-mandated one-year suspension from their house as well as the cancellation of their rush next year. In response to growing pressure from the administration, the IFC

has tightened its hold on fraternities, now sending representatives to fraternities' social events to monitor risk management and event handling procedures. The new rush system has also forced houses to resort to creative ways of meeting freshmen, and campus presence has become increasingly important. Although our traditions have been stressed by this changing environment, Alpha Theta has set an example for the rest of the community and proven that we will be one of the strongest members of the "new system."

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Neelesh A. Kantak '05
Consul

Alpha Theta Recruits 12 Pledges

This past September, Sigma Chi continued its success in the new recruitment program by recruiting 12 pledges. This year's rush was held just after orientation for one week. Although this year's rush was shorter and earlier than last year's rush, the new rush system still allowed freshmen to be better informed about fraternities before deciding where to pledge.

This rush was the second rush since MIT required freshmen to live on campus until sophomore year. Interest level has declined since the implementation of the new rush system as freshmen had to balance academics with recruitment

events. Similar to last year, the total number of freshmen who pledged a fraternity was around 280, compared to over 300 students pledging before the change.

Despite the new challenges, Alpha Theta again held fast to its tradition and came out of rush with 12 high-quality men who had the honor of pledging Sigma Chi. I would like to thank all the alumni who came by the house and helped out with recruitment.

In Hoc Signo Vinces,
Daniel D. Kim '04
Recruitment Chairman

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Pledge Program Prepares Pledges For Brotherhood

The pledge program at Alpha Theta Sigma Chi quickly accelerated into high gear this year as rush came to a close in mid-September. Formal pledging ceremonies for the 12 young men of the pledge class of 2007 commenced on September 25 at the Ciao Bella restaurant on Newbury Street. The dinner offered the pledges a chance to meet the corporate board members and to interact with all three generations of Sigma Chi: the pledges, the actives, and the alumni. After some fine Italian dining, the pledges returned to the house for the pledging ceremonies. Line events at Emack and Bolio's ice cream shop followed to cap off the night.

As in years past, a cornerstone of the pledge program is the weekly pledge meetings. The meetings are designed to teach the foundations and instill the ideals of our fraternity. The pledges have been very active in participating in the discussions on the various aspects of Sigma Chi, including fraternity life, brotherhood, history, and traditions. Although it continues to be a challenge to fully integrate the new pledges into fraternity life when they are living on-campus, the freshmen have been highly involved with the house and have showed much positive energy toward our activities.

The first half of the program has been an exciting two months. The pledges competed together with their big brothers in the "Get Pumped Up" pushup competition, attended an after-



Edward A. Scholtz '07 accepts his bid and pledges in the lobby of the Copley Place Marriott.

noon retreat to Herb's, and most recently hosted a tropical themed social event at the house. Upcoming events will include the traditional walkout weekend, sweetheart formal, pledge Jeopardy, and the pledge holiday dinner.

Initiation will take place during the last week in January. The brothers eagerly anticipate formally opening our

brotherhood to the pledges. We believe the pledges represent the ideals of Sigma Chi and that their dedication, energy, and motivation will serve to strengthen the bonds of our fraternity.

Mark E. Vodhanel '06
Magister

Visit us on the web at <http://sigmachi.mit.edu>

Cape Cod Brotherhood Outing And Greek Week Success

After a successful rush, this year's brothers and pledges went on a retreat to Cape Cod. The brotherhood was psyched to leave Boston behind and enjoy a weekend with each other and without the books. Fortunately, Mother Nature saved two days of gorgeous weather after a hurricane devastated the East Coast.

After two hours of driving, the brothers and pledges found themselves among scenic beauty in the little town of Woods Hole. We grabbed a bite to eat and then migrated to a nice sandy beach and started to relax and unwind. Some played beach volleyball while others enjoyed burying each other in mounds of sand. We stayed until the sun dipped below the horizon, giving us a magnificent show.

The following day, a few brothers decided to take a short trip to Martha's Vineyard. The brothers woke up bright and early to take an hour-long ferry ride to the island. After perusing the lit-

tle shops of the island and tasting Martha's Vineyard's own Mad Martha's Ice Cream, they decided to rent a Jeep and to enjoy more of the island's stunning natural beauty. Having done all the touristy things, the brothers enjoyed some seafood and made the excursion well worth the trip.

Two weeks after the brotherhood retreat, the brothers and pledges participated in Greek Week. The annual event drew 16 fraternities and sororities together in games ranging from the Apollo chariot race to the wing-eating contest. On the first day, the brothers won the keg race and came in second in the wing eat-off while falling short in a few events. The brothers regrouped and came out stronger on the second day of competition. The effort and unity of the brothers allowed us to defeat more experienced houses in football and basketball. After a long day scratching and clawing up the leader charts, Sigma Chi was undefeated in all of its competi-

tions and ranked third overall.

With only a few events left, we combined their brainpower and devised ways to move ahead. The letters day event, where the brothers wore articles of clothing bearing our fraternal letters, was easily masterminded along with the Greek god and goddess contest. After all the festivities, we came up second and won a set of speakers valued at \$800. These speakers have given new life to our bar, which desperately needed them.

The chapter realized that the different talents and convictions of the brotherhood, when correctly applied, can be very powerful and influential. The Cape Cod trip brought the brotherhood closer together, while Greek Week allowed us to use our different talents in unity to accomplish a larger task.

Eric Y. Zhang '04
Pro Consul



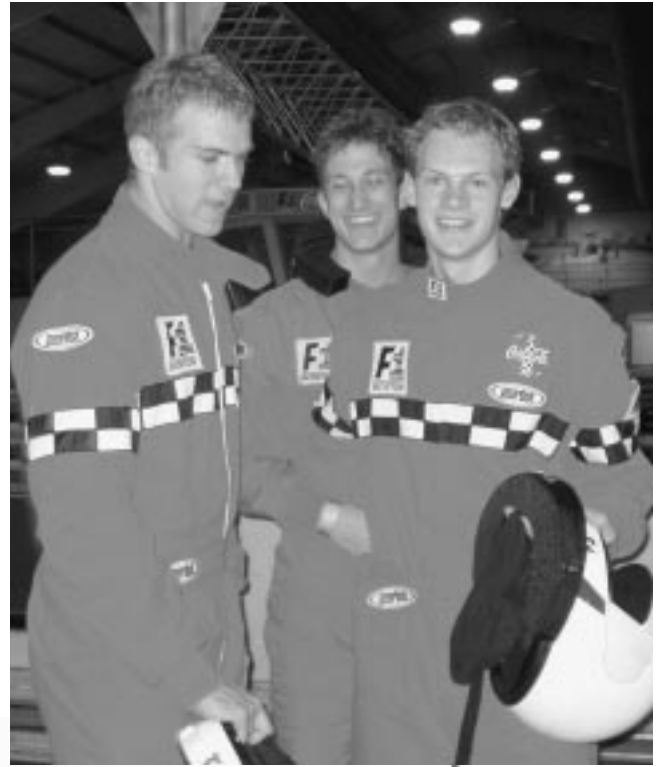
Daniel M. Scolnic '07, Adam A. Miller '06, Joshua E. Soong '04, Bryan J. DeLeon '06, Neelesh A. Kantak '05, Glenn A. Ford '07, Daniel R. Craig '03, Will C. Stockwell '05, and Roy D. Gross '04 take a break from the activities while at the beach on the fall retreat at Cape Cod.

Social Chairs Break New Ground

This year's fall social chairs, Adam A. Miller '06 and Ethan G. Rigel '06, with the help of two alums, Anthony H. Kim '03 and Thomas M. Quealy '02, have begun a new tradition at MIT: tailgating before home football games. While the idea of tailgating before college football games is nothing new, it has never been emphasized at MIT. Lack of a winning football program and low school spirit in general has deterred students from gathering on Saturday mornings in the past. Partially inspired by a better and promising football team, and partially inspired by a common consensus to create more school spirit throughout the campus, we are overlooking those things that deterred people in the past and hoping to create a strong new tradition.

We are also all very excited about the Sweetheart Ball, which this year is going to be held at the New England Aquarium. It is the first time that the Sweetheart Ball has ever been held at the aquarium, and we are all happy to be dining with the penguins. "I always have so much fun at aquariums, and I think it will be cool to wear tuxes with the guys that invented the tux—penguins," says Joseph J. Sikoscow '06. We were hoping to find something new for the formal, without drastically changing the traditions of Sweetheart that many of us hold dear.

In hoc,
Adam A. Miller '06
Co-Social Chair



Right: Matthew J. Kaser '07, Will C. Stockwell '05, and Brady W. Young '05 take a break from racing at a rush event at Formula One Racing Boston.



Edward A. Scholtz '07, Aaron L. Doody '07, and Mark E. Vodhanel '06 enjoy themselves while tailgating before MIT's last home game of the season.

Alumni Write

NORMAN F. MEULLEN '47 has a new address: 3186 Royal Lane, Dallas, TX 75229.

DAVID V. STALLARD '49 has moved to 649 Ferrington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312. He writes, "My wife, Betsy, and I enjoyed dinner on July 31, 2003, in east Tennessee with BOB STOUT '49, ANDY SNOW '50, and his wife, Barb. I keep busy with volunteer work, particularly electrical construction for Habit for Humanity, which is very rewarding." Stay in touch with Dave at dstallard@mindspring.com.

JAMES G. VERAS '49 lives at 3610 S Ocean Blvd., #508, Palm Beach, FL 33480. He writes, "Following 34 years in industry and 20 years as a principal of the World Environment Center (WEC), a non-profit, non-advocacy organization, I will consult for both the profit and non-profit sectors. HOWARD HENDERSHOTT '49 and I have retained our very close friendship since graduating in 1949. We stay in touch with other Alpha Theta brothers through CARL BERGMANN '49, who is wonderful at keeping information and addresses of several classes. Florida is now our permanent home (formerly Scarsdale, New York), and we are very happily located." Send him e-mail at jim.veras@earthlink.net.

JOHN E. MAIN '50 reports that he has moved to 241 Salisbury Cir., Lynchburg, VA 24502, "a one-level home to ease the knees, and a condo to end the yard work." Congratulate John by e-mail at conjon98@yahoo.com.

(continued on page six)



Brothers and potentials get ready to race during the Mini Grand Prix at Formula One Racing Boston.

Chapter Officers, Fall 2003

Office	Officer	Hometown	Major
Consul (President)	Neelesh A. Kantak '05	Akron, OH	Electrical Engineering/Computer Science
Pro Consul (Vice President)	Eric Y. Zhang '04	Fair Lawn, NJ	Biology
Quaestor (Treasurer)	Soojin J. Lee '05	South Korea	Electrical Engineering/Computer Science
Annotator (Secretary)	Adam A. Miller '06	Evanston, IL	Physics
Recruitment Chairman	Daniel D. Kim '04	Granger, IN	Computer Science
Magister (Pledge Trainer)	Mark E. Vodhanel '06	Red Bank, NJ	Physics

Alumni Write

(continued from page five)

CHARLES A. DOVERSPIKE '52 writes, "Herb, keep up the great work; we all appreciate it! I see JAKE FREIBERGER '45 most every Sunday at Sunday school and church. He's doing well. He just bought a new home he's getting set up in Durango, Colorado, as he lost one to the fires they've been having. I just completed a nine-month consulting project for Bell Helicopter on the V-22 Tilt Rotor. So, I'm currently back in retired status. I'm ready to go on anything new that shows up. I'm looking forward to the meeting next year." Write to Chuck at 2516 Fox Glenn Cir., Bedford, TX 76021; by e-mail at doverspike@alum.mit.edu.

WILLIAM B. HORNER '52 has moved to 3317 Shady Valley Rd., Plano, TX 75025. You can send him e-mail at horner31@ev1.net.

ROBERT W. TEMPLE '55 lives at 14134 Bluebird Ln., Houston, TX 77079. He writes, "I hear regularly from CHUCK OELFKE '54, RAY RIVERO '54, JOHN LUNSFORD '53, HAROLDO FALCADO '50, WILBUR FISKE '54, BOB JONES '54, and MALCOLM JONES '57. BARNEY SILVER '57 has a new healthcare product called 'Inuloa.' It does well in treating cholesterol. Contact him at bsilver@xmission.com for information on the product. It's typical of Barney, as he has created many things that benefit people. It's the Sigma Chi spirit in action." In July 2003 Bob had lunch with JOE BRAZZATTI '54 outside of Joe's assisted living facility. Joe's been recovering from a stroke, and Bob reports that Joe hopes to be well enough to attend his 50th reunion this June. "Any who are going to that should let him know of their plans. I think he will still need some assistance, but Joe has that Sigma Chi determination. Joe's e-mail address is joebraz@hypercon.com. Any greeting you can send will certainly be welcome." Send e-mail to Bob at rwt@ev1.net.

Now a widower after nearly 40 years of marriage, JAMES E. ENGELER JR. '62 has four children (each one in a different time zone) and 11 grandchildren, ages one to 16. He is fully retired from the military and partially retired from his Dean Clinic practice,

but he also volunteers as a medical director for his local hospice. Write to Jed at jeengeler@aol.com or at 3801 Signature Dr., Middleton, WI 53562.

JOHN F. HOWARD '67 has a new address: 5 Chapel Hill Dr., #8, Plymouth, MA 02360. You can send him e-mail at jfhoward@alum.mit.edu.

BASIL C. SAFOS '80 lives at 34-50 87th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372. He writes, "It is shocking to learn that DAVE GAILUS '80 is a father and PETER HADLEY '72 is a husband. Repent—the end is near!" Send Basil e-mail at safos@ldt.com.

JOSHUA B. LITTLEFIELD '81 writes, "My wife, Suzy, and I have reached a real milestone with our oldest, Betsy, beginning Colby College in fall 2003. This leaves us with our two boys at home, Robbie (16), a high school junior, and Billy (12), entering seventh grade. Suzy keeps busy in town politics, continuing on the Wellesley school committee, having just completed an 18-month stint as chair. I continue to work on the technical end of network software at Cisco Systems, now from our new offices in Boxborough, Massachusetts. I also enjoy interviewing for MIT undergraduate admissions and working on the Alpha Theta corporate board." Write to Josh at 44 Boulder Brook Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481, or by e-mail at josh@alum.mit.edu.

JOHN M. FELAND '94 has moved to 671 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306. He now works at Stanford University Center for Design Research. Send him e-mail at gohogs@cdr.stanford.edu.

CARY C. GUMBERT '94 writes, "My wife, Cynthia, and I are now in Austin, Texas. I'm working for Polycam, managing their video conference

business. Our son, Andrew, is doing great. He is almost two years old now and is learning like crazy." Write to Cary at his new address: 9811 Tree Bend Cove, Austin, TX 78750; e-mail gumbert@alum.mit.edu.

BRIAN D. ROBERTSON '95 has moved to 80 City Square, Boston, MA 02108. Send him e-mail at bdrobert@alum.mit.edu.

WALTER VON KOCH '97 has moved to 2717 Western Ave., #5014, Seattle, WA 98121.

LAWRENCE W. ALLER '00 has a new address: 35530 Monterra Terrace, #201, Union City, CA 94587. Larry married Monique Dejesus (MIT '00) on June 21, 2003, in Puerto Rico. Several pledge brothers attended, including JOHN PELLY, SEAN FABRE, NICK BOGOVICH, and JOE CHENG (all class of 2000). The couple just moved to the Bay area, where Larry is attending Stanford Business School and Monique is working as an environmental consultant. Larry invites Sigs visiting or living in the area to contact him at laller@stanford.edu.

THOMAS M. QUEALY '02 has moved to 10 Magazine St., #702, Cambridge, MA 02139. Send him e-mail at tquealy@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

CHARLES M. BILLMAN '23
in 2003
OTWAY W. RASH '32
in 2003
AUGUST B. HUNICKE '39
on December 18, 2002
SAMUEL P. CARD '40
in 2003

Your news is important!

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