

ALPHA THETA SIGMA CHI

Celebrating 130 Years of Excellence, 1882 – 2012



Alpha Theta Academy



John Piotti '83

Local Agriculture and Sustainable Foods

Currently Executive Director of Maine Farmland Trust, John has been a leader in sustainable agriculture since 1995, when he created the Maine Farms Project, one of the early drivers in Maine's recent agricultural renaissance. John has served on Maine's Farm Vitality Task Force, the Governor's Dairy Task Force, the Millennium Commission on Hunger & Food Security, and the University of Maine's Board of Agriculture. Beyond Maine, John has served as chair of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) and a director of the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture.

In 2005, John was one of only eight Americans awarded a prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship. He spent time in Sweden and Brussels exploring European models for using agriculture as a vehicle to advance sustainable community development.



Gabe Blanchet '13

Appalachian Trail Thru Hike

Gabe will be sharing pictures, videos and stories from his Appalachian Trail Thru-hike which he undertook last year. Gabe spent his sophomore Spring away from MIT to thru-hike while raising over \$11,000 for juvenile diabetes research. The 2,181 mile hike took Gabe 4 months to complete. Along the way, Gabe battled Giardia, punched a black bear and was hit by a falling tree, among other stories. He also will share stories about some of the interesting characters he met along the way, and how grateful he was to have the entire Alpha Theta chapter supporting and motivating him through each of the 14 states.

Check out Gabe's blog of his hike at: gabehikestheat.tumblr.com

Questions?

phone: (603) 493-1598 | email: sc-reunion-coord@mit.edu | twitter: @532beacon

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Al Dahya '05

Solar Power: Technology and Economics

Al has worked at SunEdison, a leading solar PV developer and system operator, for the past 5 years. At SunEdison he has been part of a broad set of activities including raising capital, market research and prioritization, and opening new offices in the US and globally.

Prior to SunEdison he was a consultant at AT Kearney and also was a programmer for several internet start ups. Al graduated 2005 in course 6-3 at MIT.



Michael Kirtley '72

OKA!

Raised in Kentucky, Michael has spent much of his adult life in Europe and Africa. Thrice selected to the Who's Who of International Photojournalists, he has written and photographed many feature stories for such publications as *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *Stern*, *Geo*, *Africa International*, and *Paris-Match*.

He has interviewed dozens of well-known leaders, among them the late Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi, former South African President Nelson Mandela, King Hussein of Jordan, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad, and French President Francois Mitterrand.

He recently co-produced the feature narrative film *OKA!*, shot among the Bayaka pygmies in the equatorial rain forest of Central African Republic, and released to high praise in 2012 in the United States. His current projects include producing a feature narrative film near Paris, France and co-directing and producing a feature length documentary on the Western Sahara situation in Morocco and Algeria.

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