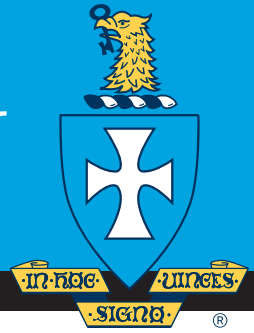


THE BEAVER SIG

Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity



CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS | SIGMACHI.MIT.EDU | SPRING 2024

Reviving sigs@mit.edu

by **Dan Craig '03**

After a 20-year absence, we announce the revival of sigs@mit.edu as the main mailing list for Alpha Theta alumni. This replaces our use of Constant Contact and will be used *very sparingly* for occasional alumni-wide announcements. Unlike the previous version of sigs@mit.edu, this will be a *private, moderated list*, and we will be very selective about what is allowed. We hope to never again repeat the tragic

reply-all incident of 2002.

For future campaigns such as Reunions that will involve repeated emails, we will use dedicated lists so you can unsubscribe if you are not planning to attend that particular event, but not get cut off entirely from all Alpha Theta communication.

I've done my best to scrub the list of broken, duplicate, or incorrect email addresses; my apologies if I made any

mistakes. Two emails have already been sent. If you did not receive them, you may not be subscribed. You can subscribe or unsubscribe, as well as view mailing list archives, at mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/sigs.

If you need any help, please email me at drccraig@alum.mit.edu.

In hoc,

Dan Craig '03

House Corporation 2024 Meetings

All corporate meetings take place at the chapter house and may be attended remotely by video conference. All alumni are welcome, in person or virtually.

Board of Directors
SUNDAY, APRIL 28

5:00 pm ET

Board of Directors
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

5:00 pm ET

Annual Meeting
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

5:00 pm ET

Consul's Update: What's New?

by **Thomas Hogan**

The brothers of the Alpha Theta Sigma Chi Chapter are back in town and picking up right where we left off in the winter. Although it is still early in the semester, it seems that the theme of spring 2024 may be "In with the New."

The first addition to the chapter is our new pledge Preston Ogunwumi, class of 2027. For the first time since I have been at MIT, Sigma Chi engaged in spring rush and recruited this highly motivated freshman from Corning East High School in upstate New York.

The house managers have been hard at work making the house look as good as new. Kyle Heinz, former house manager, has been using Computer-Aided Design, or CAD, to design and 3D print new balusters for the central staircase. These balusters are sleeker, sturdier, and cheaper than those currently on the stairwell. With the storage of the CAD files to the Sigma Chi drive, Alpha Theta will be benefiting from

Kyle's proactiveness and ingenuity for years to come.

Moving on to the chapter's impact outside the house, the philanthropy chairs are determined to bring Derby Days back to MIT for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The current plans for Derby Days are still in the works: there have been discussions surrounding working with MIT sororities to host events and have a concert involving some of MIT's best DJs.

As we move through the semester, we will continue to innovate and come up with new ideas that benefit the brotherhood. Whether it be creating new traditions while honoring the old, or figuring out how to better the house, the Alpha Theta Sigma Chi Chapter will continue to have a great semester centered around the mantra, "In with the New."



2024 HOUSE CORPORATION

Board of Directors & Officers

Mike Delaus '82

President

Josh Littlefield '81

Treasurer

Mike Gibson '13

Clerk

Alex Cai, ΔΨ'14

Dan Craig '03

Mark Curtiss '87

Kurt Gerstner, ΓΠ'78

Bill Tsacoyeanes '84

Jim Wilber '81

ΣΧ

The Greatest Snow Day that Never Was

by **Lucky Deignan**



Lucky Deignan

Ice cubes flushed down the toilet, pajamas worn inside out, spoons placed underneath the pillows ... all the snow day rituals were being performed at Alpha Theta on that fateful night of Monday, February 12. The predicted forecast for the next day of more than 12 inches (I don't honestly remember ... I just know it was a lot) had the boys on Beacon Street buzzing: we were going to have a snow day!

In fact, we didn't have to wait long for our hopes to come to fruition, as the school sent a message around 7:00 on Monday evening with the news that the whole campus was waiting to hear. It didn't take long for the gents of the house to make the most of this special occasion, as I received an email a mere minutes later with the subject line: MITEA Alert: SponTEAneous TEA. Ah yes, an unexpected day off in the middle of the week and a perfect opportunity for us to celebrate our weekly "Tea" party a bit earlier than usual.

For me, the hype certainly did not disappoint. As someone who had to catch up on work late that night on campus, it was quite a joy to return to a house full of hoots and hollers as I arrived during the first boat-race practice of the year. For those who are unaware, I'm not sure how long this tradition has existed, we compete in an annual campus-wide competition on Marathon Monday, which involves a boat race, of sorts. We are currently the reigning champions on campus, and our senior leader **Nikhil Kakarla** is adamant about maintaining our title.

As for the details for the rest of the night... perhaps I'll leave that up to your imagination. For me, it was a delight just to see the boys coming together to celebrate this momentous occasion, whether that be through indulging in one of our favorite games, "composite swap," or tire flipping for fun (please email mkubera@mit.edu for further details).

So, what's the deal with the title of this article? Despite the forecast of legendary amounts of snowfall, there was an accumulation of, quite literally, zero inches of snow. Welp. So much for our planned snowball fight with Chi Phi. At least we all got to enjoy a restful and relaxing day, and previous night, off! The brothers of Alpha Theta and I certainly enjoyed it.



First-Year Spotlight

by **Isaac Dobie** | Cobrotherhood Chairman



Isaac Dobie

My name is Isaac Dobie. I am a first-year student from the Outer Banks, a small island town in the Northeast corner of North Carolina.

My favorite things are basketball, hiking with my family, professional MMA, and the *Lord of the Rings* series.

I never thought I would end up here at MIT, but I am so glad that I did. I planned to major in Course 1 (civil and environmental engineering) due to my background in construction and interest in sustainability. I have recently decided to pursue Course 2 (mechanical engineering) instead because of its hands-on nature and wide range of career applications.

In addition to my studies, I am on the varsity basketball team, I am doing research in structural material circularity (course 1 UROP), and I am a part of the MIT Energy and Climate Club Launchpad Program.

I am also learning to DJ with a few of my '27 brothers, which has been loads of fun.

Being a part of the basketball team means we only get a three-day winter break and we are on campus for the entirety of the IAP period. Because of this, I am really starting to miss the beach and I cannot wait for spring break and summer. That said, I am not clocking out yet. This summer I will be working for Quible & Associates, a coastal civil engineering firm in the Outer Banks. I will also continue to work construction for my dad on the weekends.

Adjusting to the environment of MIT has been difficult, but being a part of Sigma Chi has made it quite enjoyable.

Senior Spotlight

by **Bryce Hancock**



Bryce Hancock

My college journey began amidst the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a freshman, navigating online classes and

the lack of in-person interaction left me feeling adrift. However, amidst the chaos, I found solace and purpose in the brotherhood of Sigma Chi.

Joining Sigma Chi in my freshman year provided me with a sense of belonging and camaraderie that transcended the virtual barriers of the pandemic. Despite the challenges of remote learning, I was drawn to the diverse interests and unwavering support of my fellow brothers.

As my college years progressed, so did my involvement with Sigma Chi. From bonding over football to embarking on unforgettable adventures, such as the trips I took with brothers to Cancun, Puerto Rico, and Japan, every moment was defined by the bonds forged within our brotherhood.

One of the highlights of my college experience was attending our 2023 Reunion, where I had the opportunity to connect with alumni and envision my future path. The sense of pride and purpose I felt in those moments reaffirmed my commitment to Sigma Chi and inspired me to strive for greatness in all aspects of my life.

Looking back on my four years in college, I am grateful for the friendships, memories, and lessons learned through Sigma Chi. As I embark on the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the knowledge that my brothers will always be there, supporting and encouraging me every step of the way. With Sigma Chi by my side, I am excited to embrace whatever the future holds, knowing that the bonds we've formed will last a lifetime.



SPRING 2024 UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

Thomas Hogan '25

Consul

Michael Higgins '25

Pro-Consul

Michael Kubera '26

Risk Manager

Patrick Haertel '26

Quaestor

Romulo

Delgado-Gonzalez '26

Recruitment

Lachlan "Lucky"

Deignan '26

Magister

Kevin Zhu '27

Kustos

William Cruz '26

Dalton Rice '26

Ryan Espinoza '27

Social Chairmen

Sean Huckleberry '26

Charlie Goetz '26

Isaac Dobie '27

Brotherhood Chairmen

William Cruz '26

House Manager

Social Update

by Ryan Espinoza, William Cruz, and Dalton Rice



Ryan Espinoza



Will Cruz



Dalton Rice

As the academic semester reaches its midpoint, we wanted to reflect on the successful and risk-free parties/mixers we've held. The three of us have grown closer as we strategize parties, write TEAmail, and run to Costco together.

Before the semester even started, we kicked off with a series of engaging "I-A-TEAs," providing brothers and guests alike with opportunities to unwind and have a great time as they prepared for classes to begin.

We officially opened the semester with a '60s-themed party: "Sigsties." Brothers made new friends as we mixed with Harvard Alpha Phi and danced the night away. Wearing fun outfits and vibrant colors, Sigma Chi started the semester off with a bang.

Building on that momentum, we hosted a lively "Mardi Gras Masquerade" where we distributed themed masks and beads for people to wear as they enjoyed the party. With bright lights, great music, and a fantastic SK mixer, the energy was high throughout the night.

Another notable event of the semester was a weekly tea, "Birds and

the TEAs." Brothers and friends alike appreciated the opportunity to de-stress during the week and to enjoy cookies, tea, and excellent company.

Our most recent event was a cocktail party with a live band. Friends of the house in the band "Late for Breakfast" put on a performance to remember. With brothers and their guests dressed sharply, the dance floor was popping with amazing music, better dance moves, and great people.

Looking ahead, Sigma Chi is gearing up for even more exciting events in the second half of the semester,



Brothers and guests at the Spring Cocktail Party

including the highly anticipated Wedding Mixer with MIT Alpha Phi, a joint Marathon Monday party, and other themed gatherings that promise to be an exhilarating time.

As the semester continues, we plan to maintain our streak of fun, safe events.

From Greece to the Charles: Sailing at MIT

by Nikolaos Tsakiris



Nikolaos Tsakiris

Transitioning from wind-surfing in Greece to sailing on the Charles River at MIT has been a seamless continuation of my love for the water. The free sailing classes offered at the Sailing Pavilion caught my eye soon after arriving at MIT, providing a perfect opportunity to stay connected to my aquatic roots.

I quickly signed up for the classes and was soon navigating the waters with an advanced sailing license in hand. The experience became even more enriching when my room-

mate, Sean Huckleberry, decided to join me. Together, we mastered our skills and enjoyed numerous sailing trips, making the most of the fall season.

Spontaneous outings became a regular part of our routine. With a quick “Let’s go sailing” text, we’d head out to enjoy the water, often bringing friends along to share in the experience and the stunning views of Boston sunsets.

One memorable adventure involved a friendly challenge with my little, Diego de Lope. We competed to see who could invite the most girls from the Esplanade for a sail. In a light-hearted victory, I managed to bring two aboard, while Diego welcomed a third, making for an unforgettable day on the water and a victory I still brag about to this day.

Sailing on the Charles has been more than just a hobby; it’s a way to connect with my past while making new memories at MIT. It’s taught me the value of friendship, spontaneity, and the simple joys of life on the water. As I continue my journey here, I’m reminded of the importance of embracing new experiences and the bonds they create.

Wind Surfing in Greece

Sailing on the Charles



ALPHA THETA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Alan R. Brennecke '61

Three brothers got together for lunch on October 3, 2023, in Lexington, Massachusetts. Left to right: **Ken Nill '61**, **Earl VanHorn '61**, **Al Brennecke '61**.

Alfred H. Bellows '62

My wife Sandy and I spent half our lives in Naples, Florida (guaranteed warm) and half in Newbury, Massachusetts (near most of our children and grandchildren). Sandy plays tennis and bocce, and I play bocce and volunteer for past 15 years on the board of our condo association in Florida. I retired almost two decades ago from GTE and Sylvania, but occasionally consult, most recently as an expert witness in a patent-infringement case. I have recently connected with the pledge class of '62: **Erich Ippen**, **John Rupert**, and **Sandy VonKuegelgen**. Trying to track down **Bob Johnson** and **Jed Engeler**. Roger Simmons and Talbot Huff have sadly died.

Robert M. Johnston '64

Enjoying life in the country. Now a great grandfather.

Stephen L. Blythe '74

My career as a family physician has taken me from down East Maine (where I delivered babies and sewed up lobster fisherman) to serving on the faculty of a residency program in Denver. I tried to retire after working at the VA clinic here, but I missed the intellectual challenge that being a physician brings, so I now work two days a week at a local community health center. I have been married for 33 years and have two wonderful daughters. I look forward to coming to Boston in May to see if MIT and Sigma Chi have changed in the last 50 years!

Jay A. Krone '74

I moved to Tuscan, Arizona, in 2020, just as the pandemic hit. I retired in 2022 from Dell companies, data storage group, nee EMC. Full time grandparenting keeps my wife Karen and me full-time busy.

Terrence J. Sweeney '75

Still Working! Next year will be 40 years at Swedish Medical Center and 20 as director of neonatology.



DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

ROBERT G. BRECK JR. '44

December 6, 2021

WILLIAM S. EDGERLY '49

May 24, 2023

ROBERT E. JONES '54

December 9, 2023

TALBOT S. HUFF JR. '62

September 11, 2021

HERBERT W. MOWER '65

October 16, 2023

The Beaver Sig is published regularly by the Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at MIT for its friends and members. News should be sent to Alumni Records Office, Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity Inc., P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.

Alumni communication services provided by **Elevate** | programs@elevateims.com | 607-533-9200 | [@elevateims](https://www.elevateims.com)