

# The BACK BAY BETA

BOSTON, MA

SPRING 1986

## Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT



*The ever-popular front steps.*

### Brief Notes From The Alumni President

News from the chapter and from the alumni association continues to be good on all counts.

The 75th anniversary of the founding of the chapter will be in 1988. Many will remember the excellent celebration we had in 1963 for the 50th, chaired by Yardley Chittick.

We solicit your ideas on how to recognize this next milestone as our great organization goes "marching along."

We draw your attention to a write-up elsewhere in this newsletter regarding life membership in the Beta Upsilon Association.

Proxy material is enclosed for the annual meeting, which is to be held in Kresge Lobby at noon on June 6, 1986. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Yours in -kai-,  
Robert F. Danner '47  
Alumni President

### Optimism Prevails At Beta

The Beta house is off to a good start this semester, anticipating fine competition by our intramural sports teams, outstanding academic performances, and an enjoyable social season. The chapter expects to initiate 10 fine young men this spring, and their addition to the brotherhood will secure our position for the future. Preparations are also under way for this year's alumni reunion, and the active brothers are looking forward to seeing Betas from years past.

In February, 16 brothers traveled to Hartford, Connecticut, for the Northeast Regional Beta Leadership Workshop. As part of the seminar program, Chapter Counselor of the Year John Lacy '42 spoke to a group of other counselors and alumni about his role as our chapter's advisor. The workshop ended with the presentation of a mock initiation ceremony performed by members of the Beta Upsilon Chapter, intended to serve as a guideline for chapters interested in improving their own presentations of the ceremony.

The Beta house will continue to be home for its members and to foster friendship and individual growth. We will strive for excellence, as we have in the past, and with the strength of our unity and the spirit of our brotherhood, we expect to succeed.

Christopher J. Morgen '87  
President

## Life Memberships Help Keep Beta Upsilon Strong

As you know, membership in the Beta Upsilon Association is technically maintained by the payment of annual dues of \$25 per year, which is usually requested in the fall. In reality, of course, all MIT Betas are welcome to participate in the association.

In addition to the annual dues, we find that many members send additional sums of money each year for the benefit and improvement of the association and the chapter. There has long been a "life member" category, for which a person originally qualified by either a one-time payment of \$250 or by cumulative payments, including dues, totaling \$250. At the time this category was established, annual dues were \$10. Thus, 25 years of dues-paying would qualify one as a life member. Currently, the dues are \$25, and the corresponding life membership figure is

\$500 of cumulative giving.

Interestingly enough, we find that many of our life members continue to be annual contributors, wishing to continue their participation in the good work of the association. For this reason, we still send dues announcements to all members, including life members, with the understanding that the life members are in fact fully paid and that anything they send is "above and beyond the call of duty."

In an effort to recognize these long-term friends of the Beta Upsilon Association, we are listing all current life members in this newsletter. We hope that other members will seek to become life members as soon as possible, and we salute those life members who have done so much for the chapter over the years.



We'd love to hear  
from you!  
Please don't forget  
to return  
the enclosed newsform!



*Hurricane Gloria left a tree on our fire escape!*

## BETA UPSILON ASSOCIATION

### Life Members as of March 15, 1986

William H. Austin Jr. '58	John W. Lacy '42
Jonathan Y. Ballard '23	Thomas B. Lacy '48
Norman C. Bedford '38	Louis J. Lee '52
R. Gordon Black '56	Allan J. MacLaren '60
Leslie M. Boring '64	Robert L. Malster '56
John B. Breyman '44	Walton H. Marshall Jr. '35
Bruce G. Brown '62	Walter E. H. Massey '51
Kenneth G. Bucklin '30	William R. McEwen Jr. '48
George W. Carrick '40	Ronald L. McKay '54
C. Yardley Chittick '22	George E. Motzenbecker '49
Everett S. Coldwell '15	George F. Nesbitt '23
Prentiss I. Cole '27	Walter A. Netsch Jr. '43
Robert F. Danner '47	John D. Northup '32
J. Warren Davis '54	Robert D. Peck '44
Karl M. Duff '57	Wilmot G. Peirce '24
Michael G. Feinstein '82	J. Trevor Peirce '21
Gregor J. Gentleman '51	Charles E. Quick '33
James W. Giffin '64	Howard L. Rich '29
Kevin J. Grannan '79	William G. Roeseler '65
J. Henry Gunning '28	Kelsey Y. Saint '34
Paul M. Haines Jr. '78	John P. Seagle '55
George F. Harper III '55	John T. Smith Jr. '36
Crockett A. Harrison '26	Paul W. Sommer '42
Philip H. Hatch '21	Harry D. Storer '50
Lawrence R. Hoover '57	Donald R. Taber '25
David M. Houston '23	John Upton Jr. '44
John B. Jacob '26	Herbert B. Voelcker '51
Abbott L. Johnson '22	Alfred E. Wechsler '55
Donald P. Kahn '46	Frederick W. Weitz '51
John C. Kern '50	Frederick W. Willcutt '27
Robert E. Kersey '57	Richard C. Williamson '61
Chesterton S. Knight '21	Nelson F. Wilmot '26
Joseph K. Knight '40	Sidney A. Wingate '43
David H. Koch '62	Stephen J. Yeretsky '59
Otto C. Kohler '31	Miles M. Zoller '21

## THE BACK BAY BETA

Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News contributions, address changes, and photos are always welcome and should be sent to Beta Theta Pi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0575. Photos will be returned, upon request, after use in the newsletter.

## Dedicated Pledges Demonstrate Commitment To Beta

Members of the pledge class of '86 are eagerly awaiting spring initiation. Beta Upsilon sees no obstacles to the addition of 10 new brothers to our chapter. The pledge class consists of nine freshmen and one junior (a transfer student from the Air Force Academy).

In December the pledge class organized the annual Christmas party. Highlights of the party included the traditional 25-foot Christmas tree, a delicious buffet meal (prepared with the help of our new cook), and an outrageous pledge skit.

The pledges returned from IAP one week early to do work on the two houses. Although the pledge class is small, a great deal of work was accomplished during the week. The main house stair banister was scraped, sanded, and revarnished. The basement of the annex was refurbished as the construction of a new wet bar was begun.

The chapter is proud of the pledges and believes they are worthy candidates for brotherhood.

Alex Romeo '86  
Pledge Trainer



## Chapter Gears Up For Next Rush

Preparations for rush are under way again at the Beta house. We have been hosting pre-frosh since last fall, and we hope that some of them will return in September.

We will be looking for 11 pledges to fill the vacancies left by the seniors who graduate this spring. Although rush will most likely be "dry," this should not affect us any more that it does the other houses on campus.

A successful summer rush will make our work much easier next fall. Tentative summer party locations are New York, the New Jersey shore, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Chicago. There is even the possibility of a California party. Please contact us for further information.

Michael Nadolny '87  
Rush Chairman

## ALUMNI WRITE

ROGER S. MECCA '72 is the chairman of the department of anesthesiology at Danbury Hospital in Connecticut. He writes that he's involved with the publication of a few textbooks on critical care and is busy planning several new projects. He lives with his wife, Karen, and their two-year-old daughter, Lindsay, at 14 Guardhouse Dr., Redding, CT 06896.

After 23 years of service with the U.S. Army, GUY L. SCHMIDT '56 retired in 1979. He is now employed with Kelly Services, Inc., as vice president of administrative services. Our address for Guy is 2057 McIntosh, Troy, MI 48098.

Molly and PETER B. DINSDALE '67 took 13 years to recover from the "trauma of twins" before producing two more sons, the younger of whom is now six months old. A farmer, Peter finds his work challenging "and sometimes even rewarding." The Dinsdales live at 4290 Barrett St. S., Salem, OR 97302.



*Top: Although putting it up is always a monumental effort, the Beta Christmas tree is well worth it. Bottom: A new surprise at this year's Christmas party—Santa!*

## Alumni Support Provides Continuity

As my term as alumni secretary draws to a close, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of alumni support and participation in all chapter affairs. Whether you donate money to the alumni association, drop by for an occasional visit, hold a position on the association board, or simply show support for Beta Upsilon, your input is not only welcome but required for our chapter to remain strong. Your support adds an element of continuity that cannot be achieved solely through the current members.

So, if you have a moment, drop us a note to tell us what's new or where your interests lie. If you have any pictures from your Beta days that you would like to share, send them to us, and we will try to work them into our next newsletter.

We wish you a great summer, and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

Yours in -kai-,  
Bill Santos '87  
Alumni Secretary

## Alumni Write With Their News

*We love to receive your alumni news,  
To learn what you're doing and hear your views.  
But sometimes we find that, try as we might,  
We cannot make out what you've tried to write.  
Your news may be sad, or it may be exciting—  
But how can we tell if we can't read your writing?  
So, though we are happy to hear the specifics,  
We beg of you, please, don't send hieroglyphics!*

The story behind the mystery photo of the "Beta steam roller" (in the fall '85 issue of *The Back Bay Beta*) was explained to us by ABBOTT L. JOHNSON '22. "The Betas were so popular in the 1920s that they won every office they tried for—hence the idea of a steam roller. The Betas in the picture are, left to right, HENRY ARMINGTON, BOB HUGHES, WARREN FERGESON, SCHUYLER 'Hap' HAZZARD, DAVE MELKER, HERRICK TAPPAN, JACK 'Tex' BARETTA, AND JOHNNY BAL-LARD. 'Tex' and Johnny, who are still living, can confirm or give you more information. Herrick was president of the chapter that year—about 1923, I think. Ask Johnny; he has a good memory!" When he wrote to us, Ab was at his winter address of 2201 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004. During the summer he lives at 2480 Warwick Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

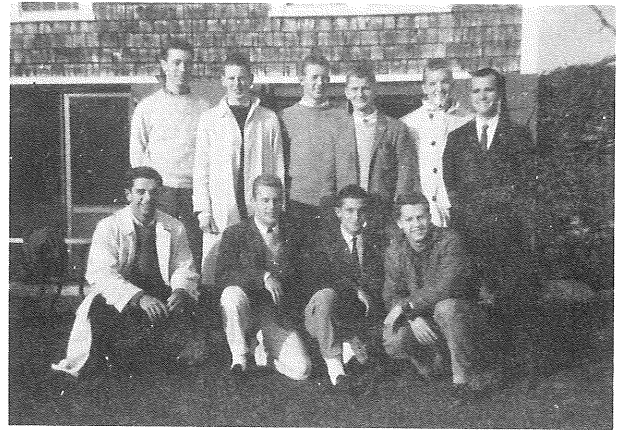
A geologist with Science Applications International, JAMES G. DANNA '84 makes his home at 550 Oakmount Ave., Apt. #1901, Las Vegas, NV 89109.

A year ago, J. DAVID WARGO '75 and two of his colleagues left State Street Research and Management Company to start their own investment management firm, Marble Arch Partners. We wish him best of luck on his new enterprise! David also reports that he and MICHAEL H. SKILLINBERG '75 enjoyed a three-week vacation in Australia last year and that this year they hope to see London, Paris, Hong Kong, and parts of China. David's address is 52 Martin St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

JOHN L. CRANDALL '42 reports that he spent most of his first year of "retirement" on business trips! Write to him at 204 Laurel Circle, Graniteville, SC 29829.

"I changed jobs in October '85," writes ALLAN J. MacLAREN '60, "and moved to California. I'm living out of a suitcase until we sell our house in Virginia and can buy out here." He adds that he greatly appreciated the Thanksgiving dinner that Judy and WARREN H. GOODNOW '61 shared with him and his two daughters, who both attend Stanford. Allan can be reached at United Technologies Chemical Systems, P.O. Box 50015, San Jose, CA 95150-0015.

An assistant analyst with Conoco, Inc., LEE S. FIELDS '83 lives at 3562 Springwood, #813, Ponca City, OK 74604.



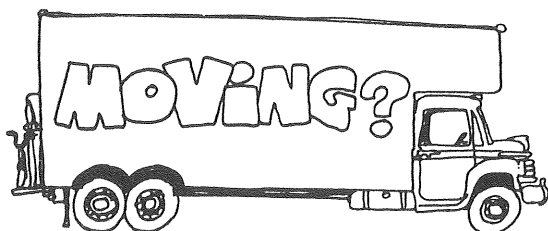
*Beta brothers pose for a picture, circa 1960.*

After six years with the Monsanto Company in England, STEPHEN J. YERETSKY '59 has returned with his family to the United States. Steve writes that EDWIN C. BELL '58 looked him up while in Houston on business last year; the occasion became a mini-reunion when they were joined by Carol and SAMUEL R. FRYER JR. '59. Although very pleased with the last issue of *The Back Bay Beta*, Steve was surprised to find, on page three, a picture of himself bent over the piano. He identifies the others as ROBERT A. MARTINI '61, GORDON R. GILBERT '62, PHILIP J. ROBINSON '61, GARY W. BICKEL '61, and, partially obscured, WILLIAM S. WIDNALL '59. "You really brought back memories by including that picture. I never really could carry a tune, but those fellows certainly could, and they used to try very diligently to get people like me to do a passable job with the Beta songs!" Steve and his wife, Lynn, have three teenage children and live at 2310 Butler Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546.

Engineering consultant PAUL J. SHAPIRO '74 provides an address of 320 Riverside Dr., Apt. #2H, New York, NY 10025.

STEVEN B. ALEXANDER '80 is an enthusiastic bicyclist and is planning to cycle through Europe this year with his girlfriend, Erica. He writes that D. SCOTT EBERHARDT '80 is now an assistant professor at the University of Washington and is enjoying his new son, Zachery. Steve has also been trying to track down KENNETH C. SCHOENDORF '82; our most recent address for Ken is 2934 DeSoto, New Orleans, LA 70119. Steve lives at 1739 Morgan Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

We received this report from STEVEN J. SILBERBERG '83: "Until most recently, I have been a semi-profitable cauliflower share-cropper. Through an unexpected and extraordinary turn of events, I have been offered a position of fashion consultant to White House staff. However, I am torn between this and a lucrative offer to design microprocessor-based GoBot transformers." Brothers concerned about Steve's sanity can address correspondence to 168 Magazine St., #3, Cambridge, MA 02139.



### Let us know, too!

We don't want you to miss even a single issue of *The Back Bay Beta*, so please remember to drop us a line when you relocate. Our address is Beta Theta Pi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0575.

## Improvements Continue At Main House And Annex

As we move into spring, the Beta houses are looking better than ever. Ed Schreyer '87 organized this year's pledge class work week, held at the end of January. The week went well, with both houses receiving some much-needed cleaning and repair. In particular, the banister at 119 Bay State Road was completely stripped, restained, and revarnished. In other improvements, a new, commercial-strength washer and dryer were purchased to replace the older appliances. Some plumbing repairs were performed in the annex, including replacing old lead pipes and installing a new shower on the fourth floor.

In the near future, the current 15-year-old wallpaper in the main house will be replaced, thanks to a gift from our alumni association. In the fall, we will install new carpeting in the main house, also a gift from the alumni.

The major project currently being done in the Beta house is the construction of a large wet bar in the basement of the annex. Begun with a gift from Michael G. Feinstein '82, the bar will be approximately six feet by eight feet, dark mahogany, with hot and cold running water and a beer dispenser. The "Annex Pub" will soon be an attractive, relaxed place for Betas to read, study, or socialize.

In -kai-  
Kendall Bryan '88  
House Manager

## Beta Upsilon Prospers

At the beginning of the spring term, the chapter's finances are strong. Housing costs have remained constant, while budgeting has kept us in the black. In fact, as a result of careful spending, the chapter has decided to use some of our surplus funds to purchase a new house stereo. This item has been needed for almost a year, but the method of financing it had been uncertain; therefore, its purchase was delayed.

With the delivery of a letter-quality printer (a result of the alumni "wish list"), we will finally be able to finish computerization of our financial records. This will make my job easier and more efficient. In addition, it will ensure that our chapter will be rated with an excellent financial standing from the general fraternity at this summer's convention.

As a result of our strong financial position, we are enjoying internal strength and the general fraternity's respect—thereby maintaining our prosperity.

Robert Mentle '88  
Treasurer



Betas at dinner. Will they ever change?

## Alumni News Continues

A registered landscape architect, BRUCE J. DAVIES '75 is currently working on designs for a number of New York City Parks. He occasionally sees Susan and JEFFREY M. COVE '71, who now live at 5 Allen Dr., Parsippany, NJ 07054; he'd also like to get back in touch with DAVID R. PETERSON '71, who makes his home at 843 Arlington St., Berkeley, CA 94707. Our address for "B.J." is 1 Moraine Rd., Morris Plains, NJ 07950.

An attorney with Exxon Corporation, THOMAS "Mike" SHERIFF '63 resides at 28 Thornley Dr., Chatham, NJ 07928.

After relocating to Levittown, Pennsylvania, to join his partners in their engineering consulting business, WILLIAM L. CHESTERTON '82 discovered it was necessary to split the company in two. "I am now working out of my new home with one partner. This is, I hope, only a temporary situation!" He adds that he and his wife, Debbie, welcomed a son last fall: "He is a bundle of energy and a joy for us." Send your best wishes to "Chesty" and Debbie at 10 Quaker Hill Rd., Levittown, PA 19056.

JAMES W. GIFFIN '64 reports that his children are doing well: "Doug is a 6'2" sophomore at York High; John is an active seven-year-old and a good student, too; Jackie is back in college taking COBOL and may be an entrepreneur next year in software." Jim is a banker and lives at 282 Arlington Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126.

We'd like to congratulate Fannie and CROCKETT A. HARRISON '26, who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary last August at a family gathering in Rye, New Hampshire. The Harrisons have five daughters and 13 grandchildren, and last summer they welcomed their second great-grandson, Isaak William Granger. "He is a big boy, and nurses in the maternity section of the hospital were affectionately calling him 'The Moose' before he took offense and left for his new home." At his baptism, Isaak wore the same gown that Crockett wore when he was baptized in 1903! Crockett has been retired since 1968, and he and Fannie live on a 50-acre farm in western Pennsylvania. Write to them at RD #5, Box 2029, Grove City, PA 16127.

Our new address for PHILIP J. ROBINSON '61 is 1845 Palisades Terrace, Lake Oswego, OR 97034-4625.

"Just moved back to the Hub to work on the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project," writes engineer STERLING G. BRISBIN JR. '77. "Biff" and his wife also recently became the proud parents of a baby boy, Sterling James ("Jamie"). The Brisbins have kept in touch with Margaret and KENNETH B. SCHWARTZ '76, and "Biff" would like to track down JEFFREY G. MANNI '77. (Our most recent address for Jeff is 48 Locust St., Burlington, MA 01803.) The Brisbin family now lives at 128 Webster St., Arlington, MA 02174.

Attorney JOSEPH N. SHERRILL JR. '51 reports that his wife, Nancy, paid a visit last fall to Jean and HERBERT B. VOELCKER JR. '51—to whom they're indebted for having introduced them! Herb, who for many years has been on the faculty at the University of Rochester, has recently accepted the newly created Charles Lake Professorship in Mechanical Engineering at Cornell and will be assuming that chair this summer. The Sherrills make their home at 2003 Avondale, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

# Alumni Correspondence Continues

A self-employed businessman, ARTHUR W. HAINES '54 can be reached at 4328 Figwood Way, Sacramento, CA 95864.

While working to complete his dissertation on behavioral medicine at Rosebridge Graduate School, JOHN J. WARGO '70 is also collecting internship hours at Unity Counseling Center and is working at Gladman Hospital in Oakland. "Can't wait to finish my degree so that I won't be a poor student anymore and will have more time for sailing, wind surfing, tennis, and photography!" Brothers passing through San Francisco are invited to look John up at 265 Stevenson Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

A teacher at the State University of New York at Albany, PETE SEAGLE '55 writes that his son, Jim, is a freshman at Dickinson College and has pledged Beta. Our address for Pete is 193 Westchester Dr., Delmar, NY 12054.

In the all's-well-that-ends-well department, here's a little anecdote from THEODORE J. GUNDLACH JR. '40: "I broke my right wrist in the summer of '84, so, to keep me company, my wife fell on some hotel steps and broke her left arm at the shoulder. We both were due in the hospital, but neither of us could drive well—so no hospital, and everything is fine now!" Ted and his wife have a permanent residence at 760A Avenida Estancia, Venice, FL 33595, and in the summers they can be reached at P.O. Box 353, Pineola, NC 28662.

A physician, RICHARD B. STIFLER '61 resides at 45 Leighton Rd., Wellesley, MA 02181.

"I am now running NASA's geodynamics program," writes EDWARD A. FLINN '53. His wife, Jane, is chairman of the psychology department at George Mason University, and their daughter, Susan, graduates from Bryn Mawr this May. Our address for the Flinn family is 3605 Tupelo Place, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Shortly after turning 40, STEPHEN H. SCHROEDER '67 injured his knee while playing tennis. "Talk about the great depression!" Steve adds that he left his job with a consulting firm to become a "real lawyer" with Goodwin, Procter & Hoar in Boston. Steve receives mail at 1 Emerson Dr., Acton, MA 01720.

We were sorry to learn that LAWRENCE W. SHARPE '36 had a spell of ill health last fall and was "in and out of the hospital like a yo-yo." He reports that he lost 40-50 pounds during that time, but that he's apparently stabilized now. He and his wife sold their New Hampshire farm recently and are planning to spend their golden years in Florida. Drop them a line at 6591 E. Lakato Lane, Inverness, FL 32650.

JAMES S. DRAPER '62 writes that Beta Upsilon can be proud of inspiring MIT's first scholarship for undergraduate women in engineering, the JAMES E. CUNNINGHAM ('57) Memorial Scholarship Fund. "I was fortunate to have been able to work with many brothers of Jim's MIT days, a few of whom are among the scholarship's trustees, in building one of MIT's best-received scholarships." The scholarship was first awarded in 1983 to Linda Zelinka, class of '85, who writes, "The encouragement it has given me helped me through my most difficult year. . . I feel challenged in being chosen the recipient of this scholarship. And I am very fortunate to be able to continue my research and studies at MIT as a result." For more information on the scholarship fund, write to James Draper at 18 Bellevue St., Newton, MA 02158.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

NORMAN J. GREENE '22  
JOHN T. SMITH JR. '36  
MILES M. ZOLLER '21



*Once again, can you help identify these Betas?*