



# The Beta Upsilon Chapter Back Bay Beta

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

WINTER 1999-2000

## Chapter Welcomes 11 New Members

Beta Upsilon closed its desk this rush with 11 bright-eyed new recruits. Most of the creative pledging stunts received a PG-13 or R rating by local university officials and cannot be divulged here. For a full account with glossy photos, stop by the house.

Here are their names, in height order:

Benjamin Roberts.....Owensburg, IN  
Steve Bathurst.....Berkeley, CA  
Allon Hochbaum.....Berkeley, CA  
Sameer Shah.....Hampton, NJ  
Kenny Minogue.....Little Neck, NY  
George Whitfield.....Plainfield, NJ  
Brian Savery.....Falmouth, MA  
Dylan Hirsch-Shell.....Los Angeles, CA  
Matt Saunders.....Palatine, IL  
Jeff LeBlanc.....Acton, MA  
Andre Devitt.....Tucson, AZ

As always, we received wonderful support from our alumni during the summer and during rush week itself. Thank you to Mike Rehtin '89 for donating his place for the Chicago rush party! Rush week went extremely smoothly, with two local bands rocking the house and traditional trips to George's Island and Wellesley. We even had some money left over for a post-rush celebration.

This year's rush success can be attributed to a total redesign of the rush book, great summer rush parties, alumni support, and a confident but laid-back rushing style. If you would like to receive a copy of the new rush book, drop one of us a line.

— kai —

Justin Manor 1015 (bernie@mit.edu)

Mehul Shah 1025 (ameen@mit.edu)

Rush Chairs



Boat ride home from George's Island (rush event).

## Rally Raises Money For Leukemia Society While Showing Support For Phi Kappa Sigma

During the last week of October, some rather unfortunate incidents occurred involving MIT fraternities. Four days in a row, MIT received negative press on the front page of the *Globe's* metro section. While Beta was in no way involved, the negative press about MIT fraternities, on top of all the other negative press over the last two years, affected us greatly.

One of the unfortunate incidents during the week involved Phi Kappa Sigma, whose members were evicted from the house with three hours' notice as a result of fire code violations. Those violations happened to be related to a charity event scheduled for Halloween weekend. Needless to say, the eviction caused the event to be cancelled. In addition, Boston Inspectional Services fined neighboring houses for carvings that have been embedded in the sidewalk in front of

their homes for over 10 years. At an IFC meeting that week, just after the incident, Neal Dorow (dean of residential life, responsible for FSILGs) announced that Inspectional Services was already threatening to perform spot checks on all FSILGs.

At 11:00 p.m. on the Thursday before Halloween weekend, in a tremendous show of support, IFC officers and dedicated students gathered under the great dome of MIT. Almost 50 people (including many Betas) attended this meeting, all with only one hour's notice. By the end of the meeting, it had been decided that on Saturday, there would be a rally. The purpose, to support Phi Kappa Sigma in its effort to raise money for leukemia research and show Boston, Cambridge, and the world that MIT students can and will come together to accomplish good

(continued on page four)

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

*The alumni association and undergraduate officers would like to thank the following alumni for their generous support of Beta during the 1998-'99 giving year.*

Steven B. Alexander '80	Kenneth H. Gerber '71	George E. Motzenbecker '49
William H. Austin Jr. '58	Thomas P. Gerrity Jr. '63	John D. Northup '32
Gunther W. Balz '53	James W. Giffin '64	Richard E. Nygren '66
Donn W. Barber '42	F. Keith Glick '62	Richard H. Oeler '60
Norman C. Bedford '38	Paul M. Haines Jr. '78	Robert D. Peck '44
Edwin C. Bell '58	Ward D. Halverson '56	Raymond S. Poor '31
Gary W. Bickel '61	Christian D. Hamer '94	William H. S. Preece Jr. '71
R. Gordon Black '56	Thomas A. Hauer '79	Eric L. Raefsky '76
Leslie M. Boring Jr. '64	L. Walter Helmreich '40	Albert H. Riehl '41
J. Ray Bowen '56	Paul R. Hochfeld '72	Philip J. Robinson '61
Jorge A. Bracer '85	Lawrence R. Hoover '57	Alexander G. Ross '61
Ellis J. Braman '58	Richard L. Horttor '62	Paul B. Rothman '80
Harold O. Branson '63	E. Gerald Hurst Jr. '60	Richard H. Sanders '34
William H. Brett III '47	Edward G. Insel '82	William M. Scruggs II '92
Robert C. Brigham '56	Bruce A. Johnson '60	John P. Seagle '55
B. Greg Brown '62	Lewis K. Johnson '43	John E. Sell '91
Douglas R. Brown '75	Michael A. Johnson '80	Paul J. Shapiro '74
Kendall R. Bryan '88	John C. Kerins '81	Joseph N. Sherrill Jr. '51
Gerald J. Burnett '64	John C. Kern '50	Kenneth J. Shine '85
Dominic P. Camardella '72	Robert E. Kersey '57	Bennett J. Silverman '88
Robert S. Carlson '56	David H. Koch '62	Harold V. Smith '47
James W. Casey '96	Daniel L. Kramer '83	Paul W. Sommer '42
Albert H. Chestnut '39	John W. Lacy '42	Martin J. St. George '86
John R. Chisholm '84	Roger W. Lacy '79	Richard C. Steines '84
C. Yardley Chittick '22	Thomas B. Lacy '48	William T. Stewart '69
Bruce H. Cottman '79	Kenneth J. Launie '77	Harry D. Storer Jr. '50
John L. Crandall '42	Bruce A. Lautenschlager '70	Robert J. Struble '85
B. Alden Cushman '24	Robert F. Law '54	R. Scott Stull '88
Robert F. Danner '47	Louis J. Lee '52	John T. Sutton '55
Bruce J. Davies '75	Frank Leibly '93	Donald R. Taber '25
Seth M. Davis '83	Albert H. Libbey '59	Robert J. Tronnier '74
Anthony P. DiPesa Jr. '86	Ira H. Lohman Jr. '38	Jacob Van Dyke '43
Peter B. Dinsdale '67	Allan J. MacLaren '60	Herbert B. Voelcker '51
James S. Draper '62	Robert L. Malster '56	Robert T. Wargo '77
Karl M. Duff '57	Herman L. Marshall '78	Alfred E. Wechsler '55
Harry T. Easton '36	Walter E.H. Massey II '51	Frederick W. Weitz '51
David Evans '24	Richard L. Mathews '50	Randolph E. West '93
Michael G. Feinstein '82	Gene T. McCoy '53	William S. Widnall '59
Paul Gadebusch II '49	Thomas M. McEvoy Jr. '47	Richard C. Williamson '61
Adam C. Gambel '38	Michael P. McGovern '89	Albert O. Wilson Jr. '38
Frank S. Gardner '38	Samuel R. McLaughlin '58	Todd D. Wilson '88
Wilford D. Gardner '72	Raymond A. Mills '85	George M. Wyman '62
Peter C. Gaston '83	Michael J. Monsler '64	John J. Zayhowski Jr. '82
Gregor J. Gentleman Jr. '51	Christopher J. Morgen '87	John C. Zimmer Jr. '55

## Beta Theta Pi Is Much More Than "A Place To Live"

As a freshman coming into MIT, I was not sure exactly what to expect. I had talked to people from Beta Theta Pi throughout the summer and had stayed with them during the spring freshman preview weekend. Still, I was not certain whether I wanted to live in a fraternity or a dorm.

When rush came I spent most of my time around Beta. When it was time to choose a place to live, I realized that I spent so much of my time over here because I was most comfortable here. I could not see myself living in a place like the dorm room in which I'd temporarily resided.

I pledged Beta Theta Pi and soon learned that it is much more than a place to live. Beta quickly became a new family to me. It is as if everyone is my brother and my best friend at the same time. I find that I can go to any one of them, and he will be glad to hang out, or go do something, or help me if I have a problem.

We are all part of a household, and we are all responsible and caring about our "family." No one will let anyone else fall. An example of this is doing the dishes. Clean dishes are vital to our household and must be done. However, if someone has a ton of work and cannot finish them that night, I would gladly stand up and take over for that person. And anyone else would do the same for me. It is ironic, because in my family at home, my little brother and I had to do the dishes, and if one of us had work, the other would take over for him.

Recently many media events have been putting down fraternities. I received an e-mail the other day filled with stereotypes about Greek life. It ends by saying, "I am everything that is wrong with America; I am a frat guy." This makes me very upset, because not a single "frat guy" at Beta is anything like this at all. The members of Beta Theta Pi are of fine character and strong morals and seem to me to embody all that is *right* with America.

I am proud to be a Beta pledge.

Brian Savery

### THE BACK BAY BETA

Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News contributions, address changes, and photos are welcome and should be sent to Beta Theta Pi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0007. Photos will be returned after use in the newsletter.

## Dynamic New Class Prepares For Initiation

The rushing season has drawn to a close, and 11 young men have before them the timeless task of balancing MIT and pledging Beta. This year's freshmen seem uniquely singleminded of focus and purpose and have not only assimilated themselves into the house, but have begun to have an effect on the lives of its residents. The heart of East Coast Beta has shifted from the empire state to the garden state, and new-found reinforcements from the west side have added some new perspectives.

Of late, the life of Boston-based MIT Greeks has been closely examined, and not even the Beta pledge program has been able to escape scrutiny. Nevertheless, Beta seems

to have a very positive outlook. The smiles and good spirits that abound at 119 and 120 Bay State speak volumes about the quality of life our members enjoy.

Although an initiation date of sometime first semester is no longer feasible, I see no reason, if current trends continue, why we can't have 11 new role numbers in early February.

Submitted faithfully in \_ kai \_,  
Robert Tunick 1017  
New Member Educator

## Betas Obey The Rules To Keep Social Events Safe

Despite increasing tension between MIT's fraternities and Boston authorities, Betas are remaining confident in our risk management. Our plan is simply to obey the rules. Parties are dry (alumni are asked to remember not to bring alcohol when visiting), and noise is kept to a minimum. There have been many successful ideas for dry social events. Drinking outside the house is condoned if it is in accordance with all applicable rules. Everyone is cooperating in the spirit that "we are all risk managers."

## Pledges Doing Well Academically

The vice president is happy to announce a more involved role as academic chair for the pledges. In addition to the traditional turning in of syllabi, each pledge was asked to fill out a survey asking questions about time commitment to classes and goals for the academic term. They seem to be off to a good start. They have taken more "advanced" classes than any other class I have seen, and only a couple of them are having slight problems in a few classes. There is a high probability that all the pledges will pass all their classes again. Keep up those grades, guys!

Mehul Shah

## House Gets New Heating System, Plumbing Repairs

Positive changes have taken place at 119 and 120 Bay State this year. Contractors installed a new heating system with independent zone controls. Plumbers have fixed several small problems. Closets were reorganized, and the entire house has been kept up to inspectional code in case Boston officials decide to search us without warning.

There have also been many small improvements. Air fresheners were distributed to all the bathrooms, and the annex basement has been cleaned to promote its social use. Plans for this winter's work week include revamping the first floor of the annex and improving lighting in both houses.

## Women's Rush Dinner Deemed A Success

The annual rush women's dinner was again a major hit. Jim served up some excellent steak and lobster, while the pledges did an amazing rendition of "Beta Sweetheart" for the women. Each of the women received a rose for her valuable help during rush. It was good to see some excellent rushers get their "thanks" from the house, and I hope all will be around to help with next year's rush.

Mehul Shah

*House trip to Mount  
Monadnock, the house on  
the peak of the mountain.*



### 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 Beta memories. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of *The Back Bay Beta*.

# NEWS

FRANK S. GARDNER '38 and his wife are enjoying retirement at Wake Robin, a life care community in Shelburne, Vermont. "I play tennis," writes Frank, "and we both enjoy the new indoor aquatic center." They also like to travel and were looking forward to a boat cruise in the Pacific Northwest. Frank occasionally sees DALE MORGAN '38 and his wife, Janet, at Middlebury alumni functions and reports that they are both well and active. Write to Frank at 602 Wake Robin Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482.

ALBERT H. CHESTNUT '39 has moved to Cambridge Village, 755 Renaissance Dr., Apt. 302, Williamsville, NY 14221-8047.

"My acting career continues apace," reports WALTER E. H. MASSEY II '51, who still performs as a regular on Animal Planet's *Lassie* series. He writes, "There was recently an episode about gun use in hunting, an issue close to my heart. Called *Open Season*, it won a world medal in the 41st international competition, youth program series, at the New York Festival. Also, I do the principal's voice in the much honored children's cartoon *Arthur*, which recently won an Emmy." Walter adds that he's glad the fraternity has gone sober. His address is 1951 Tupper St., Shaughnessy Village, Montreal H3H 1N6, CANADA.

After 44 years with Amsted Industries (the last as chairman, president, and chief executive officer), GORDON R. LOHMAN '55 has retired. Send your congratulations to 97 Brinker Rd., Barrington Hills, IL 60010.

ELLIS "Jim" BRAMAN '58 writes that he and several classmates had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend at WILLIAM AUSTIN's ('58) home in Rome, Georgia, in May 1998. "STAN and Nan GRAVES '58 flew in from Chicago, while GARY and Marilyn BLAKELEY '58 drove down from Philadelphia and ED and Annette BELL '58 drove in from Chevy Chase, Maryland. We spent time at the Austins' house on Lake Altoona, where we recalled our days of singing at the Beta house." Jim works for United Space Alliance and can be reached by e-mail at westtie@aol.com. He and his wife, Susan, reside at 1635 Candle Court, Titusville, FL 32796.

The May 1998 reunion of the class of '58 was so successful that plans are already being made for the next one in two or three

years, reports host WILLIAM H. AUSTIN JR. '58 (1 Shorter Circle, Rome, GA 30165-4257; whajim@aol.com). "We had a great time and reminisced about the days at 119 Bay State Road and the institute. Although most of us are retired or semiretired, we have been leading busy and interesting lives, and much of the conversation revolved around what we are up to now."

Stay in touch with EDWARD W. RICH '72 at 15803 Stornoway Dr., Spring, TX 77379.

ROBERT J. TRONNIER '73 writes, "I'm still working as an anesthesiologist at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital (16 years now). I'm married to Nancy, a nurse anesthetist. Our son, Ben, just turned 16 years old." Robert stopped by the house in June 1998 during the 25th anniversary reunion of the class of '73. "Everything seemed the same and different. I missed seeing anyone I knew from my years at MIT. Drop me a line or e-mail." His address is 1370 Alpine Pass, Golden Valley, MN 55416 (tronn004@aol.com).

"My wife, Jennifer, and I recently had our third boy," writes JOHN R. CHISHOLM '84. "Harrison Jacob Chisholm was born on March 2, 1999. The three boys are

keeping us quite busy!" John receives mail at 51 Longfellow Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481, and at jchisholm.acadian@mcimail.com.

CHRISTOPHER J. MORGEN '87 reports that his wife, Nathalie, recently opened a bath and home gift shop in their town of Findley Lake. "We are considering a bid to host the 2000 euchre tournament, so Betas will have a chance to visit the shop then. DAVE KRAMER '88 is exempt from being my partner, thus sparing him the indignity of being drawn into my tournament lifetime 0-2 match-play vortex." You can find out more about the tournament by writing to Christopher at 2654 Sunnyside Rd., P.O. Box 151, Findley Lake, NY 14736, or at morgen@cecomet.net.

JOHN E. SELL '91 can be reached at 6074 Paso Los Cerritos, San Jose, CA 95120.

Please note this new address for WILLIAM M. SCRUGGS II '92: 1040 Indianpipe Rd., Lake Orion, MI 48360.

NATHAN BOYD '96 also has a new address. He receives mail at 2606 Mayfair Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98109, and at boydn@alum.mit.edu.

## Rally Raises Money For Leukemia Society

(continued from page one)  
things, despite the obstacles.

Over the next 36 hours, Beta went to work to play its part in the fund-raising effort. Within 36 hours, 33 actives and pledges gave a total of \$652.50; 12 alumni gave a total of \$585; three neighbors and friends gave a total of \$25; and one extremely generous alum gave \$1737.50. The support we received was tremendous. Our pledges, actives, and alumni showed that they truly cared about Beta and its positive endeavors. In total, Beta raised \$3,000 for leukemia research.

Approximately 1,000 people attended the rally—the most amazing thing I have ever seen at MIT. At least three news cameras and several other reporters were there. Chuck Vest, Larry Bacow (MIT chancellor), Mike Trupiano (IFC president), several other IFC officers, the presidents of Dorm-Comm and the UA, Eric Snowberg (Cam-

bridge City Council hopeful), several other IFC officers, and I spoke about how MIT does good things and about how the few bad incidents should not reflect on the entire group. We definitely got some good press. An article in the *Boston Herald* noted that Beta Theta Pi had raised \$3,000 for the Leukemia Society of America in just 36 hours. When I handed the check to Phi Kappa Sigma's treasurer, the crowd cheered for several minutes.

In total, the event raised well over \$11,000. Thank you all very much for supporting us and participating. Thanks also to those who wrote letters to President Vest expressing an attitude shared by many of us. We definitely proved that weekend that Beta is strong, the IFC is strong, and MIT is strong. Congratulations to you all.

Extremely proud to be a Beta,  
Russ Spieler 1027