

# The Back Bay Beta

The Beta Upsilon Chapter  
of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity  
at the Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology

[www.beta-mit.org](http://www.beta-mit.org)

SPRING 2010

## Recognizing our strong support

In this issue of the *Back Bay Beta*, Chapter President Ari Miller '11 mentions the support that Beta Upsilon gets from the General Fraternity, chapter advisers, and our alumni board. I wanted to give some recognition to our volunteer team that is committed to the success of our Beta Upsilon Chapter.

### **Beta Upsilon Association: Our House Corporation and Alumni Association**

*President Herman Marshal '78.* Herman has been our president for 10 years. He has decided to step down from this role at our next annual meeting this summer. Happily, Herman will remain on our board for the foreseeable future. In addition to overall leadership, Herman has spent a lot of time on facilities and representing Beta in the MIT Association of Independent Living Groups.

*Vice President Mike Feinstein '82.* Yours truly. I've been involved with the Beta Upsilon Association in various roles since my graduation. My focus these days is on alumni relations. I also serve as the

treasurer of the General Fraternity and a member of Beta's board of trustees.

*Treasurer Frank Leibly '94.* Frank has done a great job of organizing our finances, handling insurance, and dealing with our various loans and grants from MIT.

*Secretary Phil LaFond '98.* In addition to filing our minutes and other documents, Phil has assisted with various facilities issues over the years.

*Chapter Financial Adviser Christian Hamer '94.* Christian assists the chapter treasurer in managing chapter finances and analyzing the budget.

*Alumni House Manager Raul-David "Retro" Poblano '01.* Retro is also the resident RA at the house, serving as a vital link between our association and the actives.

Other volunteers who have assisted our board in recent years include Bob Grant '64, Andrew Heitner '92, Jerry Hughes '98, Bryan Morrissey '99, and George Whitfield '03.

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The Beta main house decorated for the alumni Christmas party, which took place in December.

## Brothers reaffirm their commitment to chapter

It wasn't very long ago that I first ventured to Cambridge to explore MIT, this wondrous, overwhelming machine that seems to take in young high school hotshots and transform them into skilled engineers and scientists. I did not realize then that some of my most valuable experiences would not, in fact, be derived from late night p-setting and lectures by distinguished professors, but would take place closer to home. As I first sat on the stoop as a prefrash during CPW, I realized that Beta was a place where I could be myself. There's nowhere else quite like it. I have forged

friendships here that will last far into the future, built on the mutual respect, intellectual curiosity, and stress-free mentality that Beta cultivates.

The opportunities that Beta provides do not come without the work of this house's officers and residents. Working closely with the Beta Upsilon chapter's multifaceted alumni advisory board and representatives of the General Fraternity, the executive team and I have been developing a formal statement of the responsibilities of each member of our chapter. With every graduating class, it is

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## Brothers reaffirm their commitment

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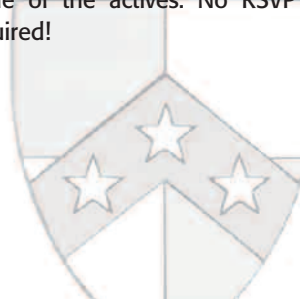
important that house expectations are reassessed and well-articulated to new members to ensure that Beta is able to sustain an intellectually stimulating, safe, and productive environment into the future.

The amount of dedication it takes to keep Beta alive and prosperous can seem daunting, but collaboration reaps its reward. By giving back, you are able to invest your own values and interests into the chapter. We each have the amazing opportunity to make this house our own. I am honored to take the role of president and to represent my fellow brothers, and I am grateful to have their support. Every brother who takes on a position in the house has the opportunity to improve our chapter and inspire its future leaders. I am excited to see the younger members of this house find their aspirations.

Yours in ~kai~,  
Ari Miller '11, 1119  
President

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity is hosting an open house on Friday, June 4, 2010, during reunion weekend from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the chapter house, 119 Bay State Road. We would love for you to drop by, tour the house, and meet some of the actives. No RSVP required!



## Long-term community service plans

Typically, community service consists of one or two major events during the semester. For spring 2010, we plan on doing things a little differently. Instead of simply organizing a couple of events, we're hoping to foster a longer-term relationship with a charity in Boston by working with them on a regular basis. Our charity of choice is called Haley House, located on Dartmouth Street, which provides a number of services for the underprivileged such as skills training, housing, and nourishment. We are hoping to send a contingent of 5-10 brothers ever Saturday, primarily to help in their soup kitchen, where we can provide food and company to those who otherwise may face significant isolation on the streets. We feel that one of the benefits of more regular visits is that, throughout the semester, more brothers will be able to attend. Previous one-off events have not fit with everyone's schedule: People often have sporting or academic commitments. With our new approach, we hope to change this and have all brothers attend at least one of the weekly events.

In addition, we're looking forward to participating in the "Back Bay Alley Rally" on April 24. This will bring together people from across our neighborhood to help clean the alleys and side streets of our won-

derful area, and it will allow us to meet with the broader Back Bay community.

However, the focal point of this semester's community service activities will be held during Greek Week. Since the beginning of last semester, we have been blessed with one of the best cooks on campus: Myles—chef, friend, mentor. As part of this semester's community service activities, we would like to share Myles' culinary delights with the wider campus when we hold a cook-off against one or more fraternities. The details need to be finalized (we're currently searching for a worthy competitor, with potential opponents coming from Delta Upsilon and Delta Tau Delta), but broadly, the event will consist of two or more chefs cooking in one of MIT's communal areas, with individuals paying for their output and then voting on who they believe to be best. We expect significant interest from fraternities, sororities, and the broader student community and expect to generate significant funds, which we can in turn donate to Haley House and other charities of our choice.

Yours in ~kai~,  
Tristan Delaney '11, 1121  
Stewart Douglas '13, 1140  
Community Service Chairs

## House boasts disco-funk band, Technicolor

Many musical projects have been birthed within the walls of Beta and taken root in our stage room in the Annex basement. The most recent collaboration has been Technicolor, a disco-funk band taking the MIT music scene by storm. The group includes Robert Boyd '10 on electric bass and lead vocals, Ari Miller '11 on keyboards and vocals (with a taste of trombone), Paul Jaffe '12 on drums, and Jabari Holloway '12 on electric guitar.

These four musicians bring together a wide array of musical experiences, weaving through the realms of jazz, funk, electronic, dance-rock and even ska. Paul and Ari's most recent work has been with the funk-jazz fusion quartet Intergalactic Space Gunk, backed up on bass by recent Beta alum Ryan Luersen '09. Jabari, Paul, and Ari are all members of the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, a big-band style group that performs twice a semester with the opportunity to work with a featured professional jazz artist for each concert.

With their plot for world domination well under way, Technicolor moves audiences with its heavy-hitting bass riffs, dirty synthesizers, and melodious vocal lines. Influence from '70s disco-funk and '80s synth-pop energetically climaxes into an unforgettable sonic experience. You can check out Technicolor's music at [www.facebook.com/TechnicolorBand](http://www.facebook.com/TechnicolorBand).



Technicolor is a new dance/funk band formed in January 2010. From left to right: Ari Miller '11, Robert Boyd '10, and Paul Jaffe '12.

Yours in ~kai~,  
Technicolor  
1110, 1119, 1128, 1131

## Brother hopes to help revitalize Detroit

I'm currently on a small hiatus from my studies at MIT, and I plan to come back in the fall ready to get right back into the game, most likely with a new major that I keep becoming more excited about—urban planning and studies. I have returned home to Detroit in my time off, and as you probably well know by now, the city isn't exactly in the best shape. The unemployment rate is over 25 percent, nearly a third of the land inside city limits is uninhabited, and about 47 percent of the city is functionally illiterate. As a teenager, I wanted nothing more than to get as far away from the suburbs of this wreck of a city as soon as possible, and MIT was my great escape. As with most things, though, it's all a matter of perspective, and I'm starting to see Detroit in a different light.

There has been a lot of media attention on Detroit and its woes lately, and I think it isn't just because people like to drag the failing city through the dirt. In a way, Detroit could be the model of things to come for other cities that were big industrial powerhouses in their time, so all eyes are on Detroit to see if it's doomed or if it can be revived and made functional again. In this way, Detroit is an odd sort of new frontier—there's a lot to discover, not because it's new, but because it's abandoned. There is this large dilapidated post-industrial city just sitting there waiting for people to come and make something out of it. Making Detroit functional again could be one of the most exciting projects in this

country, because you could be setting the example for cities that follow in its footsteps.

I've been working with a group called the Detroit Literacy Coalition during my time back at home, and they do really respectable work helping to educate adults in Detroit so that they are employable in today's economy. Having a well-educated and able workforce may be the first step in bringing commerce and jobs back to the city. I currently work as the tutor coordinator for their tutoring projects at institutional facilities such as rehab clinics and halfway homes, helping recently released inmates learn the skills necessary to be employable when they get back into the real world. It isn't the easiest job, seeing how it's always hard to coordinate volunteer work, and the student population isn't exactly the most motivated, but it's helped me realize that this kind of work is vital in Detroit right now, and a lot more has to be done.

I now plan to return to MIT to get a degree in urban studies and planning, and while I'm not sure that education is the specific venue in which I would want to help in the future, I do plan to return to Detroit, perhaps permanently, to assist in the revival effort after I graduate. Detroit might end up being the first city of a new age, and helping to shape that future is an exhilarating prospect for me.

Yours in ~kai~,  
Josh Bails '11, 1126

## Welcome to the spring pledge class of 2013!

I am honored to introduce to you the much-anticipated spring pledge class of 2013!

**Blake Wilson** knows multiple languages, having lived in different areas of the world. We hope he can add his international knowledge to the house. He plans to study either physics or nuclear engineering.

**Andy Kalenderian**, who comes from Windham, New Hampshire, is our oldest pledge. Andy is a sophomore studying electrical engineering.

Working alongside the last pledge educator, I have decided to change a few aspects of the pledge program. The biggest change is how many times the pledges meet every week. Instead of meeting once a week, I decided to push for two meetings a week. This way, the pledges and brothers have more chances to interact. In the past, there have been situations in which some pledges have not met the entire house or gotten to really know a certain brother. I want a stronger brother and pledge relationship, so that by the end of the program, both the pledges and brothers should

really get to know one another and be excited to be a part of this great fraternity.

Another change is the after-meeting dinners that we will be having. The intention behind this is not only for the pledges to get a better chance to know each other, but also to give brothers even more opportunities to hang out with the pledges. So far, these dinners have been very successful and fun, something to always look forward to after meetings.

Aside from this, I intend to maintain the same pledge program that was used last semester. The main focus will still be on a stronger incorporation of the responsibilities and tasks that are demanded of Betas.

I am excited about our spring pledge class and am looking forward to their future contribution to the house. It is my hope that with their participation in Beta, they will excel in whatever they do in the future.

Yours in ~kai~,  
Victor Nevarez '12, 1127  
Pledge Educator

## Improving Accountability

In addition to planning the eye, swan songs, and the house trip, the vice president's main role is to ensure that other members of the house are fulfilling their duties as officers and members of this chapter. This semester, we are focusing on improving accountability and distributing responsibility more evenly throughout the house.

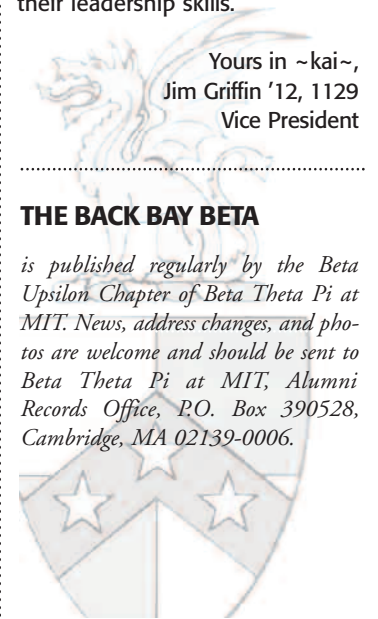
To meet this goal, the Kai Committee drafted a membership pledge that was signed by every member of the chapter. The purpose of the pledge was to spell out the responsibilities and consequences for shirking them to every member of the Beta Upsilon Chapter. The Kai Committee hopes that this simple but explicit reminder of Beta's expectations will ensure that the chapter remains strong for years to come.

On a more exciting note, groups of brothers are planning to attend several of the Beta Theta Pi leadership conferences this summer. I'm looking forward to attending the Wooden Institute with two of my pledge brothers this July. The Wooden Institute gives members of Beta Theta Pi an opportunity to meet brothers from other chapters and develop their leadership skills.

Yours in ~kai~,  
Jim Griffin '12, 1129  
Vice President

### THE BACK BAY BETA

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# Beta Upsilon Alumni Send Their News

"No real news," observes **Donn W. Barber '42**. "Just read about the 100th in 2013. Wish it was this year, but I can hope I'm able to attend three years from now. I don't get any younger." Catch up with Donn at 1207 Greenbriar Lane, West Grove, PA 19390; or by e-mail at [crdoba@aol.com](mailto:crdoba@aol.com).

"Very sorry to read of **Buch Loesch** and **Bob**

**Danner's** deaths," writes **Robert Peck '44**. "Bob was a great friend in the Brookline days and a great chapter president in the 119 days. With Storrs' and Toland's deaths, it seems much of the past is slipping past. But they were grand times, and for me it continues. Looks like the chapter is doing very well. Also nice to see Donn Barber is still active and energetic." Bob can be reached at 29

Buckham Point Rd., Yarmouth, ME 04096; [rpeck2@maine.rr.com](mailto:rpeck2@maine.rr.com).

"Priscilla and I have moved," reports **J. Ray Bowen '57**. "We now reside at Skyline at First Hill, a CRCC, located in Seattle's central core. Our address is: 725 9th Ave., #1204, Seattle, WA 98104. E-mail me at [bowen5324@comcast.net](mailto:bowen5324@comcast.net)"



Nick Hunter-Jones '11 (left) and Robert Boyd '10 enjoy the first warm day of the year on the steps of the Annex.



Jim Griffin '12 (left), Jon Mendoza '11, Robert Boyd '10, and Dodd Gray '10 walk down Bay State Road on a cold February night.

## Recognizing our strong support, cont.

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In addition to our association, the chapter has a roster of advisers overseen by the General Fraternity's district chief, Ben Swartz, UConn '05.

### Chapter Advisers

Nathan Sanders, Arizona '94, is chapter counselor and heads our advisory team, advising the chapter president.

Christian Hamer, MIT '94, is also the General Fraternity's financial adviser to the chapter.

Victor Sinow, MIT '08, is the chapter pledge education adviser. Victor is also organizing our chapter's 100th anniversary celebration in 2013, as mentioned in our last issue. For more details, contact Victor at [vsinow22@gmail.com](mailto:vsinow22@gmail.com).

Mike Feinstein, MIT '82, serves as the recruitment adviser, assisting the rush chairmen with rush plans.

Andrew Redmond, Emory '05, is the chapter risk management adviser, assisting the chapter with implementing the correct risk management policies.

Paul Schreier, Nebraska '01, is the vice

president adviser, working with the executive team to improve overall chapter accountability.

Kudos to Ben and Nathan for assembling such a strong group, and thanks to all of our volunteers for their generous donation of time! It's great having an advisory team composed of Betas from across the country, giving us new perspectives on how to address issues. Thanks also to our chapter counselor emeritus, Chris McGill, now director of fraternity & sorority life and leadership programs at Northeastern University. When Chris worked at MIT, she formed our initial advisory group. Now she keeps an eye on Beta's new colony at Northeastern!

Even with this strong support, we need help from you. Although all of these people are volunteers, your financial support for the Beta Upsilon Association, MIT's Independent Residence Development Fund, and Beta Theta Pi's Beta Leadership Fund provides necessary financial resources for maintaining our facilities, financing renovation, and providing invaluable leadership and training programs for our active members and advisory team. For more information or to make a contribution, check out these websites:

**Beta Upsilon Association:** <http://www.beta-mit.org/publicpay1.asp>

**MIT's IRDF:** <http://web.mit.edu/irdf/>

**Beta Leadership Fund:** <http://www.betatheta-pi.org/foundation/guide-to-giving/beta-leadership-fund>

In addition, we are always looking for volunteers to become more active in our association. We need people with every type of expertise and experience level. You don't need to live in the Boston area, as much of our work can be done online or over the phone. We especially want to invite our more recent alumni to get involved and give back to the chapter. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information about the various ways of donating, contact me at [mike\\_feinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_feinstein@yahoo.com).

Thanks once again for your support and for the strong support we receive from our volunteers. Please consider making a difference and help us help Beta Upsilon continue to thrive.

Yours in ~kai~,

Mike Feinstein '82, 753

Vice President

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