

the back bay beta

BETA THETA PI AT MIT | APRIL 2013



BETA UPSILON'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

As you hopefully know, this year the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi will celebrate its 100th anniversary. We're hoping that you'll be able to join many of your fellow MIT brothers in Boston over the weekend of [October 4-6, 2013](#), to commemorate the founding of our chapter. It'll be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet the current actives, and learn about the present state and future plans for the chapter and house.

For those outside the Boston area, blocks of rooms at a number of nearby hotels have been reserved for the weekend and can be booked

now. Please see the [Beta Upsilon website](#) for specifics: www.beta-mit.org/calendar_detail.asp?event_id=590.

More than 50 brothers have already indicated they will likely attend all or part of the weekend, and we hope that you will join us to celebrate this historic milestone for our chapter.

Final details, including events, prices, and registration information will be posted as they become available on the Beta Upsilon website at www.beta-mit.org.

Yours in __kai__,
Phil Johnson '91

While specific plans and prices for the weekend are still being formulated, the basic agenda will be as follows:

Friday, October 4, 2013

- Informal Reception at the Beta House

Saturday, October 5, 2013

- Prearranged events during the day, such as tours of MIT and Boston, cultural outings, and an informal gathering at or near the Beta house. In the evening, an anniversary banquet will take place at the MIT Media Lab.

Sunday, October 6, 2013

- Closing brunch at Beta house



The Egan Clan: Ben Roberts '03, Alex Rodriguez '00, Mike Vogel '02, Mehul Shah '02, and Matt Saunders '03.

SEVEN REFOUNDING FATHERS TAKE ACTION

As the spring semester begins, we are moving ahead full speed with all of the plans to restart our Beta Upsilon Chapter at MIT. The seven re-founding fathers of our chapter are focused on recruiting and building the initial bonds of a new chapter, with the help of our onsite coordinator, Ryan Gee (see an additional article from Ryan to the left). Ryan has done a great job building an active advisory team that will keep the undergraduates on track as the new chapter grows and develops.

On the alumni side, we continue to meet with alumni around the country to discuss their support of the chapter. More on that activity in a future issue. At the same time, we have active groups of volunteers who are working on fundraising, facilities, alumni relations, and plans for our 100th anniversary, October 4-6, in Boston. I hope to see you all there at this momentous occasion—sure to be a once-in-a-Beta-lifetime experience.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with the various aspects of restarting the chapter. If you have an interest in helping in any of these areas, please drop me a note at mike_feinstein@yahoo.com, or send a note directly to the person leading one of these efforts. Each of them is writing an article in this *Back Bay Beta* to update you on their efforts.

Lastly, I hope you will send us some alumni news. We hear from our alumni that this is their favorite part of the newsletter, and we can't make it interesting without you! So, please take a moment to fill out and return the enclosed form with what you have been doing and any Betas with whom you have kept in touch.

I welcome your feedback and look forward to seeing you in Boston this October!

Yours in __kai__,
Mike Feinstein '82
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RESTARTING BETA UPSILON CHAPTER AT MIT

Brothers:

We are now six months into our restart of the Beta Upsilon Chapter, and I would love to share with all of you our results thus far. Currently, we have seven initiated Betas at MIT. They range from freshmen to graduate students and are all actively involved within the campus community. The colony has members in ROTC, varsity lacrosse, Traders@MIT, and outdoors club. Having a broad scope of campus represented in our founding class has furthered our spring recruitment as well. In the second week of classes, the men already feel confident about four more individuals to add to the chapter.

Additionally, the colony hosted recruitment events throughout February and will continue to add quality men all spring.

Outside of recruitment—which remains the number-one priority—the colony is striving to further its brotherhood and give back through community service. Potential brotherhood events include a weekend hike in the White Mountains and sailing in Bos-

ton harbor. If you all have favorite brotherhood events from your time at Beta, feel free to pass them along!

While the journey to this point has been challenging, there are a lot of reasons to feel upbeat about our successes. We have a very young group of founding fathers including four freshmen and one sophomore. We are poised to add four more freshmen to our ranks, which would place our "2012 pledge class" as one of the largest on campus. Last, but not least, we have all of you. The alumni support for this restart has been phenomenal. Without your support, restarting Beta Upsilon would not be possible. Of the last four fraternal organizations that attempted to start chapters at MIT, only two have lasted. The determining variable: strong alumni support. Thank you all; I feel blessed to be part of the larger team. Please consider attending initiation on April 21, 2013.

Yours in __kai__,
Ryan Gee, Kettering B'11

alumni updates

BETA UPSILON BROTHERS SHARE THEIR NEWS AND NOTES WITH US

Donn W. Barber '42 attended his 70th Reunion and spent a couple hours at the Beta house, where he had a good discussion with a number of other alumni, including **Mike Feinstein '82**. Reconnect with Donn at 1207 Greenbriar Ln., West Grove, PA 19390; evdoba@aol.com.

Arthur A. Wasserman '51 moved in April 2012 to a senior residence called St. John's on the Lake. He continues part-time legal practice from there, taking case assignments from the Wisconsin State Public Defenders Office. Keep in touch with Art by writing to 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Apt. 16A, Milwaukee, WI 53202; or by sending email to aawasserman@att.net.

Alfred E. Wechsler '55 is still living in Winchester, Massachusetts, but is spending winters in Texas where one of his daughters lives. He retired some time ago, but occasionally does some consulting and volunteer work. Catch up with Al at 7 Wainwright Rd., #70, Winchester, MA 01890; awechsler@aol.com.

"I'm leading a fairly quiet life," reports **Robert C. Brigham '56**. "I continue to run half marathons, but I'll be taking a short hiatus for knee surgery. I thought I was immune. Although I'm retired, I still teach one course a semester. This coming year, it will be linear algebra in the fall and advanced calculus in the spring. I teamed up with a running buddy who is a former CSI to write a murder mystery: *Math is Murder* (it's available online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other online booksellers). Thanks to all of you who are working so hard to get Beta Upsilon going again!" Get in touch with Bob at 614 W. King St., Orlando, FL 32804; brigham@cs.ucf.edu.

Ward D. Halverson '56 was glad to hear that things are really looking up for the chapter! He is doing well, too, and is happy to be "semi" retired. Send greetings to him at 25

Hutchinson St., Cambridge, MA 02138; wdhalverson@aol.com.

"Annette and I purchased a new summer home in the Rossmoor retirement community in Walnut Creek, California," writes **Edwin C. Bell '58**. "If you're in the San Francisco Bay Area between June and November, let me know, and we can get together (625 Biltmore Way, #804, Coral Gables, FL 33134; edwinbell@aol.com)."

Richard L. Horrtor '62 wrote, "MIT was a huge part of my life, and the Betas were a major part of that time. Still today, members of our pledge class are best friends. I can't imagine MIT without a Beta Chapter!" Richard attended his 50th Reunion last June and was able to catch up with most of his pledge class. Write to him at 1270 Lida St., Pasadena, CA 91103; rndhorrtor@earthlink.net.

"Jackie and I live in Rossmoor, an outstanding retirement community in the hills on west side of Walnut Creek, California," reports **James W. Giffin '64**. "The Grants (**Robert '64**), Monslers (**Michael '64**), and Lardners (**Michael '64**) all live in the area. I've had contact with **Alex Ross '61** and **Jerry Tomanek '67**, who also live in the area. My son, John, married Monica Taylor in 2004 on the MIT campus. The reception was in the old Walker Memorial where I had my first MIT exam. We had a Harvard-brought fresh salmon he caught. Billy was down from Seattle on an extended massive camping trip. Jerry and Alex also attended. Jerry is an excellent photographer from MIT course days. Alex is in drama in Ross. Jackie, my wife since 1963, a Beta girl knew all. Brooke Roseler quickly became one of us. Great time." Stay in touch with James at 1305



Dylan Hirsch-Shell '03, Miguel Rivera '02, Ken Conley '01, Andrew Hogue '01, Steve Lefkowitz '00, Jeff Leblanc '03, Isaac Dimmer '02, and Alex Rodriguez '00 in the chapter room decorated for Christmas.

Singingwood Ct., Apt. 5, Walnut Creek, CA 94595; gifdad@msn.com.

Roger W. Lacy '79 wrote: "A big thank you to our volunteer officers! We appreciate your work to make Beta a reality for the next generation. I am still working at Boeing, in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania—and have made a milestone at home: our youngest son went off to college this past fall! I now have one at Northeastern, University of the Arts, and Yale graduate school." Send congratulations to 1002 Bala Farms Dr., West Chester, PA 19382; lacyhome@yahoo.com.

"48-years-old and I'm moving back in with my parents," writes **Alexander A. Romeo '86**. "My wife, four kids, and I have just finished building a house on my father's land in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Stop by and checkout our new digs—62 Buttonball Rd., Old Lyme, CT 06371!"

"After 23 years in Erie, I have relocated to Chicago as part of headquarters relocation with my division at GE," reports **Christopher J. Morgen '87**. "My family and I are living in Isle—feel free to visit (5357 Tall Tree Ct., Isle, IL 60532)—or you can look for me at the Harold's Chicken Shack or White Castle in Aurora."

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

..... www.beta-mit.org

As our efforts to restart our chapter are in full force, what better time to visit our website and update your information!

Let us know what you've been up to, check out upcoming events at the chapter, and look through photos from past and present events.

Feel free to email us at alumnirecords@beta-mit.org with photos or news items you wish to see on the site or in the next issue of the *Back Bay Beta*.

HELP IGNITE THE RESTART OF BETA UPSILON CHAPTER AT MIT!

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

John L. Crandall '42
December 10, 2012

Robert D. Peck '44
August 10, 2012

Ledyard P. Hale II '48
May 11, 2012

Richard J. Hall '48
notified July 2012

John A. Lyden Jr. '55
November 1, 2012

William M. Fitzgibbon '56
July 30, 2012

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Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News, address changes, and photos are welcome and should be sent to Alumni Records Office, Beta Theta Pi at MIT, P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.