

# the back bay beta

BETA THETA PI AT MIT | JANUARY 2014



## BETA THETA PI CENTENNIAL—CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!



*Beta Upsilon brothers celebrate the chapter's centennial at the MIT Media Lab.*

From October 4-6, 2013, more than 170 Betas and guests celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. Coming from around the country and across the Atlantic, MIT Betas renewed old acquaintances and made new ones during days of celebration.

The semi-official Euchre tournament and alumni reunion was held concurrently with the centennial. Organized by Alan “Tex” Laves ’82, the Euchre tournament is normally held in November in New Orleans. Due to the centennial, the event was moved to Boston, which allowed even greater participation. See the separate write-up from Brother Tex in this newsletter about the Euchre tournament, which began on Wednesday, October 2.

The centennial began with an informal reception at the Main House at 119 Bay State Road. After more than \$1 million in renovations over the summer of 2013, the Main House looked better than ever. Work completed included new bathrooms, a redesigned RA suite in Fourth Front, and a completely reconfigured basement—including a new kitchen, seating area, storage, Main House laundry, and soon-to-be completed media room and back patio. Attendees were impressed with the work, and many thanks go to Neil Harrigan ’90 for overseeing the project with such a tight budget and deadline.

The active members of the chapter hosted the Friday reception, which allowed returning alumni to connect before heading out to dinner at various Boston restaurants. At least 13 Betas hosted tables at

different restaurants, giving alumni a chance to mingle with brothers and sample some fine Boston cuisine.

On Saturday, alumni took part in different activities or explored Boston on their own. A group of alumni got an early start with a morning Duck Tour of Boston, a great way to see the city from land and water. Later in the day, two groups of alumni took part in a guided tour of MIT, which ended with a private tour of the astrophysics lab of Herman Marshall ’78 in the Center for Space Research.

The climax of the centennial was the cocktail hour and banquet in the beautiful meeting space on the top floor of MIT’s Media Lab. Alumni had a chance to socialize before the banquet, taking in a gorgeous view of the Charles River from the outdoor deck. During the banquet, Host Mike Feinstein ’82 introduced our fraternal 25s and 50s (as well as four fraternal 60s—John Kern ’50, John “Pete” Seagle ’55, Al Wechsler ’55, and Bob Malster ’56).

After a delicious buffet dinner from Cambridge’s acclaimed Summer Shack restaurant, alumni heard supportive remarks from Director of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation Jonathan Brant, Miami ’75, and former District Chief and member of Beta’s Board of Trustees Ben Swartz, Connecticut ’05. Both acknowledged the strong improvement in the chapter and the impact of Beta’s award-winning leadership programs on the undergraduates.

Andy Breed, Kettering ’12, the on-site Colony Development Coordinator,

discussed some of the challenges of recruiting the initial chapter members and his pride in the quality of the young men who took the plunge to restart the chapter. Colony President Fernando Gonzalez ’14 entertained the alumni with his tales of joining Beta while giving the alumni a feeling for his unique spirit and strong enthusiasm.

After his remarks to summarize the restart and Centennial Campaign results to date, Mike Feinstein ’82 re-introduced Andy Breed, who invited everyone to attend the upcoming 175th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi in Oxford, Ohio, August 7-10, 2014. More details about the convention can be found at [www.betathetapi.org/events/175th-convention.html](http://www.betathetapi.org/events/175th-convention.html).

Dean Henry Humphreys, Senior Associate Dean for Residential Life and Dining at MIT, delivered the keynote. He expressed strong support for the fraternity movement at MIT, and, in particular, for the values-based focus of the new chapter. Dean Humphreys reiterated the benefits of a fraternal experience while an undergraduate, and acknowledged the strides that the chapter had already made during its restart to date.

To conclude the banquet, Brother Feinstein was surprised with an impromptu “circle jerk” ceremony (the singing of “Wooglin to the Pledge” and “The Beta Postscript” while raucously dancing in a circle!) and the presentation of a commemorative print to thank him for his efforts in leading the Centennial Campaign and centennial committee. All of the alumni

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

## THANKS TO OUR CENTENNIAL PLANNERS!

The Beta Upsilon 100th anniversary was organized by a committee of Mike Feinstein '82 (chairman), Alan "Tex" Laves '82, Phil Johnson '91, Phil LaFond '98, Brian DiVasta '95, Ken Bryan '88, and Herman Marshall '78. The team met frequently (and virtually) for 10 months prior to the event—first monthly, then bi-monthly, then weekly—to ensure everything would go smoothly during the celebration week. The team worked together on promoting the weekend; working with MIT; creating the web details and registration; developing the agenda; coordinating with MIT, guests, and actives; arranging the catering; and scheduling the events. Tex did double-duty as organizer of the 2013 Euchre tournament at the same time, ensuring a smooth integration of two legendary events. John Chisholm '84 took on the bar chairman role as the event approached and ensured a smooth setup and a great selection of beverages. It was a lot of work and the team felt very satisfied with the centenary weekend. As Mike Feinstein was also the chairman of the 75th anniversary celebration in 1988, he will "retire" before the 125th anniversary celebration in 2038 ... Any volunteers ready yet to chair that event?

Ken Bryan '88

## BETA CENTENNIAL: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

and guests in attendance had a chance to sign the print to thank Brother Feinstein for his efforts.

On Sunday morning, the undergraduates hosted a sumptuous brunch in the Main House, giving alumni one last chance to reminisce, strengthen fraternal bonds, and tour the renovated house. Many local alumni brought their families to the brunch, adding even more energy to the conclusion of a very successful centennial celebration!

For a full list of centennial attendees, see [www.beta-mit.org](http://www.beta-mit.org). On the site, you will also find a large photo archive for the centennial ([www.beta-mit.org/public5.asp](http://www.beta-mit.org/public5.asp)). Thanks to Robert Harris, MIT '82 (and Kansas Beta), for taking so many wonderful photos during the weekend.

Mike Feinstein '82

## CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: HELP SUPPORT BETA

The centennial celebration in Boston also marked an important milestone for the Centennial Campaign, a capital-raising campaign to support the restart of the Beta Upsilon Chapter and renovation of our facilities at 119 and 120 Bay State Road, Boston. At the Saturday evening banquet, Campaign Chairman Mike Feinstein '82 announced that more than \$1.9 million had been raised to date, toward a goal of \$2.5 million. Lead donors in the campaign include David Koch '62, Charles Koch '57, Mike Feinstein '82, Bill Koch '62, David Milich '82, and Fred Wilson '83. Most gifts to the campaign are being made in five-year pledges, either benefiting the Beta Upsilon Association directly (not tax deductible, but most cash efficient for the house corporation) or the Beta Theta Pi Foundation (a tax-deductible giving option for donors).

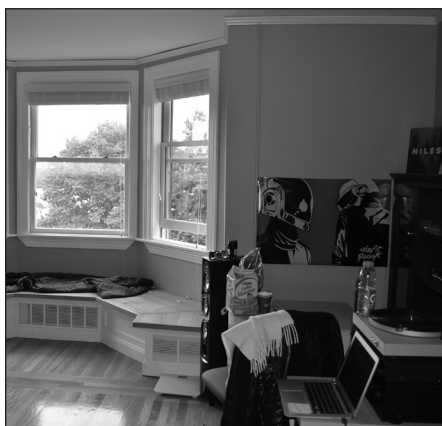
The first results of the campaign were on display during the centennial. Most importantly, the chapter restart has gone very well, with a great group of refunding fathers on board. They have received fantastic on-site support from Ryan Gee, Kettering '11, and Andy Breed, Kettering '12. Ryan and Andy's efforts in restarting the chapter are supported by campaign funds. The renovated Main House at 119

Bay State Road has not looked grander in the more-than-60 years that it has been a Beta house. New bathrooms, a new kitchen, renovated bedrooms, all new furniture, a reconfigured boiler room, new laundry facilities, and more were also supported by campaign funds.

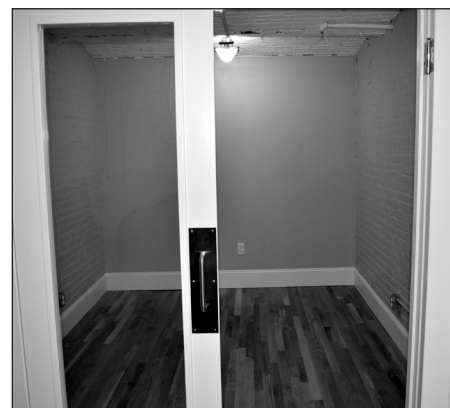
There is more to do; the chapter restart is not yet complete, and the annex at 120 Bay State Road is targeted for renovation beginning in the summer of 2014. With more than 20 Betas expected to live in the facility starting next fall, the chapter is well on its way back to prominence on the MIT campus.

Thanks to the hard work of the centennial committee and the generosity of our donors to date, we have achieved so much. But, we also need your support to attain our goals. Please support the campaign with a five-year pledge. In the more-than-60 years since purchasing the Main House, this is the first time we have raised money in a capital campaign from our alumni. Our facility renovation needs to be completed in order for us to remain competitive at MIT. For information on how to contribute, please contact me at [mike\\_feinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_feinstein@yahoo.com).

Mike Feinstein '82



*Fourth floor rear of 119 Bay State Road*



*A new study/conference room in the basement of 119 Bay State Road*



*The library/chapter room in 119 Bay State Road.*



# BETA EUCHRE TOURNAMENT THRIVES IN BOSTON

Each year for the past 18 years, Betas from the '80s and '90s have met for an informal reunion known as the "Euchre tournament." We normally meet in New Orleans for a long weekend filled with friendship, fine food and drink, and, of course, cards. This year, we held the Euchre tournament in Boston in conjunction with the chapter's centennial weekend.

The weekend started early, with Betas flying in Tuesday night and Wednesday morning in time for the Wednesday kick-off lunch. Wednesday night, 16 Betas enjoyed drinks at The Cask 'n' Flagon, followed by dinner at Hamersley's Bistro. Thursday morning we played Ultimate Frisbee at the Barry field on the MIT campus, and then Thursday afternoon almost 24 Betas met for happy hour at Scoozi's in Kenmore Square.

The Euchre tournament itself was held in a private room at Uno's in Kenmore Square. 25 Betas, with graduation years ranging from 1979 to 2012, competed in the seeding round Thursday night, during which players were randomly paired with different partners and different opponents over the course of eight rounds. The group was fortified by the open bar, with drinks delivered by Cairin, our own dedicated waitress, and by the pizza buffet. When the dust settled, Jim Cureton '89 finished the seeding round with a sparkling 8-0 record, closely followed by John Springsteen '91 and John O'Leary '84, both at 7-1. Cureton chose Tom Rooze '85, (the individual 5-seed), creating the top-seeded team. Defending champions Bob Ramstad '90 and Frank Leibly '93 who had won the tournament three of the last four years, both stumbled somewhat in the seeding round, but still earned the 5-seed and the final bye in the opening round.

The tournament resumed Friday morning in its normal double-elimination format. Two top seeds fell early, with both Rooze/Cureton (1-seed) and Springsteen/Obst (3-seed) going 0-2. The winners' bracket semi-final featured the surprising match-up of Rob Boye '88 and Rob Mentle '88, the 6-seed, versus Bill Chesterson '82 and me, the 9-seed. Boye/Mentle won the match and ended Friday 4-0, waiting to see who would emerge from the losers' bracket to join them in the championship round. Play wound down at 5:00 p.m. so that everyone could walk over to 119 Bay State Road for the official start of centennial weekend. After the Friday night group dinners, much of

the group reconvened at Cornwall's in Kenmore Square for a few late-night drinks.

Saturday morning, the losers' bracket semi-final was the heavyweight matchup of Ramstad (three finals appearances, three wins) and Leibly (six finals appearances, four wins) versus Bob Struble '85 (five finals appearances, three wins) and Dave Kramer '88 (four finals appearances, no wins), with Struble/Kramer advancing to the championship round 10-7, 10-5. However, in the finals, Boye/Mentle were too much for Struble/Kramer, bringing home the championship 10-7, 4-10, 10-3. It was the first championship for both Boye and Mentle, but not their first finals appearance, having finished second in 2010. It marked the sixth-straight year that the winner of the winners' bracket had won the tournament. Rookie of the Year honors went to Tom Hauer '79 and Roger Lacy '79, who finished DFL. And we raised more than \$626 for the Beta Theta Pi Foundation thanks to Uno's "Dough Rai\$ers" charity rebate program.

Pictures from this year's Euchre tournament (and previous years' tournaments) can be seen on the Beta Upsilon website at [www.beta-mit.org/public5.asp](http://www.beta-mit.org/public5.asp)

The Euchre tournament will return to New Orleans in the fall of 2014; as is customary, the date will be chosen by the defending champions. We will revert to our normal schedule, with a Thursday group dinner, Friday morning golf and disc golf, Friday night seeding round, and Saturday tournament. There will also be a Friday dinner for those not playing cards. If you want to play cards, the game takes 10 minutes to learn, and we don't play for money. If you don't want to play cards, come hang out, eat, and drink with us anyway. Bring a pledge brother and join us next year in New Orleans. For more information, contact Tex Laves at [atalaves@akingump.com](mailto:atalaves@akingump.com).

Alan "Tex" Laves '82



*Bob Struble '85, John O'Leary '84, Dave Kramer '88, and Tom Rooze '85 at the 2013 Euchre tournament in Boston.*

## 2013 FINAL RESULTS ARE IN ...

... with team record and team seeding:

1. Rob Boye '88 / Rob Mentle '88 (5-0) (6-seed)
2. Bob Struble '85 / Dave Kramer '88 (3-2) (2-seed)
3. Bob Ramstad '90 / Frank Leibly '93 (3-2) (5-seed)
4. Ken Bryan '88 / Jay Watkins '90 (3-2) (7-seed)
5. Bill Chesterson '82 / Alan Laves '82 (3-2) (9-seed)
6. Dave Lineman '85 / Kee Wee '89 / Jeff Dardarian '99 (1-2) (8-seed)
7. Robert Harris '82 / Alex Romeo '86 (1-2) (4-seed)
8. Andy Breed (Kettering) '12 / Mike McGovern '89 (1-2) (11-seed)
9. Tom Rooze '85 / Jim Cureton '89 (0-2) (1-seed)
10. Andy Obst '90 / John Springsteen '91 (0-2) (3-seed)
11. Tom Hauer '79 / Roger Lacy '79 (0-2) (10-seed)

## CURRENT & CLASSIC BETA PHOTOS NOW ONLINE!

One of the most fun parts of planning for the Beta Upsilon centennial was collecting and putting online a bunch of classic Beta photos from the over the years. I dug out a bunch of old rush books from my years (1987-1991) and scanned those so they could be shared online. Then Ken Bryan '88 added a lot of other great shots from his time in the house

(and, unlike mine, not blurry), including more rush books, pictures from past Euchre tournaments, and even some from the 75th celebration in 1988. We gathered up the links to these pictures, along with lots of great pictures from the centennial weekend—including many great ones taken by Robert Harris '82—and added them to [www.beta-mit.org/public5.asp](http://www.beta-mit.org/public5.asp).

Do you have pictures from your time in the Beta house, or from times you've spent with your Beta brothers over the years? If they're online (Flickr or Facebook) let us know, and we'll add the links to the Beta Upsilon site so others can see and enjoy, or you can send me your photos and I'll upload them so all can see. Email your links or photos to [pjohnson@alum.mit.edu](mailto:pjohnson@alum.mit.edu).

Phil Johnson '91



*New members of the Beta Upsilon Chapter! L to R (standing): Harihar Subramanyam '16, Jake Wachlin '16, Fernando Rivera-Gonzales '15, Martin York '16, and Luke Verdi '16; (seated): Kyle Beeks '16, Youyang Gu '15, Peter Haine '16, and Dan Getty '16.*



*(l to r) Back: Bob Labarre '83, Roger Lacy '79, Kevin Crystal '79, John Kerins '80, David Milich '82, Tom Hauser '79, Paul Rothman '80, David Shapiro '82, Kenneth Schoendorf '81, Steven Adams '80, Herman Marshall '78; Front: Steve Silberberg '83, Robert Harris '82, Alan "Tex" Laves '82, Marc Breton '80*



*Victor Lopez '17, Miguel Medrano '17, and John La '17*



*Phil Johnson '91, Alex Chachkes '91, John Springsteen '91, Andy Obst '90, and Frank Aguirre '91*



*David Shapiro '82 and Craig Richards '83*



*Mead Wyman '62, James Draper '62, Richard Horttor '62, and Richard Williamson '61*



*Ken Bryan '88 (far right, clapping hands) leading the "Beta Cheer" to honor Mike Feinstein '82.*



*Brian DiVasta '95, Ethan Close '96, Neil Best '95, Alan Cockern '95, and Michael Miller '96*





Anne Kern, John Kern '50, Nancy Wechsler, Alfred Wechsler '55, Dorothy "Dodie" Seagle, John "Pete" Seagle '55, Bob Malster '56, and Alma Berson



Robert Kukura '84, Dave Lineman '85, John Chisholm '84, and Alex Romeo '86



Lampros Fatsis '77 and Tom Hauer '79



Lei "Crash" Tung '86, Mike McGovern '89, Neil Harrigan '90, and Earl "Jay" Watkins '90



Steven Silberberg '83, Mike Feinstein '82, and Alan "Tex" Laves '82



Stephen Yeretsky '59, Richard Carpenter '64, Mead Wyman '62, Richard Horttor '62, Allan MacLaren '60, David Korkosz '62, Bob Grant Jr. '64, and Richard Williamson '61



Patrick Fowler '83 and David Milich '82



Philip LaFond '98 & Sydney LaFond, class of 2034.



Valerie Bloomberg, Mark Bloomberg '80, David Milich '82, Diana Milich, Alan "Tex" Laves '82, Daemie Laves, Gary "Hondo" Henderson '82, and Elaine Henderson



John Kerins '80 & Marc Breton '80 examining the family tree (pledge family histories)



Earl "Jay" Watkins '90, Marc Breton '80, Andy Breed, Kettering '12, Albert "Jay" Coulson '94, Mike Feinstein '82

# alumni updates

BETA UPSILON BROTHERS SHARE THEIR NEWS AND NOTES WITH US

**Fred Weitz '51** wrote: "A goodly share of my working life was spent starting and running Life Care Services Corp., which develops and manages continuing care retirement communities throughout the country. Notwithstanding that background, Emily and I have decided we like our home in the woods overlooking the Raccoon River too much to leave after 45 years here. So we're planning to live out our lives in our home here in West Des Moines, Iowa. We are both in good health, but Emily has broken both hips, so our travels are substantially reduced—but not eliminated! We'd welcome any opportunity to see the remaining '51ers." Reconnect with Fred at 400 Locust St., Suite 830, Des Moines, IA 50309.

"I finally closed on the sale of my house," reported **Arthur A. Wasserman '52**. "I have enjoyed living in St. John's on the Lake Retirement Community for the past year. My health is holding up alright. I gave two recitals of German art-songs at St. John's in the past six months—vocal cords still work! All the best to the new Betas at MIT." Catch up with Arthur by writing to 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Ste. 16A, Milwaukee, WI 53202; or by sending email to aawasserman@att.net.

**Donald B. Miller '53** retired to the North Georgia Mountains near the Great Smoky National Park. He is enjoying retirement and reasonably good health. He's involved in trying to stay ahead of keeping a house, yard, and toys in good condition. Donald spends a lot of time visiting doctors' offices. He lives on a lake and enjoys all the activities (two boats, swimming, wood turning, and photographing sunsets). Donald wrote, "Anyone visiting North Georgia—let's get together! The door is always open." Contact Donald by writing to 1111 Hwy 75, Hiawassle, GA 30546.

**John T. Sutton '55** wrote to us in May 2013 and reported: "This is our 50th year here in Maine and we're enjoying retirement with community involvements, railroad transportation interests, and functions of the MIT Club of Maine when we can. Best of luck with restarting the chapter!" Get in touch with him at 559 West Road, Belgrade, ME 04917; jtsutton@roadrunner.com.

**Ward Halverson '56** and his wife, Michelle, spent seven weeks in France in mid-May through June. Email Ward to hear about their trip at wdhalverson@aol.com.

## DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

**Richard H. Sanders '34**

January 7, 2013

**Charles C. Loomis '43**

July 14, 2011

**Donald P. Kahn '46**

August 10, 2013

**Joseph N. Sherrill Jr. '51**

October 4, 2013

**W. Blake Foster '60**

June 25, 2013

**David I. Davies '69**

notified June 2013

**Sterling G. Brisbin Jr. '77**

August 7, 2013

## A CURRENT BETA'S CENTENNIAL EXPERIENCE

My favorite part of the weekend was looking back. Sure I wasn't there for any of the stories I heard over the weekend, but I could appreciate them nonetheless. I got to hear about the fun times brothers had hanging out with one another. I got to look back and see pictures of the Christmas parties, where brothers would bring a massive tree trunk into the house, and stand it up in the middle of the spiraling staircase (if the house wasn't in such amazing condition, I would definitely want to do this for our Christmas event). I got to hear from brothers who met their wives while in college, some of them even at Beta events. I got to hear stories about going through difficult classes or life events, and how it "definitely wouldn't have been possible without the other brothers." It seemed almost every brother said that the other guys in the chapter had been his best friends throughout college. I know that holds true for me.

And so in looking back, I'm extremely excited about the next two years. As we'll be moving into the house next year, I know my best years with my brothers are ahead of me. I can't wait to have experiences similar to the ones that were described at the centennial. And even past that, I'm excited to be a part of a fraternity that I'll always be able to come back to. I'll be able to bring my family back to the house, show them where I did problem sets, where I relaxed, and where I had some of the best nights of my life. Looking ahead, and looking back, I'm proud to be a Beta.

Andy Breed, Kettering '12

# BΘΠ

## THE MIT COLONY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR REFLECTS ON THE CENTENNIAL

The Beta Upsilon centennial celebration was a great celebration of a great brotherhood. I was excited to see that the chapter's history is still alive and well, and was not tarnished by the darkening of the halls for a short period of time. It was a great time to meet many of the brothers and finally be able to put a face to the men about whom I've heard stories and with whom I've exchanged emails.

I had a few favorite parts of the weekend, one was talking with alumni as they walked around the chapter house and recalled stories from their time as undergraduates. It was great to see how warmly they looked back on their time as undergraduate members, and to see how the bonds they built years ago are still strong today. I also enjoyed playing in the annual Euchre tournament; it was a great opportunity to see brothers from classes spanning the years come together,

to share in the bonds of brotherhood. While I did not bring strong competition to this year's tournament, I look forward to rematches in the years to come.

The weekend also served one last and very important task, showing the refunding fathers what it means to be a Beta, and the bonds they are building today will truly be there for the rest of their lives. It was a great opportunity for them to see just how powerful the fraternal experience can be. I would like to thank all the Beta Upsilon alumni for allowing me to join them in their centennial celebration; it is not something I will soon forget.

*the back bay beta*

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

Luke Verdi '16