

# the back bay beta



BETA THETA PI AT MIT | FALL 2016

## BETA UPSILON CHAPTER OFFICERS

**Erik Gest '17**  
Co-President

**Taylor Craig '18**  
Co-President

**David Olaleye '19**  
VP of Communication

**Michael McGraw '17**  
Pledge Education

**John La '17**  
Financial Chair

**Kevin Shum '19**  
Emergency Chair

**Marshall Craft '17**  
VP of Brotherhood

**Kollin Wasserlein '19**  
Social Chair

**Jack Erdozain '17**  
Rush Co-Chair

**Jonathan Zdasiuk '17**  
Rush Co-Chair

## ALUMNI RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Herman L. Marshall '78**  
**Michael G. Feinstein '82**

## HOUSE CORPORATION BOARD

**Michael G. Feinstein '82**  
President

**Herman L. Marshall '78**  
Vice President & Secretary

**Andrew B. Levy '84**  
Chapter Financial Advisor  
& Treasurer

**Frank J. Leibly III '93**  
Officer-at-Large

**Neil P. Harrigan '90**  
Officer-at-Large

## PRESIDENT: CHAPTER CONTINUES TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE

My name is Taylor Craig and I'm the new president of the Beta Upsilon colony. This rush we got a good group of solid guys, and they are now going through a newly updated pledge education program based explicitly around the five values of the fraternity. In addition to hearing brothers talk about how these values have affected their time at Beta, they have also been given more responsibility in shaping their own experience by planning numerous chapter and social events. Since we have a bigger budget this year than in previous years, we've also added some exciting pledge events, such as getting lunch at the Top of the Hub.

We again have a strong social calendar this semester. We have mixers with two different sororities, as well as a formal at the end of the semester. We also had our big brotherhood retreat over Veteran's Day weekend, right after the pledges were initiated on Thursday, November 10. We've also been having a number of lower key events, especially cookouts, both on campus and at the house. We plan to use these to continue smaller-scale recruitment efforts throughout

the semester.

The renovation of the Annex at 120 Bay State has finished up well! The maker spaces and common areas have been expanded, the kitchenette has been upgraded, and a new set of marble stairs have been installed in the entrance. As of now we are still renting it out to other MIT graduate and undergraduate students, and demand for rooms there is much higher this semester than previously. However, we are just one or two rushes away from starting to fill the house with our own guys. Next year, in fact, although we have nine seniors graduating in the spring, at least two of them are planning on taking a fifth year to get their masters' and plan to stay in the Annex. We look forward to taking advantage of it more and more in the future. I'd like to thank you all again for your support of our chapter, especially in this particularly tangible way. We're looking forward to an even stronger 2017!

Yours in \_\_kai\_\_,  
Taylor Craig '18  
President



*The Beta Upsilon Chapter is looking forward to a new year.*

# INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST BETA BROTHERS



**Ryan Robinett '19** is a sophomore, a proud pledge and active member of Cru MIT, and an undergraduate researcher at the Meyer Lab at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. Ryan pretends to be a deep person, spending most of his spare time in theology, sociology, mathematics, and computer science—all of which genuinely capture his imagination. In reality,

Ryan spends copious amounts of time doing Cru shenanigans, playing arcade games, and scrolling through his Facebook feed. He most values the God who made him, the family that raised him, and the friends who put up with him, including the amazing brothers of the Beta Upsilon Chapter. Ryan comes from the small city of Nicholson, Georgia, and is currently majoring in computational biology. His goals for his undergraduate career include authoring at least two published research papers and studying abroad.



**Will Fox '20** joined Beta during the fall rush of 2016. He is diligent and motivated both inside and outside the classroom, shaped by his family and environment.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, he moved to Sioux City, South Dakota, at a young age, where he spent his childhood, though his later move to the San Diego-area opened the door to a new world of opportunities. He quickly found a love for the ocean

and especially the sport of surfing, leading him to compete for his high school at the local and state levels.

Thanks to study research experiences at U.C. San Diego and

U.C. Berkeley, he discovered interests in nuclear engineering as well as brain and cognitive science. Perhaps most importantly, though, he realized a passion for travel. His father's work took his family across the Americas and Europe, where they would spend summers living in Glasgow, Scotland. From there, they travelled across the United Kingdom and Europe, taking in every aspect of the new and varied cultures.

It was a combination of all of these experiences that led him to MIT, where today he is a hard-working student and dedicated researcher. Outside the classroom, he is thrilled to be a member of Beta Theta Pi, serving as the pledge president and freshman representative to Kai Committee, and looking forward to spending the coming years with his Beta brothers.



**Julian Gomez '20** joined Beta in the fall rush of 2016. Julian is from the great city of Chicago, Illinois. Growing up in a rough neighborhood, Julian learned the value of a good education at an early age. He pushed himself in school, garnering respect from his peers, and ultimately gained acceptance to one of the best high schools in Chicago.

During his time in high school, Julian took part in the school cross country and

track and field teams. Despite having a distaste for running, Julian stuck with both teams for all four years. He improved and ultimately became captain of the team senior year, leading it to the sectional championships. This same determination and endurance that brought him so far throughout his life will aid him as he makes an adjustment to college life.

During his free time Julian enjoys working out, playing video games, and hanging out with friends. He looks forward to a bright future at Beta Theta Pi and MIT, bonding with brothers and peers alike.

**Luke Hartnett '20** joined Beta Theta Pi in the fall rush of 2016. He is a hard-working, self-motivated, humble student excited to make a difference now that he is in college. Specifically, Luke is interested in fighting against one of society's most challenging issues: climate change. Sparked in high school by an after school club and many presentations by climate action groups, Luke is motivated to put his talents in school and leadership out of school toward slowing down global warming and climate change.

Luke joined the Revere Environmental Voice in his junior year of high school. He advocated for a water bottle refill station, which was followed by a second station later in the year. He also planted trees around the school and arranged a presentation to the student body on the damaging effects of climate change, pollution,

and other environmental issues. Here, Luke found his passion for climate activism and his current desired major: civil and environmental engineering.

At MIT, Luke is exerting maximum effort tackling the transition into college. He has been successful with his first batch of mid-terms and looks forward to participating more in Fossil Free MIT, a climate change activist group on campus. He usually spends time working on problem sets and studying with friends. Luke has been working with the other pledges in various Beta activities to become an active member of the community. He aspires to hold a leadership role in the coming years, and is excited for the opportunities Beta Theta Pi and MIT will present him.



**Sloan Kanaski '20** is one of six pledges from Beta Theta Pi's 2016 fall rush. He comes to Beta with 19 years of diverse life experience under his belt. His life started in a rural house in northern Maryland, where he lived for three years until his family moved to the Arizona desert, where he spent the rest of his pre-MIT life. During third grade, he was first exposed to real harpists. Finding the instrument fascinating, he decided to give it a go. By high school, he was participating in an advanced local youth orchestra, performing classics

and movie scores alike.

Soon after the beginning of his career as a harpist, his innate mathematical talent drew the attention of his school's math team, and he fell in love with the thrill of the math competition. He first participated in competitions unofficially in fourth grade.

When he entered middle school and was allowed to compete officially, he met with rapid success. That year he qualified for Arizona State MathCounts, and made it as far as National MathCounts the next two years. During high school, he remained a dedicated mathlete, competing in dozens of competitions over the years, including ARML, AIME, USA(J)MO, and the Mu Alpha Theta National Convention.

By eighth grade, Sloan's passion for physics had begun, and he was devouring any concepts he could find on the internet about antimatter, fundamental particles, and the subatomic world. When he entered high school, this drove him to take high school physics courses as soon as possible, and although these taught him little of the particles he so loved, they whetted his appetite for more knowledge. By senior year, he had secured a position as a research assistant with a professor at the local university, studying data analysis algorithms for the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN. This research took him all the way to the International Science and Engineering

Fair, where he was one of 10 winners of an all-expense-paid trip to CERN itself. He describes the trip as the best week of his life.

Now that he's at MIT, Sloan is loving his courses, devouring his PSETs, and generally thriving in the supportive intellectual environment of MIT. He's heading toward degrees in pure math and theoretical physics, his two greatest interests, while still keeping up his harp on the side (he drove it all the way from Arizona—2,600 miles!), and he knows that Beta can provide the friendship and support he will need to survive the journey.



**Philip Phan '20** is a freshman from Orange County in Southern California. For all his life, he has been blessed with nice weather and the sweet California sun. "Now that I will be spending the next four years in Boston, let's just say I'm not so ready to finally experience seasons at my new home," he notes.

He is Vietnamese, and he and his sisters are first generation Americans after their parents made the decision to immigrate to the United States in 1994. Vietnamese culture has always been a major part of his life—it was the first language he learned, and is still the language he uses to communicate with his parents and relatives. His home city, Westminster, is home to one of the biggest populations of Vietnamese people outside Vietnam. Each year, it hosts a giant festival to celebrate the New Year in its "Little Saigon."

In his free time, he enjoys playing video games with his friends, spending time outdoors, and playing tennis. He was on his high school tennis team all four years, joining the varsity team during his senior year. Not only was it a great way to stay fit, but playing tennis also served as a stress reliever after all his classes.

In the future, he hopes to pursue a career in either aerospace

engineering or mechanical engineering, and what better place to learn than MIT. "For most of my life, I have been interested in airplanes. I first got hooked after I began flying airplane simulators as a child, and my passion soon extended to building models and learning as much about airplanes as possible.

I always considered myself a problem solver and logical thinker. I love hands-on experience and having the ability to create things of my own. So it's probably no surprise that I want to pursue a career in engineering where I can solve problems and build the technology of the future. In high school, I had the chance to be a member of my school's FIRST robotics team. During my senior year, our school's team did better than ever before. For the first time, we placed top three in our local region, and even had the opportunity to compete at world championships in St. Louis. Here at MIT, I hope to get involved with similar extracurricular activities again. I recently joined the MIT Rocket Team, where I will help develop a liquid engine, and Design Build Fly, a competition where students design and build an RC airplane to complete a set of missions."

A year ago, he never thought he would be attending college at one of the best institutions in the world, nor making the decision to join a fraternity. He is excited about the four years ahead, not only as a student of MIT but also a member of the Beta Theta Pi community.

## BETA SPOTLIGHT: JACK ERDOZAIN '17

Jack Erdozain '17 has been a Beta Theta Pi brother since spring rush 2014. He has served as social chair and a sort of co-rush chair here at Beta, and is well known for building flamethrowers he can shoot out of his palm like Iron Man. Officially studying electrical engineering and computer science, he prefers to think of himself as more of a "hands-on engineer."

It all started back in Miami, Florida, where Jack designed a battery that generated electricity from the decay of bio-organic matter (and a flamethrower, but that's another story). His design took him all the way to ISEF 2012, where he won first place in his category.

When he came to MIT, his penchant for design and invention continued. At his first UROP, he helped design MIT's infamous robot cheetah, also an electronic skateboard, which can go as far as 20 miles on a single charge.

My personal favorite is a remote control robotic talking trash can, whose functions range from storing waste to harassing tourists. Oh yeah, and he built several flame-

throwers. His biggest project at the moment is a 10-foot-tall remote control humanoid robot.

Of course, such talent for creation has netted Jack quite a few internships. He has interned with Amazon twice, working primarily on Amazon Air, its planned drone



delivery system, helping to design the drones themselves. He even emerged from these internships with a patent for a modular drone

delivery system, whose components can be exchanged and adapted to account for varying weather conditions.

Now naturally, there is more to Jack than just building stuff. He thoroughly enjoys longboarding. On the artistic side, he loves welded art, drawn art, and graphic design, and possesses no small talent in these areas. And then, of course, there's his borderline-obsession with Iron Man. (Remember those flamethrowers?) He even went so far as to inscribe the Iron Man helmet, wearing a tie, on the inside of his class ring.

At the moment, Jack is spending the semester in California, interning with Apple on an undisclosed project. Once finished, he plans to return to MIT to finish his degree, then stay another year to finish up his master's degree. From there he plans to get rich, retire to a tropical island, and build robot armies, and if that fails, continue his work with large companies until he can get into business himself.

Sloan Kanaski '20

# ANNEX SHINES AFTER RENOVATIONS

The brothers at Beta returned to MIT late in August for work week. While minor repairs and major cleanup were underway in preparation for rush, other more significant changes were being finished.

As far as the main house at 119 is concerned, the spotty, weed-riddled grass has been replaced with some paving stones and mulch, which looks much cleaner.

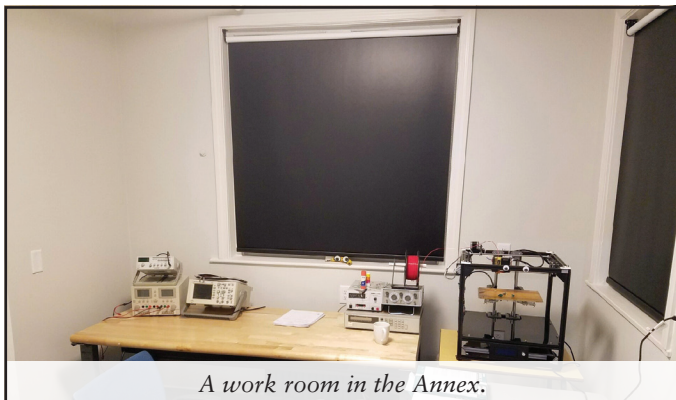
The largest improvement has been the extensive Annex renovation. All the rooms in the house have been repainted, many have been re-floored, and the basement has been thoroughly redesigned and cleaned up.

There is a space for the machine shop, space for an exercise room, and a room for an electrical engineering lab. Visiting Betas will be able to see the new laser cutter, mills, drills, and 3D printers

in the machine shop, as well as other lab equipment and pieces of raw material.

We're excited to start the 2016-'17 school year with a new and improved machine shop, and we're looking ahead to utilize the Annex space for building up an exercise room.

Mike McGraw '17



*A work room in the Annex.*



*Newly renovated Annex entryway.*



*The Annex workshop.*



*The Annex workshop.*

## BETA SPOTLIGHT: ERIK GEST '17

Having only re-emerged in the fall of 2013, the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity is among the youngest fraternity chapters at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After the chapter disbanded in the spring of 2011, its house in Back Bay only housed graduate students for two years. Then, in the fall of 2013, eight students, in cooperation with the national organization, decided to bring Beta Theta Pi back to MIT. The chapter, though small, accepted its first pledge class in the fall of 2014—a class with as many pledges as there were brothers. This pledge class of fall 2014 marks the first of

the four new generations of MIT Betas.



*Erik Gest '17.*

This class of 2014 will be the first in years to graduate having members who spent their entire undergraduate careers in Beta. During this class's time in the chapter, the chapter grew from eight upperclassmen to 28, took possession of and revived a house out-of-commission, and grew a culture of mutual assistance and academic rigor that marks the chapter to this day. Among the brothers responsible for these successes in our chapter's revival is our former president and current co-president, Erik Gest '17.

Erik comes from Mercer Island, Washing-

ton, and he arrived at MIT with not only a strong mind, but deep character. An Arduino aficionado, Erik spent much of his leisure time building gadgets for personal use. He even had the know-how, the passion, and the leadership skills to serve as president of his high school's joint computer science and robotics team. In addition to his personal projects, team involvement, and academics, Erik was an active member of Boy Scouts of America and earned Eagle Rank when he was in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He was a volunteer for a program with the local sheriff's department where he helped authorities find individuals who had gone missing in the city or the wilderness. In addi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

# FORTY YEARS OF LIVING GROUPS AT MIT

If you graduated MIT in the last 40 years (like me), you might not recognize the FSILG system as it stands now. The largest development is in the number of options for women. When I was an undergrad ('74-'78), the 'Tute was only 20 percent women, so most were housed in the dorms, and there were no sororities. There was only the Women's Independent Living Group (WILG), officially classified as an Independent Living Group (ILG), formed in 1976. Except for WILG, all the ILGs are coed. The other ILGs are Fenway House, Epsilon Theta, pika, and Student House. ET originated as the Epsilon Theta chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu but split from the national in the early '70s.

In 1984, Alpha Phi (pronounced al-fa fee) was the first sorority. There are now seven sororities: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Epsilon Phi, Delta Phi Epsilon, Kappa Alpha Theta, Pi Beta Phi, and Sigma Kappa. (Oddly, some of the sororities are officially called fraternities for women because their organizations began before the term sorority was coined.) Some of you may remember that Pi Beta Phi had a chapter at B.U. that regularly helped Beta rush. We dubbed them our sisters, called them the Pi Phis, and they were regulars at parties. There was at least one marriage. The B.U. chapter closed in 1985.

Housing arrangements for the sororities are varied, and in most cases there are many more sisters than can be housed (when they have a house). SK, AChiO, and APhi are all housed in Kenmore Square. Thetas (of KAT) are housed in the Green Hall, which I remember as the MIT Infirmary. (I stayed there a few days after surgery to repair my knee ligaments in '76.) Pi Beta Phi is in the building that once housed Alpha Tau Omega (ATO, more on that later). Alpha Epsilon Phi used to be in the Alpha Epsilon Pi annex just down Bay State Road, but are no longer housed. One of the challenges facing sororities is that they haven't a long culture of house management. Most of the houses are actually owned by MIT, so getting things fixed can be challenging. Delta Phi Epsilon is the newest sorority, having started about a year ago, and is now housed in the annex of Sigma Phi Epsilon (Sig Ep).

Women comprised 46 percent of this year's incoming class, and of these, 160 had bids to join a sorority during this past rush. It's remarkable that over a quarter of

all women at MIT have joined a sorority. With only seven sororities and housing capacity for about 150, most sorority women live in the dorms, in contrast with fraternity men. This past rush brought 60 percent of the incoming males to the fraternity ranks, just a bit high of the average of 55 percent for the past few years.

The fraternity system has changed con-



*“... the Betas are gradually recovering their ability to rush and have started to house members in the Annex. Most of the newly renovated Annex is occupied by graduate students, but we're only a few excellent rush weeks from filling both houses once again.”*

siderably in 40 years, especially since the death of a FIJI (Phi Gamma Delta) pledge in 1997. Since then, many fraternities have been under significant stress due to fewer incoming males and the requirement that all freshmen live in a campus dorm. Back in the day, fraternity housing provided a substantial fraction of MIT's freshmen housing, but there have been new dorms and renovations over the past 10 years so there is substantial capacity now on campus.

There are several fraternities that have started since I lived at Beta, and two that broke with their national organization. Alpha Delta Phi started in 1976, Zeta Psi started in 1979, and Sigma Nu restarted in 1995. Nu Delta started as Phi Mu Delta in 1936 but left the national organization in 1977. Similarly, pika was affiliated with Pi Kappa Alpha before 1981 but is now considered an ILG, and is coed. (Pi Kappa Alpha was given the green light to recruit

for a restart a few years ago but failed to muster enough members, so they dissolved the restart.)

Sigma Alpha Epsilon was shut down in 1998 and sold its house, but restarted in 2009. They are a much smaller chapter now, currently occupying the AEPi annex, where they moved after AEPi moved out. In 1999, SN moved into the house formerly occupied by FIJI, still banned from campus. ATO was shut down in 2009, shortly after receiving a recommendation to not accredit in an AILG Accreditation review due to long-standing behavioral issues. In 2014, Lambda Chi Alpha was shut down after a female fell out of a window during a party—they are housing only graduate students while they wait until they are allowed to restart. (The LambChops made arrangements to continue painting the Smoot marks on the Harvard Bridge.)

MIT requires that all new living groups have some form of national affiliation, so this term, the national engineering fraternity Theta Tau took over the house formerly occupied by Delta Upsilon, which was shut down by their alumni in 2014 after accusations of hazing surfaced. TTau actually houses students at some universities. TTau at MIT now consists of the MIT freshmen who would have been initiated before the shutdown and could initiate females, if interested. Tau Epsilon Phi is in an interesting situation as well, where they started a new umbrella organization to allow females to join. With Delta Psi, aka No. 6, there are three fraternities that are or could be coed. (Delta Psi is actually regarded as an ILG but Delta Psi is a national fraternity with which No. 6 is now affiliated.)

The challenge to fill fraternity living space has been evidenced at AEPi and Sig Ep. Both have insufficient members to occupy both of their properties. While that was true for us a short time ago, the Betas are gradually recovering their ability to rush and have started to house members in the Annex. Most of the newly renovated Annex is occupied by graduate students, but we're only a few excellent rush weeks from filling both houses once again.

Yours in -kai-,  
Herman L. Marshall '78  
703

Vice President  
Beta Upsilon Alumni Association of  
Beta Theta Pi

# alumni updates

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT BETA UPSILON BROTHERS

Congratulations to **Albert Wilson Jr. '38**, who is celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in November! He writes, "I treasure my years at MIT and the lifelong friendships I made at Beta." Send greetings to him at [skypastures@yahoo.com](mailto:skypastures@yahoo.com) or 9 Pelton Way, Hampton Falls, NH 03844.

**Bob Donovan '51** has been living in western North Carolina for 11 years with wife Barbara, "whom I married just before my senior year at MIT". One of their daughters lives about a mile away. Bob reports, "Both Barbara and I are remarkably healthy for a couple of 87-year-olds. We get back to New England once or twice a year to visit other children. We are relatively sedentary, other than occasional church activities and regularly volunteering at the local soup kitchen." He adds, "Taking care of our two acres is all the physical activity I feel like doing anyway!" Send Bob a note at 3935 Zero Mull Rd., Morganton, NC 28655 or [rdonovan51@charter.net](mailto:rdonovan51@charter.net).

"Still seem to be in reasonably good shape," muses **Fred Weitz '51**. "But because of Emily's lack of mobility we don't travel much." They still spend summers in Redstone, Colorado, and participate in family business matters—"which involves retirement communities in Connecticut and Florida." Fred keeps in touch with **Dick Reedy**, **Herb Voelcker**, and **Art Wasserman** (all '51), "but the ranks are getting pretty thin." Catch up with Fred at [weitzfred@msn.com](mailto:weitzfred@msn.com) or 1245 Browns Woods Dr., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

Thanks so much to Jeanne Davis for sending along this update for **Warren Davis**

'54: "Warren and I are living in a retirement community in Tucson. Unfortunately, Warren's health has deteriorated due to Alzheimer's, and he is no longer able to receive visitors or read his mail. Still, we are very fortunate. Our twin sons are doing well. Our son who lives in Indiana has purchased a home here in Tucson and will move here after he completes the sale of his furniture business. Our three grandchildren are a joy to us. The youngest is still in college and is a member of his school's golf team." Jeanne recently enjoyed connecting by phone with **Alan "Tex" Laves '82**. We bet she'd welcome mail from other brothers: c/o Splendido at Rancho Vistoso, 13500 N. Rancho Vistoso Blvd., Villa 520, Tucson, AZ 85755.

**Paul Hochfeld '73** retired as an emergency room physician two years ago. He writes, "Recently visited **Arthur Kilmurray '72** in Santa Barbara. We were joined by **Dominic Camardella '72**, **Stevan Jovanovich '73**, **Chas Thompson '75**, and **Norm Johnson '73**. We even managed, between the laughs and stories and discussions, to figure out how the barbecue worked. Not bad for a bunch of old farts." Contact Paul at [phochfeld@msn.com](mailto:phochfeld@msn.com) or 1370 NW Forest Dr., Corvallis OR 97330.

"Just paid my annual alumni dues," writes **Roger Lacy '79**, and thought I'd drop you a line to say that I became a first-time-grandparent three weeks ago—on my own birthday! Jackson Patrick Lacy was born a month early, but all seems well." "Bucky" still has one son in college—at Northeastern. Write him at [lacyhome@yahoo.com](mailto:lacyhome@yahoo.com) or 1002 Bala Farms Dr., West Chester, PA 19382.

Engineering Systems Design, MIT's only project-based engineering class that is run like a corporation. Erik has worked in the Office of Student Financial Services since his freshman year, and now works as the office's student coordinator. He has also been very generous with his time, formerly serving as an EMT at MIT for almost three years.

While Erik's accomplishments on-campus are truly noteworthy, what most sets him apart in the eyes of our chapter is his dedication to our growth as a community. Just as MIT and Boston are divided by a wide river, so does Erik keep his busy life on MIT's campus from contaminating his relationships with us. Though he has worn the hats of steward, risk manager, president, and co-president for us at

DECEASED  
We regret to announce the death of:  
**Albert H. Chestnut '39**  
April 16, 2016

As some of you know, in 2012 **Jake Muhleman '08** set out on a mission to produce the world's finest sodabi, a traditional palm liquor of West Africa. Reports Jake, "This venture has grown from a concept in an MBA classroom to a product sold in Benin's high-end market (and Togo) to an opportunity to expand into the U.S. Our signature sodabi, Tambour Original, has already proven to appeal to the American palate by winning a silver medal at the 2015 San Francisco World Spirits Competition." He continues, "Often I do things untraditionally, and in the same fashion I plan to mix things up in the liquor market." To that end, Jake has recently conducted a crowd-funding campaign to help launch Tambour Original in the U.S. For more information and updates, there is both a website and a Facebook page. Contact Jake for details: [jakesail@alum.mit.edu](mailto:jakesail@alum.mit.edu). He makes his home in upstate New York: 108 Cliffside Dr., Canandaigua, NY 14424.

"I just moved to England," announces **Austin Taranta '06**. "Hit me up if you want to grab a pint down in Southampton or London." Reach him at [austin.taranta@gmail.com](mailto:austin.taranta@gmail.com) or (if you're feeling really adventurous) Southbrook Rise #26, 4 Millbrook Rd. E, Southampton, S0151BX, United Kingdom.

different times, his firm leadership does not keep him from being a humble and sociable guy. His room abounds with good food and good advice. Being graced with some amount of skill in virtually every trade, Erik is the guy to go to whenever there are problems with the house. He is certainly the human being any of us brothers would most prefer being stranded on a desert island with; I hope to go camping with him sometime before he graduates. Erik's compassion, strong leadership, and wisdom have been firm ground upon which our fraternity has grown, and I hope that they echo through the walls of our house for many years to come.

Ryan Robinett '19

## ERIK GEST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR)

tion to all of this, Erik volunteered regularly at his church and was a member of Congressman Dave Reichert's youth advisory board.

At MIT, Erik maintains the vigilance, character, and service he exhibited in high school. A student of mechanical engineering, Erik applies his love for designing and implementing solutions to real-world problems. He has extensive experience in hydrogen fuel cell research, and through a project pertaining to hydrogen fuel cells became a finalist in the MIT \$100K Entrepreneurship Competition. He is also the elected CEO of the class 2.013:

## 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, or [alumnirecords@beta-mit.org](mailto:alumnirecords@beta-mit.org).