

the back bay beta

BETA THETA PI AT MIT | SPRING 2017



You're Invited:

BETA UPSILON'S 105TH BIRTHDAY!

Mark your calendars to come to Boston for the weekend of **April 27–29, 2018**, for the 105th anniversary celebration of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Plans are still being finalized, but will likely include an informal get together Friday evening, a banquet dinner on Saturday evening, and a brunch at the chapter house on Sunday morning.

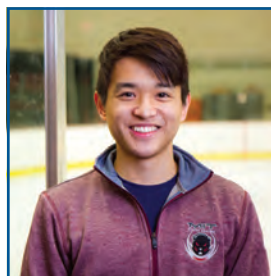
If you attended the 100th in 2013, you know how great it was to get together with Beta brothers from all eras, renewing your Beta spirit and seeing our renovated chapter house. If you missed the Centennial in 2013, you can check out the various photo galleries here: www.beta-mit.org/public5.asp#membro galleries. Don't let the 105th pass you by! You'll be glad that you joined us!

We need your help to get the word out to your contemporary chapter brothers. If you are interested in coming to the 105th and making sure other Betas from your era come too, please contact Mike Feinstein at mike_feinstein@yahoo.com. We'd like volunteers that are willing to contact their contemporary Beta brothers to encourage them to attend the 105th.

*See you in Boston
at the 105th!*

PRESIDENT EXCITED TO REACH NEW GOALS FOR BETA

I am pleased to write, as Beta Upsilon's newly elected president, that our colony is stronger than ever. Prior to starting my term, I attended the Wooden Leadership Institute, which was awe-inspiring, to say the least. Spending the week at our fraternity's founding place re-instilled in me the importance of ritual and a newfound commitment to the principles and obligations of Beta Theta Pi.



Chapter Presidents Leadership Academy, held the week after, offered me the unique opportunity to connect with GFOs, advisors, and other presidents and a chance to hone my vision moving forward, with the ultimate goal of chartering in the near future.

As a new executive team, we attended Keystone Conference and established our strategic goals for the year: namely, to redevelop our recruitment strategy, to commit ourselves to our ritual and values, and to engage with our alumni and advisory network. We also met up with other chapters in the Boston area, Northeastern and WPI, and plan to organize a joint event at our house.

So far this semester, we've made great progress on all our goals. Our VP of brotherhood brought our chapter tighter than ever before with events like subsidized "man dates," a Six Flags outing, and our first brotherhood olympics. We started the semester with the Eye of Wooglin and, through the initiative of our ritual chair and chorister, a renewed emphasis on ritual and songs.

Our VP of recruitment and rush chair kicked off our recruitment efforts early on with CPW, an exciting weekend to meet the incoming freshmen class and to showcase our home and brotherhood.

Always attracting the most social of crowds and friends of Beta, our VP of programming hosted numerous social events, from a sushi night to our signature Beta Theta Pizza Pi to mixers with sororities on campus. Our VP of risk management, as always, ensured that all our events run successfully.

Regularly updating and keeping tabs on our social media accounts, our VP of communications enhanced our brand image, both online and on campus. He is also our philanthropy chair, where he will spearhead our first philanthropy event later this semester to raise money and awareness for the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Our VP of finance has done an excellent job managing our books and keeping our accounts balanced, while our VP of member education is looking forward to passing on our newfound commitment to ritual and values to our next pledge class.

I can't wait to see what the rest of the semester and year holds, and I have great faith in our new executive team as we seek to expand and further strengthen our brotherhood.

Yours in __kai__,
Kevin Shum '19
President



Beta brothers enjoying the 100th in 2013. Renew those great times at the 105th in April 2018.

Beta Theta Pi Beta Upsilon Chapter

ALUMNI OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Mike Feinstein '82

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Herman Marshall '78

TREASURER:
Andy Levy '84

SECRETARY:
Herman Marshall '78

FINANCIAL ADVISOR:
Andy Levy '84

OFFICERS AT LARGE:
Frank Leibly '93, Neil Harrigan '90

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Kevin Shum '19

SECRETARY:
Taylor Craig '18

VP OF BROTHERHOOD:
Michael Castillo '19

VP OF FINANCE:
Nicholas Klugman '19

VP OF RECRUITMENT:
Sam Van Cise '18

VP OF MEMBER EDUCATION:
Will Fox '20

VP OF PROGRAMMING:
Kollin Wasserlein '19

VP OF RISK MANAGEMENT:
Sloan Kanaski '20

VP OF COMMUNICATIONS:
Luke Hartnett '20

RUSH CHAIR:
Julian Gomez '20

STEWARD:
Jonathan Zdasiuk '17

HOUSE MANAGER:
Gilberto Gutierrez '19



"Success is a piece of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming." —John R. Wooden, head basketball coach, emeritus, UCLA.



KEYSTONE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In early February, our chapter's executive team had the opportunity to attend Beta Theta Pi's annual Keystone Regional Leadership Conference in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The initiative is part of an effort by the General Fraternity to transition in the newly elected chapter officers. This gives them the opportunity to learn from their counterparts in other chapters across the country and to facilitate the conversation about the team's shared vision for the chapter.

After getting a chance to meet with chapter advisors and to complete a series of team-building exercises, the weekend pivoted on two main focuses. The first part of the program was centered around individual roles. Each officer met with others holding the same position at other schools across the region in one of the officer training tracks. These round-table sessions included the sharing of ideas regarding chapter operations: what efforts succeed or fail for different groups in the realms of recruitment, education, and general leadership. After the specific officer tracks had ended, the officers from each chapter had a day of meetings together to discuss their goals as a team for the upcoming year.

In attendance from the MIT Beta Upsilon colony were the new executive-board members: President Kevin Shum '19, VP of Brotherhood Michael Castillo '19, VP of Finance Nicholas Klugman '19, VP of Recruitment Sam Van Cise '18, VP of Member Education Will Fox '20, VP of Programming Kollin Wasserlein '19, VP of Communications Luke Hartnett '20, and VP of Risk Management Sloan Kanaski '20. The officers had the opportunity to meet and discuss chapter goals with alumni advisors from across the region. Together, they created a detailed timeline of tasks based on goals set by the chapter president during his trip to the Chapter Presidents Leadership Academy, a gathering of all Beta presidents from across the country.

As a whole, the experience provided a great weekend for the newly elected leaders to come together and to form a more coherent vision for their tenure, as well as to connect with their Beta brothers from across the northeast.

Will Fox '20
VP of Member Education

IMAGE AT TOP: The executive members gather for a picture at the end of the Keystone Leadership Conference (L-R): Kevin Shum '19, Kollin Wasserlein '19, Nicholas Klugman '19, Sam Van Cise '18, Chris Dunaj Chapter Advisor, Luke Hartnett '20, Sloan Kanaski '20, Michael Castillo '19, Will Fox '20.

WOODEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REVIEW

This past January, the Beta Upsilon Chapter at MIT sent three brothers to the Wooden Leadership Institute in Oxford, Ohio. Kevin Shum (president), Michael Castillo (VP of brotherhood), and Will Fox (VP of member education) attended the four-day institute to learn about Beta Theta Pi's rituals and values in the hopes of making a change in our young colony. The institute also taught the values of legendary coach John Wooden and how he defined leadership on a series of values depicted in the pyramid shape shown at left.



Our three brothers join for a picture at the Wooden Leadership Institute (L-R): Will Fox '20, Michael Castillo '19, Kevin Shum '19.

The idea of the pyramid is that the lower levels are the foundation for higher levels; without the lower levels, the higher levels are impossible to create. The institute gave us the tools and

knowledge to build and improve this pyramid in our colony. In the beginning, we focused on the leadership style of each individual participant and how they can improve their leadership skills. The second half of the program focused on goals and how to implement these goals in each chapter. Throughout the entire program, participants collaborated with brothers from chapters all across America to share problems and to offer solutions. The last night of the program concluded with a ritual review in the Hall of Chapters. The review was intimate, insightful, and emotional. One brother described the ritual review in the Hall of Chapters similar to "renewing his vows with his fraternity."

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MIT HONORS THE MEMORY OF IRDF FOUNDER REID WEEDON '41

Reid Weedon '41 was a *very* special member of the MIT community. His name might be familiar to many, because Reid helped to found the Independent Development Residence Fund (IRDF) over 50 years ago, and he was a very active member of his beloved fraternity, Phi Beta Epsilon. Reid was also an MIT Corporation life member emeritus, global businessman, inspiring mentor, lifelong sailor and outdoorsman, and outstanding fundraiser for the institutions he loved.

Reid died at his home in Cohasset, Massachusetts, on November 2 at the age of 96. He left a lifetime of service to the institute and the world. Until the last year of his life, he was actively volunteering and working at MIT and kept an office on the MIT campus. Weedon's contributions to the MIT community spread far and wide. MIT President L. Rafael Reif wrote that he doubted "there has been anyone more instrumental than Weedon in building a culture of giving at MIT, and the benefits of this are everywhere around me." In particular, the members of every organization of MIT's Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups (or FSILGs for short) have been direct beneficiaries of one of Weedon's great legacies, the IRDF Fund.

Thanks to many, each decade has seen gifts to the IRDF increase in both number and value. This past year, over 600 alumni were donors. Because the donations are gifts through MIT, they are fully tax-deductible and also count toward class totals during Reunion years and, for houses undergoing major capital campaigns, toward the educational portion of project renovation grants.

The IRDF has been an essential contributor to the financial health of the FSILG community. Since its founding by Reid and others back in 1964, the fund has disbursed the following amounts to MIT's FSILGs:

- Over \$25 million in loans for renovations and construction
- \$4.5 million in direct grants to FSILGs for educational and safety improvements
- \$5.7 million in annual operating grants for FSILG upkeep
- Over \$5million in FSILG community-wide for state-of-the-art computer network upgrades and compliance with new state safety regulations.

The IRDF has enabled MIT's FSILGs to continue to maintain and improve their facilities and to impact others in many differ-



ent ways. No other university has such a large, comprehensive resource at the disposal of its fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. To mark the 50th anniversary of the IRDF, a major celebration was held on April 26, 2014, with Reid and his wife, Estelle, as guests of honor.

Many in the FSILG community are also familiar with the D. Reid Weedon Jr. '41 Award, which Reid endowed back in 1995 to encourage FSILG student outreach to their alumni/ae. The award has been given annually ever since to up to four FSILGs that have demonstrated the greatest effort in alumni relations for the academic year. The competition is spirited, because first place includes a \$7,500 cash prize. This past fall, the alumni association developed a companion Weedon Grant program specifically to help groups wishing to build their alumni-relations programs. In the inaugural round, seven FSILGs received grants, ranging up to \$1,000. Henceforth, each semester, there will be similar rounds of grants.

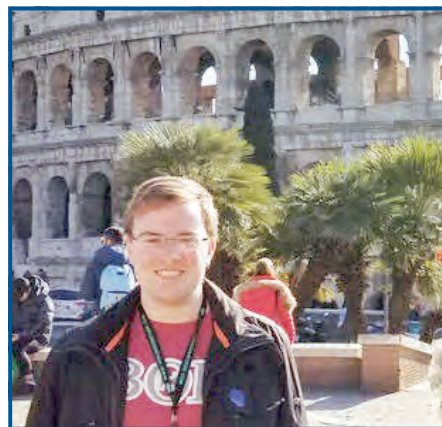
On Friday, December 2, 2016, several hundred people gathered in the MIT Chapel to celebrate Reid's life, including President Reif and his wife, Christine; many staff members of MIT Corporation, Alumni Association, and MIT; alumni; and students of Weedon's beloved fraternity, Phi Beta Epsilon. After the chapel service, most attendees went to the Phi Beta Epsilon house, where Reid's fraternity brothers hosted on a warm reception. The brothers offered tours of their magnificent ΠΒΦ house, which had a recent \$7-million renovation, in large part due to Reid's help. There was a brief ceremony honoring Reid's contributions to the fraternity and the larger community. Reid's wife, Estelle, was given a framed picture of Reid, which was signed by dozens of his MIT friends and admirers and framed by the MIT Hobby Shop. Estelle loved the portrait but insisted it be hung in the fraternity so that brothers who come after may better appreciate his legacy. The fraternity renamed the new tool-filled "makerspace" on the second floor the D. Reid Weedon '41 Makerspace, and that is where his portrait now resides.

We of the FSILG community should be grateful for Reid, for all he has done for us and for MIT, and for how his legacy continues to contribute in both tangible and intangible ways, even after his passing.

Bob Ferrara '67 & Brenna Morrissey of the
MIT Division of Student Life

BETA SPOTLIGHTS

MICHAEL MCGRAW '17



A seasoned Beta brother, Michael (or Mike) McGraw has been an essential member of the fraternity. Mike is from a rural area in West Virginia, but as a child, he was able to travel often with his parents. It was at this young age that Mike's parents encouraged him to pursue his interests in math and science.

Mike took advantage of the opportunities presented to him at a young age. He went to many science camps over the summers, but one stood out as his most memorable. He visited the Greenbank National Radio Astronomy Observatory. Here, he collected real data from planetary bodies and stars. This unique application of science left an impression on him. This would be the first of many extraordinary opportunities that Mike took advantage of.

In high school, Mike earned many awards, but the West Virginia Golden Horseshoe stood out. In fact, he was knighted by the Governor of West Virginia for it. The highest-scoring students in each county of West Virginia were granted the award. This was another memorable experience in his life before college.

MIT first came across Mike's radar when he was reading an article about researchers at MIT who had created a camera that shoots one trillion frames a second. This was fast enough to view light moving across a screen. This led Mike to research MIT and ultimately to decide it was the best place for him.

During his time here, he joined one of the first classes in the restart of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Since then, Mike has been an essential member of the fraternity, consistently occupying the executive board in different positions. He was the vice president of brotherhood and the vice president of member education twice. He played an essential role in developing a culture of this new Beta colony.

Outside of Beta, Mike continued to take advantage of opportunities granted to him during his undergraduate education at MIT. He travelled overseas three times, including half a year in Germany. While he was there, he taught

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alumni updates

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT BETA UPSILON BROTHERS



"I doubt that I will have a chance to revisit the Beta house since its renovation," reports **Donn W. Barber '42**. "My last visit was when I was there for my 70th class reunion in 2012. I did work for that renovation, as did **Tom McEvoy '47**, whom I still keep in contact with by mail, email, etc., but seldom see. We had a long and enjoyable Christmas chat. He, like me, is in reasonable health but feeling the effects of aging. I have been in touch as well with **Paul Sommer's ('42) family**. He has had several strokes and is unable to converse well." Don welcomes postal mail at 1207 Greenbriar Lane, West Grove, PA 19390, and email at evdoba@aol.com.

Ward D. Halverson '56 writes, "I continue to consult in Bedford, Massachusetts, for my former employer, now called N2 Biomedical. The 'N2' part comes from ion implantation of N₂⁺ into medical products to increase surface hard-

ness and thus lifetime in artificial hips, knees, and other body parts." He adds, "I am fine and would welcome a call or email from any and all." Reach him at 25 Hutchinson St., Cambridge, MA 02138, or wdhalverson@aol.com.

"I spent a year at MIT as a Beta in 1969-'70, the year Nixon invaded Cambodia," recalls **Norman E. Johnson '73**. "The next year was at UCSB, where I was a junior. I dropped out of college after making the dean's list for good grades, lived on 100 acres in Vermont, building a house, then became a cabinet-maker. I have done that now for 40 years." Norm is owner/partner of Newport Custom Woodworking in Orange County, California. He continues, "I built a sailboat in the 1980s and won the Newport to Ensenada race with the boat in '87. (Check out yachtseaweed.com.) I read history, am a botanist, camp 20 times a year, have discovered four new species of desert harvest-

DECEASED
We regret to announce the deaths of:

Harry T. Easton '36
May 14, 2008

Albert O. Wilson Jr. '38
December 24, 2016

Charles P. Hoult '56
November 23, 2016

man, write fiction, and am restoring a collection of 1950s-'60s ham radios (I am KK6IYM)." In closing, he writes, "Contact me if you want to go sailing. Bring stories." Catch up with Norm at namronnoshoj@ca.rr.com or 258 Walnut St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627.

BETA SPOTLIGHTS (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

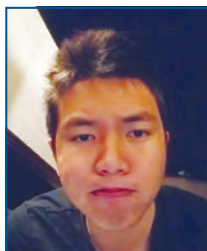
electronics, quantum physics, entrepreneurship, chemistry, DNA sequencing and fingerprinting, English, debate, and Java. However, one of the more enriching experiences for Mike came when he hiked across the German-Austrian border. This was a three-day-long adventure where he traversed forest, snow, gravel, and passes.

Mike will be graduating this year and plans to work at an MIT startup called Rev in San Francisco. He is excited to travel more and to build upon his hobbies again. Speaking on behalf of the brothers at the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, we are thankful to call Mike a brother and wish him the best of luck in the future.

Luke Hartnett '20
VP of Communications

JOHN LA '17

We would like to take time to acknowledge one of the senior members of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi: John La. John is of Vietnamese descent. Raised in Dallas, Texas, John's youngest memories were dominated by sports. Athletic from a very young age, John participated in the soccer, baseball, and football teams from middle



to high school. His one true calling, however, was basketball. John participated on his middle-school and high-school basketball teams. At MIT, John participates in Beta's intramural basketball team, often leading the team to victory.

In terms of academics, John has been an exemplary student all his life. He was on the honor roll throughout elementary and middle school and was the valedictorian of his high school. Despite all his skills, John never really had a specific drive for science. When asked why he initially decided to pursue an education in STEM, he said, "...because I was told I was good at it". After coming to MIT, John began to study chemical engineering and found that he was incredibly good at it. However, after two semesters in the major, he realized that it wasn't what he wanted to do. During his sophomore year, John decided to enter the field of electrical engineering and computer science. He quickly discovered his calling. Since his decision to switch, John has thrived, acquiring internships at a multitude of companies, including Facebook and Microsoft.

Within the fraternity, John has been an integral part of the development of the Beta Upsilon Chapter. John is a member of the largest class of the chapter and has held both the treasurer and rush-chair positions. John often goes above and beyond to serve the well-being of the fraternity. Where some individuals are passive, John is always straightforward in tell-

ing a fellow brother what needs to be done to improve the fraternity. Along with the positions he held, John has always been a respected leader at Beta. He has helped facilitate discussion for quarrels within the fraternity. He also regularly helps brothers with homework and emotional needs. Overall, John is an exemplary brother, and we all hope that he comes back next year for his master's degree

Julian Gomez '20
Rush Chair

WOODEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REVIEW

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Each brother who attended said he had grown in his ability to lead and implement his vision in the fraternity. The attendees also feel a closer connection and greater appreciation for the General Fraternity's values and rituals. The brothers who attended brought back a much-needed energy and motivation to the chapter executive team. The Beta Upsilon Chapter hopes to have a very successful rush in the fall and to be able to charter next spring.

Michael Castillo '19
VP of Brotherhood

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.