

The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING/SUMMER 2001

Update From The Alumni Association

I am pleased to report that two of our alumni, Bob Grant '64 and Gene Richter '53, living in California and Ohio, respectively, have offered to help model the finances of the various alternatives listed in the previous issue of *The Back Bay Beta*. We have been collaborating to identify and collect all the data needed to evaluate these alternatives.

Having Gene and Bob offer to help out has been great! We don't have a release date yet for the report but are working hard to prepare a draft for committee review. As soon as we have the final version ready to distribute, we'll be sure to let you know because your feedback is important to us.

Unfortunately, we had a major oil spill in the main house basement in early March when a storage tank ruptured. The cleanup has diverted our attention dramatically so that our report has been delayed. The boiler room was excavated in order to recover liquid oil as well as to remove contaminated earth. We

have been working with environmental specialists to satisfy local and state regulations, which require us to prepare and pursue a plan to recover as much released oil as possible.

We are relieved to report that the cleanup is covered by insurance, less the \$5,000 deductible. The cleanup laws require us to contact Boston University in order to sample and possibly excavate soil at 117 Bay State Road. I'm sure all alumni can appreciate that this situation is delicate. We have retained an attorney to prepare correspondence to BU and act as our contact. So far, the cleanup is going well and should be completed within a few months.

Proud to be a Beta.

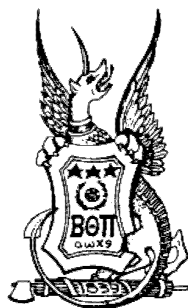
Yours in – kai –,
Mike Johnson '80

Secretary and President Emeritus
Beta Upsilon Association
MikeJohnson@alum.mit.edu



Ken Corley '01 performs community service.

Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Beta Upsilon Association Sunday, July 15, 2001



We are holding our annual meeting in conjunction with a reunion of Beta Upsilon alumni. The annual meeting will be brief, consisting of officer elections and short reviews of written reports. A barbecue will follow. Beta underclassmen are invited to foster better relations with the alumni association. Families are welcome as well.

We will gather at 3:00 p.m. at Herman Marshall's house at 5 Whipple Rd., Lexington, Massachusetts. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. and is expected to conclude around 5:00 p.m., to be followed by a barbecue and socializing until 7:00 p.m.

Directions: Take Route 95 to exit 32B, taking the Middlesex Turnpike south about three miles through six lights to Whipple Road. The house is the second on the right. There is a map posted at <http://space.mit.edu/~hermann/Welcome.html#Beta>. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by voice mail to 617/641-8480.

Beta Hosts Variety Of Musical Events

As sponsor of five major events, Beta had a busy social program this spring. We kicked off the semester early with two large musical events in February—a drum and bass band from Berklee College of music called Schism, and a celebration of the return of “DJ Q” (Aron Qasba '00). The music at both events was incredible, and the brothers were able to attract many local women to the events. Brother Qasba tore up the chapter room floor with his hip-hop mixes. Special appearances were made by big pants dance master Jeff LeBlanc '03 and the always colorful Raul-David (Retro) Poblano '01.

By far, the pinnacle of this semester was the Weekends@MIT-sponsored Push Stars concert held on the first floor of the main house. MIT gave Beta \$3,500 to commission the Push Stars, an upcoming Boston band, to play an open event. The house was packed throughout the entire concert. There was even some crowd surfing. The band featured cameos from Jon Lubetsky '00 on the trombone. Everyone was satisfied with the show. Also of note was the opening band, “Dibs,”

comprised of Betas Andrew Hogue '01, Ken Conley '01, Ben Roberts '03, and Cesar Romero '02. The band, also known as “The Russ Spieler Experience,” played a couple of cover songs, including their version of “I Will Survive.”

Beta's final two events came later in the term. One came during Campus Preview Weekend and featured the Walk, a funk band recommended by the Vinal Street crew. Brothers invited many pre-frosh who enjoyed the party and expressed interest in rushing Beta this fall. The semester rounded out with what now has become an annual tradition of bowling at local Boston Bowl on Lansdowne Street. The event went off well, as always, with Betas and young women commanding the local establishment.

New social chairs have been elected for the fall term, Ben Roberts '03 and Ethan Brown '04. This dynamic duo is sure to be successful and is already working on getting the chapter an exciting social calendar. Alumni are encouraged to drop by anytime.

Russ Spieler '01



Brothers Stephen Bathurst '03 and Andrew Hogue '01 at a recent Beta smoker.

Brothers Prepare To Rush Class Of '05

Once again, rush promises to be productive this year. With a brand new rush video (check it out at <http://i3.mit.edu/final/sc.htm>) and a stellar rush book, we're well on our way to recruiting the Beta pledge class of 2005.

MIT's Campus Preview Weekend (CPW), traditionally a strategic foreshadowing of rush, went off without a hitch. We had a great local funk band play to a packed house of excited prospective freshmen. Betas were active on and off campus showing the freshmen what Cambridge and Boston have to offer. A great CPW usually sets the stage for an even better rush, and with the success of this year's events, we look forward to a highly effective and entertaining rush.

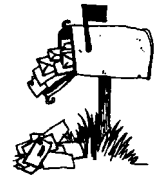
Already we have rush parties and events planned for L.A., Chicago, the San Francisco Bay area, DC, Boston, and Cape Cod. With 2002 approaching, we should have a solid foundation on which to build a strong, motivated pledge class that will help the house in the following years.

Any local alumni who'd like to see the Beta rush machine in action or help usher fresh new faces into the pledge program should stop by during the day on August 27 to 30. We're looking forward to a great year!

Dylan Hirsh-Schell '03
Rush Chair

Send In Your Newsform!

The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of our alumni. Please take a moment to fill out your newsform and return it to the address on page four. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest Beta memories. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of *The Back Bay Beta*.



The pledge class of '04 at the rush women's dinner.



At Beta, Leadership Is Strong And Spirits Are High

This semester has been relaxing and smoothly run thanks to dedicated officers and a committed chapter. An early initiation ended pledge-training concerns and introduced 14 new actives to chapter participation and leadership. This year's freshmen proved themselves capable of holding important offices as early as the second term of their freshman year. Next year's pledge program, to be run by Andrew Martinez, is planned to be the same length as this year's program.

Attitudes and spirit were heightened and intensified by Russell Spieler as he led an innovative social program, for which all actives heartily thanked him. House mem-

bers are holding themselves to increasingly higher standards in terms of academics, house maintenance, and charity, thanks to this bolstered spirit.

In late winter, we hosted a regional conclave where Betas from UMaine, Bryant, URI, and UConn came to MIT for a Beta leadership program. Our relationship with the general fraternity remains strong and healthy. After reporting successful operations, we hope to improve our status at the national convention in the summer.

Recently we elected our next president, Brian Savery. I have met with him to ensure that the presidential transition will be a smooth one and that all successes from this

semester will continue to the next. As any active can attest, Brian has the organization, drive, and discipline to lead Beta.

I would like to thank all the alumni who visited their old home on Bay State at the recent Alumni Weekend. Some of you traveled quite far, and we all hope you enjoyed yourselves enough to do it again next year. Until then, please feel free to contact me at mvogel@mit.edu about any questions you may have about the chapter, and go ahead and do something crazy with your pledge brothers.

Mike Vogel '02
Chapter President



Above and below: Yardley Chittick '22 shows younger brothers how to run the table.

40 Return For Alumni Weekend

This year's Alumni Weekend went off spectacularly, with nearly 40 Betas dropping by 119 Bay State Road over the weekend. The attending graduates represented seven different decades, from the class of 2000 to Beta Upsilon Chapter's oldest member, Yardley Chittick, from the class of 1922 (roll #132).

Some alumni journeyed from as far as Austin, Texas (Hyung Chang, #939), and Chicago, Illinois (Mike Rechten, #825). There were plenty of alumni from all over the New England and the local Boston area as well.

Saturday of the weekend included a relaxed barbecue on the stoop of the main house all afternoon followed by a semiformal dinner at 119, followed by a gathering graciously hosted by recent graduates Justin Manor, Alex Rodriguez, and James Williams. All three events went off well and were enjoyed by all.

Sunday concluded with a wonderful brunch sponsored by our alumni association and organized by our alumni president, Herman Marshall.

As the organizer of the event, I would like to thank all of the alumni who came this year and encourage many more of you to reserve the first weekend of May next year for Beta Theta Pi.

Isaac Dinner '02



INBOUIS NEWS

ROBERT D. PECK '44 reports that he's finally retired and that his company is now owned and managed by his youngest son, Matt. "My activities now are mostly family, woodworking, and golf, since Nance and I do not care for traveling, except for a few weeks in Florida in spring. If any Beta comes to Maine, I hope you stop by." Bob's address is 29 Bucknam Point Rd., Yarmouth, ME 04096 (rdp0529@aol.com).

Birdwatcher WALTER BORDEN '45 has traveled recently to Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, where he's enjoyed the birds, the people, and the scenery. When he wrote in April, he was working on his 40th house for Habitat for Humanity. Send greetings to Walt at 105 Alder Circle, Saint Simon's Island, GA 31522 (birdweb@juno.com).

When he wrote in April, ARTHUR A. WASSERMAN '51 was looking forward to his 50th MIT reunion in June. He's about to retire for the second time (the first time was in 1986 when he left Allis-Chalmers), this time as dean of the college of business and management at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. He plays cello in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Community Orchestra and in the Concord Chamber Orchestra, and he still meets monthly with his own string quartet, "Art's Fine Quartet." He and Sheila make their home at 422 E. Ravine Baye Rd., Bayside, WI 53217, and Art can be reached by e-mail at artwass@stritch.edu.

Write to LOUIS J. LEE '52 at loujlee@aol.com or at 2116 New Bedford Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573.

DONALD B. EVANS '55 lives at 708 Camino Real, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 (e-mail: djaevans@home.com).

On the cusp of full retirement, ALFRED E. WECHSLER '55 is looking forward to having more time to spend with family and friends. Drop him a line at P.O. Box 9, Hampton, NH 03843 (aewechsler@aol.com).

In the last issue of the newsletter, KARL DUFF '57 noted with interest the names of all three Beta brothers he can recall having trekked with into either eastern or western mountains: ED BELL '58 (as undergraduates), "BUD" BORING '64 (as graduate students), and DICK CARPENTER '64 (after grad school). Karl writes, "My wife,

Gretchen, and I are still trekking and have completed almost 2,000 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail. We get into Oregon this summer." Our address for Karl and Gretchen is 6112 Wynn Jones Rd. E., Port Orchard, WA 98366.

B. GREG BROWN '62 writes, "Six members of the class of '62, some of whom hadn't seen each other for nearly 40 years, spent five days skiing in Aspen at the remarkable home of DAVID KOCH '62. We enjoyed great skiing, the efforts of David's traveling French/Swiss chef, Hervé, and the joy of renewed friendships and rehearing of old tales—rather changed by the passage of time and fading memories." The other '62s in the company were MEAD WYMAN, KEITH GLICK, RICHARD HORTTOR, and JAMES DRAPER. A professor of medicine at the University of Washington, Greg can be reached at bgbrown@u.washington.edu or at 3201 Evergreen Point Rd., Medina, WA 98039.

Jane and JAMES S. DRAPER '62 sold their engineering company to Photon Research Associates, with three results: "One, we don't have to meet biweekly payrolls; two, we don't carry the company assets; and three, there is a (remote) chance that someone will come into the office saying, 'Good job! Here's a raise!'" Avid campers and sailors, the Drapers reside at 18 Bellevue St., Newton, MA 02458 (e-mail: jdraper@photon.com).

JAMES W. GIFFIN '64 spent the winter as interim city manager of Port Huron, Michigan. "After 30 years in banking, it was fun to have my own police and fire department!" Write to Jim at gifdad@msn.com or at 4021 N. River Rd., Fort Gratiot, MI 48059.

Congratulations to Jennifer and JOHN R. CHISHOLM '84 (51 Longfellow Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481) on the birth of their fourth son, Aaron David Chisholm, in November. "Unfortunately, the 'Drive for Five' appears stalled out," writes John, "as Jennifer is now saying, 'No more than four.'" The best way to reach John is by e-mail: jchisholm@acadian-asset.com.

On March 9, 2001, CHRISTOPHER J. MORGEN and his wife, Nathalie, welcomed their first child, Julian Reed Morgen. Send best wishes to the Morgen family at 2654 Sunnyside Rd., P.O. Box 151, Findley Lake, NY 14736 (morgan@cecomet.net).

KENDALL BRYAN '88 writes, "I am still living in the Black Forest and plan to be here for at least another year. I travel to the U.S. about once a month and have recently visited DAVE KRAMER '88 at his new house, BOB STRUBLE '85 at his new house, and SCOTT STULL '88 at his new apartment. I was also part of Euchre 2000." Betas interested in a September trip to the Amazon should contact Ken at kbryan@dow.com or at Schafhofweg 20, 77830 Buehlertal, GERMANY.

BENNETT J. SILVERMAN '88 resides at 945 Dorset Dr., Northbrook, IL 60062.

ALEXANDER V. CHACHKES '91 reports a new address: 270 First Ave., #8D, New York, NY 10009.

"Last fall I left IBM after eight years and joined a company called New Focus," writes JOHN E. SELL '91 (6074 Paso Los Cerritos, San Jose, CA; John_Sell@alum.mit.edu). "My group is developing a tunable laser for fiberoptic communication. It has been exciting. I have recently spent time with CHRIS SONNE '99, MICHAEL McDERMOTT '91, and JEFF BERG '89."

Elaine and FRANK LEIBLY '93 are now officially Vermont residents, living halfway between Quechee and Woodstock at 7522 Happy Valley Rd., Taftsville, VT 05073. "Those of you who have been up to Killington have probably driven by our place as we are right off Route 4, not far from where you get off I-89 on your way up from Boston. Lots of room to stay for anyone interested in doing some skiing, golfing, biking, hiking, fishing, or whatever." Send e-mail to Frank at fleibly@adelphia.net.

THE BACK BAY BETA

Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News contributions, address changes, and photos are welcome and should be sent to Beta Theta Pi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0007. Photos will be returned after use in the newsletter.