



# The Back Bay Beta

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FALL 2004

*From Our Chapter President*

## Beta Bounces Back

The new semester is now well underway, and the level of energy in the chapter is extremely high. There seems to be a constant buzz in the house, whether it be about the Red Sox overcoming the Yankees in the ALCS, or about the gorgeous new mainhouse finally nearing completion. The new pledges are already showing signs of being an exceptional group of guys, and it seems as though things are only getting better.

Still, it is a somewhat surreal experience, entering my senior year at MIT and my second term as president. All of a sudden, I have the lowest roll number in the house, and I am often the go-to-guy for some advice or help. Other Betas always expect me to know what to do, and expect that I have experience in how to do it. Although this position certainly comes with some degree of pressure, it is a responsibility that I enjoy thoroughly. In three years of living at Beta, I've had plenty of lapses in judgment and made my share of mistakes, but I'd like to think that I've learned something valuable from each mini-fiasco that I've been involved in. Never again will I replace the chandelier light bulb without a ladder, empty the grease trap into a single trash bag, or try to organize an all-house cleanup with one e-mail.

I have also realized, however, that no amount of micromanaging on my part will prevent every future mishap, that others must also learn from their own experiences and mistakes—that is the education only Beta can provide. Only now do I understand the mildly amused, “Well, what did you learn from this?” look that upperclassmen used to give me. This knowledge is empowering, but at the same time makes me aware of my age.

The house is constantly evolving, and a lot can change in four years. I remember a time when I would come home to Ben strumming Bob Dylan songs on his guitar and Scarby beating Contra on his Nintendo. Nowadays, Zach and Okie jam to Radiohead, while Jake dominates Terrence in Madden 2004 on his Xbox. Times have changed, but the spirit of the house has remained the same. Betas still show up en masse to my jazz perfor-



*Betas Kevin Chen '05 and Yardley Chiddick '22 chat in New Hampshire at Yardley's 104th birthday party.*

mances, screaming words of support after every song, and they still make 3:00 a.m. sprints to Store 24, hoping to buy a hot pocket before Doc locks the door. I see many of the same qualities and personality quirks in our new pledges as I do in my own pledge class, and it makes me even more motivated to leave the house better than it was when I arrived.

Drawing from what I've seen over the past three years and what I learned at this summer's general convention, I've resolved to make a few reforms before I graduate. One of these changes, which is

already underway, is a revamped scholarship program. Our scholarship chair, Joe Goldbeck '07, is heading a new system that formally pairs up Betas who are struggling in particular classes with those who have already taken those classes. There will be cash incentives for each pair to improve their combined GPA, and we hope that this new system will encourage struggling students to improve their study habits with help from their partners. Other planned reforms include a larger-scale community service event in the spring, and quick reference sheets with condensed information about responsibilities and guidelines to be handed down to each new house officer.

As I simultaneously apply to graduate schools and jobs for next year, I have truly come to realize how much I have unconsciously learned from holding positions of leadership within the chapter. When interviewers ask for times when I had to step up and be a leader, examples from living at Beta invariably come to mind. I used to be skeptical about what I could really learn at Beta; I joined originally only because I had become friends with many of the brothers that I had met during rush. Only now do I fully appreciate the value of gaining real-world managerial skills in an environment where a miscue might cost the house a few hundred dollars instead of costing a company a few million. I see my current responsibility (as an “enlightened” Beta) to make sure that the underclassmen also have the opportunity to learn the same things that I did. Here's to them.

Damn proud to be a Beta. GO SOX!

yours in -kai-  
Kevin Chen '05, 1072

# MIT Director Introduces Himself

Thank you for this opportunity to be introduced to your alumni brothers. I am Bob Ferrara (Theta Chi, MIT 1967), MIT's new director of FSILG alumni relations. I'd like to explain how this position came to be, a little about myself, and some things MIT is committed to doing for our fraternity community, especially in connection with the new IRDF Educational Operating Grants program.

The story of the new position starts toward the close of last year, when the need for someone to focus specifically on FSILG (fraternity, sorority, and independent living group) alumni issues became apparent to several senior MIT officials during the deliberations of the FSILG task force. This 18-member commission was appointed by President Chuck Vest in mid-2003. Their charge was to "consider the status and future development of the institute's 37 fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, which together serve roughly 1,000 current students and inspire the affection and loyalty of tens of thousands of alumni." There was general recognition that MIT needed to increase staff to implement the recommendations of the task force, particularly those relating to alumni. The recommendations were delivered to the MIT community on September 17, and the details are available at <http://web.mit.edu/dsl/aurora/home.html>.

After an uncharacteristically short incubation time, the new position was established last April by Dean of Student Life Larry Benedict and Alumni Association Executive Vice President Beth Garvin and structured to report to both of them. They were looking for someone who was an FSILG alum, knew how to "get things done" at MIT, and was already active in alumni affairs. I felt that I met these criteria and asked to be considered. For openers, there was my Theta Chi membership. I am a member of the Theta Chi alumni corporation and even have a brother-brother, my twin Ray Ferrara '67, who was our house president when we were undergrads years ago. For the second criteria, I had worked at MIT for several years as director in IT delivery after a 20-plus-year career at Raytheon and various local governments. Finally, I have always derived a special joy from alumni affairs. I have served as a 1967 class officer, reunion chair, past president, and treasurer of the MIT Club of Boston, vice president of the Friends of DAPER (athletics), and I was co-founder of the Reunion Challenges games that have been held every commencement for the last dozen years. Prior to this new position, I was also a vice president of the MITAA board and a member of the national selection committee.

At first, I did not grasp the importance of this dual-reporting arrangement to Beth and Larry, but now, I would not have it any other way. This structure keeps you aware of the many on-the-ground, day-to-day issues of the chapters while giving you direct access to all the talent and tools in the alumni association. This partnership has already led to fruitful collaborations in a number of areas, but my top priority assignment from Beth and Larry was to work on expanding the Independent Residence Development Fund. Recent IRS case law allows new options for our tax-deductible IRDF donations. MIT has now responded with a new program that should provide some relief for the operating budgets of the chapters.

The full IRDF Educational Operating Grants program commences late in 2004. There are enough funds in the IRDF pool to fund all applicants, including the sororities, for the next few years. In future years, donations given to the IRDF fund by that chapter's alums will likely be a factor in awarding grants, so your alums are encouraged to check off the IRDF box when donating to MIT. If you do choose this route, please ensure that you are properly coded in the alumni database so that your IRDF gift amounts are correctly noted. This can be done by checking your Infinite Connection data at <http://alum.mit.edu/index.html>. "Theta Chi" should be your living group. If not, you can edit your personal information using the on-screen aids. By the way, all IRDF gifts are fully recognized by the

alumni fund, and an IRDF donation counts toward your class and reunion totals.

In closing, I would like to say how fortunate I am to be in this new position. All of the parties involved are really working together well and many positive things are starting to happen. For example, we recently accomplished one of the six major FSILG task force recommendations: Steve Immerman was just appointed as the overall leader in implementing the task force agenda over the next two years after serving as co-chair of the FSILG task force. From my viewpoint, there simply could not be a better choice. As a former dean of fraternities at MIT, Steve is thoroughly committed to Greek life and, as a veteran of two decades here, he knows MIT inside out. Like us, he deeply appreciates the value of the MIT fraternity experience and what it can mean for today's students. Like us, he expects the best. The bar is set very high because this is MIT. Our living and learning environments can and should be the best college housing system in the nation.

Bob Ferrara  
FSILG Alumni Relations Director  
MIT

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## Brother Enjoys Radio Time

After a year abroad at Cambridge University, I have begun picking up where I left off at MIT and at Beta. I've moved back into the house, gotten to know the sophomores whom I hadn't already met, and resumed many of my previous activities at MIT. This includes my favorite thing to do at MIT: host a radio show on MIT's own radio station, WMBR.

I first got involved at 'MBR towards the end of my freshman year when I realized how easy it was for students to get on the air. By that summer I had my own show Friday nights at 10:00 p.m. and was playing all of my favorite underground rock bands. My radio show became—and still is—my favorite part of my week. I love going down to 'MBR's massive record library, listening to music for hours, and then playing what I deem the best for my listening audience.

That audience, small as it was, grew substantially during the fall of my sophomore year when I was asked to join the Late Risers Club, a Monday through Friday show from 10:00 a.m. to noon. In addition to being a prime-time slot, the LRC also has an entrenched listenership of old punks who have been listening to the show for longer than I've been alive. The show is the self-proclaimed original punk rock radio show in the country and has been around since 1977. I felt very privileged to be a part of such a highly regarded part of Boston's music scene, and I learned incredible amounts from the other DJs on the show, some of whom have been hosting the show for over a dozen years.

During my year in Cambridge, I considered hosting a show on their radio station, but decided against it after visiting their facilities and realizing how spoiled I was at WMBR. At Cambridge, they kept their vinyl collection in a greenhouse! So I chose to wait out my days in England without my precious rock 'n' roll outlet. Although the lack of access to new music was frustrating, I managed to enjoy my time abroad. I rejoined the Late Risers immediately upon returning to the States, and I hope to continue volunteering and DJing at the station well after my graduation from MIT.

yours in -kai-  
Ben Kochan '05 (1077)

# Reconstruction Proceeding Apace

Dear Brothers:

As of November 2004, the first phase of reconstruction of the main house from the fire and water damage is just about complete. The rear of the house and landings have been renovated, and the kitchen is ready to be used by the actives for meals.

While the chapter is still living in the Annex, the contractors will begin phase II, which includes rebuilding the three bathrooms and the rooms in the front of the house. Phase II is due to be completed by the beginning of second semester. A phase III project to overhaul the kitchen, pantry, and Woody's Head is tentatively set for initiation and completion during summer 2005.

The rebuilding project to date has made a tremendous impact on the quality of the house.

In the rear, all four floors of copper cladding have been replaced. Substantial parts of the steel framework that held up the windows and the old copper had to be replaced because they had been rusted through from years of water exposure.

Throughout the building, the heating system has been revamped to add power and efficiency. All the windows on the rear of the building—from kitchen to fourth floor—have been replaced with modern double-pane windows. Surely, the winter rituals of Sterno and Scotchguard are behind us.

Each room has been wired with high-speed ethernet cable, 15 drops in all, terminating at a "box" in the pantry downstairs.

The entire rear of the building and landings have new skim-coat plaster and off-white paint, replacing crumbling plaster under wallpaper. All the trim in the house has been painted cornstalk yellow.

Brand new hardwood floors have been installed on: the entire first floor; second, third, and fourth floor landings; the library/chapter room; Third Rear; and the lounge. The craftsmen spent a lot of time retaining the intricate floor details.

Each of the bathrooms now has a floor drain for easy clean up. Further redesign and reconstruction are to follow.

The kitchen received new walls, painted pipes, sub-floor, and

floor—the latter of which caused gallons of raw sewage to be homeless for the first time since the Reagan administration. To prevent future leaks, a floor drain was added. New fixtures, tile floor, and possibly a new layout for the kitchen are envisioned in phase III.

On the first floor, old wallpaper was taken down in favor of semi-gloss paint. The ceiling below the second floor bathroom was completely rebuilt, including adding a steel beam to support a sagging floor caused by poor initial house design.

In the dining room, the carpenters created alcoves in the rear walls and installed high-powered heating units on the bottom and trophy cases on top.

The library/chapter room received a new floor, ceiling, sprinkler piping, and fan coil heaters. To comply with the Back Bay Historical Commission, a second set of double mahogany doors was added to the balcony opening.

The "airlock" door to the rear rooms on the third floor has been removed, leaving a clean-looking archway. Hurdlers lament, as the window beds in both 3R and 4R have

been removed. The window seats have instead been rebuilt and fitted with high-powered hot air coils for heating.

In the lounge, the loft and false floor in the closet have been removed so that the back stairs have exposure to the skylight. Lounge West was expanded by knocking down the wall and closet separating it from Lounge Left.

The alumni corporation extends its thanks to the chapter for being patient and cooperative during the renovation process. Next year, the Annex!

Andrew S. Heitner '92

*Your continued support of the Beta Upsilon Association allows us to complete these renovations as well as plan for significant additional renovations in the Main House and Annex in the future.*



# Getting To Beta

Something that makes my MIT experience different from most is that I live at home. "I thought you're supposed to live on campus your first year," most people say. Well, that's wrong. It's nearly impossible to find this rule online because the MIT administrators want their students to live on campus, but if you call and ask, they will tell you that freshmen can either live on campus or with their parents. I chose the latter. Although there are some disadvantages to living at home, my freshman year is going really well so far, and being a member of Beta definitely helps.

Whenever I tell anyone that I commute from home, they ask me one of two questions, the first being, "Is that hard?" No, it's not. Most students forget that I have the privilege of a refrigerator

filled with real food and a clean bathroom that I don't have to share. I can have long breakfasts in my pajamas and then change into my clean clothes that my mom washed for me. Even taking the train to and from school can be helpful, since it is a great opportunity to work on my problem sets with no distractions.

The second question I often get is, "Do you feel like you're missing out on the college life?" Not really. The only pleasure I miss from rooming on campus is staying in walking distance of the university and living amongst my classmates. However, looking at the living situation realistically, I don't think I would do much besides work in my dorm anyway. Instead of a dorm room, I use MIT's comfortable libraries to do my assignments, and that is hardly a sacrifice. Plus, I still have the opportunity to see my friends that I have made through pre-orientation and crew. I can still go to parties and meet up with friends whenever I feel like it.

Some say that everyone has to leave their parents, and college is the right time. But is leaving your parents really that important? The only lessons you really learn by leaving your folks are responsibility and independence. In a sense I actually have more responsibility and independence than a student who lives on campus. Aside from an occasional laundry washing or a dinner, I am on my own. I always have to think about train schedules and where to leave my bike. I have worked in past summers, and I still participate in studies and pay for anything I have—while many college students are still getting full financial support from their parents. Even though I live at home, I still have no one to tell me when to do my work or when to come home, and I can stay over at a friend's house or at Beta whenever I want.

I would have to say that Beta makes my college experience complete. During rush week, I visited many fraternities, and each one had a defining characteristic. There was the rich frat, the Jewish frat, the Asian frat, the awkward frats, and more. Even though the lobster and steak dinners, the cruises, and the laser tag were all fun, I didn't feel as though I fit in at any of these places. Then a friend of mine told me about a really "chill" frat called Beta. I asked some other students about it, and most people reinforced this idea, saying things like, "Yeah, they're really chill."

After meeting the Betas I knew, I liked them. The first guy I met, Ben, does heavyweight crew with me, and he worked out with me before the season started. During rush, we took the huge RV they had rented and went on a fishing trip. I had a great time and even caught some sharks. Later, we played some hacky sack in front of the house while some of the guys played music for us. When we came in, we played poker and then euchre. I didn't think I'd ever get work done if I joined Beta, but a lot of the guys seemed quite arduous, many of them with perfect or near perfect GPAs, and they had a scholarship program where the brothers helped each other in classes. I was lucky enough to get a bid, and I soon pledged.

Since then, I've been coming to Beta to hang out with the guys during parties and dinners. I've had a great time learning Beta lore and singing Beta songs with my pledge class. Even though I could manage commuting from home, it's great having a place to go to where I can always see some friends—some brothers—and just chill. I would take this group of guys over a roommate any day.

## Haikus To Tell You What's Happening At Beta

### As Housemanager

*Work week successful  
Annex looking much better  
Our hard work paid off*

*Fixing the annex  
Will pass fire inspection with  
New latches on doors*

### As A Lover of Pub Night

*Thursday is tonight  
All brothers are together  
Kick back and relax*

### As Scholarship Chair

*MIT is hard  
We help each other succeed  
As brothers and friends*

*New program started  
With study partnerships to  
Give and receive help*

*Study partners work  
Being paired up with brothers  
Helps freshmen adjust*

—kai—

Joe Goldbeck '07, 1092



Beta Jon Williams '07 thinks he has caught something during a deep sea fishing rush trip. The Betas had plenty of dinner that night.

—kai—

Dima Mirkin '08

## Brothers Jam In Jazz Ensemble

By Jonathan Kronos '07

Current actives at Beta are involved in on- and off-campus activities across a great many disciplines. Kevin Chen '05 and I are both members of the Festival Jazz Ensemble, MIT's jazz band, directed by Dr. Fred Harris. Kevin, a member since his freshman year, plays the third trumpet part, and I play lead trombone.

The band, which on average plays two concerts per semester, has had a very exciting semester so far. We played a concert over parents' weekend that was very well received. The MIT Wind Ensemble played the first set and the jazz band played the second set. We

played charts by Charles Mingus, Dizzy Gillespie, and others. Kevin played some excellent solos, and I played a trombone duet entitled "Trombone Institute of Technology" with the third trombonist, Aseem Kishore, a pledge at Phi Sigma Kappa.

Every year, Dr. Harris invites professional jazz musicians to have a one week or weekend residency with the MIT music department. Last year, we hosted Saturday Night Live band trombonist Steve Turre. This year, world-renowned jazz pianist and composer Kenny Werner joined us for our concert on November 19. He has also written a

piece for us entitled "Higher Learning." On Friday, October 22, members of the FJE went to see Kenny Werner and his trio at Ryles jazz club. The next morning, we had a preliminary rehearsal with Kenny. He is an amazing piano player, and in just the two hours that we interacted, I gained a new level of insight into playing in a jazz orchestra.

Playing music at MIT is one of the best ways to relieve the stress that we all experience, and I am lucky to play with Kevin and the rest of the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble.

*Jonathan Kronos '07 is from Frederick, Maryland, and lives in Annex first front.*

# INBOSS NEWS

NORMAN C. BEDFORD '38 is the owner and CEO of Beckwith Elevator Co. He sends his best wishes for a swift and successful renovation to the house. He can be reached at 124 Lincoln St., Hingham, MA 02043.

FRANK S. GARDNER '38 writes, "Eleanor and I are well and enjoying our tenth year at a beautiful Vermont CCRC (continuing care retirement community) called Wake Robin. In 2002, we managed to take a tour of Holland in tulip season by canal barge. Today we are staying close to home. Our son and his wife drove us to a family reunion in New Brunswick in August. People here are forgetful of what they did professionally—when they were working! There's so much to do in retirement. A fellow resident here is Dick Austin, Beta at St. Lawrence, about 1948. Good guy. I keep in touch with DALE MORGAN '38, MIT Beta classmate living in Charlestown, Rhode Island." Send greetings to Frank at 602 Wake Robin Dr., Shelburne, VT 05482.

LEE A. BENSON JR. '43 is retired and receives mail at 116 Croftley Rd., Lutherville, MD 21093; captry1st@aol.com.

WALTER E. BORDEN III '45 writes, "Still traveling the world bird watching, with over 4,800 bird species. Three months this year in Mexico in a birding

RV group with Margot, four weeks in Cameroon last year, and then three weeks in Uganda in August. Starting on my 15th year building nearly 50 houses for Habitat." Say hello to Walt at 105 Alder Circle, St. Simons Island, GA 31522; birdweb@juno.com.

FREDERICK W. WEITZ '51 reports, "I sold the family-owned construction business and retirement community development business to their respective employees nine years ago and became semi-retired. Continue to own and oversee two retirement communities—one in Connecticut (Essex Meadows) and one in the Stuart area of Florida (Sandhill Crane). This doesn't take an awful lot of time, so Emily and I travel a lot (India and Mexico so far this year), and spend summers in Redstone, Colorado. We are both healthy and enjoying life." Fred can be reached at 1245 Browns Woods Dr., West Des Moines, IA 50265; fweitz@mchsi.com.

RONALD L. MCKAY '54 writes, "I'm very sorry to read about the fire at 119. My wife, Sally, and I continue to travel: Chicago area to open a performing arts center, New York for an acoustical arts meeting, Cambridge for the 50th reunion, Thailand and Nepal and Tibet in the fall for Asian studies. Best wishes to all." Ron's mailing address is 5811 Kentland Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367-4451. His e-mail address

is smckay8@earthlink.net.

"I have moved back to the Boston area," writes ALFRED E. WECHSLER '55, "from New Hampshire. Although retired, I still seek the occasional consulting project to keep me busy. Still traveling, but mostly for holidays in Europe or Asia, and to visit children and grandchildren around the U.S. I hope to see classmates and Betas at the 50th reunion at MIT next year." Al's new address is 152 Hutchinson Rd., Arlington, MA 02174; aewechsler@aol.com.

WARD D. HALVERSON '56 (25 Hutchinson St., Cambridge, MA 02138; wdhalverson@aol.com) writes, "I was distressed to hear of the fire in fourth floor rear where I spent a semester. We painted the ceiling maroon and the walls grey to be patriotic to Tech, but the result was horrible. BUGSY SEAGLE '55, BOB MACDONALD '56, and CHARLIE HOULT '56 helped. Michele and I spent the months of April and May this year in Europe—France, Austria, and Italy. Sorry to hear of GENE RICHTER's ('53) death. He was a great president of Beta Upsilon."

EDWIN C. BELL '58 writes, "I enjoyed a nice visit with Lynn and STEVE YERETSKY '59 during the Houston trip for my 50th high school reunion in April. Steve is busy with  
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# IN BELL NEWS

(continued from page five)

chemical engineering consulting, and he and Lynn are excited about the construction of their new home in New Waverly, Texas. My wife, Annette Stiefbold, and I embark soon on a six-week driving/ferry trip to Alaska. It is a trip I've wanted to make for years. We plan to do a lot of hiking and—weather-permitting—some tent camping along the way." Ed can be reached at 24341 La Glorita Circle, Newhall, CA 91321-2305; edwincbell@aol.com.

SAMUEL R. "Dick" McLAUGHLIN '58 writes, "After seven years on Fripp Island, we are moving back to Ohio to spend more time with our grandchildren." Dick's new address is 5380 Hawthornden Ct., Dublin, OH 43017.

JAMES DRAPER '62 is senior vice president at Photon Research, Inc. He writes, "GEORGE WYMAN '62 and DAVE KOCH '62 and I caught up on events in our families' lives at dinner in Cambridge in April. Jane and I have the job of going from our daughter, Allison, who is a writer in New York, to our son, Stark, a MIT PhD Course VI in Toronto and California, now working at Berkeley. We are also supporting the Appalachian Mountain Club in a major strategic initiative in the Maine wilderness. In May, Jane and I toured Normandy with Annie and BUD BORING '64." Send greetings to Jim at 18 Bellevue St., Newton, MA 02458. His e-mail address is jsd@photon.com.

RICHARD A. CARPENTER '64 (212 Mount Independence Rd., Orwell, VT 05760; richcarpenter212@aol.com.) writes, "We moved to an 1880 dairy farm (no longer producing) in Vermont at the south end of Lake Champlain in the fall of 2002. I still head down to Boston nearly every week for two to three days to work with profit and non-profit groups while Elizabeth tends to the horses, gardens (flowers and organic veggies), and a myriad of interests. Would love to reconnect with any Betas in the Boston or Vermont neighborhoods. Very sorry to read about the fire in fourth rear—that was my very first 'home' at the Beta house in September 1960—really fond memories with PHIL ROBINSON '61, DAVE KOCH '62, and Bill Faul, who left the institute at Thanksgiving."

When JAMES W. GIFFIN '64 last

wrote, he said, "My son, John (MIT 2002), is marrying Monica Taylor (also MIT 2002) on the MIT campus on July 17. The reception will be in the same room where I had my first exam at MIT 33 years ago. My son Doug (Cal Berkeley) is getting married in San Francisco. Much travel for Jackie and me." Say hello to Jim at 4021 N. River Rd., Fort Gratiot, MI 48059; gifdad@msn.com.

"I'm developing two acres on the beach of Whidbey Island," writes WILLIAM G. ROESLER '65, "near the Boeing plant in Everett, Washington, where we are creating the Dreamliner, the world's first commercial airliner built mostly of carbon epoxy materials. Enjoying the golden years with my wife, two dogs, six kids, ten grandkids, and an old farmhouse in Kirkland, Washington." Billy receives mail at 12625 94th NE, Kirkland, WA 98034; w.roesler@comcast.net.

WILLIAM T. STEWART '69 writes that he went on a golf trip to Ireland in 2003, "and I published a book on the Scotland trip called *Hallowed Ground: A Golf Trip To Scotland*, published by both Waltsan and PublishAmerica." Send congratulations to Stewey at 2775 Martin Rd., Zanesville, OH 43701; bstewart@adjustoveyor.com.

BRUCE LAUTENSCHLAGER '70 sends greetings from 330 Young's Lane, Auburndale, WI 54412. He reports, "I still very much enjoy officiating high school and youth hockey games." His e-mail address is lauten@tzn.net.com.

KENNETH B. SCHWARTZ '76 is a principal scientist at Tyco Electronics in Menlo Park, California. He can be reached at 909 W. Cardinal Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94087; scltfr@comcast.net.

LEWIS H. BENDER '81 (43 Ledge-wood Rd., Redding, CT 06896) writes, "I had a room on the fourth floor. Sorry to see that the fire wrecked the place."

ANDREW B. LEVY '84 writes, "I left the biotechnology field last year, took a few months off, and then started a new company to do software development and IT systems consulting. So far, it's doing OK. As for my kids: my daughter, Alison, will be starting at Clemson University in the fall, majoring in sociology. I think she

ultimately wants to go to law school. My son, Kendall, will be at Montgomery College (in Maryland) this fall. And my youngest daughter, Caitlin, is getting ready for her senior year in high school. Finally, as if all that wasn't enough, I got married on April 30, with fellow Beta CHRIS KURKER '84 flying in from Austin, Texas, to attend the wedding. I sold my house in Maryland, and my wife, Krista, and I moved to a new home in Ashburn, Virginia, this summer." Andy's new address is 43609 Winthrop Ct., Ashburn, VA 20147; his e-mail address is abl@alum.mit.edu.

DARNELL W. KEMP III recently accepted a position at Cytonome, Inc. He can be reached at 15 Harbor Point Blvd., #408, Dorchester, MA 02125. His e-mail address is darnell\_kemp@hotmail.com.

FERNANDO CEBALLOS '02 writes, "Just wanted to let all SoCal Betas know that there is a small but growing gang of MIT Betas enjoying the fruits of Los Angeles, and all who are local and looking to hang out should feel free to call me (323/243-4255) or any other L.A. Beta. We are always looking to have a good time over an ice cold beer." Ferny receives mail at 4934 E. 59th Pl., Maywood, CA 90270; fceballos@covad.net.

SAMEER J. SHAH '03 reports a mailing address of 1634 Federal Ave., #5, Los Angeles, CA 90025. His e-mail address is sam\_shah@alum.mit.edu.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of ROBERT G. NORTON '51 on November 6, 2003.

## 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 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006. Photos will be returned after use in the newsletter.