



The Back Bay Beta

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Beta Upsilon Chapter

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 2006

Alumni Association Vice President Reports:

Now You Can Help The House And Beta Upsilon Chapter In A Tax-Advantageous Manner

Beta Brothers,

As many of you know, I am a member of both the board of our local Beta Upsilon Association as well as the National Beta Theta Pi Foundation. Some alumni have asked me how giving to MIT, our Beta Upsilon Association, and the Beta Theta Pi Foundation can be done in a tax-advantageous manner and still help the chapter. Although this is not an exhaustive discussion of the subject, I think that many of you might appreciate some background on this topic.

The Beta Upsilon Association is not eligible for tax-advantageous contributions, as its primary purpose is to fund the operations of our house and the association itself. Some alumni associations are setting up tax-advantageous foundations alongside their regular operating corporations. These foundations can only fund education-related expenses [scholarship, investing in the 'education portion' of our building or operating expenses (calculated via an IRS-approved formula)]. And, scholarships have to be awarded through an open process. For now, our alumni association has deferred setting this up as the overhead and complexity seems to dwarf the benefit. Also, our needs are much greater on the non-tax-advantageous side of the ledger.

You can help the MIT Beta house through a couple of tax-advantageous methods. First, if you give to MIT and mark your contribution for the IRDF (Independent Residence Development Fund), it will be used to fund low-interest loans to houses (of which we have taken great advantage of in our renovation) as well as construction grants and operating grants that fund renovation and operation of

the educational portion of our house (which has been calculated in accordance with MIT's guidelines). MIT tracks the amount of money each living group's alumni give to the IRDF and use that as one input in deciding about the awarding of any grants.



We received a grant of over \$200,000 to pay for some of our renovation work and are also eligible for an annual grant to pay some of our operating expenses. Your gift to MIT's IRDF, which is tax-advantageous, makes this possible.

Similarly, the General Fraternity's Beta Theta Pi Foundation and its "Upon These

Principles" capital campaign offer funding for educational related programs, and is also tax-advantageous. If you designate your gift to the Beta Leadership Fund as earmarked for the MIT Chapter, then it can only be used if our chapter applies to the General Fraternity for an educational-area construction or operating grant. Also, the MIT Chapter has started to take much more advantage of the leadership programs offered by the "Men of Principle" program. I know that these programs will be very helpful in strengthening the house as it deals with the renovations, which temporarily impact the living environment, and with MIT's changed rush rules. The Beta Theta Pi Foundation also offers a wide range of scholarships that are open to every Beta, including those at MIT.

So, I would like to urge you to continue to support our chapter's needs, which currently cannot be met through any tax-advantageous vehicle. These include our overall renovations as well as most of our operating expenses. Also, please do support the "Upon These Principles Capital Campaign" as it lays the groundwork for keeping Beta (including Beta at MIT) strong in the future.

If you have any further questions about these different giving opportunities, don't hesitate to contact me at mike_feinstein@yahoo.com. And, of course, please consult with your tax adviser before making any decisions about tax-advantageous giving.

Thanks for your continued support.

Yours in ___kai___,

Mike Feinstein '82

Vice President, Beta Upsilon Association

From The Beta Upsilon President:

A Chapter For All Seasons: From Christmas Revels To Spring Blossoms

The MIT Beta house members have had a terrific spring term of the 2005-2006 school year. The brothers viewed this semester like the signature of the season—an opportunity to bloom. And blossom we have!

The Beta Chapter, after some formidable struggles since the Main House fire two years ago, has finally gotten back up on its feet under admirable leadership from Fall President Jacob Stultz, and put itself into a position to excel. Indeed, the chapter is seeking not merely to stay afloat this term, but to thrive.

Less than one full month into the semester, the house had already achieved an impressive list of accomplishments and improvements—from the leveling of our our previously lopsided pool table, to a successful house community service venture with Habitat for Humanity, to the repainting of the pub, to the reinstatement of communal dinners (for which we have secured faculty guests from the physics, mathematics, computer science, and

political science departments). Additionally, we will soon initiate a fantastic pledge class, we're currently recruiting a spring class (we currently have two pledges), and are mak-

ing preparations for a mammoth rush effort next fall. Academically, many brothers are challenging themselves with overloaded schedules, graduate-level courses, double majors, and UROPS. The newly renovated Main House is beautiful and is maintained with care. Every brother is assuming impressive responsibility, and following through with due diligence and truly inspiring levels of commitment.

All of the hard work and enthusiasm has translated to a palpable (and very satisfying) feeling of rejuvenation within the house. I personally invite you to come and share in the chapter's comprehensive whirlwind of revival, Alumni Weekend 2006. Dinners, drinks, parties, sporting events, family activities, and old friends—it promises to be an excellent few days. Please join us. You will surely see why I feel privileged and proud to live and work alongside a group of such extraordinarily talented and devoted young men.

Yours in ___kai___,

Lyel Resner '07
President



Beta's newest pledge class at the annual Christmas party, from l. to r., Adam Paxson '09, Jake Muhleman '08, Chris Chronopoulos '09 (top), Jesse Carr '09 (bottom), Ryan Luersen '09, Steve Russo '08.

ing preparations for a mammoth rush effort next fall. Academically, many brothers are challenging themselves with overloaded schedules, graduate-level courses, double



Betas and their dates mingle before the Christmas dinner.

The State Of The House

With the completion, last September, of major renovations to the Beta Upsilon Main House, brothers have been able to move back into their beautiful Back Bay home. Beta brothers hold proper meetings and rituals in the chapter room for the first time in over 20 months. They are now able to dine together on the first floor while playing table tennis and shooting pool, and socialize with one another in the basement pub. In order to better accommodate the needs of students living in both the Main House and the Annex, myriad upgrades are being undertaken by the Beta Chapter House Managers Ben Wasserman and Jason Martinez, with the help of the alumni association.

Today, more than ever, MIT's curriculum requires the use of the Internet for research, assignment distribution, and networking among students. To support this change, MIT and Verizon have upgraded the houses with new fiber optic ethernet connections, providing a plethora of access points at 100 Mbps. The Annex was the first to be successfully converted since it was the only one of our two houses to have previously had an MIT-supplied ethernet connection. Accordingly, the house managers are now working to upgrade the internal network of the Annex to distribute the high-speed connection to every room. Meanwhile, the fiber optic installation in the Main House is nearing completion. The Main House was pre-wired for ethernet during the renovation. Its infrastructure will, therefore, be far easier to finish. The house managers are also considering the

possibility of creating a wireless network for the Main House.

In January, the 2006 pledge class, led by junior brothers Joe Goldbeck and Terrence McKenna, helped to make the house more hospitable. They applied new paint where it was needed, installed new bathroom shelves, installed light fixtures (left unfinished from the renovation), and redecorated common spaces throughout the house. The pledges were assisted in their redecoration by senior brother Austin Taranta and junior brother Zach Rich, who helped in the procurement of furniture. Couches, tables and a stereo unit provide an inviting social and dining environment for brothers on the first floor of the Main House. As a consequence, chapter dinners are now held on Monday and Thursday evenings. Professors and other community members are hosted at chapter dinners.

The house managers have also recently been able to upgrade the laundry facilities with the help of local alumnus Phil LaFond. Phil generously donated a new washing machine to the house. Last, but not least, on the house managers' full agenda will be to keep the house up to date on its many inspections and licensing requirements. Keeping the chapter facilities functional and comfortable continues to be a high priority. Having a pleasant home environment helps the brothers of Beta Upsilon Chapter to stay focused on success in their many academic pursuits, sports, and extra-curricular activities in the community.

Jason Martinez '04



Jacob Stultz '07 finds himself in deep powder while on vacation in Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Betas Give Back To The Community At Home And Abroad

Over the winter, Betas braved the freezing cold and intermittent snowfall to do a little good with Habitat for Humanity at its work site in Dorchester. Habitat for Humanity provides quality, affordable housing for low-income families by building houses at no profit with free labor—which, in this case, we provided. Led by Community Service Chairman and President Lyel Resner '07, 15 Betas, hammered, cut, cleaned, and carried supplies around for a day. At the end of the day, everyone felt tired, but glad that they had been there to help.

Lyel is also a Big Brother, part of the national program that pairs mentors with children who need guidance and support. As well as helping his own Little, Lyel is trying to coordinate with other Bigs on the MIT campus to form a supportive community and try to recruit new members.

Donald Kahn '46 also wanted to pass along news from Salzburg, where he has lived for the last 20 years and has become a great patron. He recently celebrated his 80th birthday in the Great Hall of the University of Salzburg. Kahn has donated millions towards toward the renovation of that hall and other university buildings, local churches, theaters, and museums. He hopes that others will share in his enjoyment of the causes he fosters and will follow his example.

Jacob Bernstein '07



At the Beta Christmas party, from l. to r., Phil LaFond '98, his wife Stephanie, and Jenny Marshall (wife of Herman Marshall '78).

First Biannual Beta Chapter Retreat – A Complete Success

On February 25, 2006, the Beta Upsilon Chapter held its first biannual chapter retreat. With the help of the chapter's alumni advisory board and the dedicated support of Chris McGill, our MIT-FSILG office coordinator, the brothers were able to escape the bustling city for comforts of the Endicott House. Here, they were able to discuss what it really means to be an MIT Beta and what it takes to make Beta an amazing place for future generations of brothers to experience and appreciate.

The focus of the retreat was to define the short- and long-term goals of the chapter, based on the "Social Change Model"—identifying the ideals of the brothers and the chapter. During the warm-up session, each Beta was given the opportunity to say who they were, where they come from, and where are they going. The brothers then identified the key contributors in their life and the reasons they trusted some contributions more than others. The participants recalled why they joined Beta and what it meant to be a member of the MIT chapter. The group participated in a S.W.O.T. exercise that concentrated on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and

Threats of the chapter. Some of the strengths mentioned included: talented and passionate brothers, a great physical house, "good hair," tolerance, and empathy. In the weaknesses discussion, the brothers identified which flaws had become opportunities

a more unified vision of Beta as a whole. The brothers agreed that Beta is a place where men of extreme character and diverse talents come together to build the relationships that guide their futures and that of the world. The chapter believes that

Beta attracts dreamers and visionaries who are passionate about life and eager to share in the experiences of their journey. The brothers of Beta are men who, together, create their own molds instead of conforming to the molds that are assigned to them. The chapter walked away with an understanding that they do make a real difference in each other's lives and the future of the house.

I, for one, am excited to have been a part of the first chapter retreat and I see the potential for growth in the house. There are a lot of opportunities for improvement and I believe the brothers are making the

changes necessary to become the ultimate chapter on campus. The future of the house looks bright and the chapter has a desire to shine.

Raul-David "Retro" Poblano '01
Resident Advisor, BØΠ



Terrence McKenna '07 prepares to slip and slide while, l. to r., Jake Bernstein '07, Joe Goldbeck '07, and Jeff Bridgham '04 watch at an MIT Beta gathering in Phoenix.

for social growth and chapter improvement. The brothers wrapped up the retreat with a self-guided brainstorming session, identifying solutions to the immediate- and long-term goals of the chapter.

The most rewarding results of the retreat were the elevated spirits of the brothers and



Beta Rocks

Zach Rich '07 (center) and Jonathon Krones '07 (second from right) in a promotional photo for their band, Panic Kills Octo, , , which won a recording contract through a competition hosted by Emerson College.

Beta Sportsmen – Captains Of Back Bay Sailing And Rowing

Although we are all at MIT to strengthen our minds, Betas understand how refreshing it can be to get in a real workout between problem sets. Everyone in the house makes it to our intramural events, where we play soccer, hockey, basketball, softball, Ultimate Frisbee, and even ping pong, but some members train extra hard to compete in varsity sailing, crew, skiing, and gymnastics. Here we highlight two of the varsity sports in which Betas take part.

With the departure of college sailing's Sportsman of the Year, James Modisette (Beta Theta Pi class of 2005), the MIT sailing team has had success maintaining its top-20 ranking in the national Intercollegiate College Sailing Association, solidified by the team qualifying for Atlantic Coast Championships this past fall. Jake Muhleman and Victor Sinow, both class of 2008, continue the Beta presence on the water, while two recent Beta alumni stand by as assistant coaches—Dan Bercovici '04 and Brian Savery '03. The team's goals include qualifying for both the team

racing and fleet racing nationals this spring at the New England Championships, and cultivating freshman talent to ensure the team's continued excellence. The team is very excited to start practicing with two brand new fleets of boats. It will, however, be an emotionally difficult season, the last for former Beta RA and sailing coach Mike Kalin before he begins his Olympic campaign for Canada.

Ben Wasserman is a junior studying chemical engineering and a member of MIT's varsity heavyweight crew. "It is tough," Ben says. "We're at MIT for our brains, and our competitors are on sports scholarships for rowing. We have to manage our course load and find time to practice twice a day. The deck is stacked against us, but we manage." Crew is the only Division I sport at MIT. MIT rowers must compete against nationally recruited athletes, even future Olympians. But they're still competitive. The MIT varsity heavyweight crew team soundly defeats the top Division II crew teams every year, earning

in its place in Division I. MIT varsity heavies compete annually in the Intercollegiate Regatta, the invitation-only national championships. The varsity heavyweights consistently rank in the top 25 nationally.

This year the team is looking to beat some of its classic rivals, like Dartmouth and Columbia. They trained hard over IAP, with a 10-day training trip in Florida and daily double workouts. Ben is looking forward to the spring duel season.

"My fellow Betas are always supportive," he says. "They are quiet when I have to wake up for 6:00 a.m. morning practice. They save me a "late plate" when I miss dinner because of afternoon practice. They suffered through freezing rain to cheer on me at the head of the Charles."

Jake Muhleman '08
Ben Wasserman '07
and Jake Bernstein '07



Jake Muhleman '08 in a windy practice on the Charles in MIT's new fleet of FJs.

NEWS

Oswald Stewart '39 has moved to 352 Massachusetts Ave., #302, Boston, MA 02115. Now retired, he is the president of MIT class of 1939. Reach him by e-mail at oswaldstewart@verizon.net.

Robert E. Donovan '51 has a new address: 3935 Zero Mull Rd., Morganton, NC 28655. Send Bob e-mail at rdonovan51@charter.net.

Ronald L. McKay '54 writes, "I'm finally retired—spending only a day per week on company matters. Sally and I spent a week this summer in Hawaii with our older son, Ken, and older grandson, Kevin. We spent two weeks in Europe—from Warsaw and Budapest, to Vienna and Prague. I spent much of the year, unfortunately, settling the complex estate of a Chicago relative. I just joined the board of directors of Friends of MIT Crew and hope to work to improve the program." Stay in touch with Ron at 5811 Kentland Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367; send e-mail to smckay8@earthlink.net.

Ward D. Halverson '56 regrets that he will be out of town (visiting Paris) during the 50th reunion of his class. Ward lives at 25 Hutchinson St., Cambridge, MA 02138. You can reach him by e-mail at wdhalverson@aol.com.

James W. Giffin '64 lives at 4021 N. River Rd., Fort Gratiot, MI 48059. He reports, "My son, John (MIT 2002) and his wife, Monica (MIT 2002) are living in Somerville. Monica is now a grad student at MIT, thanks to Raytheon. Jackie, my wife of 40 years, and I are currently in California helping our son, Doug, recover from a

serious mountain biking injury (he's doing great after nine months). Doug and his wife, Robyn, both UC Berkeley grads, have produced our first grandson, Alex James Giffer, now a one year old." Send congratulations by e-mail to gifdad@msn.com.



William T. Stewart '69 writes, "I played golf with **Dan Nadler '72** and caught up on his life in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. I have become interested in Hickory Golf and now play in national tournaments with golf clubs over 100 years old. I also will complete my masters in teaching so I can teach math and physics in high school when I retire." Reach Stew at 2775 Martin Rd., Zanesville, OH 43701. Send e-mail to bstewart@adjustoveyor.com.

Roger S. Mecca '73 has a new address: 215 Abigail Cir., Danville, CA 94506. He now works for Tyco Health Care. Send e-mail to roger.mecca@tycohealthcare.com.

Eric L. Raefsky '76 reports, "I'm very saddened to inform my fraternity brothers

that my freshman roommate and pledge brother, **Kenneth Schwartz '76**, died in October 2005 of malignant melanoma. He is survived by his wife, Barb, and two sons, Nicholas and Jamie. I am a hematologist-oncologist in a 40-physician group in the Nashville area. My house is on 160 acres. No children, but eight indoor dogs, many goats, and four Great Pyrenees to guard them. My wife, Victoria, and I will celebrate our 23rd wedding anniversary in May. Get in touch if you will be in the area." Eric lives at 6130 S Mount Juliet Rd., Hermitage, TN 37076; send e-mail to raefsky@bellsouth.net.

Kendall R. Bryan '88 has a new address: 41 Hengshau Rd, Xuhui District, Shanghai, 200031 CHINA. Ken will be living and working in China through 2008. "Euchre Cup viewings by appointment!" Reach Ken by e-mail at kbryan@dow.com.

Jeffrey D. Berg '89 has moved to 1201 Lincoln Mall, #604, Lincoln, NE 68508. Send e-mail to jberg3@unlnotes.unl.edu.

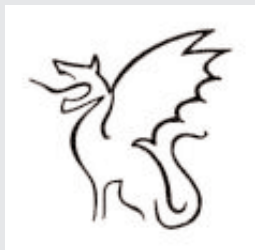
Michael R. Nuckles '96 has a new address: 2125 Augusta, #76, Houston, TX 77057.

Andrew W. Yip '03 has moved to 757 SE Winterfield Pl., Corvallis, OR 97333. Send e-mail to ayip@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumnus:

Kenneth Schwartz '76
in October 2005



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.