

The

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Back Bay Beta

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.beta-mit.org

SUMMER 2007

Shared Goals And Integrated Vision Lead BΘΠ To Success

With continued excitement for progress, the brothers of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi look forward to the opportunities for personal growth and expansion that the 2007-'08 academic year will bring.

As a united community, we have made significant strides towards improving our infrastructure and securing the long-term survival of our organization. Specifically, we have finished reviewing and updating our bylaws and are now in the process of ratifying our chapter constitution. With shared goals and an integrated vision we feel confident that Beta Theta Pi will become one of the leading fraternities on MIT's campus.

The brothers of Beta Upsilon Chapter, however, realize that without increased membership, leadership among the Greeks at MIT is unlikely. As a result, recruitment is (and always should be) our number-one priority. Currently, we are committed to

increasing the net size of our pledge classes.

Campus and community involvement are essential to our growth as a chapter as well; therefore, we Betas have immersed ourselves in both community service and extracurricular activities. Almost monthly, brothers from our chapter offer their time to make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.

In the past semester, brothers spent the day at the Greater Boston Food Bank preparing meals for low-income families and individuals too weak to care for themselves. On campus, brothers are involved in activities ranging from varsity sailing and ski team to dance troupe and cheerleading squad—we even have members on the IFC's judicial and rush committees! Although it is difficult to find free time at MIT, we Betas realize the importance of staying involved.

Involvement with the National BΘΠ

Fraternity is also of great importance to our chapter. With nothing but positive reports from the Beta leadership institutes, we have five members registered to attend the John and Nellie Wooden Institute for Men of Principle this summer, and three more registered to attend the Peter F. Greiner Leadership College.

As evidenced by our strong showing at these national events, the Beta Upsilon Chapter has taken a profound interest in cultivating tomorrow's leaders. With the continued support of our strong alumni base, and the growth of our chapter's membership and energy level, I can only predict a bright and promising future.

Yours in *_kai_*,

Victor Sinow '08, 1097
President, Beta Upsilon Chapter
Beta Theta Pi Fraternity

Community Service: Beta Gets Involved

It was a year of great progress for the charity work we do at Beta Theta Pi.

The election of a new community service officer last fall helped our brothers to develop their awareness of the multiple needs of the communities that surround us. Accordingly, the members of Beta have been putting their altruism to work in a series of service events around the Boston area.

Last October, Beta took a trip to the Franklin Park Zoo, which was hosting its annual Zoo Howl in celebration of Halloween. The Zoo

Howl is a community outreach event with games and activities for children of all ages.

This year, Beta had a blast dressing up in costumes and volunteering at the haunted house.

Yet another successful event was the setup of Salvation Army's Christmas Castle in December.

Every winter, the Salvation Army uses its downtown Boston Christmas Castle as an outpost for distributing the many coats, hats, mittens, toys, and

other items that it collects all year. The men of Beta Theta Pi came to help organize this

important resource by hanging up winter coats and setting up holiday decorations.

More recently, in early March, Beta made its way out to the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) in an effort to combat hunger. The GBFB is one of the largest hunger-relief organizations in the country, but it depends heavily on the labor of volunteers. Beta spent a Sunday afternoon at the GBFB's main warehouse, sorting through and packaging an immense variety of food items. That afternoon, each Beta who volunteered made possible 170 meals for needy families in the New England area.

Activities like these are shining examples of how small sacrifices made by a few fortunate individuals can mean the world to many others. As the members of Beta Theta Pi continue their involvement in service to the Boston area, they continue to learn valuable lessons about their role in the community around them.

Chris Chronopoulos '09



Dan Hochbaum '09 and Ryan Luersen '09
sort through canned food at the
Greater Boston Food Bank.

Beta Hosts Memorable Alumni Weekend

The Beta Upsilon Chapter completed its most successful Alumni Weekend ever on May 4-5, 2007. The actives had the chapter house looking its finest and welcomed alumni from all eras. The weekend began with an informal gathering on Friday evening at the house. In addition to quite a few younger alumni, attendees included Steve Schroeder '67 and Allan MacLaren '60. Allan traveled all the way from the Bay Area in California to attend the weekend's festivities. It was great to reminisce with Betas from other decades about how the chapter and facilities have changed over the years.

Saturday began with a brunch at the Beta House. We were also joined by Dick Reedy '51 and his lovely wife. Dick spent quite a bit of time walking through the house and sharing fond memories of his time at Beta. We had hoped that Buchanan Loesch '41 would be joining us with several members of his

family on Saturday as well. Unfortunately, Brother Loesch had a health setback right before our Alumni Weekend. All of Beta Upsilon wishes him a speedy recovery and we look forward to welcoming him and his family next year.

Saturday afternoon included a softball game. We had planned to have alumni vs. actives, but the teams didn't seem balanced. Then we tried odd graduation years vs. even graduation years. For some reason, the teams were also way out of balance. Then we tried odd roll numbers versus even, but that also didn't work out. Short of picking names out of the baseball cap of Herman Marshall '78, we just divided the teams up randomly. The game was great fun with some close plays, great catches, and a glimpse of a future Beta, George Whitfield Jr. (son of George Whitfield '03). Kudos to Stephanie LaFond, wife of Phil LaFond '98, for taking in the game while

tending to their newborn daughter.

The culminating event of the weekend was the Alumni Dinner on Saturday night. This evening also featured the retirement of "Jim The Cook" after 18 (some say 19) years of service to the Beta Upsilon Chapter. Raul-David "Retro" Poblano '01 spearheaded the effort to purchase Jim a beautiful engraved Waltham 1902 pocket watch and commemorative plaque. Attendees at the dinner and send-off included Paul Cassell '86, Frank Leibly '93, Christian Hamer '94, James Elder '97, Pete Berger '97, Noah Breslow '97, Jerry Hughes '97, Jonathan Bennett '98, Sam Elder '04, and Jeff Bridgman '04.

All in all, the Alumni Weekend was a great success. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Yours in __kai__,
Mike Feinstein '82

Go Tell It On The Mountain -- MIT Skiers Rule!

This past winter marked my third season as a member of the MIT Alpine Ski Team and, with a small but experienced and rapidly improving membership, we worked to have the most successful season on record for the team. It started early in the fall semester with a training regimen organized by a new strength-training course consisting primarily of weightlifting, abdominal exercises, and plyometrics, three sets of exercises key to ski-racing fitness.

We typically have a few on-snow practices in the fall term as tryouts and to readjust to being on skis. But this winter started off particularly slowly, and there was not enough snow at nearby resorts to hold any fall training sessions. With only seven male team members and room for ten, however, tryouts weren't necessary.

Our weather-related difficulties continued into the beginning of January during our month-long IAP training camp. The entire month of January is spent training and racing in New Hampshire. Every winter the team rents a small house near Plymouth to live in for the month, and we train at Waterville Valley Tuesday through Friday, with races on Saturday and Sunday. Each day we train from opening until around 3:00 p.m. or so. After returning to our house, our time is consumed by more workouts, cooking, eating, tuning and waxing our skis (every night), and video analysis of our skiing.

Race days are equally hectic; each racer has two runs through the race course; before each run I'd have to inspect the course, memorizing the layout of the gates and the terrain features, and since the racers were also responsible for administering the race (an aspect unique to our league), after each of my

runs I would have to return to the course to perform course maintenance and gatekeep (watching the racers to make sure that they complete the course without missing gates).

The MIT Ski Team is a member of the US Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA), a national, NCAA sanctioned body. We participate in the MacConnell divi-



Jacob Stultz '07 competing in the slalom at Loon Mountain, New Hampshire.

sion of the Eastern conference, competing against Plymouth State, UMass, Colby-Sawyer, Boston College, Babson, Brown, St. Anselm, and UConn. At each race, each racer's two run times are combined for a total time. From each team, the times of the top five finishers are added together to determine team ranking. This made things particularly difficult for our team, since we only had seven racers and most other teams had ten. Despite this disadvantage, our team consistently improved, and this year we finished fifth in the league behind PSU, UMass, Colby-Sawyer, and BC, earning ourselves a qualifying slot for Eastern Regional Championships

(the top five teams qualify), a first for the MIT ski team since joining USCSA.

We competed against the teams from four other divisions at Regionals, held at Waterville Valley in late February. At Regionals, each team can enter five racers, and the top three times from each team are added together, so this helped to level the playing field for our relatively small team. We finished seventh place in the slalom event and sixth place in the giant slalom event, to tie with Colgate for sixth place overall behind BC, UMass, Colby Sawyer, Plymouth, and Clarkson. If we had placed fifth, we would have qualified for National Championships in Winter Park, Colorado. Unfortunately, we did not have our best two days of skiing as a team and did not qualify, though we did have some great individual results.

While we did not reach our ideal goal of qualifying for national championships, we did have a fantastic season qualifying for Regional Championships, and we have high hopes for next season as well, with only two departing team members. (I will be racing for a fourth year as a masters of engineering student). Once again, the ski team was a great experience for me, allowing me to ski nearly every day for nearly two months in a competitive environment. Additionally, the atmosphere at the races is one of camaraderie; all of the teams cheer each other on, friends are made, and everyone is on good terms. My three years on the team so far have been a great way of balancing my school work with recreation, and have convinced me of the value of the athletic opportunities that MIT provides its students.

Jacob Stultz '07

The Annex Is Remade -- In Its Own Rocking Image

Ask yourself this: *Can a sliver of heaven be enclosed by four walls?* Absolutely. The Annex stands boldly for the new era of Beta Theta Pi's reign. A sanctuary for the growth and development of our brotherhood, the Annex reminds us of the days when the Main House had burned down and we all converged to live within this secondary house. Those were perhaps the best times.

Despite its recent renovations in the summer of the year of our lord, 2006, the Annex retains the grunge-rock element that Main House dwellers have come to rely on for the more righteous half of their Beta experience. Personified by such indie rockers such as Robert Boyd, Italian import, Antonio, and questionable big man, Scott Purchase, the Annex's ability to be a melting pot for all types of extremeness entrenches its way into the culture of Back Bay Boston. Persons aside, the area of the Annex that may collectively represent the



Chris Moulton of Cambiata sings his heart out in the Annex at Beta's most recent rush event

openness of Beta to outside ideas and ways of expression may be the basement front stage room, a relatively recent addition, thanks to a number Betas and friends during the summer of 2005. From the ergonomic bench constructed by Matt Brigham from wood salvaged from Terrence McKenna's '07 forsaken loft to the tasteful new carpet selected and installed by Brigham yet again, the Annex has been revitalized. To exemplify the extensiveness of the renovation, even the pipes that crisscross the ceiling have been touched up with an aggressive dual-tone "racing stripe" paint job by one of Beta's many talented artists, John Williams. The gates of Beta Theta Pi have been made strong again by local favorite and heavy hitter

Ryan Luerson, who takes great pride in his work as our house manager, taking it upon himself to revitalize the inner Annex door.

The Annex's new face has also served

unwaveringly as the platform from which our Beta Upsilon Chapter has staged our most recent rush activity. Our brothers promptly readied the house for a riveting evening filled with mouth-watering barbecue cuisine, live music, and good times. "I met a lot of young freshmen males that seemed really intrigued in the house. I don't think they had ever experienced such action-packed action in their lives," says John Williams, who attended the event and was rocked by it. After playing, Cambiata's Chris Moulton proclaimed, "This is the most fun we've had playing music so far on our tour." The night culminated with Betas and their new friends taking the stage to perform some blisteringly hot hip-hop music as well as whatever else they could conjure up with a guitar and a microphone.

In summary, life in the Annex has been full-throttle and we hope to be able to sustain this for the foreseeable future. As proud residents, both of us would like to take this opportunity to say that we would trade this humble abode for no other.

A-N-N-E-X!

Matt Brigham '09 and John Williams '10

Interview With An Alumnus -- Neil Best '95

The Course XIII experience at MIT is multidisciplinary, preparing you for work in any of a vast array of fields, including geological surveying, forestry, weather prediction, cartography, and aquaculture. In fact, even though he graduated a mere 12 years ago, **Neil Best '95** has already been involved in all these areas of research. Starting at MIT with courses in math and materials science related to his major, Neil then took up UROPs in tanker spills and survivability. His understanding of the ocean led him into an obvious choice for work as a graduate student: MIT Sea Grant's AquaLab, where he undertook to remedy the issue of contaminants in Boston Harbor affecting the survival of fish. Course XIII's intensive study of fluids was good preparation for his next job, which was as an instrumentation engineer for meteorological sensors and weather data collection. Turning his attention back to the environment, Neil did research in Chicago on how to prevent groundwater problems. He also had a stint with BP Pipelines North America last year. There, they had been using outdated pipeline maps from the 1930s. Neil had to consolidate pipeline repair data using GPS, overhead images, and maps together to figure out which pipes were really there, which weren't, and which were missing. Now, Neil works in geo-

graphic information services, using satellite data to predict the lives of forests to keep them healthy and productive. He also has a part-time job as a teacher, instructing adults interested in the field.

Neil lives with his wife, Laura Best, and two-year-old son Leo, passing the time watching the Weather Channel—reportedly, Leo's favorite. He would definitely recommend Course XIII to any MIT student considering it. And, of course, he would definitely recommend Beta as well, not just for what you can get out of it during your years at MIT, but also afterwards: "At any point in time, there are hundreds of Beta alumni spread out all over the country. It's great to have a network of guys I know and trust." Neil's experience might lead us all to take full stock of our days at MIT and treasure the brotherhood we have in Beta as well as the opportunities for which our

studies have readied us. According to Neil, this MIT experience is unequalled: "There is truly nothing like it."

Daniel Briggs '07



Jacob Muhleman '08, Jacob Bernstein '07, and Adam Paxson '09 disguise themselves for some pirating on the nature island of Dominica. The three set sail during IAP along with Terrence McKenna '07, Victor Sinow '08, and John Herrera '08 from the beautiful Antigua, whence a fortnight's adventuring led them by Dominica and Guadeloupe back to Antigua.

B O I I N E W S

Raymond S. Poor '31 writes, "I want to express appreciation and thanks to the Beta brothers who have kept the house and its traditions going strong." Reach Ray at 62 High Rd., Newbury, MA 01951.

Oswald Stewart '39 has a new address: 352 Massachusetts Ave., #302, Boston, MA 02115, an assisted living facility where Ozzie says he's quite happy. He's the MIT 1939 class president, and still does some volunteering. Oswaldstewart@verizon.net.

Richard C. Reedy '51 lives at 9 Estes St., Amesbury, MA 01913. He reports, "Last summer was the 55th reunion for the class of '51 which Carol and I attended. A group of Betas led by Herb Voelcker and Walter Massey (a non-graduate member of the class of '51) organized a Class of '51 Beta Reunion in Montreal in July. It turned out to be a wonderful event, attended by: Joe and Nancy Sherrill (Texas), Herb and Jean Voelcker (New York), Art and Sheila Wasserman (Wisconsin), Fred and Emily Weitz (Iowa), Dick and Carol Reedy (Massachusetts), Julie Gentleman (Gregor's widow- from Iowa) and our host, Walter Massey, and his friend Lynne Sharman Sturges-Yarnell. The day before our arrival Sharman had moved in with Walter—after they'd been going together for 31 years. Walter doesn't do anything in haste. By pure happenstance Walter lives at 1951 Tupper, a good omen. Our hotel was close to Walter's house, making it a convenient gathering spot. With a van and driver, we toured many scenic spots in and around Montreal. One night we went to an old fort where, as part of the dinner, the staff put on a play about early Montreal. To our surprise, Walter had a leading part in the play. Walter comes by his talents naturally, since his uncle was Raymond Massey, the actor. Walter's career was spent as an actor on stage and on TV in Montreal. Arthur, who was president of the class of '51, had just passed his Wisconsin bar exam (although

he's now legally blind—quite an accomplishment!). Starting a new career at age 77 shows an abnormal degree of guts and determination. What else would you expect of a Beta? I enjoy the newsletter. Yours in _kai_." Send e-mail to rcreeedy@aol.com.

Herbert B. Voelcker '51 writes, "In mid-July, the Beta 1951 Brothers celebrated their 55th class reunion by gathering for several days in Montreal. A splendid program of dining, summer theatre, day trips (to Quebec City, the Old Port, a harbor tour), and shopping was organized by Walt Massey. All of the surviving brothers and their wives attended. A fine event, to be repeated. Notably, no divorces: all of the gals we married 50-or-so years ago have hung-in. Foolish women? No, first-class selections!" Stay in touch with Herb at 205 Valley Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; send e-mail to hbv1@cornell.edu.

Arthur A Wasserman '51 completed his studies and graduated from Marquette Law School in 2005. At 77, Art was one of the oldest grads. He was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar. Art has since accepted a number of cases assigned by the Wisconsin State Public Defenders Office. In the fall of 2005, the *Marquette Law School Magazine* published a charming article about Arthur, and his wife, Sheila, as two late-blooming attorneys, highlighting some of their adventures. In June 2006, Art returned to MIT in Boston for his 55th Class Reunion, where he met many of former classmates and wondered why they had aged so much! Later, in July 2006, Art and Sheila traveled to Montreal, where they had a delightful reunion with six of Art's Beta Theta Pi fraternity brothers from his MIT class and their wives. Art writes, "We're pleased to say that we are both doing well physically, but, like many others, we often cannot remember where we left our glasses or keys. We hope you are all doing well— and also doing some good; may it lead to a

more peaceful and loving world." Reach Art at 422 E. Ravine Baye Rd., Bayside, WI 53217; aawasserman@stritch.edu.

Allan J. MacLaren '60 writes, "My middle-grade children's book, *Here comes Albert*, was published in November 2006. It's available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. While in Florida, I had lunch with Jim Braman '58." Write to Allan at 1125 McIntosh Creek Dr., San Jose, CA 95120; mdnmaclaren@aol.com.

William G. Roeseler '65 is helping to engineer the Boeing 787. He also is looking at fusion energy for space flight and possible clean energy applications. Bill is also developing waterfront woods on Whidbey Island in the Puget Sound. He writes, "It was nice to read about brothers Chittick '22, Lacy '42, Lacy '79, Duff '57, Ross '61, Giffin '64, and Luconi '64, all friends from the '60s on Bay State Road (except Roger who lived on Seattle later on." Stay in touch with the "garbage man" at 12625 94th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98034; send e-mail to wm.g.roeseler@boeing.com.

Todd D. Wilson '88 has a new address: 2211 Desert Varnish Ct., Grand Junction, CO 81503; e-mail to tdkmwilson@cs.com.

Jaydeep P. Bardhan '00 has moved to 2740 N Pine Grove Ave., #18C, Chicago, IL 60614; jbardhan@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

George William Beer '39
in 2007

Lee Ashby Benson Jr '43
on March 27, 2007

A. James Rowan '57
on August 27, 2006

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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.

