



BACK BAY BETA

Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fall 2025

OLD BONDS, NEW BEGINNINGS

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE,
FAMILY, AND THE BETA
EXPERIENCE

I'm at a stage in life where big changes are on the horizon. I'll be retiring soon, moving to Chicago in the spring, and eagerly anticipating the arrival of my first grandchild in early 2026. This month, I'm also filling in for **Chris Briere '19**, who is expecting his first child any day. As the French writer Karr once said, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

A REUNION TO REMEMBER

This idea was brought home at the collective 65th birthday party for the pledge class of 1978, hosted by **Alan "Tex" Laves '82** in the Berkshires this summer. It was wonderful to reconnect with everyone, especially those I hadn't seen in years. Decades may have passed, but those old Beta bonds remain strong. Within moments, we were deep in conversation, sharing memories and reflecting on the paths our lives have taken, just as we did at the Beta House.

WHY THE BETA BOND LASTS

Why do we still feel close to those we haven't seen in such a long time? I believe it lies in the powerful bonds formed during a pivotal stage of life. For most of us, college was our first extended time away from home. We lived



Alan "Tex" Laves '82 hosts a Beta reunion in honor of the collective 65th birthday of the pledge class of 1978.

cooperatively, learned to work with others—including those different from us—and tackled the challenges of MIT classes together. We also enjoyed memorable social experiences, from outings and parties to managing big events like Work Week, recruitment, and alumni or holiday celebrations.

We could have simply been "friends" and had a good time, but we hungered for something deeper. Personally, I sought connection to overcome youthful shyness and to practice leadership. I wanted to learn from others and share laughter. Over the decades, I've made many friends, yet few are as close as my Beta Brothers, and none can reconnect so seamlessly as a Beta Upsilon Brother.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

My pledge Brother, **Bob Labarre '83**, often reminds me how fortunate we were to be at MIT and in the Beta House during those formative years when society, campus life, and the mix of men in the Chapter came together for a phenomenal experience. Many other alumni, both younger and older, feel the same way.

I look forward to your continued support through both your time and financial contributions so we can ensure this extraordinary experience remains accessible and affordable for future generations of young men at MIT.



Yours in _kai_,
Mike Feinstein '82, Vice-President
Beta Upsilon Association

*Stay Connected
and Support
Beta Theta Pi*

Your support keeps the Beta Upsilon experience alive for the next generation of MIT men. You can make a difference in two ways:



Financially

Use the enclosed envelope to contribute. Every gift, large or small, helps maintain the Chapter House, fund programs, and make the Beta experience accessible.



Reconnect

Share your story, catch up with Brothers, or attend events.

Together, we ensure that the bonds, lessons, and memories of Beta Upsilon continue to thrive.

REIMAGINING AN INDUSTRY

How Godard Abel '93
Grew with His Brothers

Having helped create six SaaS companies over the past 25 years, **Godard Abel '93** can attribute his professional path directly to the Beta brotherhood. His first and fourth ventures, BigMachines and Logik.ai, were built alongside Beta Upsilon brothers. **Chris Shutts '93** and **Mike Duffy '92** cofounded BigMachines with Godard in 2000, and **Randy West '94** and **Erik Abernathy '93** soon joined the company and scaled it all the way through its eventual sale to Oracle in 2013. (Chris went on to lead Oracle CPQ after the acquisition.) In 2000, Chris and Godard co-founded Logik.ai with Chris as CEO and Godard as exec chairman. Randy West soon joined to lead professional services for Logik, which was just acquired by ServiceNow in May 2025.

“Without my Beta pledge brothers, our first company would have never started and likely failed when we hit tough times during the dot-bomb bust,” the G2 CEO and cofounder said, “and none of our entrepreneurial successes over the past 25 years would have happened!”

GROWING AT MIT

Godard learned of Beta Theta Pi at a Pittsburgh rush party hosted by **Ken Chay '91**, and he instantly felt at home. He cemented the decision during his first rush weekend at MIT, and his pledge brothers became instant close friends.

The brotherhood always supported Godard and gave him (mostly) good advice, as we enjoyed countless social and work activities at the Chapter House. Competing in the Head of the Charles was meaningful to Godard as a four-year varsity rower, and he was proud to be on the winning team of the Club 8 race his senior year as well as the Division II National Championship. He was also voted MVP of the varsity crew and pulled the best erg score at MIT.

BECOMING LEADERS

Godard went on to Stanford Business School in the dot-com boom, joining a Silicon Valley startup (Niku) that provided his first taste of entrepreneurship. He left in early 2000 to found BigMachines, inspired by his grandfather and father's pump manufacturing company. “I thought, why can't we sell pumps online too?”

That first business taught Godard about weathering the highs and lows of business, as the company nearly failed in 2003 (before a recovery and eventual acquisition). He next attempted another company in the same CPQ (configure, price, quote) software space, SteelBrick, which was soon acquired by Salesforce, and Godard continued to lead the company as a member of the Salesforce team (while learning from CEO Marc Benioff how to build a truly global scale company).

In 2012, Godard cofounded G2 to create a new software marketplace. “Building BigMachines was frustrating for us because of how slowly analysts adapted to changes in technology—and how much power a single analyst held over an industry,” he recalled. “So we decided

to put the power into the hands of real users in a way that would give software entrepreneurs a fair chance to build their reputations and make it easy for enterprise software buyers to discover and buy the best apps for their business.”

G2 has helped democratize the software industry by applying real-time customer reviews and ratings to the B2B landscape. “After all, why should it be easier to get real customers' perspectives on a \$100 dinner than on a \$100,000 piece of software?” Over a hundred million software buyers and thousands of software companies now partner with G2 to connect on its growing marketplace. G2 also became a Unicorn in 2021 after raising over \$250M to fund its growth.

“And now in the age of AI, our vision is to be the most trusted data source for informing software buying decisions and go-to-market strategies,” Godard added.

GODARD'S ADVICE? SPEAK UP!

“Early in my career as a consultant at McKinsey, I saw myself as the quiet analyst—great with spreadsheets, but not someone who spoke up in meetings. A senior manager, John Perlese, pulled me aside and said, ‘If you see something others don't, you've got to speak up.’

That moment was a real turning point. I realized people valued my ideas, not just my spreadsheet skills. It taught me that speaking up is essential—especially as an entrepreneur.

In my early BigMachines days, I put that into practice. Marc Benioff was speaking at a conference in Chicago right before Salesforce's IPO. I didn't have a connection, but I walked up, introduced myself, and shared my idea. That conversation helped open the door to a future partnership. Having the courage to speak up was the shift that took me from being a quiet, nerdy engineer to making a real impact in business.”

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

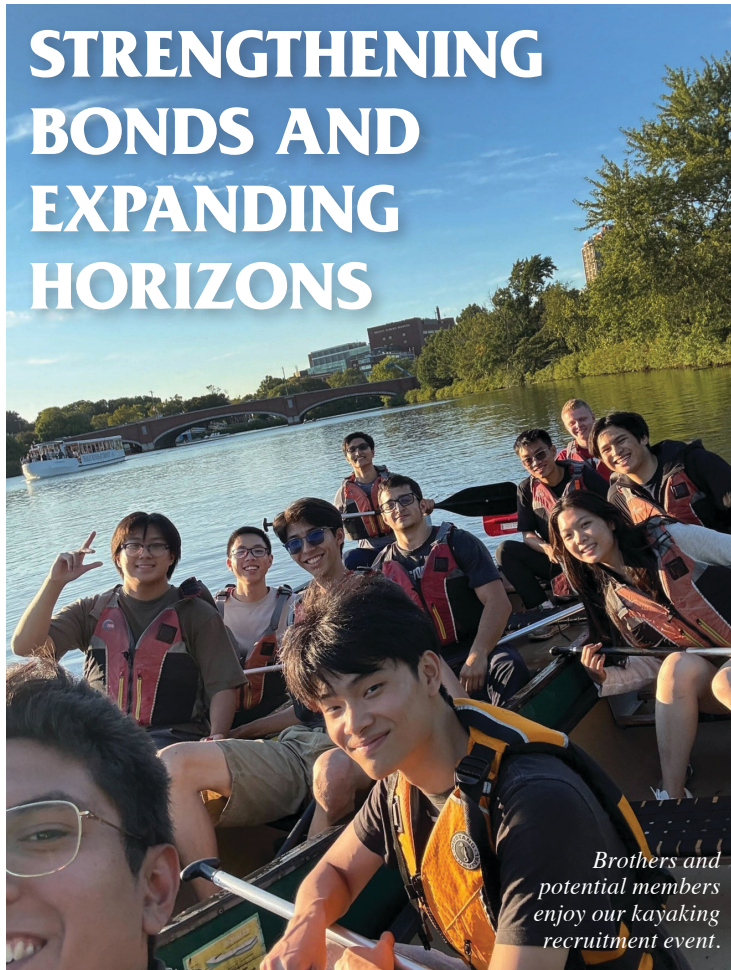
In addition to the Betas named earlier, Godard also credits his career success to support from many Betas, including **Dave Samuel '94**, for introducing him to his first Silicon Valley attorney, Jon Gavenman, with whom Godard still works 25 years later. Godard is a proud Beta Upsilon donor for giving him the skills and network to thrive. “I hope the next generation enjoys the Beta experience and builds lifelong friendships and foundations for success.”

Godard lives in Boulder, Colorado, with his wife, Stacy, and their daughter, Maddie. Their sons, Gavin and Grayden, both attend the University of Colorado in Boulder, and Maddie is heading to UCLA in the fall. Godard enjoys going to Colorado football games (being a top booster of Coach Prime), and staying active outdoors. You can reach him at godard@g2.com.



Godard with his MIT Crew friends.

STRENGTHENING BONDS AND EXPANDING HORIZONS



Brothers and potential members enjoy our kayaking recruitment event.

Beta Upsilon is proud of our newest graduates! From left: Ashar Farooq '23, William Nolan '24, Berkin Binbas '24, Henry Heiberger '24, Harry Heiberger '24, Jian Ming Chen '25, and Evan Hong '25.



Welcome, New Members

Spring 2025

Matthew Estevez '28 | Boston, Mass.
Jermy Scarpetta '28 | Boston, Mass.
Isaac Sheard '28 | Cambridge, Mass.

Fall 2025

Kendall Binkley '29 | Fort Payne, Ala.
Andrew Dowdy '29 | Columbus, Miss.
Coleman DuPlessie '29 | Foxborough, Mass.
Akash Krishna '29 | Bellevue, Wash.
Jayden Lin '29 | Queens, N.Y.
Felipe Makoto Shimamura Silva '29 | São Paulo, Brazil
Ishan Nahian '29 | Dhaka, Bangladesh
Shahid Tasbih '29 | Los Angeles, Calif.
Jordan Tran '29 | North Las Vegas, Nev.
Isaiah Villarreal '27 | El Paso, Texas

Beta Upsilon Brothers Make Their Mark

Beta Upsilon continues to see strong growth. Our fall recruitment season was bountiful, welcoming 10 bright and enthusiastic new members. At the same time, we said farewell to recent graduate **Navpreet Singh '25**. **Jian Ming Chen '25**, **David Kwabi-Addo '25**, and **Evan Hong '25** also graduated in the spring but have returned for their master's degrees in 6-3, 6-7, and 6-9 programs, respectively. **Henry Heiberger '24**, **Harry Heiberger '24**, and **Berkin Binbas '24** completed their master's programs, while **Franck Belemkoabga '24** has returned to continue their graduate studies.

INTERNSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP

This past summer, many Brothers gained professional experience through notable internships:

Max Misterka '27 – OpenAI
Jian Ming Chen '25 – Meta
Alex Meier '26 – SpaceX (California)
Evan Hong '25 and **Tristan Hoang '28** – Amazon (different divisions)

Looking ahead, multiple Brothers are taking on leadership roles on campus:

Jermy Scarpetta '28 – Drive Train Lead, MIT Motorsports
Enrique Hernandez '27 – Treasurer, MIT Rocket Team
Ryan Duarte '27, **Carlos Lopez '28**, **Matthew Estevez '28**, **Tom Nguyen '26** – Leadership roles with MIT Combat Robotics (president, media lead, finance lead, and onboarding)

Brothers are also contributing as lab and research assistants. Additionally, **Tom Nguyen '26**, **Max Misterka '27**, and **William Nolan '24** are founding a startup to develop innovative three-axis motors for robotics and prosthetics—aiming to create motors that closely mimic human joints. They are currently seeking funding while developing a working prototype.

INVOLVEMENT AND PHILANTHROPY

At Beta Upsilon, we are committed to increasing our presence on campus through volunteering and philanthropy. **Amir Alsad '28**, our new VP of programming, has secured opportunities for Brothers to give back to the Greater Boston community. We also hope to collaborate with the Eta Tau chapter at WPI for upcoming events.

IMPROVING CONNECTIONS

We are continuously working to enhance life for our Brothers. **Raul Campos '27**, in collaboration with **Frank Leibly '93**, allocated MIT resources to renovate multiple areas of the house during this past Work Week.

Additionally, we aim to deepen our connections with alumni to provide guidance, career advice, and networking opportunities that will benefit younger Brothers as they navigate academic and professional development.



Yours in _kai_,
Enrique Hernandez '27



Beta Upsilon welcomes 10 new members to our community and fraternity at the Fall Induction ceremony.

Stay Connected,



Stay Inspired

Every page of this issue of *Back Bay Beta* reflects the enduring spirit of Beta Upsilon and the power of alumni connections. As you read, take a moment to reconnect with the Chapter by revisiting memories, celebrating achievements, and seeing how Brothers are making an impact today. Your continued engagement, whether through sharing your story, attending events, or supporting the Chapter financially, ensures that the bonds we formed at MIT remain strong for generations to come!



BACK BAY BETA

*Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100*

Address Service Requested

PRSR-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 5264

FOLLOW US ONLINE



beta-mit.org



BetaMIT

Thank You, Loyal Donors

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS
BETA UPSILON THRIVE

We are sincerely grateful to the alumni below who have contributed \$16,794 in 2025 so far. Donors, if there is an error in our record of your gift, please send an email to jwhite@penningtonco.com.

Brothers, there is still time to add your name to this list and be acknowledged in the next newsletter as a 2025 donor! Mail your gift using the envelope included in this issue or visit betamit.causevox.com to give online.

Donors marked with an asterisk () are 2024 donors that were not included in our spring publication. The amount above includes these donors.*

Frederick W. Weitz '51
Harry B. Lee Jr. '56
Robert L. Malster '56

In memory of
George F. Harper III '56
Lawrence R. Hoover '57
Allan MacLaren '60

In honor of
Beta Brothers
Alexander G. Ross '61*
Dr. James S. Draper '62
Kent L. Groninger '63

Richard A. Carpenter '64
William T. Stewart '69
Bruce A. Lautenschlager '70
Jerry L. Cole '78
Michael G. Feinstein '82*
Kenneth J. Shine '85*
Michael D. Rechten Jr. '89*
Daniel T. Moriarty '90*
Kenneth Y. Chay '91
Godard Abel 1993 '93
Frank J. Leibly III '93

Alumni News

Robert F. Law '54 is still enjoying retirement, moving back and forth between Boise, Idaho, and Sun Valley. He spends his time fishing, cycling, and boring his fellow retirement

facility residents with slideshows of his continuing travel. After losing his wife, Debby, in 2021, he met a wonderful lady who shares his love of travel and outdoor activities. Because of her involvement in the Boise Philharmonic orchestra, Robert now serves now on the board. Email: rflaw31@gmail.com

Robert C. Brigham '56 shared that it's getting harder to move around, so he gave up running about five years ago. Lately, he's been doing some writing from his home in Orlando, Fla. Email: brighamrobert@gmail.com



Despite never meeting before, Bob Ramstad '90 and David Arvin '67 serendipitously recently ended up on the same ski lift in Utah!

Guy L. Schmidt '56 winters in Florida and summers in Michigan. He turned 92 years old in September and still plays golf.

Kyle Beeks '17 graduated with two degrees: SB FE and SB physics. He then graduated in 2019 with a SM electrical engineering and comp science degree. He served four years in the Air Force as an engineer working on classified satellite programs. He was then hired at Northrop-Grumman in 2023, where he supervises a team as a senior principle cyber engineer. Kyle lives in Frederick, Colo. Email: kylebeeks@gmail.com