

# BACK BAY BETA

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

Spring 2026

## A Vision for the Future

### BETA'S OUTLOOK AT MIT

**2026** marks 80 years since Beta Theta Pi first moved to 119 Bay State Road. This milestone speaks to the enduring power of our core values, but it also demands we consider what's necessary to ensure Beta remains at 119 Bay State Road for another 80 years.

#### THE CURRENT GREEK CLIMATE

In the decade or so since recolonization, our Chapter has shown real strength in building a house of integrity and belonging. We have developed a reputation as men of principle on campus and beyond. The world has changed, however—fraternal life now competes with classes, extracurriculars, and dorm communities for students' time and attention.

As you think back to your own Beta memories, you probably recall late night adventures and spontaneous shenanigans with the occasional all-night P-Set session. When you joined our brotherhood, you did so because you liked the Betas you met and wanted to be more like them. While that perspective still exists, today PNMs think of the ROI on joining a fraternity. Active Brothers are stretched thin between classes, Beta, research, extracurriculars, dorms, and more. As a result, fewer Brothers are choosing to live in the house, drawn instead toward campus.

These are challenges that every fraternity across the country is dealing with. But as Beta Theta Pi at MIT is dry, it tends to attract a more academic, more thoughtful Brother for whom these tradeoffs are front of mind.

#### THE ALUMNI IMPACT

Many of these challenges are being met and tackled by our capable and dedicated actives, but there is a role for alumni to take on as well. To this end, the Alumni Corporation is developing a long-term plan to align Chapter goals and the best way to utilize our available resources.

The focus of this plan is building a Beta Theta Pi that is Enduring, Unifying, and Adaptable—a house that is financially and physically sustainable, that brings our whole Chapter together in formal and informal settings, and whose facilities serve the needs of today's Brothers and those we can only imagine joining us as time marches on. We plan to finalize this long-term vision at our annual meeting this summer (contact me for details).

**In the near-term, we are seeking three alumni to advise the Chapter president, recruitment chairman, and**

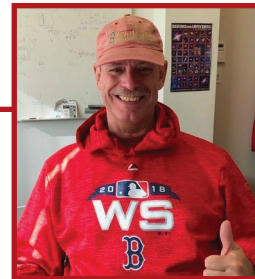


**brotherhood chairman respectively.** The commitment involves meeting with your counterpart at least three times per semester, with a focus on navigating transitions and key periods (e.g. recruitment). Advisory board members can serve remotely, with one in-person handoff meeting per year in Boston between December and January. Travel support may be available for those who need it.

If you're interested in helping shape the next 80 years of Beta Upsilon, please contact me at [christian.f.briere@gmail.com](mailto:christian.f.briere@gmail.com). I look forward to working with you to build a firm foundation for the future of Beta Theta Pi at MIT.

Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Christian Briere '19**

# Building a Stable Brotherhood



## HERMAN MARSHALL '78 STAYS DEVOTED TO BETA UPSILON

**B**efore he began his career in space research, **Herman Marshall '78** joined Beta Theta Pi seeking an opportunity for personal growth. He appreciates the fraternity's impact on his development and remains involved through the Beta Upsilon Association.

### BONDING FOR LIFE

Herman was turned away by two fraternities before he found a great fit with Beta Upsilon Chapter. Despite his heavy focus on academics, he enjoyed making memories with Beta Brothers through intramural competition and an unforgettable pledge sneak.

Herman's Beta Upsilon leadership began when he served as steward and athletic chairman. These roles helped him develop social skills while building Beta's presence at MIT. "I would make sure there were teams in many sports so we could win an honor as most accomplished Chapter on campus."

### THE THRILL OF DISCOVERY

As early as elementary school, Herman knew he wanted to pursue his fascination with astronomy and space. He studied hard and began his career at the Center for Space Research at MIT his sophomore year.

"The thrill of discovery was a great motivator to pay close attention to physics classes and learn about the details of X-ray-emitting compact objects in binaries in our galaxy." While simply getting a job was often an accomplishment, Herman was proud that the unique opportunities from an MIT education allowed him to discover how to combine X-ray-dispersing gratings with multilayer-coated mirrors to polarize low-energy X-rays.

This development led to a NASA-funded experiment to build an instrument to launch on a sounding rocket, the Rocket Experiment Demonstration of a Soft X-ray Polarimeter (REDSOX). "I wrote to the Red Sox to let them know I wanted to use the name. They asked where it would go, so I said, 'Into space!' They replied, 'We're not licensed for space!'"

Herman successfully created an orbital version of the REDSOX on his fourth attempt, with the \$20 million program estimated to launch in 2029. "I called it the Globe Orbiting Soft X-ray Polarimeter, or GOSOX!"

### FRATERNAL COMMITMENT

Herman's career brought him back to MIT to work on the Chandra X-ray Observatory, where

he was recruited as Beta Upsilon Association's clerk. He later began a 10-year stint as president before settling into his current role as an at-large member of the alumni board.

Herman frequently visited the Chapter House and oversaw repairs as president, especially following the oil tank burst and, later, the house fire. Despite MIT's decision that all freshmen should live on campus after a fraternity incident, he and fellow alumni leaders navigated the situation to maintain sustainable residency numbers and keep the youngest part of our brotherhood strong.

"The alumni provide a level of stability and deep knowledge of the properties. There aren't many problems that we haven't encountered or know how to solve with resources that are not readily available to the undergraduates."

Herman met his wife in college, and she even assisted with Beta recruitment. They were grateful to have many Betas in attendance for their wedding. You can connect with Herman at hermanlm78@gmail.com.

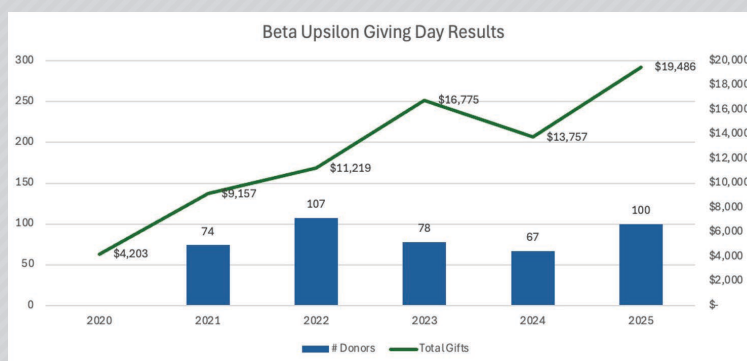
## BETA UPSILON IS A LEADER ON GIVING DAY

**B**eta Theta Pi launched the Giving Day Challenge in 2020 to strengthen the Beta Leadership Fund, which supports scholarships, leadership development, and educational programming for all undergraduate Chapters. The BLF has grown from raising \$860,000 per year to nearly \$1.4 million, thanks in large part to the generosity of thousands of Betas participating on Giving Day.

**Our Chapter has been a Giving Day leader year after year, punching well above our weight in gifts.** Although we are a relatively small Chapter by number of living members, we are one of the most generous in Beta's broad domain. This chart shows how our Giving Day contributions have more than doubled from 2021-25.

Since the Challenge began, Beta Upsilon ranked eighth in total dollars raised in 2020, fourth in 2021 and 2022, an incredible second overall in 2023 (behind only Alpha Chapter at Miami University), and third overall in 2024 and 2025, surpassed only by Miami and Bethany. This is a testament to our alumni's strong connection to Beta, appreciation for the lifelong benefits we have all received, and our generosity.

**Our sustained generosity has a direct impact on our collegiate Brothers.** Beta Upsilon benefits annually from BLF-supported scholarships, recruitment funding, and leadership opportunities at Convention and the winter Conclave. In recognition of five-consecutive years of strong Giving Day participation, Beta Theta Pi awarded us a



special \$1,839 scholarship in 2025. Our undergraduates voted to distribute this award among three deserving members who contribute significantly to the Chapter and face financial hardship.

On behalf of the Beta Board of Trustees (Ken is a volunteer and the Board treasurer) and the Beta Theta Pi Foundation (John and Jay are volunteers on the Foundation Board of Directors), thank you all so much for your great financial support of Beta and Beta Upsilon!

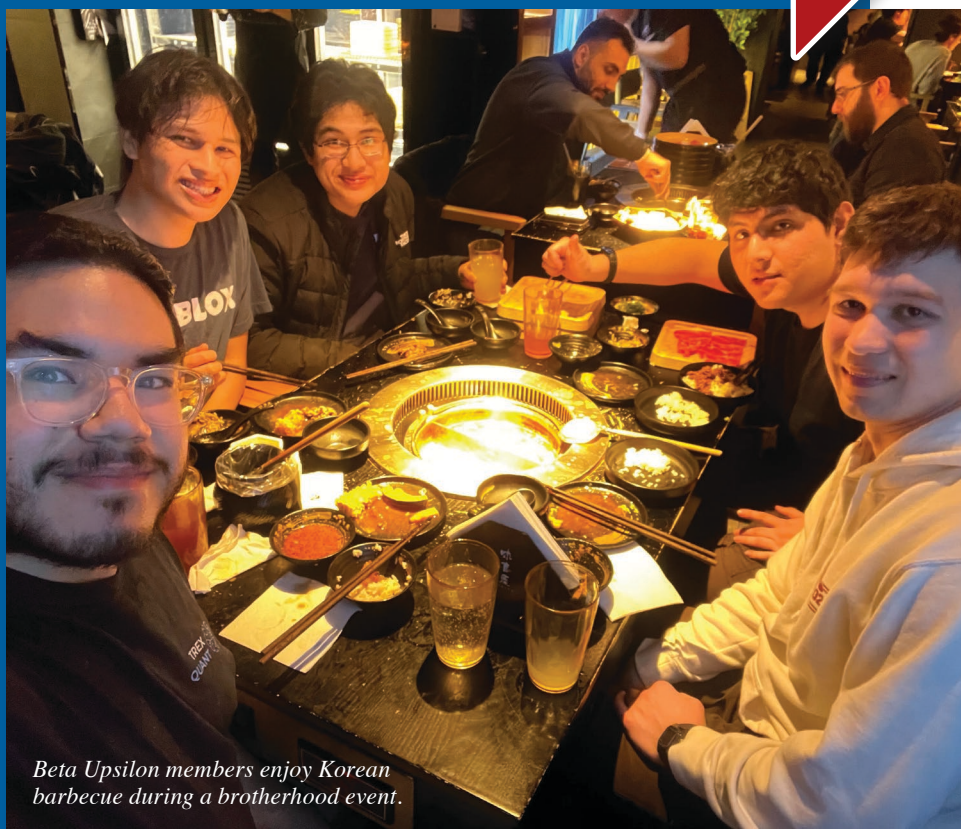
Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Ken Bryan '88**  
**John Chisholm '84**  
**Jay Watkins '90**

# Always Growing Together



*Brothers ice skate during a recent recruitment event.*

## Beta Brothers Promote Fraternal Development



*Beta Upsilon members enjoy Korean barbecue during a brotherhood event.*

**B**eta Upsilon Chapter is in an interesting epoch. On one hand, our on-campus brotherhood is tight-knit and mighty. It feels like each Brother is doing more for the fraternity on his own accord than in previous semesters. On the other hand, we're rather small by historic standards, and our exec is primarily sophomores. As we pass the halfway point of the spring semester, I'm reflecting on the Chapter's activity and well-being and feeling confident that the great effort put in by the underclassmen of today will pay dividends for the Chapter of tomorrow!

Some spring 2026 membership statistics:

- 28 undergraduate members are registered
- 25 are active, three are on leave
- 19 live in the house
- Three graduate members are also in-house and are very active
- Almost the entire class of 2028 (sophomores) are in exec, leading to lots of experienced upperclassmen in future semesters.
- Brotherhood events include Karaoke in Chinatown, Level 99, Six Flags, and an upcoming basketball tournament (with plans for custom jerseys!).

We're constantly rediscovering what it means to be a Beta and ways to better embody our values. Our VP external and his branch of the exec board (VP recruitment, VP programming, and VP communication) have been working to address the Chapter's publicity by asking, "What is Beta's brand to the MIT community?"

Some things we aim to highlight during recruitment and our semester philanthropies:

- Our spontaneous brotherhood, including enjoying impromptu events in Boston.
- How we are an inviting and diverse community.
- The ways we support each other professionally and socially.

Outside of executive board work, the Chapter continues as strong as ever:

- **Jeanpaul Sanchez-Moreno '28** accepted a summer internship offer at GE Vernova in Greenville, South Carolina.
- **Michael Serano '26** watched Alex Honnold climb Taipei 101 in person this January.
- **Evan Hong '25** accepted an offer for a full-time position at Microsoft.
- We recruited four pledges in the spring, up from three years at three.

We still enjoy a game after Chapter, we love using our discretionary budget to do impromptu events (like going for all-you-can-eat sushi at Yamato II in Copley Square), and we're still just as inquisitive, supportive, and brotherly as always. We're taking concrete steps to grow the Chapter and usher all the good stuff about Beta into a new era!

Yours in \_kai\_,  
**Matvey Borodin '28**  
President

# HELP SHAPE OUR CHAPTER'S FUTURE

This issue of *Back Bay Beta* details the current Greek life outlook at MIT and Beta Upsilon Chapter's growth opportunities.



Check page 1 to read about open alumni volunteer roles and consider supporting Beta this year by giving online at [betamit.causevox.com](http://betamit.causevox.com) or by filling out the enclosed form. We appreciate your support!



## 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

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

## FOLLOW US ONLINE



[beta-mit.org](http://beta-mit.org)



BetaMIT

## Thank You, Generous Donors

We appreciate the alumni listed below who financially supported Beta Upsilon Chapter in 2025. Their contributions are a testament to their personal Beta experiences and help our brotherhood plan for a strong future.

As we plan for the future, we invite you to support Beta and get your name on the list for 2026! Mail your gift using the included envelope or visit [betamit.causevox.com](http://betamit.causevox.com) to give online. Giving as a pledge is available to help you make the most of your contribution.

Frederick W. Weitz '51	Alexander G. Ross '61
David L. Vogel '54	Dr. James S. Draper '62
Robert C. Bringham '56	Kent L. Groninger '63
Harry B. Lee Jr. '56	Jon E. Burkhardt '64
Robert L. Malster '56	Richard A. Carpenter '64
In memory of	William T. Stewart '69
George F. Harper III	Bruce A. Lautenschlager '70
Lawrence R. Hoover '57	William H.S. Preece Jr. '71
Allan MacLaren '60	Stanley J. Shursky '74
In honor of	Jerry L. Cole '78
The Beta Brothers that stuck	Thomas A. Hauer '79
with me until I graduated	Michael G. Feinstein '82
Richard H. Oeler '60	Kenneth J. Shine '85
Gary W. Bickel '61	Anthony P. DiPesa Jr. '86
Philip J. Robinson '61	Michael P. McGovern '89

Michael D. Rehtin Jr. '89
Daniel T. Moriarty '90
Andrew T. Obst '90
Kenneth Y. Chay '91
John C. Springsteen '91
Godard K. Abel '93
Frank J. Leibly III '93

*If there is an error in your listing or your name is mistakenly omitted, please send an email to [jwhite@penningtonco.com](mailto:jwhite@penningtonco.com).*

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President <b>Matvey Borodin '28</b>	VPs Recruitment <b>Carlos Lopez '28</b> carlos_l@mit.edu (240) 277-3420
VP Internal <b>Jeremy Scarpetta '28</b>	<b>Isaac Sheard '28</b> imsheard@mit.edu (763) 402-4963
VP External <b>Jeanpaul Sanchez-Moreno '28</b>	Recruitment Chairmen <b>Ryan Duarte '27</b> <b>Felipe Makoto Shimamura Silva '29</b> <b>Ishan Nahian '29</b>
VP Finance <b>Jordan Tran '29</b>	VP Communications <b>Felipe Makoto Shimamura Silva '29</b>
VP Housing <b>Matthew Estevez '28</b> <b>Angelo Farfan '28</b>	VP Member Education <b>Isaiah Villarreal '27</b>
VP Programming <b>Jayden Lin '29</b>	Brotherhood Chairmen <b>Yrwin Batan '28</b> <b>Ishan Nahian '29</b>