

MASS·E·C·K

Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

web.mit.edu/pkt/

Buddy Michini Outlines the Chapter's Goals and Plans



Brothers move the roof deck to prepare for retarring the roof. The roof leaks had been getting progressively worse, and the brothers retarred the roof as a short-term fix. Structural damage from water leaking is also becoming apparent.

House Manager Spencer Sugimoto '08 is finalizing plans to install an outer front door which has been absent for five years now. Also, we seek to improve the windows for better insulation. We wish to replace some of the costly, double-pane windows that have been broken over the years. While a few panes are broken, most all of the old wooden, window frames are in disrepair allowing a good deal of heat loss. The notion of possibly replacing the windows and frames one floor at a time over the course of a few years is being considered.

We are also undertaking a number of smaller projects such as building bunks in the Canyon, replacing couches, fixing the brass letters in the sidewalk, and replacing the recently broken television.

Academic achievement

After a few semesters of low house-wide average GPA, we have renewed our focus on improving the study environment around the house. We have ordered tables for the Chapter Room to be used as work desks, and quiet hours have been instituted in both the Chapter Room and First Rear. Plans are also developing to convert Dark Bath into a small Athena cluster using IRDF grant money from MIT. We hope to start the project during this Winter Work Week.

Risk management and interfraternity relations

Finally, the undergrads are re-evaluating our past risk management policies given the changing climate from both MIT and the Boston authorities. Fraternities on the Boston side have recently been receiving increased attention from both the Boston Police and the Boston Licensing Board during social events. We have revamped our risk management policy to be more in accordance with the IFC and our national chapter in an effort to minimize potential conflicts. Another goal of the chapter is to become more involved with the IFC, and with elections coming up we hope to see at least one or two Phi Kaps voted into executive positions for the upcoming year.

As the Mass. Eta chapter progresses through the 2006-2007 academic year, we are striving to pursue a broad set of goals outlined at Quo Vadis last Spring. These improvement areas include increasing diversity during rush, improving numerous small and large aspects of the physical plant, bettering the study environment in the house, and raising the awareness of risks that the authoritative climate in Boston poses to Phi Kappa Theta.

Diversity increased during rush

In another strong rush showing, 15 new members pledged Phi Kappa Theta this year. Our target size was only 12, but Rush Chair Ted Kang '08 led the brothers in pooling together an unusually large number of worthy candidates. Ted also reinvigorated rush practices from years past, such as a day-long beach trip after bid day. This served both as a solid post-rush event and a fun brotherhood outing.

Our goal from the outset was to balance the house with cultural, geographic, and ideological diversity, and we believe that goal was achieved in many ways with the 2010 pledge class.

Physical plant improvements and future projects

As always, the house is in constant need of refurbishment and repair. A major cause for concern lately has been water leaking through the roof. Several of the fourth-floor rooms have suffered water damage to the ceilings, and we suspect more serious structural damage to the beams supporting the roof. The brothers temporarily addressed this problem by retarring the front half of the roof during summer work week. While this has improved the situation, the roof is still leaking.

We are currently working with the Alumni Board on two other projects as well.

Buddy Michini '07, President

Debarshi Chaudhuri Reflects on His Rush and PKT



A brand new Big Brother! Ravi, Victor, and Brandon (front, left to right) pose with Evan, Paul, and Mikey, their newly-anointed big brothers.

Fraternity rush will be one of the things I remember most about MIT. I had been on MIT's campus for about a week, and I was still wandering around looking lost like all the other freshmen. I had heard a bit about the rush process, and I was excited to get as much free steak and lobster as possible. However, I wasn't really sure if I wanted to explore fraternities to find one that was a good fit. Luckily, I knew the answer when I first walked through the doors of Phi Kappa Theta. As soon as I walked into the beautiful Back Bay residence, I was overcome by a feeling of joy. I was immediately welcomed and given a personal house tour by one of the brothers, and I very quickly lost track of how much time I spent there. Rush week flew by, and by the end of it I was sure that I was going to pledge PKT.

While I was actually determined to stay as far away from fraternities as possible, my perception of fraternities quickly changed throughout orientation. I realized that joining a fraternity would help me grow in ways that classes and dorm life could not. I found that living in a fraternity would give me a chance to influence my own living conditions and prepare me for life after college more than living in a dorm ever could. Furthermore, the friendships I would form and the skills I would gain from cooperating with fifty other guys to keep our house great were things that I could not get anywhere else on campus. I chose PKT because the closeness of the brotherhood really appealed to me. I knew that many things fraternities did during rush were not really reflective of what fraternities were usually like, but I realized that the strong bond between the brothers that I saw at PKT was not something that could be faked. Here was a place where I could make lifelong friendships and truly become a better person. I knew that I had to pledge PKT.

Once I received my bid and decided to pledge, I wanted to pledge in a very creative way, a way that would stand out among all of the different ways that people had pledged in the past. Hearing stories about how brothers had pledged the previous year motivated me and my pledge brothers to come up with a plan that would make our pledging truly memorable. We decided to make a scavenger hunt that would lead the brothers to us, and when they at long last got to our final location, tired from running from all the way around MIT's campus, we took off our shirts and revealed the words "WE PLEDGE" written in lipstick on our chests.

I am very happy that I decided to pledge PKT. I have already started to form strong friendships with some of my pledge brothers and to learn so much from the brothers. I truly feel very fortunate to have found a place where I can live, learn, and grow as a person in PKT.

Debarshi Chaudhuri '10

Phi Kaps Excel at the Pre-Rush and Finish with 15

We kicked off Rush 2007 with a strong emphasis on the pre-rush. The house was empty most days during Orientation as brothers were sprawled all over campus playing basketball, throwing the football around, playing guitar on the student center steps, or just eating inside. We also hosted poker games in the student center that drew up to twenty people by the end of the Orientation week. Coupled with our contacts in cross country and our stronghold on the Freshman Urban Program, we had already amassed a great pool of guys by the beginning of rush.

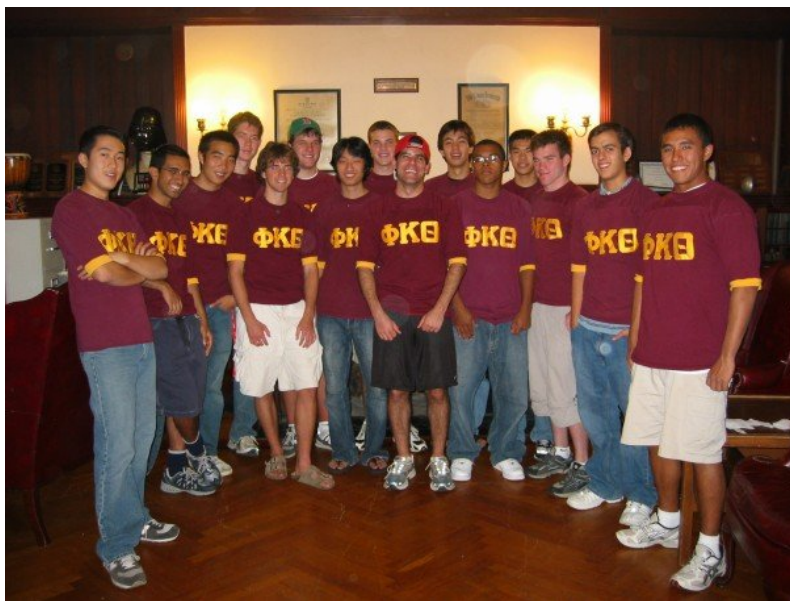
Rush began with the Greek Griller, and we were heavily banking on our first three days of events to generate a lot of traffic into the house. Our first night of events involved getting five hundred White Castle Slyders from New York followed by a Jam Night by the brothers. Since everything that can go wrong usually does during rush, the Slyders were going to be over an hour late. This resulted in a couple brother driving around Boston,

basically buying every Frozen White Castle Slyder in town. We were able to stall until the large shipment came and everything turned out fine going into the Jam Night.

The second day of Rush was supposed to be our biggest day, where we would really build up our pool. The scheduled event was to be Steak and Lobster on Nahant Beach, where one of the brothers owns a beach house. This also got rained out, but we were able to recover with a trip to Jillians. Luckily, our pre-rush was so strong that we were still able to fill even our rained out events. By the third day of Rush, we had a substantial freshman pool that was growing even more. The strength of the brotherhood really shined through as freshmen seemed to fall in love with the house and not want to leave.

We ended up giving out nineteen bids resulting in fifteen pledges. They are a strong and diverse class, with a sophomore and even a junior deciding to embark on the journey.

Ted Taiho Kang '08, Rush Chair



The pledge class of 2010 shows off its new letters.

Brotherhood Integration Groups (BIGs) Tighten a Growing Chapter

In Fall 2005, the current brothers decided to split the office of Personnel Director into two distinct positions – the Associate Member Educator to deal with all issues pertaining to the Associate Member Program, and the Personnel Director to deal with all issues pertaining to the brotherhood. Last Spring, I was elected as Personnel Director and I have been excited to see the house thrive and grow closer together. While the house is thriving, however, I am still constantly seeking to strengthen the bonds we share as brothers of Phi Kappa Theta.

Over the past few months, we have been striving to find ways to promote brotherhood and integrate over fifty brothers and pledges. At



Mikey, Ryan, and Kevin are amazed at what they discover about each other.



Calvin, Alex, and Andy punt their work and spend some quality time together.

the Quo Vadis retreat this past April, we discussed and brainstormed new options to accomplish this integration, especially across different pledge classes. One idea generated at Quo Vadis was to initiate a program called Brotherhood Integration Groups (BIGs). The main purpose of these groups is to integrate diverse groups of brothers who typically come from different social circles, class years, and ethnic backgrounds and create a generally closer-knit brotherhood at PKT.

Each six weeks, brothers are split into groups of four or five by the Personnel Director. Each BIG is expected to meet for about an hour once every two weeks to simply spend time together and discuss issues pertaining to brotherhood. Topics discussed so far this semester have included the Four Ideals, life goals after graduation, and growth we have witnessed as Phi Kap brothers. Response so far has been very positive and the end goal is to have participation in BIGs become a part of PKT life for years to come.

Eric Grebing '08, Personnel Director

Peter Finin '01 Begins Term with the Peace Corps in Tanzania

On September 21, I found myself out for a pint with Peter Finin '01 in an Irish pub in Philadelphia. I had taken the train down to buy his car, and we were meeting up with a dozen or so other new Peace Corps Volunteers. They had met in Philadelphia for an orientation and

were all traveling to Tanzania the next morning. Despite whatever preparations, the group exuded an air of anxiety.

One of the more composed, Peter joined the Peace Corps to pursue his desire to be a teacher and for a bit of adventure. Over the last few years, Peter has expressed a desire to improve the American educational system as a professional focus. During his time at the House, informal tutoring sessions to other brothers or pledges was almost a daily activity for him. It became clear that his passion for teaching was supported by true talent.

Since September, Peter has been in a training program in a city in Tanzania called Morogoro. He is taking intense Swahili classes as well as teaching mathematics at a girls secondary-level boarding school where some of the best students in the country attend. During this period, he is learning the

strengths and weaknesses of the Tanzanian educational system. For instance, he was surprised to discover how little problem solving is emphasized. Teaching in Swahili has also been a challenge for him, but he must be progressing since his students laugh at his jokes.

Outside the classroom, Peter has been adjusting to life in Tanzania without too much trouble and with some fun. He reports that within a couple weeks after arriving, it was soon rare for him to wake up and say, "Holy @#%&! What did I get myself into?!" The group of volunteers in training has also formed a strong support network. On one evening, they threw a toga party, much to the confusion of their hosts. Also, they visited Mikume National Park to check out the wildlife, such as giraffes, elephants, and zebras.

Soon, Peter's training will end, and he will be sent to a town or village to be a math teacher. There, besides teaching, he will be challenged to influence a plethora of local issues ranging from health to professionalism. He can be reached at nobeardpete@gmail.com.



Peter Finin '01 and three fellow volunteers take time off teaching for some time together.

Craig Wildman '03

Alumni Giving for FY 2007. Thank You So Much!

Red Rose Society

Edward J. Martens, Jr. '58	Timothy W. Finin '71	Andrew R. Brabson '89	Andrew Y. Chen '01
Robert J. Polutchko '59	Erik D. Hjerpe '83	Alexander B. Min '91	David S. Allmon '01
Donald D. Colosimo '62	Clifford R. Walker '84	Mark Jansen '92	Peter M. Finin '01
John D. O'Neal '62	Yokichi J. Tanaka '84	Hai Po Sun '96	Alexander Chang '02
Thomas N. Charchut '64	Robert S. Lenoil '86	Daniel K. Moon '00	Craig B. E. Wildman '03
Albert L. Tervalon, Jr. '65			

Associate

Philip M. Lally '40	Lawrence P. Frank '73	Stephen T. Uhl '84	Adam Kroft '99
John E. Preschlack '54	Jay Nadelson '75	Gregory S. Harrison '86	Oludare A. Ogunyemi '00
Oscar L. Morgenstern '59	Douglas W. Smith '81	David W. Meer '87	Benjamin Kim '02
Michael P. Lukas '63	Joseph L. Platnick '81	Jonathan E. Suber '87	Mathew A. Medak '02
Francis J. DiSalvo, Jr. '66	Andrew R. Olma '83	Jacob J. Rael '90	Gregory W. Gryzwa '04
James M. Patell '70	Thomas R. Woods '83	Michael M. Ting '92	

Member

Emil G. Signes '60	Paul E. Boinay, Jr. '73	Lawrence O. Pilkington '01
Michael A. Aquino '62	Gary R. Barnes '84	Chung-Kit Chan '04
Allan D.J. Bobko '64	Lawrence C. Wang '84	Robert J. Fass '04
Thomas J. Garrity '70	Keita Ito '85	Abraham Hsu '05
Gary D. Zanerick '72	Steven A. Gray '86	

Donor

Robert Muhr '64	Michael R. Groleau '90	Christopher Tsai '05
George A. Ozuna '79	Jose I. Gonzalez '01	Ladd M. Horvath '05
Robert B. Cooley '85		

FY07 Class Competition

Rank	Year	Total
1	Class of 1984	\$1,005
2	Class of 2000	\$795
3	Class of 2001	\$760
4	Class of 2002	\$670
5	Class of 1983	\$600

* Red Rose Society: \$200 and up;
Associate: \$100-\$199; Member \$50-\$99; Donor \$1-\$49

Mass Eta Alumni Write from Near and Far

JOB EVERS '05 and BOB ASPELL '06 recently moved to New York City. Job works for KBC Alternative Investment Management with QUINCY SCOTT '00 doing sales and trading.

Bob started with Bain and Company doing business consulting. They live with CHARLES HAN '05 and GREG GRYZWA '04 at 201 50th Ave. Apt. # 26B, Long Island City, NY 11101. Contact Job at jobevers@alum.mit.edu and Bob at basp@alum.mit.edu.

DAVID HILDE '06 is now working for Clark Capital, a real estate development company, in the DC area. His work ranges from managing the development of a 308 unit apartment complex to the acquiring and repositioning a shopping center. Contact him at 1117 N Kenilworth St. Apt. 7, Arlington, VA 22205.

CRAIG WILDMAN '03 returned to Cambridge, MA in July to commence work on a PhD in mechanical engineering at MIT con-

ducting automotive engine research. Drop on by at 434 Massachusetts Ave. Apt 6 Cambridge, MA 02139. cwildman@mit.edu.

With two kids, two dogs, and one wife, JOSEPH PLATNICK '81 is still living the American dream on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Southern California. Three years ago, he joined the Pasadena Angeles (www.pasadenaangels.com), one of the largest and most institutionalized angel investment organizations in the US. He would love to hear from anyone living in or traveling to the Los Angeles area. Contact him at 15 Horseshoe Lane Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274 j.platnick@verizon.net.

BRETT MITCHELL '06 is currently working as a business strategy consultant with the Monitor Group in Cambridge, MA. Within Monitor, he has been selected to join a small team of consultants to help build and grow the

Adaptive Overhead group (www.adaptiveoverhead.com) practice. Contact him at 50 Revere St. Apt. #4 Boston, MA 02114, bsmit@alum.mit.edu.

JOSEPH CHENG '06 completes an MEng in electrical engineering at MIT this June. He is conducting signal processing work applied to MRI. Contact him at 55 Revere St. #1 Boston, MA 02114.

Please write to GARY BARNES '84 at 1644 Dayton Ave. #4 St. Paul, MN 55104. barnes009@umn.edu

STEVE MALTAS '06 recently started working for Nanosphere, Inc. as a systems engineer. The company intends to simplify molecular testing using nucleic acids and protein detection without the use of PCR. Contact Steve at 2041 North Ave. Apt. 301 Chicago, IL 60647. smaltas@alum.mit.edu.