



# PKT

Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
[web.mit.edu/pkt/](http://web.mit.edu/pkt/)

## Mass Eta Wins the Founders' Cup, Gains 9 Pledges

As another semester draws to a close at PKT Mass Eta, our chapter continues to thrive in many aspects of our brotherhood from scholarship, to social life, to our fraternal bonds. This success was reflected at end of the summer with the exciting news that our chapter brought the Founders' Cup back to MIT, beating out over 30 other Phi Kap chapters from across the country! Many thanks go out to vice-president Tyler Abrams '09, who compiled the awards application for the house.

We began the year by setting a vision for the house. Each officer provided a list of short-term and long-term goals after officer transitions last March and we have been using those goals to set our agenda this year. For example, a "week-to-week" goal for the personnel director was to ask three brothers how they are doing and what their thoughts were on the state of the brotherhood. A "year-long" goal for the alumni chair was to start a graduating senior giving program. The IFC representative set the goal of increasing PKT's visibility on campus. These frameworks provide the brotherhood with tangible goals in the areas of physical improvements, finance, social, community service, etc. and have allowed our chapter to function very smoothly over the past few months.



Kevin Pang '11, the pledge class president, questions MIT President Susan Hockfield. As one of the pledge class jaunts, the pledges met briefly with President Hockfield.

Our chapter has also become much more involved within the InterFraternity Council at MIT. Christopher Fematt '08 served as IFC

add to 41 active brothers, our chapter continues to feature a diverse group of young men pursuing a diverse range of interests both inside and outside of the Phi Kap house. Our new members are progressing well through the Associate Member Program, led this year by Alexander Papageorge '09. On the other end of the spectrum, our seniors continue to accumulate interviews and offers for jobs and graduate schools in many fields including finance, consulting, medicine, architecture, engineering, and education. The many successes of our brothers are a source of great pride for the chapter.

No matter where any of us are in our journey, our brotherhood continues to mature, grounded in the Four Ideals. We look forward to the rest of the school year and plan to continue a high level of brotherhood involvement both within the house and on the MIT campus.

Eric Grebing '08, President



Kevin Pang '11, Spencer Sugimoto '08, Bo Feng '07, Alex Hsu '09, Rob Block '10, and Alex Pak '10 pause for a picture during Social Hour.

With nine new associate members to

# Alumni Board Conducts Major Phys. Plant Projects

## *Alumni spend \$20,000 to replace the roof in August*

After months of planning, the roof was replaced in September immediately preceding rush. Craig Wildman '03 coordinated the project with the support of the alumni board and the assistance of the undergraduate leadership, especially vice-president Tyler Abrams '09. Wildman solicited bids from five different contractors and eventually recommended to the board that it hire the Home Depot as the contractor for the project. The Home Depot representative inspired the most confidence in him that they would do a good job, and their bid was cost competitive, as well.

Coming to a total cost of \$20,116, the work consisted of removing the old roof down to the wooden structural members and laying an insulation layer and rubber layer. Two layers of roofing material each with a layer of insulation below it were removed. Two layers were taken up because previously, perhaps 20-30 years ago, a layer was simply laid on top of the existing roof rather than replacing it. It was clear that it was past time to replace the roof because the insulation from this second layer was found to be completely soaking wet. This water had been channeled to the rear wall where it rotted out all of the wood above the brick wall. This was all replaced. All of this work along with laying a layer of insulation and roofing material and all the appropriate edging work was considered within the contract.

Wildman and Ladd Horvath '05 were pleased with the quality of the workmanship; however, everyone involved was irritated that the job took twelve days instead of the projected four. The project was nevertheless completed before rush. It was originally scheduled to take place in July; however, soliciting approval from the Boston Architectural Commission to begin work delayed the project to August. Many brothers and young alumni were instrumental in the project, moving all the decking onto one side of the roof so the roofers could get to the other side. Then, on short notice, they moved all the decking onto the other side when the roofers were halfway done. By doing this, the brothers obviated the need to spend at least another several thousand dollars for workers to deal with the decking. The alumni board was quite thankful that when it asked the treasurer if it could afford this project, Nate Kelley '00 reported that because of strong alumni giving, we had the



*Undergraduates and alumni moved the decks to one side of the roof and later to the other so that workers could replace the roof below them.*

money to go forward with the plan. Contact Craig Wildman at [cwildman@alum.mit.edu](mailto:cwildman@alum.mit.edu) for more information on the roof project.

## *A new front door is currently under construction*

Since 2001 when the glass door broke, 229 Commonwealth Ave. has lacked a door between the foyer and the front steps. (The original wooden door to the basement hallway is intact.) Currently, a new door is being fabricated to be installed in December. The ΦΚΘ Mass Eta Alumni Board approved the project this summer to hire Back Bay Door Works Inc. to fabricate and install a custom door that matches the architecture of the area for the price of \$8000. This was not simply a decision to install quality hardware. The Boston Architectural Commission approves all maintenance to the outside of residences in the Back Bay, and new hardware must be kept in the style of the area. Alex Min '91 took the lead on the project. Please contact him at

## *Masonry work is in planning stages*

[min@alum.mit.edu](mailto:min@alum.mit.edu) to inquire about the project.

Paul Montgomery '07 is currently soliciting bids to conduct full masonry maintenance on the outside brickwork of 229 Commonwealth Ave. This includes the front and rear walls as well as the side walls above the roof. He has met with six contractors thus far, and one has returned a quotation to him totaling \$29,000. The general consensus among the contractors has been that repointing needs to be done on the entire front and rear of the building as a matter of regular, if infrequent, maintenance. Two spots on the rear wall need considerably more attention, perhaps replacing grout and bricks. The masonry work needs to be done soon because bricks appear to be coming loose in some spots. For weather reasons, work will not commence until next spring. Contact Paul Montgomery at [pmont@alum.mit.edu](mailto:pmont@alum.mit.edu) for more information on the project.



*The new roof stands as a considerable improvement to the physical plant. Brothers had suffered from a leaking roof for years.*

Craig Wildman '03 3-Year Director, Alumni Board



## New PKT Class of 2011 Starts Its Journey with Jaunts

In structuring the Associate Member Program for the class of 2011, it was very important to me that every minute spent by the Associate Members be productive, educational, and thought-provoking. I did not want the program to ever feel like a chore. Far too many fraternities expect their "pledges" to spend hours in rote memorization and unnecessary ritual. In removing any such banal activities, I hoped to replace that time with meaningful discussions, expeditions, and readings. This did not mean that the Associate Members were to be without responsibility, but that their responsibilities would be different.

In my very first meeting with the Associate Members, I outlined the three criteria by which they would be judged in order to be initiated. These criteria are the following: integration with the pledge class, integration with the brothers in the house, and the adoption of the responsibilities of brotherhood. The first two are primarily subjective criteria, assessed by brothers, with assistance from the pledge class president, and the big brother of each associate member. These criteria are designed to convey to the Associate Members the importance of forming close relationships. The third criterion is judged more objectively, considering how many interviews each Associate Member has completed, and how seriously he is about his other responsibilities. In total, these criteria focus the Associate Members on their behavior, and provide them with a metric for self-assessment.

I have decided this year to assign a "jaunt" to the Associate Members every week, led by a different member of the pledge class. The jaunts are intended to provide an interesting task for the Associate Members over which they discuss a leading question and bond. Jaunts up to now have included meeting President Hockfield, "acquiring" liquid nitrogen to make ice cream, and visiting South Boston to see how much it has changed since the 1980's when it was one of the poorest neighborhoods of the entire country. Additionally, each Associate Member is expected to interview each brother in the house before he is initiated. However, with the weekly jaunts, I have removed the necessity for the Associate Members to interview each other, expecting them to learn about one another over their jaunts. I expect each Associate Member to complete four interviews each week, such that they will have interviewed every current brother by the end of term.

Every Sunday I meet with the Associate Members for a weekly



*The Associate Members celebrate the birthday of one of their fellow pledges by giving him a free ride to 4th bath.*

meeting. During this time I am updated on the status of each officer with respect to his responsibilities, the number of interviews each Associate Member completed, and a brief summary of that week's jaunt. Meetings consist of discussions on the ideals, life at PKT, and history of the chapter and fraternity. I invite brothers to give discussions on all of these topics to provide a diversity of opinions. Meetings are based on discussion rather than on lecturing. Many of these stipulations require a cohesive, well-integrated pledge class. This is made easier by the smaller class that we have this year. So far, I have been very satisfied by the nine members of the class of 2011, and look forward to their future within the brotherhood.

Alexander Papageorge '09, Associate Member Educator

## Charity Poker Tournament Raises Over \$2,000



*Ken Warnock '09 (right, standing) deals at the charity poker tournament while Matt Huang '10 (left, white shirt) plays his hand.*

On October 19, Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta kicked off its annual philanthropy poker tournament, co-sponsored with another MIT fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. Brothers and pledges from both fraternities participated in the event, which successfully raised \$2055.75. The proceeds will be split evenly between the respective national philanthropies of the two fraternities: the Children's Miracle Network for our chapter and the ALS Association for Phi Delta Theta. MIT's Interfraternity Council also provided a grant of \$250, which will be invested in future community service efforts.

The event, which took place at Phi Kappa Theta, saw the participation of 120 students, filling the house to capacity. With only a month and a half of planning, we secured over \$1000 dollars in prizes, including a 16 GB iPod Touch and a free round trip flight courtesy of JetBlue. These prizes were donated free of charge and successfully drew people to play. All proceeds from donations, concessions, and tournament fees went directly to the two charities.

Next year, the tournament will be held at Phi Delta Theta and will hopefully be even larger than this year. Ultimately, we wish to

hold a joint tournament in both houses, with a final table meeting in a predetermined location. We wish to continue to increase the publicity of the tournament, expanding our philanthropic presence on campus and making it an annual event.

In the meantime, brothers are also reaching out to the community through public service. While many brothers are a part of individual service projects, we also participate in service together. Last semester, we took part in Boston Shines, a citywide effort to clean up Boston. We traveled to Olmstead Green in Mattapan, MA, a developing project that hopes to revitalize the area. We picked up debris and cleared brush that blocked the sidewalks along the perimeter of the area. This semester, brothers volunteer every week to participate at the Church of the Advent for Tuesday Night Community Supper. Public service is a great way to give back to the community, to exercise our social ideal, and to give expecting nothing thereof.

Alex Pak '10, Community Service Chair

# Mass Eta Alumni Write from Near and Far

**ROBERT J. POLUTCHKO '59** writes the following letter:  
Hello to All,

Betty and I and our family of 17 (soon to be 18) are fine and doing much traveling and enjoying retirement. Unfortunately, some of the traveling is not of the vacation type but saying prayerful farewells to friends and classmates. (GEORGE SNYDER '59, ROGER TRAVIS '59 from PKT and several Lockheed Martin Corp. folks in Denver and Phoenix).

Best regards, Bob

Please contact him at 9313 Belmont Road, Potomac, MD 20854-1623, betty.bob@alum.mit.edu, (301)983-2619.

**PHIL LALLY '48** writes the following letter of May 13, 2007 to **ALPHONSE J. GRAFFEO '39**:

Dear Al,

You may not remember me, but I remember you. I entered MIT in June of '43 and pledged ΦK. At that time the house was at 312 Beacon St. I was initiated toward the end of the semester, in the early fall. (MIT was on a year round schedule then.) Anyway, the brothers were looking for a rental house to replace 312 Beacon St., which was a pretty sad place. The moving forces were PETE QUATTROCHI '47, RAY GAMUNDI '44, AL BARSIA '47, and ED FERRENTINO '45. I remember we looked at a place on The Fenway, near XΦ and ΦΓΔ. It was a lovely house, but I think too expensive. They worked out a deal to rent 229 Commonwealth Ave. and at the end of the semester, we moved.

So, contrary to the article in the Peck attributed to you, the chapter moved from Beacon St. and not from "across the street at 279 Commonwealth" (which is on the same side of the street as 229 Commonwealth).

At the time, I believe you were away in the military. I was drafted out of MIT at the end of the first semester of sophomore year, in June of '44. I returned in September '46 and lived at 229, until I was married in June of '47. It was during that year that I met you. I remember you at house meetings, suggesting we make an effort to pledge more non-resident locals.

I was glad to read that you are in good health. I am doing pretty well myself, still working two days a week in engineering at 81. My wife passed away in 2005.

Best wishes, Phil Lally

Please write to Phil at 738 De Soto Dr. Palo Alto, CA 94303

**LARRY PILKINGTON '01** has been living in Denver for about a year working for Adam Aircraft Industries. He says that you should feel free to stop by on your way to the mountains. Find him at 1470 S. Elizabeth St. Denver, CO 80210 lopilk@gmail.com.

**DON "Quasi" COLOSIMO '62** writes to the Peck:

I enjoy reading The Peck, especially the news from the Alums. In this issue, I saw folks from my era – PT (PAUL TALLERICO '61), FRANK DISALVO '66, AL TERVALON '65, and Fats (ROGER TRAVIS '59). I was happy to see that AL GRAFFEO '39 is still around. At one of our gatherings, we were wondering about Al. It was always interesting when Al showed up at the house. You may have heard that ROGER TRAVIS '59 died in March. One correction on the note in the last edition of The Peck is that Sport is Roger's wife Judy. She was and still is a Good Sport. A number of folks will be coming to my place in Saratoga the first weekend in August for a day at the races. The usual crew consists of GENE "Monk" and Sylvia MONTRONE '59, ED "Gung" and Cathy MARTENS '61, EMIL (who recently discovered his Italian roots) and Hiede SIGNES '63, HOWIE "HS" and Cindy LAHMAN '61, GREG "Spender" DOYLE '66, JOHN "Butch" and Ricki LORDI '60, and RICHARD SPARAPANY '57 (despite what the Institute says, Richard is alive and well in Albany and planning a trip back to Montana this summer). We have a great time even though we are not racing aficionados or handicappers. Greg Doyle gets help from Owen Haselton (not a PK but a Course III '59 good friend of PK) who lives in Seattle. Greg calls in from his cell at the beginning of each race to get the latest handicapping. During the weekend, I fly a PKT flag. We are planning on being at the Penultimate Rippee at Monk's in Scranton over Labor Day. Contact Don at 55 Waterview Dr. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 ddcolosimo@alum.mit.edu (518) 226-0082 (home), (518) 221-8521 (cell)

**CRAIG B.E. WILDMAN '03** moved into Epsilon Theta Fraternity as the resident advisor. He appreciates free rent and a cook. However, the coed fraternity is nothing like PKT. He expects to finish the Ph.D. in a year and a half. Drop on by at 259 Saint Paul St. Brookline, MA 02446 cwildman@mit.edu. (858)869-5763.

**PAUL A. MONTGOMERY '07** started a job at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA conducting research on tuberculosis. Contact him at 50 Revere St. Apt. 4 Boston, MA 02114. pmont@alum.mit.edu.

Write to **ANDREW Y. CHEN '01** at 1930 Ridge Ave. Apt. B-204 Evanston, IL 60201

**HOWARD S. "Howie" HARRIS '73** writes:

My wife Linda and I have been married for 26 years. We have a son, Mark (25) who is a Ph.D. molecular biology student at Vanderbilt. Mark graduated from Vandy in 2003. Mark is engaged to a pathologist, Elizabeth Johnston, who is on the academic staff of the Vanderbilt Medical School. In addition to his studies, Mark is active in adventure racing (his blog is <http://advracer.blogspot.com/>), running, and competitive cycling.

I have another, older son, Hunter (28) by my first wife, Joanne (who the brothers of the time will remember). Hunter is married and his wife Jenny is expecting our first grandson in May. Hunter and Jenny are both Vanderbilt grads (2000) and they live in Cincinnati. Hunter is a manager with Enterprise Car Rental and Jenny is a marketing manager with Proctor and Gamble.

I am working out of my home in Florida for a small firm that assists large corporations with their growth. We work with executive management to develop and implement effective growth strategies. It's fun!

Contact Howard at 4848 Quill Court, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 (727)934-6367 (h), (727)871-9606 (c) hsharris@tampabay.rr.com. Also, contact him at work at Advanced Materials Partners, Inc. where he is Senior Director, Corporate Development. 45 Pine Street New Canaan, CT 06840 (203)972-4908 hsh@amplink.com, www.amplink.com

## We mourn the passing of...

**PETER L. QUATTROCHI '47**, 83, of Mt. Pleasant, SC died April 9, 2007 after suffering a long illness from prostate cancer. He was born in Pittsfield, Mass in 1923. Peter and his wife Jane moved to Mt. Pleasant, SC from Rhode Island in 1985. Peter in his retirement did a lot of work for the International Executive Service Corps. and traveled to many developing countries. Peter leaves behind his wife of 24 years, two children, and four grandchildren. Please write to Jane E. Quattrochi at 945 Cliffwood Dr., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 (843)884-5682.

**MICHAEL KENNEDY '55** passed away peacefully on June 22, 2005 with his children at his side. Michael had moved to Florida with his daughter Susan and her children. Michael suffered from Parkinson's disease and a recurrent cancer claimed his life. Michael Kennedy was 71 when he died. Please send condolences to 9149 SE Deerberry Place Tequesta, FL 33469.

Please email Craig Wildman '03 at [cwildman@alum.mit.edu](mailto:cwildman@alum.mit.edu) with comments about The Peck or to request that your picture or letter be published. I am always looking for news from the alumni!