

# MASS · E · T · A

## Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[web.mit.edu/pkt/peck/](http://web.mit.edu/pkt/peck/)

## Ben Taylor '83 Donates the New Front Door and Dedicates It to Erik Hjerpe '83 for Alumni Board Service



Ben Taylor '83 (left) and Erik Hjerpe '83 pose with the new front door and the plaque that will go on it. Ben donated the door and dedicated it to Erik for his service to the house.

Last winter, Mass Eta finished installation of a new front door for 229 Commonwealth Ave. Although the price tag was steep, reaching almost \$9,000, the Alumni Board approved fabrication and installation of a door complementary to the house's stately design. What came as a surprise was that Ben Taylor '83 donated money to cover the cost of the door and dedicated it in honor of Erik Hjerpe '83 for Erik's long-time service to the house as the President of the Alumni Board. During the presentation at Founder's Day, no one was more surprised than Erik to hear the dedication.

The new door replaced a glass storefront-style door, broken years ago, that separated the foyer from the front steps. The new door, custom-built from African mahogany, turned out beautifully. Besides impressing the brothers, it has won the admiration of the Boston Architectural Commission and general contractors alike.

The plaque reads:

Dedicated this 3rd of May 2008  
to the noble and illustrious

Erik D. Hjerpe '83

For his untiring dedication and  
service to Mass Eta of Phi Kappa  
Theta

In the Bond,  
BJT '83

Craig Wildman '03, Alumni Board

## Alumni Board Moves Forward with Masonry, Other Work

The Alumni Board hopes to keep up the momentum from the roof project and new door with several other major projects this year. These projects will include masonry work, fire escape maintenance, downspout replacement, and preliminary work on replacing the windows.

First among them is conducting full masonry maintenance on the front and rear of the building. The brickwork in the front and rear show significant signs of deterioration. In some places, enough grout has been worn away that falling bricks could become a hazard in the near future. The repairs also will become more expensive in the future as deterioration may accelerate.

A principle cause of worn grout in some places is the poor shape of the downspouts, which currently allow water from the gutter to splash against the wall. These will be replaced to alleviate the problem.

The fire escapes also need considerable attention. In three places, structural repairs must be done. The full system is in need of a new coat of paint, as well. This must be done now to pass the five-year inspection. Along with this project, the rear railing on the roof must be reinstalled in place of the wooden railing installed by the brothers, per order of the Boston Architectural Commission.

The board's goal is to complete all of the projects together before the weather turns foul this fall. The three projects are estimated to cost \$55,000 total. Thanks to consistently strong donations, we are in a solid

position to begin these long-overdue maintenance projects.

The board has also begun planning the replacement of all the sliding windows in the house. Since it does not have on hand the \$110,000 necessary to conduct this project, the board delayed commencing the work until next summer. This will allow time to raise the money via a loan, grants from MIT, and donations.

These projects continue to improve the house as a wonderful place to spend four years at MIT.

Craig Wildman '03,  
Alumni Board



The outside of the new door. The Boston Architectural Commission was quite pleased at the choice of African mahogany.

# Alex Hsu Presents the Executive Officers' Vision

On behalf of the new executive officers of PKT, it is with great pride that we present our vision of the house over next year. We are privileged to have a house that has seen great leadership over the years, and we hope to continue this great tradition.



*From Bob Aspell '05's bottle cap collection, Ryan Castonia '09 and Chris Bruce '08 gave PKT something every fraternity should have: a bar top made out of bottle caps, complete with our letters. To add a finishing touch (and improve risk management), Ryan built saloon-style swinging doors for the bar.*

In particular, the house has done an amazing job in academic performance, community relations, on campus involvement, and charitable work. The previous executive board did a fantastic job of promoting the ideals of PKT and maintaining a strong brotherhood, and we

hope to improve upon this foundation.

Specifically, we would like to focus on bringing the brotherhood closer through a variety of means. PKT is an incredibly diverse environment, and we would like to focus on ensuring that the brotherhood remains as strong as ever even as we pursue our different interests. We will be continuing Brotherhood Integration Groups, sponsoring more brother-only social trips, and planning a fall term retreat after rush with the new Associate Members in order to remind the brotherhood of our goals for the academic year.

Finally, this executive board will also focus heavily on physical house care in order to maintain and protect the history that our house represents. We will be working closely with MIT and our Alumni Board to identify and address the major physical needs of the house. Also, we will facilitate MIT installing network upgrades for the house. More importantly, we will be focusing on improving the quality of house care by improving our houseworks, better Associate Member education, and larger work week undertakings.

We feel this vision addresses the most important aspects of the brotherhood currently, but as always, we will be responsive and accountable to the needs of brothers. We look forward to serving the house over the next year and to strengthening Phi Kappa Theta.

Alexander Hsu '10, President

## Giving, Expecting Nothing Thereof in Africa



*Debarshi Chaudhuri '09 poses with the headmistress and seven teachers of the secondary school in Mbeya, Tanzania. The teachers may not be smiling because they are tasked with 800 students.*

This IAP, three of our brothers were able to go to Africa and work on various development projects. Jonathan Fu '08, Alexander Pak '10, and I went to rural villages in Eastern Africa to put our MIT educations to use helping people in another part of the world and to develop our social and intellectual ideals. The people that I met and the experiences that I had during my time in Tanzania were incredible, and I consider myself very fortunate to have had this opportunity.

I went to Tanzania to work on an MIT Public Service Center Fellowship helping high schools in a rural village to improve their science laboratory education programs. I had worked for weeks preparing my project proposal and coming up with ideas to introduce the students to laboratory chemistry and physics, and I was finally getting a chance to put my ideas into action. Needless to say, I was very excited when January rolled around.

I arrived in Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanzania, very eager to get the most out of my first trip to Africa, but a bit apprehensive about the prospect of being completely alone in an unfamiliar country. However, my fears were allayed the moment I met my host and a few of the residents of the village in which I was working. The family I was staying with was incredibly hospitable; they fed me and provided me with a

place to stay while asking nothing in return. The people in the village were always welcoming. Some of them even made an effort to speak to me in English, even though they had great difficulty in doing so.

My work with the high schools was incredibly rewarding. The students and teachers are both very passionate about education, and they do everything they can to make use of the limited resources available to them. During my time in Tanzania, I was able to work with teachers to help them develop their curricula for the students and to show them how to use pieces of equipment that they had previously been unable to use. I was also able to work directly with students, showing them a variety of science demonstrations and hopefully inspiring them to pursue further studies in the sciences.

My trip to Africa was truly amazing, and I am grateful that I got this chance to experience Africa and give, expecting nothing thereof.

Debarshi Chaudhuri '09, Vice President



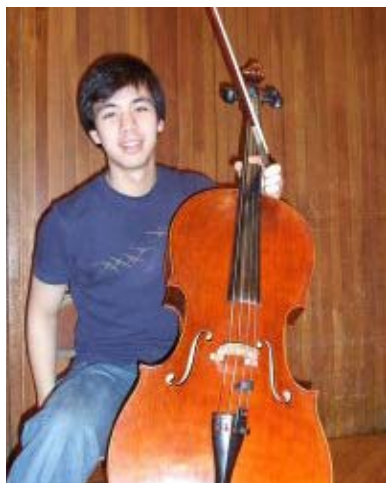
*Jon Fu '08 (left) and Alex Pak '10 made some new friends in Zambia. Continuing fall class projects, they travelled to implement their developing-world solutions. Jon pursued health work while Alex conducted a water project.*



# Phi Kaps Excel at a Variety of Activities

The brothers of Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta chapter aren't only known for their rugged Spartan-like, well-chiseled abs, stunning good looks, and superior intellect; they are renown for their remarkable extracurricular activities, as well. Here, we highlight a few of them.

## *Cai GoGwilt '10: a featured performer of the MIT Symphony Orchestra (MITSO)*



*Cai GoGwilt was a featured soloist in MITSO's spring concert.*

Cai recently dazzled a packed crowd at Kresge Auditorium with his masterful rendition of Kabalevsky's Cello Concerto No. 2 during MITSO's spring concert. He has been MITSO's principal cellist since he joined MITSO his freshman year.

Cai had an early start, first playing cello when he was eight years old, and joined his first orchestra at 11. "I was always fascinated by how the different voices of the piece fit together," he says, crediting the many varied elements of orchestral music as what makes him continue playing in orchestras. "Without playing in orchestra, I would not get to

know pieces as intimately as I do now," he says. "Although rehearsing can be dreary, there is a thrill associated with performing any piece of music." Cai also credits his close friends in orchestra, who help pass the time in rehearsals which can drag along and be quite dreary.

Cai's most memorable MITSO experience, though, may also be his most embarrassing. At MITSO's Winter 2007 concert, he forgot his sheet music and was forced to read off the conductor's score. "Doing this in a performance is torture," Cai says. "I had to distinguish my part in small font from about a dozen every time I reached a new line."

Cai, already a very distinguished cellist, will undoubtedly continue to dazzle crowds with his talent and dedication to the cello.

## *Phi Ho '08 leads his class as president*

"I grew up forced to lead," says Phi. "In elementary school, there was always this awkward situation where no one wanted to take charge, whether it be a school play or a class chant." Phi cites the "adrenaline rush" that being in charge gave him as the reason he started class council. "Taking responsibility for the events that involve your fellow classmates is enjoyable. Class council at MIT is no different."

Presiding over a class is a very stressful position, says Phi, who was president of his high school class council three times. "Class council is all about managing and following through. Whether it's getting the council to fulfill their tasks or making sure events run smoothly or making



*Phi Ho '08 organizes class outings as class president.*

sure my classmates are happy, I have much to juggle at any given time."

Phi spends approximately 10-15 hours per week on council-related duties, which involve working with the student activities office, running meetings, managing people, organizing events, and running events. This past year, the senior class council, with Phi at the helm have put on such events as Boo's Cruise and senior class outings to Red Sox games.

Phi offers the following advice for anyone aspiring to serve on class council: "Getting on class council isn't necessarily a popularity contest. If you're a kind and sincere person and show that you're dedicated to the position, people will weigh that more than anything else when voting comes around. Be bold. Take risks. Don't let failure get in your way of pursuing your goals."

Phi looks to continue serving in leadership positions after graduation as well. He will start working at LEK Consulting next fall.

## *Jonathan Liu '08 saves the day as Chief of MIT Emergency Medical Service (EMS)*



As of April 1, Jon had logged 533 hours for the 07-08 school year on the EMS ambulance. "In fact, part of the reason I chose MIT was because of the 24/7 ambulance service," he says.

Jon first started serving in emergency health situations by volunteering for the Red Cross in high school, and has

been hooked ever since: "What really attracts me to medicine is the one-on-one contact with patients." He staffed medical tents at events such as the AIDS walk, Head of the Charles Regatta, and the Boston Marathon. He was inspired to do more – he enrolled in an EMT class at Northeastern at age 16, and proclaimed himself "hardcore" ever since.

Jon has worked with EMS throughout his four years at MIT. "EMS is rewarding because you have the opportunity to make an immediate difference in the field," he explains. Beyond serving on the front line of medical response, Jon spends at least an hour daily on administrative work as Chief of the 79-member EMS staff at MIT. "Sometimes that comes before school," he warns. Currently, Jon is working on integrating MIT-EMS with the 911 dispatch in Cambridge. He frequently meets with MIT Police, city officials, and other ambulance companies. The work doesn't get too dreary, however: "I love the job solely because I lead some of the most dedicated, smart, forward-thinking people I've met in my life and every day is a pleasure."

For up-and-coming premeds, Jon advises, "Figure out what you like about medicine – what makes it enjoyable. Is it the research, the patient care, or both? More and more medical schools want to see people with both research and clinical experience. Admissions committees love to see that you have some hands-on medical experience and EMS is the best way to do it."

Jon will continue to medical school in the fall and will continue to dedicate himself to bettering the lives of others.



*Jon Liu '08 expresses his passion for medicine through his service as an EMT.*

Ryan Ko '10

# Thank You, Alumni!

## Class Competition

Red Rose Society			(as of April '08)	#	Class	\$
David S. Allmon '01	Young Kyu Kim '99	Lawrence O. Pilkington '01		1	Class of 1999	\$1,070
Alexander Chang '02	Edward J. Martens, Jr. '59	Dennis S. Ruhl '99		2	Class of 2000	\$770
Thomas N. Charchut '64	Daniel K. Moon '00	Hai Po Sun '96		3	Class of 2001	\$755
Donald D. Colosimo '62	Oludare A. Ogunyemi '00	Yokichi J. Tanaka '84		4	Class of 1984	\$630
Francis J. DiSalvo, Jr. '66	John D. O'Neal '62	Lawrence C. Wang '84		5	Class of 2002	\$585
Abraham Hsu '05	Kenneth I. Pettigrew '99	Craig B.E. Wildman '03		6	Class of 1962	\$493
Leonard W. Johnson '01				7	Class of 1959	\$325
Associates				8	Class of 1964	\$275
Gary R. Barnes '84	Allan D.J. Bobko '64	Raymond Tong '07		9	Class of 2003	\$270
Albert S. Barsa '47	Nathan R. Kelley '00	Gary D Zanercik '73		10	Class of 2005	\$270
Douglas L Bashioum '60	Paul Montgomery '07					
Member						
Michael A. Aquino '62	Ladd M. Horvath '05	Jay Nadelson '75				
Brian C. Browning '94	Philip M. Lally '48	Andrew R. Olma '83				
Chung-Kit Chan '04	Mathew A. Medak '02	James M. Patell '70				
Job I. Evers '06	Oscar L. Morgenstern '59	John E. Preschlack '54				
Lawrence P. Frank '73						
Donor						
Bo Feng '07	Jose I. Gonzalez '01	Robert L. Muhr '64				

## Mass Eta Alumni Write from Near and Far

Write to **ALBERT S. BARSA '47** at his lovely penthouse in the Westchester Country Club: 99 Biltmore Ave. Apt. 437. RYE, NY 10580-1837.

**GARY D. ZANERCIK '72** writes: Aloha Brothers, I have been working only part-time since 2001 (I hate to say semi-retired, it sounds so old), but at the same Boston law firm for 30+ years. I spend the winter months in Hawaii and stay in touch with the office via email, etc. The UG brothers are doing a great job! Enjoy your time at Mass Eta, it is over in a blink.

Fraternally and Mele Kalikinuaka, GDZ '72 Write to Gary at 464 Beacon St. Boston 02115 or Kahili #502 1763 Pe'e Rd. Koloa, HI 96576 in the winter. (617) 262-9386, (808) 742-2101.

Write to **JOHN F. GAHRAN '55** at 808 Hopkins Ave. Audubon, NJ 08106 (856)547-5688. Jack writes: Joanne and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 11-17-07. All 4 generations of our descendants were there. **GABE POPPER '54** gave the toast as he did as Best Man at our wedding in 1957. We had a band with the same instrumentation as the Nu-tones that I led while at MIT. Otherwise still active with my consulting firm Gahrman and Company. Old classmates from 1955 era can contact me at [jack@gahrman.com](mailto:jack@gahrman.com).

**ERIK S. STOCKHAM '03 Capt. USAF** writes that he has just been deployed to the Middle East. Erik has served in the Air Force as an intelligence officer in South Korea, Albuquerque, NM, and in Kosovo since graduation. He is glad that he has finally made it to the Middle East to help out there. He regrets he

will not be able to make it back for the Founder's Day reunion but wishes everyone well. Erik calls Albuquerque, NM his home and can be reached at [erik.stockham@gmail.com](mailto:erik.stockham@gmail.com).

**DAVID P. VON STROH '03** writes: Hey brothers, I'm still working in Bangkok, Thailand, doing house church planting and community development in the slum communities here with my agency, Servant Partners, in conjunction with our Thai Peace Foundation. I'm presently focusing much of my energies on our microenterprise development program, helping the poor have opportunities to avoid loan sharks and start their own small businesses. I'm continuing to learn about intersections of Buddhism, Thai culture, and Christianity, having presented a paper at a conference in January on contextualization of Jesus' worldview among urban poor Thai Buddhists. I'm coming back stateside this summer to start seminary studies this fall at Mars Hill Graduate School in Seattle. Contact Dave at [vonstroh@gmail.com](mailto:vonstroh@gmail.com).

### We Mourn the Passing of...

We regret to report the passing of **LEO T. TYBURSKI '32**. He died in his own house on January 19, 2007 at the age of 97.

We mourn the passing of **EARL J. CONNELLEY JR. '43**. He died of prostate cancer in April of 1994.

Michelle Blake relates the passing of her father **DOMINICK E. FORTUNATO '56**: I am sorry to inform you that Dominick Fortunato, my father, passed away on December 4, 2007 due to an aggressive cancer of unknown primacy. He always appreciated the updates and news you sent, and he always spoke so highly of his years at MIT. Thank you for everything. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. —Michelle F. Blake 1008 Ridgewood Ln. West Chester, PA 19382 [mfblake@verizon.net](mailto:mfblake@verizon.net) P.S. He bequest his "brass rat" ring to his first grand child, my son, Charlie.

**ANDY OLMA '83** sadly writes to tell us about the passing of **TIMOTHY WINSKY '80** who died on November 29, 2007. He had suffered with pancreatic cancer through much of 2007. Upon graduating from MIT, Tim was commissioned as an officer in the US Navy and served as an engineering officer aboard the nuclear submarine USS Will Rogers. After leaving active duty, Tim continued to serve in the USNR ultimately leaving with the rank of Commander. For the past 20 years, Tim worked at BASF in Detroit in an engineering role focused largely on supporting the automobile industry and while there, was co-inventor of a polyurethane foam used in car doors to better help them withstand side air bag deployments. Tim was also very active in the community and his church. Tim leaves behind wife, Kelly, and son, Dimitri.

Please email Craig Wildman '03 at [cwildman@alum.mit.edu](mailto:cwildman@alum.mit.edu) with comments about The Peck or with requests for your picture or letter to be published.