

## The Fall Semester Brings Bad News, Good News To Mass Eta Chapter

For the third straight year, the rush gods have given us 14 studly pledges. In the past, we would be in a major housing crunch with this many members crammed into the house, but this newest class is the first to be required to live on campus. Even though this new rule breaks the tradition of associate members living in the house, it has allowed our brotherhood to grow to 50 strong men.

Over the past couple of years, our members have become increasingly involved in the MIT community, and this newest class

is no exception. They participate in a wide range of on-campus activities including cross-country, sailing, orchestra, a cappella singing, and many religious and ethnic student groups. The class also contains a record number of sophomores, proving that our brotherhood is not just a show during rush. While this involvement is great for our campus involvement, it creates a challenge to organize pledge-class activities. Over the past month, the associate members have shown much enthusiasm and dedication toward the house.

With our house showing so much strength during this transition period, we are well prepared for the future. In addition to a strong active brotherhood, we need the support of alumni to be even stronger than in the past. With only three pledge classes of undergraduates financing our Back Bay mansion, we are definitely going to face financial struggles. Modest donations from every brother would ensure the survival of Phi Kappa Theta.

Michael Negrete '03  
Personnel Director

## Phi Kappa Theta National Gatherings Build Bonds, Inspire Chapters

This past summer I attended the Phi Kappa Theta National biannual Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, along with brothers Mike Negrete '03, Sisir Botta '04, and Kaliq Chang '05. Also in attendance for some or all of the four-day event were Kyle Shen '98, Peter Finin '01, and our district governor, John Covert. During the course of the conference we interacted with other chapters from throughout the country to discuss ways to better our chapters. Topics covered included recruitment techniques, member development, risk management, and financial stability, among others.

Even outside of the standard scheduled activities everyone in attendance had a wonderful time just interacting with brothers from across the country. I would consider this interchapter contact the most important and beneficial aspect of our annual trips, whether to the Leadership Conference or to the National Convention (each is held biannually on alternating years), because it provides a unique opportunity for us to see the diversity of and excitement surrounding our national fraternity.

I have now been to a Leadership Conference and to a National Convention. After each had drawn to a close, if not every Phi Kap, certainly every Mass Eta Phi Kap was energized, and those of us from Mass Eta were ready to return to Boston to make significant improvements to our chapter. It is for this reason that I encourage every active brother and every alumnus to try to attend at least one convention. Your perspective on our chapter and the national fraternity will be greatly altered.

Although these events are always a great time, this year's was made especially memorable by the results of the awards banquet. Over the course of each year our vice presi-

dent puts together an awards application that ends up being a few hundred pages in length. At the end of each academic year this application is mailed into National,

Sweeny Award goes to the chapter in each province of the country that best meets the national fraternity's standards. The judging of the awards application is done on a point

system, and the Gold Award goes to any chapters receiving at least 75 points in every category.

This year three chapters received the Gold Award, including Mass Eta. Finally, the Founder's Cup goes to the very best chapter in the country. Winning this award is an incredible honor for any chapter, and we won it this year for the first time in our chapter's history. There were two other chapters that were within a whisker of beating us, however. This coming year we are going to work even harder at winning this prestigious award so that next summer at the National Convention in Seattle we can again receive this honor.

Greg Gryzwa '04  
Vice President



Sisir Botta '04, John Covert, Kaliq Chang '05, PKT National President James R. Flanigan (Iowa State '88), Greg Gryzwa '04, Mike Negrete '03, and Kyle Shen hold awards won at nationals, including the Founder's Cup.

which judges each chapter and bestows awards based on the chapter's application.

At the awards banquet this year, we were honored with the following awards: Scholarship, Social Action, McSweeney, Gold, and Founder's Cup. The Scholarship Award goes to any chapter demonstrating outstanding academic achievement. The Social Action Award goes to the chapter demonstrating the best community service and involvement. The Mc-



Brothers with some sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta at the Boston Walk for Hunger.