

MASS · E · C · K

Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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Strong Leaders Take Office in Mass Eta Elections

Reflecting on my past term as President, I have nothing but thanks and praise for the executive board that served with me. In my three and a half years at the house, I have never seen such a solid board of enthusiastic, competent, and hard-working officers. Thus, as I walked into the chapter room for this year's elections, I was both excited and a bit apprehensive. Would this year's officers rise to meet the same high standards?

The first thing that stood out about elections this year was the large number of candidates running for office. Most elections had at least three nominees, and some had as many as five. In talking with other fraternity presidents, participation in house leadership is typically a problem. Most candidates run unopposed, and holding an office is seen as merely a chore that must be done. Listening to the nominees' ideas and aspirations for each office made me confident that brothers here feel that being on the executive board is an opportunity to improve and contribute to the house.

Attesting to this is the fact that eight of the eleven new officers are first-time executive board members this year. The new board represents a diverse range of brothers from all three of next year's active classes: three '08s, six '09s, and two '10s. At the helm is President Eric Grebing, '08. Eric was instrumental last year as Personnel Director in further developing innovative programs, such as Brotherhood Integration

Groups (BIGs), and fostering a strong academic environment around the house. His hard work certainly paid off as PKT was ranked third amongst all fraternities last term with an average GPA of 4.41! This is the highest ranking for our house since the 1998-1999 school year and a significant improvement over several of the terms in between. One of Eric's main goals as President this year is to improve relations with other fraternities and to strengthen PKT's presence on campus.

Other officers have strong goals as well. House manager James Stenard '09 plans on tightening up the current housework system and instituting new programs that will improve general house cleanliness. Alumni chair Chris Bruce '08 is planning on starting the graduating alumni giving program. The idea is to convince the graduating seniors to join the automatic donations program, even if the monthly donation was small. Extending beyond the house executive board, Chris Fematt '08 was recently elected IFC rush chair.

I am excited to witness the many accomplishments of this new set of capable officers, and I have complete faith that the house is in good hands for yet another year. Congratulations to all the new officers, and thanks again to last year's executive board for a great job!

Buddy Michini '07, President (2006-2007)

Founders' Day, in keeping with Mass Eta tradition, will once again be held the first Saturday of May, this year the 5th, at the Thompson Island Outward Bound Campus. This lobster/clam/chicken bake is a rain-or-shine event and an excellent opportunity to gather your classmates together for an informal afternoon of socializing as well as to meet all of the brothers now living in the house.

Please inform let us know if you are coming and the number of guests so that the caterers can plan for the right number of people. We are asking for \$50/person (\$25/child) to offset the cost of the meal, transportation, and use of the island for the afternoon.

The boat leaves at NOON from the E.D.I.C. dock, next to the Summer Street Bridge in South Boston. This is your only means to access the island. It's a one-mile hike out from South Station. From Summer Street turn left into the Marine Industrial Park where the guard shack is. Straight ahead on the left will be a parking garage, and the dock will be to your right. If someone has an emergency and has to leave early, a SMALL boat departs the island at 2:00. Otherwise we depart Thompson Island at 5:00. There are huge playing fields for sports and trails for hiking, and all sports equipment is provided except for softball gloves.

After the fest, all are welcome to attend the annual meeting, where next year's alumni board is formally elected. Anticipated start time is 6:30pm. I hope to see you there!

Erik Hjerpe '83, Alumni Board President

Founder's Day 2007

Thompson Island Picnic

Saturday, May 5
12:00pm-5:00pm

Annual Alumni meeting:
6:30pm at the House

Coordinate with your Pledge Class
&
Bring your family

Contact Erik Hjerpe with RSVP, Questions
ehjerpe@L1id.com (978) 985-3049

A Dynamic Pledge Class Makes Ray Tong Proud



Debarshi Chaudhuri '10 and Rob Block '10 compete to decide who will become the next Minister of War. They continue the tradition of passing on the leadership position after Senior Dinner.

Being the associate member educator was one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had at Phi Kappa Theta. It was a great opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the house, and I believe the position made me a better leader. From the very beginning, I told the new class that I would emphasize three core principles: the ability to integrate the ideals into their lives, dedication to the house, and integration with not only their pledge class but also with upper classmen. Throughout the semester, each associate member demonstrated his progress in associate member meeting discussions, houseworks and crews, and assignments such as interviews, essays, and the four associate member tasks.

interesting or when we discussed the Spiritual Ideal.

The associate member program this year contained many elements from previous years. Associate members were required to interview brothers, complete the four assigned tasks, and shared the responsibility of houseworks and crews with other brothers. For the assigned tasks, this year's class decided to take a road trip to surrounding areas including Cape Cod.

This year's class featured fifteen diverse individuals: diverse in their backgrounds and their interests. They continue the chapter's tradition of strong extracurricular involvement by participating in activities such as ROTC, varsity swimming, song lyric composition, break dancing, and jazz. I believe their differing interests and perspectives helped them grow and understand the world from multiple points of view. Some of the most enlightening conversations I had this past semester were during associate member meetings where each person would share a hobby he found in-

Their party was called "Cops & Crooks" and had a great turnout. For community service, the class decided to distribute food to nearby homeless shelters. Finally, they decided to add wood paneling and repaint the walls to the basement entryway for their house project.

I am proud of the progress this class made in terms of their growth in the ideals and I am impressed by their efforts to improve our brotherhood. Being the associate member educator has proven to be a rewarding experience and I am confident that the new brothers will continue to uphold the principles of our house.

Raymond Tong '07, Associate Member Educator (2006-2007)



The former pledges pose before their Cops and Crooks Party on top of the pool table cover, which they turned into a mock jail cell.

Phi Kaps Are Active All Over Campus

As always, the brothers at Phi Kappa Theta are staying busy by participating in a wide variety of activities on campus. Interests in the arts, sports, culture, and academics add depth and perspective to the brotherhood. But, instead of making a giant laundry list of activities, a few are highlighted below.

MIT Technology Fair, held this past February, featured a trade-show-like atmosphere at which 55 companies and eight labs on the MIT campus demonstrated cutting-edge technologies to the MIT community. The Phi Kaps were well represented in the planning of the fair as four different brothers were involved with the organization and planning of the fair.

Sports also continue to play a large role in our house's future. PKT is represented on the varsity fields in cross-country, track, tennis, taekwondo, fencing, and swimming. Our intramural sports teams have also experienced successful seasons with a runner-up finish in football and strong showings in hockey, badminton, and soccer. With the recent purchase of a new bat, we hope to take

home the league championship in softball this year.

Of course, academics also play a large role in our lives at MIT. In addition to having the third highest GPA among fraternities for the fall semester, many brothers take the time to extend their education by working on research outside the classroom. One interesting project involves the transformation of an old Porsche into an electric car. The Electric Vehicle Team, started by Manny Sin '07, Ryan King '09, and others, is currently converting the car in the hopes of competing with it when it is completed.

The brotherhood of Phi Kappa Theta, now with 53 active members, continues to strive both internally and externally. The Phi Kaps' broad campus presence and strong inter-personal relationships are a testament to the strength of the house and a continued commitment to excellence.



Manny Sin '07 and Ryan King '09 are converting a 1976 Porche in the Sloan Automotive Lab to run on electricity from batteries. They show the electric motor coupled to the stock transmission.

Eric Grebing '07, President (Personnel Director 2006-2007)

Brothers Make House Improvements, Small and Large

Work week featured a new Athena cluster, an upgrade to the house network, and a renovated entryway

Under the guidance of house manager Spencer Sugimoto '08, Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta completed one of its most successful work weeks in recent years. The cornerstone of this year's winter work week was the Athena Cluster project. Through a grant from the MIT Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF), the house was able to purchase two computers and an additional printer. These machines will contribute to improving the steadily climbing house GPA. We intend to transform "Dark Bath," the half-bathroom in the basement turned dark room then "Dark Weight Room," into "Well-Lit Computer Room."

In the process, Dark Bath underwent extensive renovations. The weight machine formerly occupying the room was sold. Buddy Michini '07, James Stenard '09, and Lucas Hernandez-Mena '08 repainted the walls, laid linoleum for a new floor, and installed molding along the floor. Additionally, a fire-proof door with a keypad lock was mounted in the formerly vacant door frame.

The basement experienced further improvements, as well. Through the leadership of Matt Huang '10, the pledge class of 2010 chose to put up wood paneling along the front entryway. In his words, "This hallway is the first thing you see when you walk into the house, so we thought it should look good." The design and stain of the paneling is reminiscent of wood in the chapter room. The pledges repainted the hallways and installed trim underneath and above the paneling to enhance the effect.

The house saw many other enhancements, as well. Ryan Castonia '09 and Ryan King '09 built a house router table for the Bar Room and

a rock climbing wall in fourth lounge, giving the brothers a way to blow off steam during study breaks. Tyler Abrams '09 and Vivek Shah '07 built a black wooden TV stand to house the brand new widescreen HDTV in First Front. The residents of the studio completely redecorated the room, painting the walls red (leaving the musical score at the top intact, of course), building a new shelving unit, and creating new, more durable stairs leading to the top bunk.

Finally, Jeffrey Chang '08, in conjunction with Sandy Spicer and Brandon Pung '10, rewired the house with CAT6 cables and installed gigabit switches in all the rooms, in conjunction with the net upgrade. The house continues to undergo improvements, and we would love for any alumni to stop by so we can show them the new projects we are working on!

Tyler Abrams '09

Upcoming additions: plumbing repairs, a new front door, and a new roof

The undergraduates and the Alumni Board are currently planning three major projects that may cost on the order of \$40,000. Serious plumbing maintenance, a new foyer door, and a roof replacement are all in order.

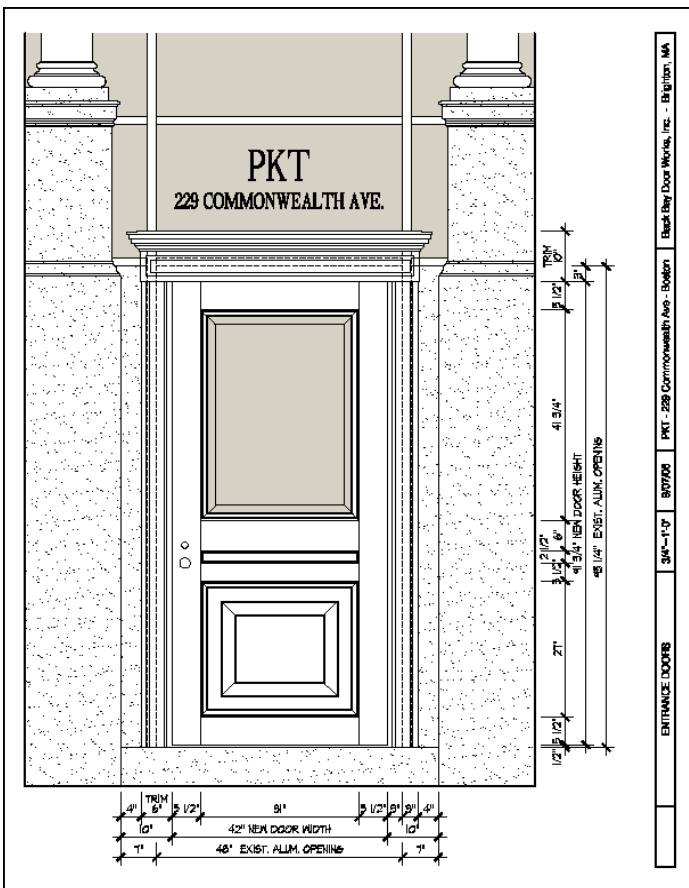
Clued by strange odors emanating from the basement, I decided to explore the subbasement, known as the Smegma Pit, for a leaky sewer pipe. Under the Bar Room, in the front of the house, a rotted out pipe had created a four-foot by six-foot puddle in the dirt. In 2001, a similar but shorter pipe rotted out near the rear of the house. To fix this, the plumber needed to tear up the floor above the pipe and charged the house \$3,400. It is therefore reasonable to expect that the repair for the current issue should be on the order of \$5,000. Also, since two pipes have failed within six years of one another, all of the other similar pipes in the house may be reaching the end of their useful life. It may be prudent to explore whether replacing all of the sewer plumbing now would be better than a piecemeal approach. This would result in a neater, more uniform plumbing system rather than a system of patch-work fixes done in a hurry by different companies.

Spencer Sugimoto '08, the former house manager, is working to find a lasting solution to the missing foyer door. This is the door outside the locking front door. The undergraduates removed the last door in 2001 when it broke but never installed a replacement. Spencer is soliciting quotations for a custom door and frame. His best lead features a mahogany door with a large window, as pictured above, with a matching wooden frame around the existing metal frame. The job is quoted at about \$8,000. More costly than the Alumni Board expected, the exceptionally wide opening requires custom work that drives up the price. Spencer is also seeking competing bids.

For years, the roof has been leaking so the Alumni Board is now soliciting quotations to have the roof replaced. The undergraduates have added tar to the roof last summer to temporarily fix the leaks, but a long-term solution is still necessary. Taking the lead on this project, I have so far met with three contractors each outlining different tasks to be done. The companies quoted the job for \$17,250, \$24,500, and \$24,875. I am still learning what the right course of action is so am not ready to pursue any plan just yet. Roof replacement will likely take 3-4 days, will require the help of many brothers to move the wooden decks, and should be done before the weather gets too warm. The heat effects the tar properties.

Beyond these projects, the Alumni Board is investigating major repointing work, replacing all of the windows, and conducting an engineering assessment of the building to flush out any other major issues.

Craig Wildman '03, Alumni Board Member



A proposed door design by Back Bay Door Works, Inc.

Mass Eta Alumni Write from Near and Far



Talent! Lucas Hernandez-Mena '08, Buddy Michini '07, and Mikey Fujihara '09 perform at the fall semiformal.

After retiring from Los Alamos National Laboratory, **PAUL "PT" TALLERICO '61** moved with his wife, Mary Ellen, to a Del-Webb Community in Broomfield, CO for over-55 people and enjoy it. They also like the fact that they are near their two grandchildren in Boulder, CO. They visit the other one in Seattle, WA a few times per year. They enjoy hiking and biking with occasional skiing. Also, Paul recently went to his 50th high school reunion and notes only 16% of the class had died. Please contact him at 4211 Corte Bella Dr. Broomfield, CO 80020. (303)926-0427, pjtmnet@msn.com.

ALPHONSE J. GRAFFEO '39, Colonel Army US-Retired writes that at 88 years of age, he sits and lets the world go by! His health is good, and he is able to take care of himself. He is very impressed by what's going on at Φ KΘ 229 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. When he was a member, he was instrumental in buying 229 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. They moved from across the street at 279 Commonwealth Ave. Boston. To the brothers he says, "Enjoy Peck very much! Keep up the good work!" Contact Alphonse at 25 College Ave. Medford, MA 02155-4561.

BEN SU '05 recently began a new job as a mechanical engineer at the Boeing Company in



No Dude, it's already dead! Anthony Lim '07 and WeiYang Sun '07 prepare part of Senior Dinner.

the Integrated Defense Systems (IDS) Business Unit. He appreciates returning to his native Washington and can be contacted at 4635 92nd Ave. SE Mercer Island, WA 98040. (206) 920-7608. bwsu@alum.mit.edu.

Contact **ASA "Peter" VICCELLIO, MD '73** at 19 Valleywood Ct. East St. James, NY 11780. (631) 584-6375, asa.viccellio@stonybrook.edu. Asa works as a professor and vice chairman in the Department of Emergency Medicine at School of Medicine at SUNY at Stony Brook.

ROGER E. TRAVIS '59 (nicknamed "fat man" and "fats and sport") retired in November of last year. He was involved in a medical products business since 1969. Roger reports of his five grandchildren, there are four girls, one of whom is an excellent singer. All four are into gymnastics, soccer, and field hockey. His grandson, Travis, is following in his father's and Tiger Woods' footsteps as the next great golfer. Roger hopes to see familiar faces at Monk's Rippee on Labor Day weekend in Saratoga for the Travers Stakes horse races. Contact him at 18 Hancock Rd. Hingham, MA 02043. (617) 347-3914. judith16@aol.com.



Vivek Shah '07 and Paul Montgomery '07 brew some stew for Senior Dinner.

FRANCIS "Frank" J. DISALVO '66 and his wife Barbara celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by taking a cruise in the South Pacific. Joining them were eight other couples including **ANGELO and Sandy LAMOLA '62**, **BUD and Marie WONSIEWICZ '63**, and **JAMES and Evelyn GO '63**. The cruise lasted 10 days in late November. Good fun with good friends! Contact Frank at 8 Sunny Knoll Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850. (607) 273-9062, fj3@cornell.edu.

ALBERT S. BARSAS '47 and his wife Gloria report that their marriage of 1949 is working on year 58! Recently, in 2005, they sold their home that they built in 1956. Gloria is suffering from macular degeneration and was declared blind seven years ago. They were not able to keep up their lovely home so they eventually sold it. They always wanted to move into the Westchester Country Club and held out for



Kevin Liu '07, Daniel Jimenez '10, Ryan Castonia '09, and Rob Block '10 pose for an ROTC picture.

a penthouse. They settled for a seven room, four bath, apartment with a large terrace. They find it an ideal way to retire. They enjoy reading the Peck, and tell the brothers to keep up the good work! Contact Albert and Gloria at 99 Biltmore Ave. Rye, NY 10580. (914)967-5052.

Please, write to **BEN ERWIN '96** at 149 Magazine St. #3 Cambridge, MA 02139.

ARTHUR WILDING-WHITE '77 was with PKT a few years before its large changes in the late 1970's. He wonders how connected the people are from that time. (We hear from some folks although we'd like to hear from more of them.) After graduating from MIT, Arthur worked for Digital Equipment Corporation for 15 years becoming a principal firmware engineer for disk drive servo control. After that, he retired and now spends his time helping his partner with her eight-year-old son. Contact Arthur at 150 Pleasant St., Arlington, MA 02476. (781) 646-4884.

AL "Broad Jumper" TERVALON '65 writes "Hello Fellow Fishermen. He has retired and moved to Houston, TX with his wife Josephine. They have five grandchildren, and he is learning how to play golf. He invites you to drop by for a meal if you are in Houston. Contact him at 83 Champion Villa Dr. Houston, TX 77069. (734) 516-5399. a.tervalon@att.net.



The studly senior class poses for a group picture during the semiformal.