

P • E • C • K

Published for the alumni of Phi Kappa and Phi Kappa Theta at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, its members, and friends. News contributions, changes of address, and photographs are welcome and should be sent to Mass Eta Phi Kappa Theta, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0007.

Keeping Up The House

Summer work week was quite a success. We have a much cleaner house than in the past few years and some nice additions. Alex Wong '03, Aaron Wippold '05, and Charles Han '05 painted a great mural, enshrining rushes past. I've got some great things planned for winter work week. You'll have to come to Founder's Day to see the results.

Sadly, over the past year, not much has been done to improve the long-term health of the physical plant of Mass Eta. The most recent changes to rush and frosh housing have affected the MIT community as a whole, and our house is no exception. Massive budget cuts and rearrangements have forced us to put off some physical improvements in exchange for trying to survive the 2002 change.

We hope that in the future, with the support of alumni donations, we can start to consider some of the drastic physical improvements that our house needs. I am working closely with Dan Moon '00 to ensure that these occur as soon as possible.

Max Farrell '04
House Manager

Entertainment, Good Cheer, Calm Waters, Clear Skies...Social Times At Mass Eta

While planning out the social calendar during the summer, I had felt the heavy responsibility of maintaining the social well-being of the house. As I write, I must say that things are chugging along just fine and that there are a handful of events I am proud of organizing so far this term.

The first social event of the year was the Smoothie Social, held back in August during orientation. Word-of-mouth advertising spread like wildfire as Alex Chang and his protégé, Ladd Michael Horvath, churned out concoction after concoction of sweet, cool summer goodness in the heat of the night and in the shadow of a looming school year. The canyon and first front were packed far past capacity for three straight hours with freshmen, house friends, and brothers.

After a couple of weeks, we held our first party of the year, the Friday the 13th party. Thanks to prolific and strategically planned posterage, we had a record attendance of 600 guests filling up first front and bouncin' to the bumpin' beats of DJ Mike Negrete. The very next morning we held an on-campus Texas barbecue with McCormick Hall and Chi Phi. This also turned out to be a huge success as we served grilled beef brisket, potatoes, sausages, beans, cornbread, and fresh smoothies to the masses for a good portion of the afternoon. We proposed this inter-ILG event to Weekends@MIT and received \$1,500. McCormick looks forward to making this open barbecue an annual collaboration with PKT and Chi Phi.

The next big events involved rush, so please read Sisir's article (see page one) for details on rush. My first event after rush was

the first social hour of the year, with the theme "meet the pledges." I would have called it "meet the associate members," but everyone would have just gotten confused. Anyway, our first social hour of the year turned out to be quite successful, as well, with Nick Chan manning the bar. House friends, pledges, and freshmen alike had a blast as the ping pong table was rolled away halfway through, the fluorescent lights went down, and suddenly we were bumpin' again. The pledges had a great first showing, and I was very impressed with the gentlemanly yet entertaining manner in which they all conducted themselves during the social hour.

We recently held a mixer with Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, carving pumpkins and munching on Thai food. The rain was pouring outside, but, nevertheless, we had a respectable showing from the Thetas as we carved pumpkins.

In a couple of weeks we will hold our ever-popular karaoke social hour as well as our fall semiformal. This year the semiformal will take place on a boat cruise navigating around Boston Harbor throughout the night, complete with dinner and dancing. Most of our new associate members will be attending their first semiformal event of the year, so I am looking to a delightful evening full of entertainment, good cheer, calm waters, and clear skies as we continue on with the social aspect of our journey through MIT at Phi Kappa Theta.

Kaliq Chang '05
Social Chair

Mass Eta Brothers Overcome Challenges

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with spontaneous jaunts to Marche's, J.P. Licks, and other locations in the Back Bay.

Coming out of the first weekend, energy levels were high. Yet the chapter came alive when several alums came back for the wedding of Terrence Fong '99 and Grace Liu. The ties of brotherhood became clear to the freshmen, and the flow of freshmen continued. Finally, after two long weeks, we extended 24 bids on the morning of October 4, with invitations to a biddee dinner. Before a delicious meal from our chef, Derrick Evans, the biddees met one another and were introduced one-by-one. Afterward, alum Howard Cheng '96 delivered a stirring speech about his experience at PKT, and then the biddees enjoyed dessert at Top of the Hub.

The next morning, pledging began at 8:06 a.m. with Alexis Giguere '06 taking the lead.

The next several hours raised concern as biddees considered their decisions carefully. However, the ball slowly kept rolling when Robert Aspell '06 pledged at Pour House. By the end of the weekend, we had 10 pledges. Barrett Mitchell '06 pledged during a call to Nathan Meng '04, who is in England for a year abroad, and then Nathan called the house with the news. George Huo '06 pledged on Thursday night, becoming the 14th pledge of 2002.

Overall, rush 2002 was a success at PKT, but we must remember that rush has already begun for 2003. Learning lessons from the mistakes and successes of this year is essential during this time of transition at MIT.

Sisir Botta '04
Rush Chair

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