



MAP · E · C · K

Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

web.mit.edu/pkt/peck/

The State of $\Phi K \Theta$ 2008-2009



Alexander Hsu '09
Outgoing President

Dear Phi Kappa Theta alums and family,

My name is Alexander Hsu, and I have had the privilege of serving PKT as president over the last year. Although by the time you read this there will be a new president, I would like to update you on what has been happening in the fraternity system since last Fall.

When I last wrote to you, there were considerable concerns within the Inter-Fraternity Council, MIT administration, and related Boston and Cambridge city bureaucracies due

to some of the actions of a handful of fraternities at MIT. I am glad to say that these concerns seem to be working themselves out in the appropriate channels, and PKT continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the IFC, MIT, and our neighbors in Boston.

Since the Fall, a new IFC Judicial Committee has worked hard to ensure that transgressions of appropriate behavior of fraternities have been thoroughly investigated, and culpable fraternities have been punished appropriately. These actions have created a renewed sense of confidence that our self-governance is a viable option in the eyes of the MIT

administration. In addition, the Cambridge Licensing Committee and Boston Licensing Board, the government organizations that deal with dormitory permits, investigations have been thorough and fair on the fraternities that were not taking care of their houses without being unduly harsh on the rest of the fraternity system.

Other than these outside events, PKT continues to function normally. We initiated a new the pledge class of 2012 into our fraternity in early February, and we look forward to having some of them take up leadership within the house. In addition, the pledge class of 2012 also completed fantastic work on our entrance way complete with a carved wooden PKT crest. MIT also recently completed a free, entire network upgrade to our house which improved our internet and fire alarm infrastructure. Perhaps most exciting of all, the alumni corporation have contracted a firm to begin installing new windows throughout the house that will not only restore some of the aesthetic appeal of the house but also save us money on heating every year.

It has been a pleasure to serve as president over the last year, and I am excited to see PKT continue to grow and evolve even as I leave MIT.

Alexander Hsu '09,
Outgoing President
alexhsu@mit.edu

Founders' Day, in keeping with Mass Eta tradition, will once again be held on the first Saturday of May, this year the 2nd, 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 let us know if you are coming as well as number of guests you will be bringing 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 2009

Thompson Island Picnic

Saturday, May 2
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

Those New Members are G-r-reat!

The class of 2012 Associate Member Education Program contains many traditions of old, but also some new twists. Transparency has been a large focus this year as was decided by the brothers at Quo Vadis. The associate members (AMs) were told up front about the metrics by which the brotherhood would be evaluating them, what needed to be accomplished, and even when they would be initiated. Individual metrics included essays on each of our four ideals, participation in crews



Ryan Castonia '09 (Tony the Tiger) poses with fellow cereal pledge brothers

and houseworks, and interviewing all of the active brothers, each other, and John Covert. Class metrics/events included jaunts (to included visiting all AMs rooms together, an Eagle's Deli challenge, meeting with President Hockfield, and cooking dinner together), thorns and roses, participating in the first PKT fall retreat, big bro/lil bro quiz, and the class party, trip, community service event (volunteering with the Boston Symphony Orchestra), and project (focused on the entryway between the two doors). Overall, the focus was on dedication, responsibility, ownership, and integration (horizontal and vertical).

Meetings were typically held at 7pm on Sunday evenings and standard topics ranged from MIT survival, to a functional house tour and details on crews and houseworks, to our four ideals and motto, to risk management. In order to best help the AMs in response to how their class progressed, I decided to schedule the last several meetings of the semester as topics that would be decided upon by the brothers near that time. These meetings have been focused on house lore, leadership, transitioning from an AM to a brother, and conflict

management within the house. This has allowed the program to be tailored to the needs of the AMs after they progressed through the standard topics.

MIT has continued to place restrictions on the length of our program. John Covert agreed to have oversight and responsibility over the program from MIT's perspective in order to allow us to initiate the AMs on Feb 2nd, opposed to MIT's attempt to require all fraternities to initiate their classes before the first semester ended. We are thankful that he was willing to step up in that way.

Overall, the class of 2012 is 15 members strong and transitioning toward becoming active brothers. They are as diverse of a pledge class as any and have worked hard to integrate fully while beginning to take ownership over the house. I have learned a great deal from them and look forward to seeing them carry on the strong tradition of Phi Kappa Theta at MIT.

*Ryan Castonia '09
Outgoing AM Educator*

A Message From the (Pledge Class of 2012) President

When I had envisioned myself at MIT, I hadn't imagined how much fraternity life would influence my experience. I hadn't guessed that the pledge program would be one of the most meaningful elements of my first semester, or that the guys who would join me in this program would be some of the highest quality people I would meet. I hadn't imagined that pledging a fraternity would change the person who I am fundamentally, or that participation in the fraternity system would become a significant element of my identity as an adult.

Upon pledging Phi Kappa Theta, I jumped into the program head-first. Before coming to MIT, I had already decided to pledge a fraternity, and after rush, I was excited to solidify my attachment to the brotherhood and delve deeply into the ideals. What came as a result was, as said above, a lot more than expected. The demand on my time was immense, especially because I had decided to be super-proactive as pledge president. I wanted to be involved in everything: organizing the pledge trip, the pledge party, and the pledge project. I invested a lot of time and emotion in these different activities because I felt it would help me develop as a potential brother. And, as I continued to do so, I found I was not alone. Many, if not the majority of my fellow associate members had a similar desire. I was thoroughly impressed and spurred onward as I saw my fellow pledges perform beyond my expectations. It appeared that, as the program moved forward, we as a class devel-

oped a shared thirst for substance and personal development.

For some, this commitment caught them off guard, having not expected the pledge program to be as demanding as it was. A few struggled, and one even feared the prospect of being depledged. As we worked together to fulfill the tasks put before us, however, those worries and concerns were overshadowed by the strengthening bonds forming between the members of my pledge class. As we developed as potential brothers, we developed as a class, united in our hopes and commitment. We worked together to surmount obstacles and extract substance from our failures. Successes were savored and rejoiced. And, the most important thing was that everything meant something.

One concern that arose during the second half of the program was that we were focusing too much on developing a horizontally integrated class and not enough on integrating vertically with the brothers. The response to this problem was no less impressive than all I mentioned above. Each associate member made it their personal duty to help the class as a whole interact with the brothers more and develop relationships outside of the pledge class which would exhibit a similar level of depth as those developed within.

I am thrilled to say that now I am certain that I am a member of the finest brotherhood on campus, and that there would be no better place to develop not just as a brother or member of the MIT community, but as a citizen of



A dapper Kris Swick '12 strikes a stately pose.

the larger communities we live in. Knowing that the pledge program is just the first step, I am elated by the prospect of things to come.

*Kris Swick
2012 Pledge Class President*

The Old German Beer Comes of Age: J³ Replies

In the last article of the PECK, we reported on a legendary bottle of German Beer that has been sitting in 1R of Phi Kappa Theta for the past 20 years. On the inscription, it proclaims that J³ (JOHN "J³" JULIANO '86) will drink the 1978 Mug Lift beer on Founder's Day in 2009. Erik Hjerpe '83 was instrumental in filling in the details of the legend—See the complete article in the Fall 2008 of the PECK (web.mit.edu/pkt/peck/).

After seeing the article, John Juliano '86 broke his twenty year silence regarding the legend. He wrote to the PECK:

Yes, the Old German Beer... Its legend was passed unto me several years ago by Erik Hjerpe... It's a magnificent legend, especially since most of its key facts can't be true—I was in Maryland by 1988 and thus out of the house, and I think Mo Lester had long since, um, 'retired' from MIT by then... Plus I knew Old German beer while I was in the house, and there's no fucking way I would have ever agreed to drink that piss at any point in my life.

Nonetheless, the legend persists. So someday I suppose I'd have to partake of the legendary brew, unless I did something equally legendary with it.

Since I can't make it up for Founder's Day this year—my wife will be in Ukraine and I'll be stuck at home with the insane Robert Doerr Juliano (PKT class of 2026), I'll have to do something else. So see enclosed official looking document.

Me, I got married to Zhenya in 2004 (same year that the Red Sox

won the World Series—apparently my getting married warped the time-space continuum) and proceeded to ill-advisedly breed. Robert (Yes, he is named after the Red Sox HoF Second Baseman) was born in 2005 and has frightened us sufficiently that we haven't yet had another.

I work for IBM as the Global Lead, Energy and Utilities, IBM Institute for Business Value—living proof that the longer your title is the more worthless you are. But, I do get to work (via phone and instant messaging) with John Stenard's ('80) wife/James Stenard's mom, which is both cool and so fundamentally bizarre it gives me seizures when I think about it. (That work/PKT link directly resulted in the evil, plankton-like idea I got to get the Old German crap off my back...)

Until I can travel again (when Robert turns ±18 I guess), Peck,

J³ '86



The bottle (still?) in question

*Aaron Wippold '05
Alumni Board*

Window Replacement Project Progress Continues



One of the two curved windows in First Front.

The winter had been rough on the residents of the Studio. The half-inch gap between the sashes of the window allowed a good deal of airflow, and the crumbling lower sash made sealing the gap with duct tape not feasible. So, as house manager, I tasked Ben Kim to rebuild the sash, and he provided a decent short-term fix – in January 2002. The Studio window indeed has deteriorated further in the last seven years and has been long overdue for professional replacement. This window and almost all of the other ones in the house will be replaced this summer in a project that will finish a step-by-step full exterior renovation of the building.

The window replacement project, along with necessary maintenance on the chimneys, will cost approximately \$135,000. The PKT Executive Committee financed the project with a loan through the MIT Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF). The terms required that previous existing loans be bundled in with this new one so all of the debt was consolidated in a \$200,000 package comprising \$50,000 existing debt and \$150,000 new debt. The IRDF is expected to contribute a small fraction of the cost in grants as well. Nate Kelley '00, the Alumni Corpo-

ration treasurer, estimated that the corporation is in a position to service this extra debt with current levels of donations and undergraduate rent. Indeed, under the current economic circumstances, the board was quite pleased to hear we would not have to ask for special funds from the alumni to complete this project, although it continues to rely on yearly alumni giving.

The project is progressing roughly on schedule. The funds for the loan have just been transferred to PKT. The project has been approved by the Architectural Commission and the building department. The 32 replacement windows will be fabricated offsite in April and May, and installation will commence in June.

The windows to be used are standard replacements for the Back Bay neighborhood. They will look almost identical to the ones currently in the house. Curved windows, as required by architectural regulations, will be replaced with curved windows. The construction will be considerably more modern than the original hardware. The old system of pulleys and ballasts featuring the large air gaps that reduce insulation will be replaced with modern operation hardware and lighter windows. This will improve movement and insulation and so reduce heating costs.

Because of consistent alumni giving and an outstanding brotherhood that keeps the house full, the Alumni Corporation has been able to complete these necessary renovations. These sorts of projects help maintain a quality living environment for the undergraduates and a stately residence we can all be proud of.

*Craig Wildman '03
Alumni Board*

YE OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

Sometimes, in the course of human events, a man is required to put an end to some shit that may or may not have happened two decades ago, especially if he therewith does not want his stomach pumped.

In recognition of this event or more likely non-event, and in this official—looking Monotype Corsiva Font, being of all-too sound mind and pretty unsound body, at least until he loses 25 pounds,

JOHN JOSEPH JULIANO '86

hereby wills the contents, and even the bottle if necessary to maintain integrity of the contents, of one (1) nasty, foul, and generally unacceptable Old German Beer, age unthinkable, to

JAMES TABER STENARD '09

at the time of the death of the former or May 2, 2009, whichever comes first (being as that they would come simultaneously if J³ actually had to drink that shit). Whether JTS actually has to drink it is up to John Stenard and Amy Stenard, seeing that a) they are his parents b) John is still probably much larger than me and can throw me like an extremely short caber and c) Amy can probably get me fired.

This document, once signed, is legal in Massachusetts, Maryland, and all other remaining Communist lands as of March 15, 2009. So see? It's signed below, so it's yours. Mo Lester is probably in jail, so don't even bother trying to find him to co-sign. Neener neener neener.

So decreed and witnessed by the Honorable Carl Yestzenski, March 15, 2009



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PKT 4, Mt. Washington 0

Early in the morning of February 28th, well before MIT students are awake and not long after they go to bed, myself, Alex Hsu '09, Rob Block '10, and Debarshi Chaudhuri '10 embarked on an ambitious and only somewhat foolhardy attempt to climb Mt. Washington. Alex set the tone for our trip in a meeting reminder email to the house where he only half jokingly announced that "in the event Debarshi and I don't make it back from the Mt. Washington, Andy (and his partner in crime Dan) are in charge." Expectations among the brotherhood about our impending disaster couldn't have been higher.

After being turned around by deteriorating weather on two previous attempts earlier in the semester, I enlisted the help of only the most capable brothers. Each person brought something unique and vital to the team: Rob, a boundless enthusiasm for sharp metal objects like crampons and ice axes. Alex, a desire for battlefield glory on the snowy flanks of Mount Washington. And Debarshi, a blissful ignorance of the misery and exertion required to summit.

After renting the necessary implements from MITOC on Thursday night, we took off early Saturday morning. We rolled into the trailhead parking lot at Pinkham Notch under clear blue skies and relatively warm temperatures. After registering in the ranger station climbing log and listing Andy Brown as our emergency contact we sorted out the food and gear we brought with us and quickly realized that we left behind the two boxes of granola bars we bought the night before. This left us with breakfast and a pound of pepperoni each for the day's climb.

The first portion of the trail is essentially a fire road that sees heavy traffic in the winter. Although well used, the trail is moderately steep and unrelenting for several miles. It is wide enough that the rangers drive Snowcats up the trail to pack it down and make it more accessible in case of an accident on the mountain requiring rescue. A trail for ski descents paralleled the one we were on, and we saw many people on the trail with us carrying skis, snowboards, and even sleds they would use on the way back down.

We took the turnoff for the Lion's Head Winter Route, our intended trail, and stopped to eat and drink next to an emergency first aid cache. Here we traded hiking poles for ice axes because the trail was about to get much steeper and narrower. The first section of the Lion's Head Trail is the most technical and depending on the conditions and

amount of traffic it can be a frozen waterfall, snowy gully, or a maze of hard icy snow. When we arrive, the route was in good shape and many footholds had been kicked into the snow by the parties ahead of us. It took some careful footwork on the way up and especially on the way back down, but we made it through without incident.

From the Lion's Head, we traversed across the Alpine Garden, a relatively flat section just below the summit cone that most of the different routes empty out onto. Rob and I reached the top first and marveled at the ice buildup on the summit structures. Alex found himself hiking alongside a guy we met at the beginning of the day who offer helpful encouragement such as "hey MIT, let's peak this bitch!"

We got together for the cliché picture next to the summit signpost, and after celebratory swigs from our stash of Glenlivet we headed back down. The setting sun cast a beautiful warm glow on our trail back home, however as soon as we dropped off the ridge leading up Lion's Head we were in the dark and cold again. We broke out headlamps once we got back to the larger Tuckerman's Ravine Trail, and slowly made our way back to the car. We arrived back at the trailhead ranger station just in time to diffuse concerns due to phone calls to the ranger station from concerned girlfriends. After about 9 hours on the trail, we were exhausted and starving and happily sat down to beer and burgers in the nearby town of North Conway, content with postponing our return the harsh realities of MIT for a few more hours.



Cliché picture next to the summit signpost

Ryan King '09

Phi Kap Wedding in Portugal

Family, friends, and brothers converged at the Castelo de Palmela in Palmela, Portugal on March 21 for the wedding of Kipp Whittaker '02 and Memory Liang. The castle and convent-turned-hotel served as an inspiring location for the destination wedding replete with breathtaking views of the Portuguese countryside and stately rooms for the event. Kipp and Memory wrote their own vows which illustrated their sincere love for one another as well as their fun sense of humor. Following the touching nuptials, they threw an awesome all-night party. The wedding was preceded by the bachelor/bachelorette party in Amsterdam the previous Saturday organized by best man, KIP Pettigrew '00. Kipp and Memory are currently enjoying their honeymoon traveling about Western Europe.



Brothers get a picture with the happy couple

(Pictured are: Kipp Whitaker '02 and Memory Liang (center). From left to right behind them: KIP Pettigrew '00, Larry Pilkington '01, Craig Wildman '03, Sam Sidiqi '00, Alex Chang '02, Leonard Johnson '01, Greg Gryzwa '04, and Ben Kim '02.)

Craig Wildman '03

Phi Kap wins Poker Tournament

In the tradition of *Bringing Down the House*, Charles Han ('05) took some time off his job interning at Weta Digital in Wellington, New Zealand to enter into the SKYCITY North Island Poker Championship tournament.

According to the SKYCITY website, "Play wrapped up just after midnight with Charles Han winning the main event with King Jack off suit against [his opponent's] pocket 4's. Mr. Han picked up a straight on the river." Charles won a total of \$34,560 in prize money out of the 116 entries. In an ironic note, a Kevin Liu (no connection to Kevin Liu '07) came in 5th place.

Charles has a history of interesting extra-curricular activities: He took time off his graduate studies a few years ago to play pirate captain Sao Feng in the 2007 movie *Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End*. When he isn't playing a pirate or high stakes poker, Charles enjoys quiet evenings at home with his sewing machine-creating high-end button down shirts.



Charles Han '05 poses with his trophy

Aaron Wippold '05 Alumni Board

Alumni Donations

Class Competitions

#	Class	\$
1	Class of 1983	\$9,500
2	Class of 1962	\$800
3	Class of 2001	\$760
4	Class of 2000	\$690
5	Class of 1999	\$640
6	Class of 2002	\$600
7	Class of 1984	\$560
8	Class of 1959	\$300
9	Class of 2003	\$240
10	Class of 2005	\$240

Red Rose Society

David S. Allmon '01	Young Kyu Kim '99	Lawrence O. Pilkington '01
Alexander Chang '02	Edward J. Martens, Jr. '59	Yokichi J. Tanaka '84
Donald D. Colosimo '62	Matthew A. Medak '02	Benjamin Taylor '83
Job I. Evers '06	Daniel K. Moon '00	Albert L. Tervalon, Jr. '65
Alphonse J. Graffeo '39	Oludare A. Ogunyemi '00	Lawrence C. Wang '84
Abraham Hsu '05	Kenneth I. Pettigrew '99	Craig B.E. Wildman '03
Leonard W. Johnson '01		

Associates

Michael A. Aquino '62	Philip M. Lally '48	James M. Patell '70
Vito A. Caravito '62	Michael P. Lukas '63	John E. Preschlack '54
Chung-Kit Chan '04	Paul Montgomery '07	Marcel Schmaedick '97
Ladd M. Horvath '05	George A. Ozuna '80	Raymond Tong '07
Paul A. Hurney Jr. '49		

Member

Douglas L. Bashioum '60	Robert B. Cooley '85	Barrett S. Mitchell '06
Allan D.J. Bobko '64	Bo Feng '07	Oscar L. Morgenstern '59
Paul J. Buca '59	Nathan R. Kelley '00	Robert L. Muhr '64
Michael J. Connaughton '82	Andrew W. Lee '07	Louis C. Sajda, Jr. '64

Donor

Jeffrey A. Chang '08 Michael R. Groleau '90

Mass Eta Alumni Write from Near and Far

JOHN SCHMITZ '49 congratulates All Graffeo on his 90th: "I hope I make it that far, Al (I'm 82 now)." John retired from IBM in 1991 and lived in Maryland for the last 40 years. He and his wife moved to Jacksonville, FL last August and they are enjoying their first warm winter. Send John a letter at 104 Campbell Ct., Saint Johns, FL, 32259. His email is jandpschmitz@yahoo.com

DON "QUASI" COLOSIMO '62 is looking to scan a composite from '56-'58. He also writes that he is continuing in the tradition of gathering in Saratoga for a day at the races. There are a group of eight PK and PKT brothers spanning the classes of '56 to '62. They have even added a brother from the Manhattan College Alpha Eta chapter! IF they break even, it's a good day. You can reach Don at ddcolosi@nycap.rr.com.

LARRY PILKINGTON '01 Spends his time at work doing composites design and fabrication. On the side, he is building a Long Easy airplane with buddies. The project has had its ups and downs but the plane should be in the air at the end of the summer. Other pursuits involve a motor cycle, a car, other random hardware, and the opposite sex. Larry, in a departure from previous policy, would like to notify you of a change in his address. He is now living at: 538 E 6th St., Loveland, CO, 80537. You can email him at lopilk@gmail.com.

DOUG BASHIOUM '60 moved down to Cary, NC in July 2008 and are enjoying the

new location. Doug and his wife Maryellen are up to 14 grandchildren and one great-grandson, though he confides that he thinks all his grandchildren are 'great'!. His new address is 407 Altarbrook Dr, Cary, NC, 27519. Call him at home at 919-460-7927. His email is coachdoug@aol.com.

JOHN "JACK" PRESCHLACK '54 now lives at 101 Oyster Cut, Vero Beach, FL, 32963. Call him at home 772-234-8209 or shoot him an email: jepcor@tds.net.

ANDREW CHEN '01 has a new address: 2221 Lake Road, Apt#3, Belmont, CA, 94002.

ROMAN ULANS '36 pointed out a typo in his phone number from the last PECK. His corrected contact info is: 8 Almond Cluster, Doylestown, PA, 18901. Contact him at 215-340-7186 or riulans@alum.mit.edu.

JOHN "J" JULIANO '86 offers a lengthy rebuttal to the last PECK's article "Old German Beer Comes of Age." (see insert). John has his hands full with his son Robert Doerr Juliano (born in 2005, PKT class of 2026) while his wife Zhenya travels in the Ukraine this May. You can reach John for comment at 14103 Gallop Terrace, Germantown, MD, 20874. Call him at home (301-972-3386) or send him an email jjuliano@alum.mit.edu. transcript of

MIKE LUKAS '63 has put together a DVD of photographs from the 1958-1963 time period at Phi Kappa. Those interested in getting a copy should email your name and snail mail address to his email mikep907@oh.rr.com. Those preferring mail can reach him at 429 Ridgewood Dr., Eastlake, OH, 44095. Call him at 440.942.0185

DAVID SABO '61 would like you to contact him at dsabo@alum.mit.edu.

GEORGE D'HEMECOURT JR. '40 can be reached at P.O. Box 626, Weslaco, TX, 78759. Call him at 956.968.1444 or email him at g2b46@rsv.rr.com.

DAVID MEER '86 almost relocated to Albuquerque, NM to work on solar power generation at Stirling Energy Systems. However his family convinced him not to move again. He has since taken a new job at the NASA Glenn Research Center, working on Stirling Power Systems for space exploration. While commuting back and forth to New Mexico last year, he ran into **TIM BIELEK '86**, who now works for Sandia National Labs—Time owns a sailboat (in the desert) and also competes in swimming events at the Masters level. Contact Dave at 15198 Hook Hollow Rd, Novelty, OH, 44072. Call him at 440.338.6957 or email him at dwmeer@alum.mit.edu.

Please email Aaron Wippold '05 aaron.wippold@gmail.com with comments about The Peck or with requests for your picture or letter to be published.