

# MAP • E • C • K

## Phi Kappa Theta, Mass Eta

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<http://web.mit.edu/pkt/www/peck/>

## The State of ΦΚΘ 2009-2010



Matthew Huang '10

Dear Phi Kappa Theta alums and family,

My name is Matthew Huang, and I've served as PKT's president over the past year. There have been many changes over this past year, both within the chapter and at MIT, so I would like to take this opportunity to update you all.

As you may know, the alumni corporation initiated a project to install new windows throughout the house this past summer. The window installation was completed midway into the Fall semester, and has been well-received; the house has been noticeably warmer than it was during previous winters. In addition, the newly initiated pledge class of 2013 installed a set of benches on the roof along the railings, providing a much-needed increase in seating room.

This year, PKT National has a new mandate that chapter presidents must attend a National-hosted President's Academy, which involves networking with other chapter presidents and attending leadership workshops. This Academy is held in January, so we are slowly beginning to shift our election schedule to accommodate. This year, we held

presidential elections along with recruitment and social chair elections in the fall. We have Phillipe Siclait '11 returning for a second term as social chair, Ashutosh Singhal '12 as recruitment chair, and Cory Kays '11 as next year's president.

On the MIT side of things, the campus-run Saferide shuttle no longer stops at PKT. Moreover, all back bay stops have been removed except for a single stop on Hereford street. These changes are the result of a Boston law prohibiting commercial vehicles of any size from operating in the back bay. This law has been long-standing, but was only discovered after noise complaints from back bay neighbors motivated additional scrutiny.

Lastly, the MIT Administration has been working to shorten fraternity pledge programs to a maximum of 12 weeks (in accordance with many national fraternity regulations). We are adjusting our program to be in accordance with this, and while the schedule is certainly expedited, the content and spirit remain largely the same.

It's been a pleasure serving the house as president over the past year. With Cory Kays '11 taking over soon, PKT will be in capable hands

Matthew Huang '10  
Outgoing President

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 **\$80/person (\$40/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 2:30. 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 1  
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](mailto:ehjerpe@L1id.com) (978) 985-3049

## 5th Annual PKT Colorado Ski Trip

For the past 5 years, Elena Harman (MIT '09) has hosted a Colorado ski trip during Martin Luther King weekend for brothers and friends of Phi Kappa Theta's Mass Eta chapter. Even though Elena and many of the chapter's ski trip attendees graduated last year, the tradition continued and expanded this year. In total there were 15 skiers, which included PKT alumni, active brothers, and other close friends from MIT. This year was my first year on the trip, and after a great week, I hope to join in on many more in the future.

The trip included 4 days of skiing: 3 days at Winter Park, and one day at Loveland. Winter park offered what seemed like endless runs – full of tough bumps, beautiful trees, and a few groomers for the less-experienced of the crew. Loveland was not as well received by the expert skiers, but many of us enjoyed a day relaxing on the easier slopes and risking our lives in the terrain park. Overall, the skiing was fantastic. Although the veteran skiers complained about less snow than previous years, the newcomers were more than impressed with the conditions.

While I really enjoyed the skiing this year, what was even better was seeing so many brothers and friends from over the years brought together for the trip. Many of the best experiences of the trip occurred during lunch in the parking lot, or back at the ski house where we watched movies, enjoyed a warm wood stove, and listened to Dan Rodgers '09 yelling at Andy Brown '09

and others for breaking the rules in a game of monopoly. I think I speak for everyone on the trip when I say that we are thankful to Ryan King '09 and Elena for hosting this trip and bringing everyone together. Only at founder's day have I seen so many alumni together and excited to see each other, and I hope that this



*Left to Right: Sandy Spicer ('10), Andy Brown ('08), Buddy Michini ('07), Dan Rodgers ('09), Rob Block ('10), Job Evers ('05), Alex Hsu ('09), Paul Montgomery ('07), Ryan King ('09).*

story will inspire other classes to host similar events in the future.

*Rob Block '10  
Alumni Chair*

## Hail to the Chief: A Message from the Class of 2013

I am incredibly proud to be part of the Phi Kappa Theta pledge class of 2013. We are an incredibly diverse group with many different backgrounds, interests, and personalities, and every one of us will bring a great deal to the house. As the Fall term draws to a close, it is amazing to see the effect the Associate Member program has had on us. I have formed a close bond with the other associate members and with the brothers of Phi Kappa Theta.

For our pledge trip, we drove to Rhode



*"Beyond awkward." What Phi Kappa Theta would look like if there was nothing to write on.*

Island. We spent a few hours rock-climbing at a gym before going to Brown University. After scoping the campus for peck-worthy items, we stopped for the night at a motel. The next morning, we stopped at IHOP for breakfast and hung out at a nearby beach. Returning from the trip, all of us were tired, but the great memories we created were well worth it.

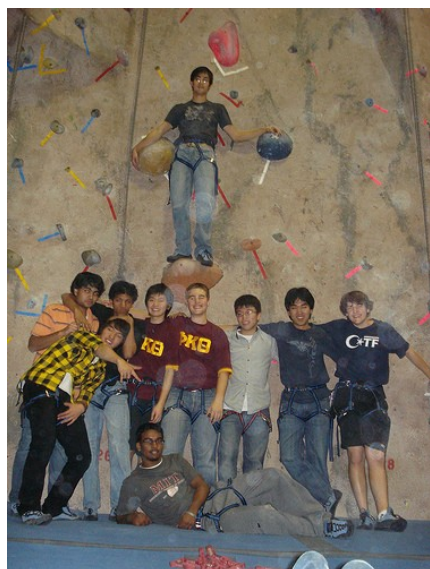
Under the guidance of our social chair, Roman, we are preparing to throw the End of the World Party, both in honor of the end of the term and as our pledge party. It will be complete with red glow sticks and black lights. For our community service project, our community service chair, Greg, has scheduled us to help a local organization choose, wrap, and hand-deliver presents throughout Boston. During IAP, we will be working on our house project. Our house manager, Sajith, has plans to improve the roof with extra lights, benches,

and tables. This project idea was spurred on by our experiences on the roof during Rush.

The Associate Member program has been one of the most important aspects of my time at Phi Kappa Theta so far. From the weekly jaunts to the 47 interviews that I completed, all the time I spent really helped me to understand the fraternity and grow as a man. I feel confident in saying that this is how all of the Associate Members feel.

This term has been one of immense growth for us and we've shared many great experiences. We look forward to the rest of our time at MIT, but especially as members of Phi Kappa Theta. We still have a ways to go, but the future is looking bright.

*Andrew Nanfeng Sang  
2013 Pledge Class President*



*The '13s strike a pose*



# Phi Kap Destroys Ultramarathons

Matt Medak '02 was casual runner in his days at PKT, logging roughly 20 miles/week. However after college, Matt moved to Seattle and started training for and running in marathons... 6 in all. However, he became bored with the standard marathon and took up trail running. According to Matt, this was "100 million times better." While trail running, Matt was introduced to the sport of ultramarathoning. According to Matt, the pace is a bit easier and it is much more enjoyable to run in nature, even if the distances are beyond far.

An ultramarathon is any race surpasses the Marathon's 26.2 mile distance. They typically feature distances of 50K (31 miles), 50 miles, 100K (62.1 miles), and 100 miles. The most demanding and famous of these ultramarathons is the Badwater race, spanning the 135 miles from Death Valley to Mt. Whitney, CA. Matt started off by running two 50K races, which he found to be not too different from his regular marathons. He started doing more long distance training runs until he could go 35 miles non-stop.

Matt says that he hits the 'wall' around the 5 hour mark, where he needs to walk and recover calories. After a while, he feels better and start cranking out 8 minute miles again. His regular routine during the race includes some form of energy food, hydration and sodium every 45 minutes. Included in his running kit is also a roll of toilet paper: "fifteen miles into the race you see a lot of people running off into the trees."

In Matt's last race, the White River 50 Mile Trail Run, he finished in 10:32, which was 82nd out of 166 finishers (195 starters). His next race is another 50K in March. As of the writing of this article, he had no plans for running in any race longer than 50 miles.

We wish him luck on his next run!

If you want to read more about ultramathons, Matt recommends reading *Born to Run* by Chris McDougall or visiting [www.run100s.com](http://www.run100s.com)

-Aaron Wippold '05  
Alumni Board



*Matt Medak '02 strides with confidence before the stunning backdrop of Mt. Rainier.*

## Young Alumni Class Competitions

Beginning in September 2009, several young alumni began an initiative to spur donation activity in the youngest classes of alumni. The rationale behind this campaign is twofold. We think that it will keep Phi Kappa Theta active in the minds of young alumni and create lifelong donors to sustain the chapter. Secondly, we think that it will raise awareness of the fraternity's needs and the recent successes of the alumni board- particularly the recent physical improvements to the house. The campaign is structured as a competition between graduating pledge classes, based on both participation and total donations, with extra credit given to those who enroll in the monthly automatic donation program.

To date, the competition has been a massive success, tripling the number of young alumni donors from eight to twenty-five in just a few months. By the end of the fiscal year, our donations will surpass \$2600, and the number is climbing as more brothers join in. The current standings are shown to the right, but the competition will continue until Founder's Day, at which point we will announce winners. Hopefully the generosity of these five youngest classes of alumni, many of whom are either still in school or still paying for it, will inspire older alumni to think about their level of giving and also set a solid example for future graduating classes.

Alumni looking to participate should contact the point person for their pledge class- Abe Hsu '05, Bob Aspell '06, Bo Feng '07, Jeff Chang '08, or Tyler Abrams '09. Older alumni who'd like to join in the spirit of giving should contact Dan Moon '00 ([danmoon@gmail.com](mailto:danmoon@gmail.com)) for details.

-Bob Aspell '06

### Preliminary Young Alumni Class Standings

#### 2005 vs. 2006 vs. 2007

(% participation, \$ pledged, # of automatic donors)

2007: 64%, \$610, seven

2006: 55%, \$950, five

2005: 17%, \$540, two

#### 2008 vs. 2009

(% participation, \$ pledged, # of automatic donors)

2008: 43%, \$380, five

2009: 33%, \$190, four

## Class Competitions 7/1 /2009—1/1/2010

#	Class	\$
1	Class of 2007	\$550
2	Class of 1999	\$440
3	Class of 2002	\$425
4	Class of 1984	\$400
5	Class of 1962	\$300
6	Class of 1983	\$280
7	Class of 1989	\$200
8	Class of 2000	\$180
9	Class of 2003	\$180
10	Class of 1959	\$150
11	Class of 2001	\$125
12	Class of 2006	\$110
13	Class of 1970	\$100

Classes with less than \$100 donated

1996, 1997, 1980, 1944, 2008,  
2005.

# Phi Kap Updates!



*PKT's newest engaged couple: Rob Block '10 and Meghan Saunders.*



*Before Rob stole his thunder, this was the newest engaged couple at PKT: Andrew Erikson '12 and Amy Budnowski.*

***Congratulations on your engagements!***

## Mass Eta Alumni Write from Near and Far

**CRAIG WILDMAN '03** finished his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at MIT in June. Just as he was beginning to enjoy the freedom of unemployment, he got a job in the R&D group at eSolar, Inc. in Pasadena, CA. Please stop by at 251 N. El Molino Ave. #13, Pasadena, CA 91101. [craigwildman@gmail.com](mailto:craigwildman@gmail.com).

**ANIL VARGESE '01** has changed his address to 1230 N Nelson St #3, Arlington, VA, 22201.

**FABIAN JONES '05** has moved to 40 B Windham Rd., Hudson, NH, 03051.

**ANDREW BRABSON '89** Lt Col Andrew Brabson writes that he is taking command of the 41st Flying Training Squadron at Columbus AFB, MS. He has given up flying the F-15C Eagle and now flies the T-6A Texan II, the Air Force's primary trainer. He loves flying, fishing, and has been a die-hard Red Sox fan since climbing over the Fenway's outfield fence with several other brothers to get into game 5 of the 1986 World Series. His girls, Tamara, 9, and Skye, 8, are also Red Sox fans, much to the dismay of his wife Lois. Please write him at 4210 Arkansas Ave, Columbus, MS, 39705, or call him at 662-434-0181.

His email is [arbrabson@yahoo.com](mailto:arbrabson@yahoo.com)

**JAMES LEATHAM '84** is now living at 29749 Kimberly Drive, Agoura Hills, CA, 91301. Please call him at 818-575-7070.

**ALPHONSE "HEY YOU" GRAFFEO '40** writes "at 90 years of age, in good health. Hope to reach 100, God willing! Someday I hope to visit on the evening you have a chapter meeting so I can meet the members and listen to brothers share at the meeting. I am greatly impressed by many of the active members and how capable they are in perpetuating our Catholic principles. Keep it up!" Please write him at 25 College Ave, Medford, MA, 02155.

**JEFFREY A. COHEN '91** now lives at 421 Huntres Crest Drive, Salien, MI, 48176.

**CHRISTOPHER WONG '08** changed his address to 5670 W Cog Hill Ter., Dublin, CA, 94568.

**ROBERT "BOB" POLUTCHKO '59** writes that he had his wife Betty was looking forward to seeing many friends and classmates at the upcoming 50th MIT Reunion in June 09. He hoped to see Phi Kaps like Montrone, Bellucci, Buce, Martens, Mariano, Fehrenback, and Nagel. He is also happy to hear about the new windows at 229 Comm Ave. He can be reached at 9313 Belmart Road, Potomac, MD, 20854 or at his email address [betty.bob@alum.mit.edu](mailto:betty.bob@alum.mit.edu).

**TED TAIHO KANG '08** is at this new address: 2745 Montrose Ave #105, Montrose, CA, 91020.

**ANDREW M. VALLONE '47** writes that he has retired after 33 years as a merchant. His first retirement came after working on subma-

rines at the local Navy yard. Now, he helps his daughter working on her farm. Please write him at P.O. Box 323, 46 Church St. Ext., Epping, NH, 03042, or call him at 603-679-8842.

**ALEXIS GIGUERE '06** lives at 9211 Gabrielle-Roy Ave., Anjou PQ H1K 4X1, Canada.

**OLUDARE OGUNYEMI '00** would like to inform you of a recent change in his address: 2166 E. Desert Broom Dr., Chandler, AZ 85286. His phone number is 480-812-1865, and his email is [wakye1@yahoo.com](mailto:wakye1@yahoo.com).

**ROBERT "BOB" ASPELL '06** has moved. You can now visit him at 1065 Montgomery St #2, San Francisco CA, 94133.

If you know of a brother that has done something interesting, invented something cool, or even someone you have lost contact with, tell me! I'd love to write a piece about him and fill the PECK with stories of actives and alums.

Please email me, **Aaron Wippold '05** [aaron.wippold@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.wippold@gmail.com) with comments about *The Peck* or with requests for your picture or letter to be published.