Nu Delta’s New Golden Age

It is a surreal feeling—standing in the chapter room, being congratulated by alumni I have merely heard stories about or seen on the composites lining the main staircase. I hear ideas and initiatives that I have yet to bring to fruition, about a legacy that is not yet fulfilled. It is alumni pub night, and I am surrounded by a friendly mob of Nu Delts, ranging from 2001 to 2011. My name is Ryan Slaughter, class of 2009, and I’m the newly elected undergraduate president of Nu Delta for the 2008-’09 academic year.

Since I was a freshman, it has seemed that the presence of the class of 2005 marked a golden age within Nu Delta’s history. The brothers of that class seemed somewhat larger than life; they demanded respect for themselves and pride in the house. Meeting and talking to them was quite a treat, and seeing their interactions couldn’t help but remind me of our current house in many ways.

This is one reason why I believe that our house is entering another golden age of brotherhood, community, and fun. However, we do not take our good fortunes for granted. The blessings the current brothers share come from persistence, numerous hours of hard work, and motivation to succeed by the current and previous members of the house. I know that when the class of 2008 moves beyond the halls of MIT, the remaining brothers will continue our strong tradition of excellence.

While celebrating the return of the esteemed alumni, the current brothers are also preparing for the departure of the class of 2008 and the arrival of the class of 2012. House elections were held in order to begin the transition, and there has since been a changing of the guard at Nu Delta.

The changeover of the executive committee is continuing smoothly. Capable and respected brothers fill each of the elected positions and, more importantly, the entire house supports them. Each member of the executive committee realizes the amount of responsibility and time that is being asked of him, and gladly wishes to fulfill his duty to current and past brothers of our house.

I look forward to the upcoming school year and trust that we will build upon the accomplishments of the past classes and have some fun along the way, continuing and strengthening the golden legacy of Nu Delta.

Ryan Slaughter ’09
Nu Delta President

Generations Pass – But The Song Remains The Same

Every year the house changes in ways that previous generations could never predict; whether influenced by new legislation, technology, or style, 460 Beacon Street is transformed with every season of rush. One constant, however, still binds new generations together with the old; our steady ideals have survived the 71 years of chaos that have blown through this house.

In talking with alumni from as far back as the 1950s, we hear of similar experiences to what I’m only now seeing as a sophomore. Whether it’s stories of the same pledge training tasks, tall tales of social achievements, or fixing identical areas of the house during Work Week, we’ve been through the same, for better or for worse, generation after generation.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with over a dozen alumni and share the history that has brought them back. In conversations that lasted until dawn, I saw a glimpse of my future from different angles, while the alumni seized the opportunity to relive a bit of the life they had experienced at Nu Delta.

As the new alumni secretary, I encourage you to come by the house for various events throughout the year, including the Alumni Weekend and the Tech Reunion House Reception (see, page four).

For the next Alumni Weekend, the brothers are putting together events for alumni of all generations—

two pub nights, a dessert formal, a presentation by the graduating class, brunch at the Asgard Irish Pub, and daytime events, as well. Recently, the class of 2005 organized a reunion that blossomed into an event spanning a decade of Nu Delta history; the Alumni Spring Weekend will bring the same experience on a much larger scale, and I look forward to meeting many of you there.

Radu Gogoana ’10, Alumni Secretary
There is, perhaps, nothing more vital to Nu Delta than the process of pledge training. To take freshmen boys and turn them into Nu Delta men is no easy task. However, with considerable effort (and a little luck), the resulting class earns the honor of brotherhood and, even more importantly, the responsibility to care for the house and future classes for the next four years. As the pledge trainer of the Nu Delta Class of 2011, I am confident that our newest inducted class will do just that for Nu Delta, presently and in all future endeavors.

I’m proud that many of these new 2011 brothers have taken the initiative to serve on the Nu Delta Executive Council. Furthermore, many of their pledge brothers ran for the same positions—showing that the majority of the class wants to contribute to the house and its inner workings. It is this desire that is essential to the success of our brotherhood. In addition to this passion for involvement is a foundation of pride in simply being a brother of Nu Delta. This inherent love for our brotherhood—and what we stand for—will bring success for generations to come.

The Nu Delta class of 2005 recently came back to the house and found a Nu Delta that maintained and built upon those values that we keep so close to our heart: Trust, Respect, and Brotherhood. There’s no doubt in my mind that I will find that the class of 2011 has done the same, if not more, when I come back in three years.

Reinier Troy Villanueva ’08
Nu Delta Pledge Trainer for the class of 2011

Reunions Keep Excitement And Commitment Alive

Sometimes you just can’t wait for that five-year or Pi reunion. On February 29th, 2008, the Nu Delta class of 2005 converged in Boston after an absence of almost three years, reconnecting with the brotherhood, local and visiting alumni from other classes, and each other before our composites made it too far up the stairs. The weekend was a rousing success (though we did miss the presence of our esteemed “Boo Delta” president, Alumnus Russell), and it was a great experience to see each other once more in our old home at 460 Beacon.

The main event, an alumni-sponsored pub night on Friday night, brought together everyone from the energetic freshman class of 2011 to the made men of 2001 and beyond. The chapter room echoed with party sounds as conversations filled the room with stories of past adventures and the newest developments in Nu Delta life. A good showing by local alumni and others topped off the night, as many of us had not seen each other in years.

Though much has changed, the spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie at the Nu Delta Fraternity has not waned. The abundance of memories (from the halls of MIT to the roof of Nu Delta and the streets of Boston) combined with the excitement and commitment of the current brothers made our reunion a time to remember. I would recommend the experience to any class or group of alumni looking to meet once more.

Nestor Hernandez ’05
Thank Nu It’s Friday!

Fridays are usually much gloomier at MIT than at many other colleges and universities, as they are filled with baggy-eyed students doing last-minute cramming for exams, finishing last-minute projects and problem sets, and fighting off the end of their five-day caffeine high. But one thing you will encounter as you walk down the infinite corridor and across campus on Fridays is the preponderance of red and purple jerseys embroidered with the letter N and the Greek delta.

The Nu Delta Fraternity has become one of the best known and most recognizable fraternities on the MIT campus, and not simply because of the recently reinstated “Jersey Fridays” that the brothers participate in each week. The brothers of Nu Delta currently participate, and excel, in all aspects of MIT culture, both academic and extra-curricular.

For example, in the past year, brother Zahir Dossa ’08 has not only been accepted into the MIT’s PhD program, but has also managed to organize and receive funding to start his own business, all while taking a full load of MIT courses and teaching his own academic seminar to MIT undergraduates.

Nu Delta has also had many participants in both the MIT Undergraduate Association and the MIT Class Council student government. Nu Delta sophomore, Jason Scott ’10, currently serves as president of his class for his second consecutive year. However, he is not the only Nu Delta leading the forefront for student leadership on campus. Luis Torres ’10, is another prime example of Nu Delta’s presence on campus. Recently being accepted into the Office of Minority Education’s “Leaders and Laureates” Program, since his freshman year he has held executive positions for both MIT’s Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and LUCHA organizations, as well as being very active for the Latino Cultural Center. And he is one only of many Nu Delta brothers heavily involved in cultural organizations on our campus.

Though perhaps above all else, the Nu Delta brotherhood is known for its wide array of talented brothers. Not only are Nu Deltas present on multiple varsity sports teams, including football and baseball, and but we have again reclaimed dominance in intramural athletics as well, most recently bringing home the #1 trophy for intramural dodge ball for the 2007-08 term. Our brotherhood has also displayed a knack for performing arts, with brothers in both the MIT Jazz Ensemble, and various MIT hip-hop and break dancing teams. In the past year, Nu Delta brothers have even won first-place awards in both the Alpha Chi Omega LipSync and Sigma Kappa Late Night philanthropic events, and were most recently asked to perform at the MIT 2007-2008 Family Weekend.

However, these are simply a few of many examples of Nu Delta’s strong impact on campus life at MIT, with many more great contributions left to come. This is precisely why, as other students walk around each Friday with looks of fatigue and frustration, the brothers of Nu Delta walk around with their heads held high, wearing their letters with pride.

Jason Scott ’10

An Alumni Brother Asks: “Who Moved My Grilled Cheese?”

February 29, 2008, marked for me yet another memorable weekend at Nu Delta. I was in town as a guest speaker for this year’s LUCHA Symposium, but many other Nu Deltas were in town for the Boston getaway. The pledge class of 2005 made a strong representation as Miguel Amaya, Wilmer Fiorentino, Nestor Hernandez, Nijhad Jamal, Jordan McRae, and Jorge Padilla (also a symposium guest speaker) sponsored a pub night for the house on Friday night.

A short road trip from New York brought the likes of Jon Santiago ’06 and Ben Skolnik ’03. Local alums were also present in abundance as Jason Furtado ’07, Sammy Gutierrez ’06, Antoine Machal-Cajigas ’07, Damian Plummer ’02, Rich Possemato ’01, Carlos Rangel ’06, Josiah Rosmarin ’06, and Derik Thomann ’04 added to the reunion’s festivities. Sisters Diana Albarran de Chicas ’03, Rosita Rodriguez ’05, and house friend and former rush girl extraordinaire, Jazlyn Carvajal ’03, were also in attendance.

My first impression of the current brotherhood started with the meeting of Jesus Guardado ’11 on the car ride from Logan. The weekend snowballed from there with dinner at Hsin-Hsin, a visit to Crossroads, the ’05 pub night, a visit to Despina’s, Saturday brunch in Harvard Square, the symposium at the Student Center, a second visit to Crossroads, a symposium after party hosted by Nu Delta, and a final Sunday lunch at the Prudential. It was amazing how the brotherhood planned and welcomed us all.

Highlights of my visit to Boston included taking commemorative cold walks across the Charles, running up and down the back stairs, and, most of all, meeting the brothers. Times have definitely changed (even in my relative short time away), but, without a doubt, there is something reminiscent about the brotherhood that makes me proud about my time spent at Nu Delta. I encourage alums to follow the lead of the class of ’05: take a trip to Boston, let the world know, touch base with the house, and fall in love again.

Always true,
Joel Jaimes ’03

Published by the Nu Delta Fraternity at MIT. Photographs and news items should be sent to: Nu Delta at MIT Alumni Records Office P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.
our alumni write:

Heinz Gunther ’52 lives at 114 Suffolk Cir., Stephens City, VA 22655. He and his wife, Vicki, are both well. He regrets having missed the April events, but his calendar has been very full. He asks, “Please mention me to Merton Flemings ’51 and anyone else from class years ’50 to ’54.” Stay in touch with Heinz by e-mail at hgunther@verizon.net.

Glenn P. Strehle ’58 has a new address: 48 Pickwick Way, Wayland, MA 01778. Send e-mail to strehle@alum.mit.edu.

John D. Larson ’62 writes, “I received my PhD from Stanford. I then worked at research laboratories at Hewlett Packard, and Agilent technologies, where I invented a cardiac ultrasound system and product. I’m the co-inventor of the Film Bulk Acoustic Resonator (FBAR), a device found in virtually every cellular phone. I’m now master scientist at Avago Technologies, a spinoff of Agilent, where I continue my FBAR research. I’m married with two children and two grandchildren.” Reach John at 143 Tennyson Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301; send e-mail to nancycol@comcast.net.

Upcoming Events at Nu Delta:

As we go to press we are anticipating and preparing for:
Tech Reunions Open House
June 7th, 2008, from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
at 460 Beacon St., Boston

And please make plans for:
Fall Rush 2008
August 31-September 6

For more information, contact Marco Pravia ’97 at marco@alum.mit.edu