Nu Delta remains strong, focused
Undergraduate president reports on state of chapter

Last spring on election day, I stepped into the position held by former President Carlos Rangel ’06 for the 2006-07 academic year.

Even though I was excited to have been elected, this also meant that the class of 2006 would soon move out of Nu Delta. I was sad to see the seniors leave; Carlos Rangel, Roberto Rangel, Nick Villarurel, Brendan Smith, Josiah Rosmarin, Luis Perez, Mohammad Haji, and Sammy Gutierrez all contributed much to the brotherhood over the past four years.

With ongoing support from the new alumni, I knew that my pledge brothers and I could confidently step forward as the leaders of Nu Delta. Eager and a bit overwhelmed, I looked forward to guiding Nu Delta toward new and exciting endeavors and to seeing what the new school year would bring.

Over the course of last spring and summer, I was pleased to have some new members join our alumni board. Wilmer Fiorentino ’05 took the position of alumni liaison to the brothers. Rick Berlinger ’95 became the new alumni facilities manager and is hoping to carry out some capital improvements at 460 Beacon St. Our house manager, Steven Nunez ’09, will discuss some of the proposed works in this newsletter.

Marco Pravia ’97 also joined the board as alumni relations manager. He will be planning events to help alumni get back in contact with each other. Finally, Richard Possemato ’01, who served as our resident adviser from 2001-2005, took on the hefty task of alumni treasurer. It is really a pleasure to work with these individuals, and it makes me proud to know that we have such great alumni supporting Nu Delta as we move forward.

Fall semester began with a strong work week led by Alfredo Morales ’07. Alfredo discusses his past three years as a brother—as well as future prospects for Nu Delta—in this newsletter. The brotherhood followed up work week with a successful rush of 11 new pledges. Our rush chairs, David Whitehead ’08, Cristian Derr ’08, and Tarih Campbell ’09, have an article about this year’s rush and some information about our new class. With this rush, I am proud to report that we have had three consecutive rushes yielding more than 10 pledges. Next year, the house will be full to capacity.

After rush, we were sad to see one of our brothers, Matthew Harrington ’08, head abroad to Cambridge University for an academic year, but we knew that he would be in for a great experience.

The year 2007 marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of Nu Delta. (The first recorded meeting minutes date to April 10, 1922.) In commemoration of this momentous event, Kris dos Santos ’10 and Jason Scott ’10, have written a piece containing interesting information about our fraternity’s early years.

So far, this year has been a great one for Nu Delta, and I am looking forward to watching the class of 2010 mature and form a strong sense of brotherhood as they go through the process of pledge training.

Jason Furtado ’07
President

Sars McNulty ’58 poses for a photo with undergraduate brothers during his September visit to MIT.
Brother reflects on his time at Nu Delta

Thank you Nu Delta Fraternity. Now that I am on the brink of graduation, I realized how much I have gained from Nu Delta and my experiences at MIT.

I remember my first encounter with the Nu Delta family and my impression of everyone as down to earth, fun, and unique. My good times and my rough times during this most influential and dynamic part of my life have been right here at the house.

In a blur through time, I can recall the random late-night conversations that would span seconds or last for hours, the ideas with so much potential, and dancing until my legs ached. I also recall the priceless artifacts in each brother’s room that represent a life full of experiences, knowledge, and personal values. Every single day at Nu Delta was an interesting learning and growing experience from work week to summer.

I was given the opportunity to head work week this year, and it was one of my most rewarding experiences at Nu Delta. The brotherhood showed fierce determination to ensure a strong start to 2006 and set the tone for the academic year. The entire house was repainted, and the all of the halls were power-sanded and coated with polyurethane. New ceiling fans were installed in the dining room, and the second-floor double was floored with fresh hardwood.

The house was truly amazing by Saturday, the last day of work week, foreshadowing the amazing rush that would take place the following week. Spearheading work week allowed me to fully appreciate the power of a united brotherhood and to take pride in each brother’s hard work as we approached a common goal.

Going forward, Nu Delta Fraternity faces challenges. Sustaining a Back Bay mansion with years of wear becomes increasingly challenging on limited budget. The social atmosphere continues to experience pressures to transform and to remain flexible to the policy changes in Boston and MIT.

Although, Nu Delta faces challenges, I’m confident that the strength of our brotherhood will enable us to adapt and grow together.

The Nu Delta that I have watched grow is an environment that fosters ideas, promotes diversity in character and in thought, and encourages everyone to pursue their interests and goals.

Thank you, Nu Delta Fraternity,
Alfredo Morales ’07

A brief history of Nu Delta

Approaching its 85th year, the Nu Delta brotherhood at MIT has without a doubt become one of the most impressive bodies on campus.

The current fraternity roster boasts almost 30 brothers, 10 pledges, and a body of over 600 alumni. Nu Delta has become well established in the MIT community, as well as in the local Boston-Cambridge area.

The success of our fraternity is, in part, due to the well-thought-out organization of our founders. The earliest meeting minutes were recorded on April 10, 1922. At the meeting, C.P. Clapp, Frank Moccora, and W.E. Stone—the founding brothers of Nu Delta—began the work of pulling the fraternity together. On October 22 of that same year, the motion was passed to create the Nu Delta Chapter of Phi Mu Delta. Plans to establish membership, policy, and a place to live soon followed.

The founders originally met at 7:00 p.m. every Monday, and their initial agendas focused on the next year of recruitment, the promotion of officers, and the financing of the brotherhood. To fund fraternity activities early on, they secured a loan for $500 and set up a $50 initiation fee (since eliminated). They also created a $5 house tax for non-resident members.

Repairs needed to strengthen house

The Nu Delta house has been gradually seeing improvement throughout the term thus far, but we still have some major work left to do.

The alumni board has applied for a loan from the MIT Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF). Once the loan is approved, the house will get the necessary capital upgrades to make it a more comfortable living environment for the brotherhood.

Some of the large projects that still need to be completed include the replacement of: the chapter room windows; the roof in the front of the house; the roof on the rear bay window; and the pipes in the kitchen sinks.

The windows in the chapter room are very old and in need of replacement. Some time ago, one of the panes fell out and new glass is needed. The damaged bay windows create all sorts of insulation problems, and their upcoming repair will improve both the loss of heat and the external look of the house.

Within a decade, the brotherhood was on the road to success. The weekly concerns no longer dwelled on the foundation aspects of the brotherhood, but on topics of a more mature organization. Debates centered around limiting the number of bids to match the space available at the house or on organizing events on campus. The number of committees grew to include a house committee, a dance committee, a committee on the election of freshmen, and a committee on meals.

These additions were accompanied by new positions of leadership, like the house manager, steward, and sergeant-at-arms. The brotherhood was also very involved in the MIT academic and extracurricular environment, participating in a variety of inter-fraternity activities and campus. However, the main concern of the Nu Delta brotherhood remained the same: the unity of its brothers.

Even today, Nu Delta is primarily interested in the well-being of its members and in keeping their bond strong. Nu Delta is a source of both envy and admiration amongst other fraternities on campus and continues to set a strong example for fraternities in general.

Kris dos Santos ’10
Jason Scott ’10

Steven Nuñez ’09
Brother enjoys semester abroad

This year, as a third year at MIT, I am participating in the Cambridge/MIT Exchange (CME). From September until the end of June, I will be living in the United Kingdom as a student at Cambridge University, where I am staying at Emmanuel College.

Living in another country has been very exciting for me thus far. Everyday I am learning new customs and experiencing just how different the UK is compared to America—from the way material is covered in lectures to the way people present themselves. I find myself with more free time as compared to MIT, and I am taking advantage of that by traveling throughout the UK and parts of Western Europe. Thus far, I have visited London, Salisbury (near Stonehenge), and Avebury in the UK. Other trips will follow as the year progresses.

I have been keeping myself busy by playing sports—rugby, crew, and mixed netball (a combination of volleyball and ultimate Frisbee)—working shifts at my college bar, traveling, and hanging out with other students from my college. Cambridge is known for its extensive college system, which resembles a separate community away from the university. I was fortunate enough to reside in one of the older colleges.

While away, I have missed Nu Delta and my pledge class, but at the same time, I know that when I come back I will add something new to the culture of Nu Delta. Although I have been over seas, I still managed to acquire a little brother in Anthony Saucedo ’10, and I am looking forward to helping him become a brother of Nu Delta.

If anyone wishes to contact me and ask me questions about my experience thus far, please e-mail me at calimatt@mit.edu.

Matthew Harrington ’08

Alumni trips keep brothers bonded

Brotherhood extends beyond the confines of the 460 Beacon walls, beyond the city of Boston, and through the years. All over the US, Nu Delta alumni continue to hang out, hold reunions, and stay close.

California has become a second home for several recent alumni—particularly from the classes of ’03, ’04, and ’05. We’ve found plenty of excuses to get together: weddings, holidays, birthdays, and camping. Over the past few years, we’ve camped all throughout Cali several times.

The usual suspects include: Joel Jaimes ’03; Shaun O’Neill ’04; Jorge Padilla ’05; Guillermo Chicas ’03; Jordan McRae ’05; sister Diana Albaran ’03; and myself. Our most recent trip over Labor Day weekend was to Kings Canyon—a 460,000 acre national park in the Sierra Nevadas. There were 13 campers in total, including: Steve Belin ’99 and his wife, Kristin; Guillermo’s brother, Danny; Shaun’s sister, Tiffany, and his friends Daniel and Kelly. King’s Canyon is one of the most beautiful natural preserves in the state, known for its rivers, waterfalls, rocky mountains, and bears. Black bears roam free throughout the national park, and campers should expect to have at least one bear encounter according to park rangers. But we had no fear.

So we set up our tents in Grant Grove on an open hill that was, in retrospect, a pretty likely predator’s target. We chopped wood, opened the coolers, lit our fire, and talked about politics. We were waiting for Guillermo, Diana, and Jorge. Once they arrived, we did a little cooking and relaxing, shot the breeze, and passed out.

The next day, we joined forces with some of our friends from the previous trip, and we decided to stay longer, to visit Cedar Grove. We cooked more hamburgers and got in the water with our inflatables. On a whim, we decided to stay another night at the bottom of Kings Canyon, Cedar Grove. More food, more beverages, more cards, more ridiculous behavior. There were no bear encounters, but we discovered a different beast: In the middle of the action, we realized that we were attracting bats. Somehow this felt like no big deal, and we ignored the ominous presence of our little rabid friends.

The next morning, we packed up and visited the nation’s Christmas tree—the second tallest Sequoia in the world—on our way home.

And that’s how we’ve been doing it out in sunny California. The invitation is open for anyone to come out and join the fun for vacation or vacation. We’ll be out here making the most of everything.

Rho Mu, Peace Out,
Ben Skolnik ’03
Robert B. Reichelt ’65 reports a new address of The Grand Treviso-178; 330 E. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039. Keep in touch with Bob by e-mail at bob.mila@sbcglobal.net.

Keep in touch with Joseph J. Shaffery ’66, vice president and treasurer for Help USA, at 130 Lakebridge Dr., Kingsbury, NY 11754. Send him e-mail at hnwjoe@optonline.net.

Send greetings to Jorge Padilla Jr. ’05 at his new address of 1950 Rose St., Apt. 5, Berkeley, CA 94709; jpadiila@alum.mit.edu.

(Brothers: Please remember that the success of this newsletter depends, in part, on alumni news. Have you been on an interesting trip lately or recently become engaged? Are you a first-time grandfather or have you recently started a new job? Please keep your brothers informed by sending updates to the address listed on page three.)

deceased

We regret to report the deaths of:

Benjamin Scott Jr. ’41
July 2, 2006

John L. Ganger ’50
March 2006

Robert L. Kass ’67
January 26, 2006

spring alumni brunch
When: April 22, 2007, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Where: Brunch location TBD, followed by reception at the house

technology reunions house reception
When: June 10, 2007, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.; Where: Nu Delta