Senior reflects on his time at Nu Delta

I forgot who mentioned it to me, but they said that you really don’t understand the house until you are a senior.

As a freshman, I saw some merit in that, but it was hard for me to believe—if only because I thought I had an understanding of what Nu Delta was about from pledge training, clean-ups, and house events.

Now, from my standpoint as a senior, I have to say that I have only recently come to truly understand the house. During these four years, I have also seen how the house has changed. Despite these changes, the ideals that define Nu Delta still remain the same: trust, respect, and brotherhood.

Nu Delta has always had a dynamic culture. Many aspects have remained the same—such as our constant drive to have fun and the very real and genuine nature of the brotherhood. But one thing always changes: the personalities of the brothers of the house. Each brother contributes tremendously to the atmosphere of the house. There is a diversity of thought, race, majors, and even interests.

As compared to my freshman year, Nu Delta’s on-campus presence is heightened. We have done a lot more events and made more of an effort to integrate ourselves with other MIT organizations. Currently, Hanzel Corella ’09 is treasurer of the IFC. Jason Scott ’10 is freshman class president. Evaristo Rodriguez ’08 is vice president of the Association of Puerto Rican students, and David Whitehead ’08 is actively involved with the coordination of IM sports.

Some of our recent efforts, including our social events, have helped people see who we are. Being a Nu Delt commands significant respect—more now than ever before. This respect is quite noticeable. I become elated when people tell me how much better Nu Delta is than other fraternities. More than that, I get excited when people go out of their way to spend time at the house, just because they want to. There is something intangible that makes Nu Delta special.

One thing that I particularly feel has been revitalized is our sense of pride—not only for being brothers, but also for the house. The class of 2010 has been very uplifting. I feel that they have brought back the energy that the house used to have. I know others will agree with me when I say that we all draw upon this energy.

This sense of pride and motivation has manifested itself by brothers being more proactive about maintaining and contributing to the house. The class of 2008 turned the social chair closet in the chapter room into a fully operational bar. Brothers of the class of 2010 took it upon themselves to improve the condition of the pool table.

Nu Delta has changed me significantly, and I owe this to all of the brothers. This change encompasses the way I talk, the way I act, and even to the way that I think. Nu Delta has changed from something that I was a part of to now something that is a part of me.

I have completely internalized what it means to be a brother. It means caring about a good that, in many ways, is greater than just yourself. It is about the strong sense of family that you create as you struggle through college. It is about caring for a house, your house. It is about accepting the responsibility of caring for interests that extend beyond your own.

Looking back, four years definitely does not seem like enough time. The transition of becoming a freshman to a senior has happened all too quickly. I cherish all of the experiences that I have had and will continue to have. My change has coincided with the change Nu Delta has experienced. It has taken four years for me to really understand and appreciate what Nu Delta is about. Nu Delta is what you make of it and what you are able to contribute. For me, this has been about brotherhood, personal connections, change, and both good and bad times.

While my time here at MIT and at Nu Delta is almost over, I remain happy. I feel that I have impacted the house as much as it has impacted me. Though I will be leaving Nu Delta, I know Nu Delta will never leave me.

Antoinne Machal-Cajigas ’07

Members of the class of 2010 serenade the sisters of Alpha Phi Sorority.

Nu Delta at Massachusetts Institute of Technology • Spring 2007
http://web.mit.edu/ndelta
Trust, respect, brotherhood: Every fall, pledges learn to embrace these values as they prepare to become brothers of Nu Delta Fraternity. I am proud to state that the new brothers of the class of 2010 have successfully taken these values as their own and have sought to apply them in every aspect of their lives.

As pledge trainer, I was given the task of bringing in a group of individuals, motivating them to take pride in the house—as well as to take pride in each other’s strengths and weaknesses. Teamwork and performance were the means by which they were evaluated. In order for them to be successful, they had to come together as a team to accomplish the given objectives during pledge weekends. If the class was able to complete the objective but was not able to come together as a team, it was not considered a success. Similarly, if they came together but didn’t finish the task, it was still deemed a failure. Toward the end of the training, the class was able to become a cohesive team and used each other’s resources to get the job done.

The class of 2010 is by far one of the most motivated classes that I’ve seen during my time at Nu Delta. They were able to become a tight-knit group, where the failure of one was the failure of all. They took on every task with an open mind, and when they failed, they were able to learn from their mistakes and move on.

Now that they are brothers of the house, they continue to strive for excellence, teamwork, and performance. Some of the members of this class have taken on leadership roles in the house—becoming steward, house manager, and social chairs—and the collective spirit in organizing house duties and upholding its reputation and, most importantly, the repercussions of getting seven-balled at pool or not abiding by the avidly enforced dinner-time regulations.

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House-organized activities, such as intramural sports and the Maine House retreat, held in the middle of the fall semester, were really enjoyable. The legendary Nu Delta parties and pub nights—although less frequent due to police policy—have been everything Road Trip said they would be and more. And American girls have taught us a new and much better form of dancing, which will definitely be exported to the clubs of England on our return.

I think all of the mad, fun, and exciting activities at Nu Delta have given us a highly enjoyable escape from the intense and tireless nature of work at MIT—and in a way that not many other fraternities provide. I am very grateful to have gotten to know the brothers who make the house a great place to live and will undoubtedly wear the Nu Delta jersey with pride the next time I wander through the ancient cloisters of my college back home! Nu Delta, no doubt!

Kunal Dusad
Cambridge-MIT Exchange Student
New brother feels sense of home at ND

As I approach the end of my first year at MIT, I’m blown away every time I think about how much I have changed in the short span of these past seven months.

Only a year ago, I was living in southwest Arizona—30 minutes from the Mexican border—where our winters consisted of 60-degree lows. As I write this, I’m looking out my window and am still in denial that it’s five days away from spring break and that there is still snow and ice covering the ground.

I do get jealous when I hear news of the 80-degree weather from home. Yet still, I cannot imagine transferring to Stanford or CalTech or any other school. Coming to MIT was without a doubt the hardest and most abrupt change that has ever taken place in my life—and considering that both my parents are active-duty military and that I’ve often moved from state to state, that’s saying a lot.

There was not one time in high school that I would spend an entire hour or two working on only one really difficult problem-set question. There was not a single moment in high school where I felt proud to get a B in a class that I was struggling with. It was such an adjustment for me just to witness the entire campus practically shutdown the weekend before finals, as everyone devoted every minute of the day to studying for their last set of exams, many people not the least bit distracted by the approach of Christmas the following week. But even through the short time I’ve had to experience academic life at MIT, I have been able to push myself to levels I never realized I was capable of in my 12 years of scholastic preparation. I now realize why MIT produces graduates of such caliber and intellect.

Being at MIT has not only caused a drastic improvement in my academic ability, but I also believe very strongly that MIT has allowed me to grow significantly as a person—particularly with a load of extra-curricular responsibilities that continue to present a challenge for me every single day. Although I came to MIT believing that I was going to take it slow when it came to joining student groups and other activities on campus, it did not take me long to find myself stretched with just as many—if not more—commitments than I had in high school.

Almost immediately, I found myself running for and winning the 2010 Class Council presidency, joining student organizations like NSBE and three different dance troupes on campus, and, of course, pledging the Nu Delta.

All of the activities that I managed to get involved with during my first semester take up just about every minute of the already minimal free time that MIT has allowed me to reserve for the things I enjoy. However, I think that it is safe to say that, of all of these activities, joining the brotherhood of Nu Delta has been much more substantial than anything else I participated in first semester.

Before September, I never even imagined that I would be in a fraternity, and now I can’t imagine what things would be like without it. Somehow between all the pledge activities, initiation, and even the times spent just hanging out at the house, Nu Delta has become an integral part of my college life.

Being a part of the brotherhood has improved my ability to communicate, to solve problems, to remain organized, to be timely, and to act in the interest of others, as well as myself. I have become stronger both mentally and physically through Nu Delta and appreciate my new brothers for helping me every step of the way. I am proud to say that Nu Delta has given me a new extended family, and it is comforting to know that I always have a home away from home right across the bridge at 460 Beacon St.

Jason Scott ’10

Sister program sets Nu Delta apart

During rush, we are reminded of the various things that make the house unique.

Once the blitz is over and the smoke has cleared, the brothers return to their regular routines and, for all intents and purposes, every house seems more or less the same.

One major factor that contributes to our uniqueness, though, is our sisters program—a program that no other fraternity can boast of.

This year has been a very successful year for the sisters program. We have inducted a total of five new sisters, each of whom possesses the qualities that we look for in Nu Dels. They have all demonstrated a level of love and commitment that goes above and beyond what we could have asked for.

The program involves a ceremony in which we express our appreciation for what they have done for the house. These are the girls who are the first to come to our events and the last to leave. They are the girls who come by just to hang out, and we love hosting them.

At the sister ceremony, we gave them 14-karat lavalieres with the Nu Delta letters and a champagne glass—a small token of our appreciation. They also attained keys to the house and are invited to all Nu Delt functions. We are very proud of these women and are happy to call them our sisters.

Mustafa Dafalla ’09

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Treasurer works to strengthen finances

As the treasurer for Nu Delta, I have been elected to assess and improve upon the current finances of our fraternity. This is a very critical task for Nu Delta, given the huge renovation we are about to undergo and the increase in our cost of living. We are anxiously awaiting the alumni loan to go through so that we can begin the renovation process that was outlined in the last newsletter.

Also, we are planning to make the process of alumni donations easier through the creation of a non-profit account, thereby providing tax benefits. There is also the possibility of making the entire process electronic and online. With these improvements, we hope to be able to increase donations so as to create a self-sustaining endowment.

Apart from our external finances, I have taken the necessary steps to raise money and reduce costs in the house itself. We are switching from OmegaFi to an alternate online system, which will save us over $6,000 per year. I am also lowering the phone bills by reducing the number of lines and converting to voice-over-IP, saving us approximately $5,000 per year. We also cut our cable package and other miscellaneous expenses to reduce costs.

In addition to cutting costs, I have taken measures to help finance the increase in alumni rent and living expenses. The biggest initiative has been to increase the house capacity from 28 to 31, thereby accommodating every brother while raising an extra $18,000 each year. We have also ensured that we fill up our house to capacity by hosting Cambridge Exchange students. During the summer, we maintain our capacity by accepting summer boarders. We have also increased the house bills each brother pays (generating $12,000) and are discussing the possibility of establishing a $100 initiation fee. To gain interest on this income, we are opening high-yield checking and saving accounts.

I hope this has provided an insightful look into the finances of the house.

Alejandro Palma ’08

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.
Herbert F. Knapé '44 writes, “Still working at 84 years old but have sons in the business. Last February went on ’44 minireunion on the Royal Clipper, a five-masted square rigger out of Barbados—a real blast. 35 knot winds with all sails up. Was in Boston in October. House exterior looked just like in ’44.” Keep in touch with Herb at 435 Edgemere Dr., Grand Rapids, MI 49506. E-mail him at herb+glenna@yahoo.com

Edward S. Frohling ‘44 writes, “I am pretty much retired but serve on several company boards. Recently, I was at a historical meeting in Nevada at a town near Death Valley called Amargosa Valley. My subject was to talk about a system our company developed for the recovery of gold from low-grade deposits. That system is used all over the world these days. We had a 1890s night, and in that regard, send you a picture of Mrs. Frohling and me.” (See related picture, right.) Send Ed greetings at 1950 Bay View Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33434; edfrohling@yahoo.com.

Raymond M. Haak ’51 sends along a few vintage pictures. (See related photos, below.) Write to Raymond at 2 Kimberwick Ct., Middlebury, CT 06762. E-mail him at rhaak@snet.net.

“I have taken on the role of development director at CEMEX,” writes Adrian P. Yovanovich ’84. Keep in touch with Adrian at 8702 Cobblestone Dr., Tampa, FL 33615; adrianyov@aol.com.

Send Barrett S. Caldwell ’85 greetings at his new address of 616 S. Ninth St., Lafayette, IN 47901. Send him e-mail at mitbear@earthlink.net.

deceased

We regret to report the deaths of:

Royal Sterling ’23
November 3, 2006

vintage scenes
from Nu Delta

From left: Bruno on the second floor, sick with a cold; one of our parties; walking over the Mass Ave. bridge; and our back entrance in the snow.