Leaving a Legacy
Outgoing chapter president reflects on his tenure

Esteemed alumni:

I hope this newsletter finds you in great spirits and that things are going well for each and every one of you.

My term has come to an end, and Jason Furtado ’07 has taken over the position of president for the 2006-’07 academic year. I had a great time serving the house as president, and I feel that both the house and I have benefited greatly from the time I spent office.

In this past year, we successfully recruited and retained a class larger than 10 pledges, and we executed an extensive work week and a strong pledge-training program. We also encountered numerous lively and critical discussions ranging from the redefinition of the house manager position to a debate regarding the request of several upperclassmen brothers not live in the house in the upcoming year.

I feel that Nu Delta has adapted well to the changing environment at MIT—especially in regards to the decision made by the administration requiring all freshmen to live on campus for their first year.

After this year’s most recent elections, I noticed a shift in responsibility within the house, as the roles of the new executive officers were tested with the task of effectively coordinating a successful campus preview weekend for Nu Delta. This year was the first time that I distanced myself from the preparation of the CPW weekend. I forced myself not to worry about details like planning the large party on the weekend, showing around the potential freshmen, or food and entertainment. Instead, I stepped back, and along with my pledge brothers, simply offered advice when necessary and listened to how the underclassmen wanted to run things. I thought it was important to allow the underclassmen some breathing room so that they could learn the basics about running these types of events, ensuring that fall recruitment can run smoothly.

I find it strange how at the same time last year I wondered what was in store for me and if what I knew was enough to maintain and improve the state of the house and the brotherhood. Looking back, I understand that this house and the brotherhood require constant care and attention. I also understand how no one really knows the role they are in until leaving it. As of this writing, a new weekend retreat to Maine is scheduled (funded primarily by the FSILG office). The class of 2006 hopes that it can show the underclassmen what it has learned and experienced in its time at Nu Delta.

Several brothers within the class, including myself, will remain in the Boston area next year, and we expect to see another great year ahead.

Best wishes,
Carlos Rangel ’06
President 2005-’06

Members of the class of 2008 pose for a photo during the Christmas formal.
Brother evaluates his time at ∆

As of this writing, I am faced with my future and graduation. But I don’t find myself looking forward to my future as much as I am looking back at the past four years that I have spent with Nu Delta.

I remember the good times and the bad, our failures and successes. I remember going through pledge training and training the pledges, being rushed and rushing new classes. I remember the eight hours that we spend each year on discussions for elections, and I remember listening in silence my freshman year as the seniors gave their senior speeches.

I can honestly say that there has been nothing in my life that has affected me more than Nu Delta. I have learned what true friendship means. I have learned to trust, and I have learned about who I truly am. Sitting here trying to write this article makes it clear to me that I don’t know how to put into words what Nu Delta means to me, but it does make it pretty clear to me that I’m not ready to leave.

When talking to a recent alumnus, he told me that his years at Nu Delta were the best in his life. I didn’t truly appreciate what he said until now, as I’m face with the end of my senior year and I’m forced to realize that I have to leave all this behind me.

However, I can see the importance of moving on. Each class has four years to shape Nu Delta, and after that, they have to trust the younger classes to carry on the traditions, maintain the house, and maintain the public image of the house.

I feel as though I have spent my entire time at Nu Delta learning and growing, not only as a brother but also as a person. My definition of what a brother truly is has been changing and becoming more complete as I’ve gotten older and spent more time in Nu Delta:

“Through good times and bad, we will always be there for each other. In all that we may do, a brother will always place the good of his brothers above his own, and any brother of Nu Delta can place an un compromising trust in any other brother. A brother will respect the house by doing what he needs to maintain it, standing up to protect it, and always looking to the future to make sure that it will be preserved for new generations.”

Josiah Rosmarin ’06

A British Invasion

∆ opens its doors to CME students

It’s true: The brothers at Nu Delta are sheltering a runaway bunch of foreigners on exchange to MIT from Cambridge University!

The three of us, two engineers and a medic, arrived at the end of a particularly sweltering August to find work week in full swing. Always one for first impressions, we were greeted by a partially clothed, tile-cement-covered, trowel-wielding Ohio native going by the name of Josiah Rosmarin ’06.

Eager to show us about the house, Carlos Rangel ’06 was busy leading us through the assault course of tool- and furniture-strewn stairs leading to the fourth floor when Nick Villarruel ’06 read the looks of sheer terror on our faces and whisked us out for dinner.

“Don’t worry,” he said. “It’s not how it looks— you’re going to love your time here!” I’ve got to hand it to the guy as skeptical and terrified I was as to what I’d let myself in for, in the end he was absolutely right!

From the madness of rush, through the novelties of a dry (!) freshman orientation program and our Anglophile party guests from BU to the contrasting Halloween and Christmas formals, the brothers have been incredibly welcoming, inclusive, and supportive. We can but hope that the house has enjoyed harboring us British aliens as much as we’ve enjoyed being here.

In fact, it seems like Nu Delta’s links with Cambridge are going to be increased with two brothers—Matt Harrington ’08 and Phil Garcia ’08—returning with us to participate in the opposite leg of the exchange next year.

Marko Cosic
Cambridge Exchange Student

Matthew Harrington ’08

House Manager

Living in an older house means more upkeep and potentially larger projects.

Luckily, we were approved for a large enough loan to fund some of these projects, and we are hoping that, by the end, Nu Delta will look as good as it did when it was first built.

I had mentioned some of the larger projects in the last issue, but I will discuss them here again. Some of these projects include: replacing the windows in the chapter room and the roofing outside the fourth-floor two-man front; patching a hole in the third-floor four-man front due to bad roofing; possibly re-bricking the back lot; and replacing the current sanitizer, a couple of running toilets, and pipes from the sinks in both kitchens. I will go more into depth about these projects below.

The windows in the chapter room are being replaced due to old age. The bay window actually had glass panes fall out due to strong winds this semester. In addition, rapid changes in temperature throughout the years have caused cracking, so it’s time for them to be replaced.

The other windows are old and air leaks through small cracks on the sides, making the chapter room the coldest room in the house. We plan to replace the whole bay window—handcrafted new frame and glass—and replace the glass in the other windows with double-pane glass to help with insulation problems.

Currently, the roofing outside the fourth-floor two-man front is in bad shape and causing other problems throughout the house. It is because of this that the third-floor four-man front has a hole in its ceiling due to leaking when it rains or snows. By re-tarring it, we should be able to fix a few problems in the house at once, making it an essential project in extending the lifespan of the house.

All the other projects are self explanatory but are still essential in keeping the house in good shape for the future. In addition, after these projects are finished, we should be able to pass inspections so that we can get our housing license.

We just got some fire doors put in on the first floor and leading down to the basement to ensure that we pass out egress inspection again this year.

Come by the house next year and see how well all the projects come out.

Matthew Harrington ’08

Marko Cosic
Cambridge Exchange Student
A message from MIT’s director of FSILG alumni relations

Thank you for this opportunity to write to the alumni brothers and friends of Nu Delta. I am Bob Ferrara ’67, MIT’s Director of FSILG Alumni Relations. As always, there is a lot happening in the FSILG (Fraternity, Sorority, or Independent Living Group) community. Here are some of the more noteworthy developments:

- AILG implements a Safety, Licensing, and Inspection program
  - Alumni plan and deliver many new courses for actives
  - High speed fiber links now connect all FSILG houses to MIT data network
  - MIT funds a “Recruitment and Retention Initiative”

The AILG (Association of Independent Living Groups) is umbrella organization of the 38 active MIT Alumni House Corporations. It is an activist group of alumni who constantly seek to promote the interests and traditions of the FSILGs. In the past year, under the leadership of Chi Phi’s Tom Holtey ’62 and Theta Xi’s Steve Baker ’84, an alumni-run Safety, Licensing, and Inspection program was put in place. In an era of increasingly attentive municipal regulation, this effort has been embraced by Nu Delta and all but two chapters and by the regulatory authorities because it simplifies everybody’s work. An electronic registration of licenses and inspection certificates has been implemented and a Building Safety Facilitator (Jay Flynn) was hired. Jay collaborates with alumni and chapter officers to pre-inspect premises, attend actual inspections, and follow-up on any deficiencies needing remedy. As a result of the good work by each of the chapters and Jay, this year’s Boston inspections were accomplished better than at any time in recent history.

MIT alums also planned and delivered an unprecedented array of FSILG-focused courses this past January during the Independent Activities Period (IAP). More than fifty actives and alumni enrolled in Treasurer 101. This course, developed by Dave Burmaster ’69 with lots of help from other alums and the MIT Treasurer’s Office, has now been offered for three years and remains extremely popular as it provides basic skills to undergraduate house financial officers. House Manager 101 attracted almost as many as a number of alumni and MIT Facilities instructors presented a variety of practical information for another other key officer, the house manager. And there are three more brand new offerings this year. Alumni Affairs for FSILGs provides a forum to sharing ideas and best practices and understanding the possibilities in the Alumni Associations FSILG toolkit (see http://alum.mit.edu/ccg/living-groups/fsilg-toolkit.html). Another new course was developed by FSILG undergraduates and alumni in collaboration with the MIT Leadership Center. It aims at providing chapter presidents and other campus leaders with useful tools for effecting positive change. A Recruitment Boot Camp rounds out the possibilities. Collectively, these courses supplement and even expand the traditional knowledge transfer between the generations in our community.

MIT has continued to increase its financial and staff commitments to our community in several important ways. Late this winter an MIT project team working with Verizon, the local telecommunications provider, completed the last of the fiber optic connections to every off-campus house, including Nu Delta of course. All of the on-campus chapters, those along Amherst Alley and Massachusetts Avenue, were in range of MIT’s local fiber loop and already had the high speed service required for today’s on-line learning environment. This service is now the norm everywhere and the undergrads are really appreciative. Because the fiber is directly connected, there is enormous capacity for future bandwidth increases as well. Several houses have also successfully used IRDF (Independent Residence Development Fund) grants to equip and wire new computer study rooms. Because of the educational nature of this work, the IRDF grants typically reimburse the entire cost of such projects. It always helps if we alumni designate “IRDF” on any gifts to MIT. For more information about the IRDF or the Educational Operating Grants program, please visit the IRDF website at http://web.mit.edu/irdf/.

Finally, a major sum was allocated to a joint alumni-student-administration team for the “RRI” program, the Recruitment & Retention Initiative. This is being used to fund a variety of student and alumni-led projects. Others in the administration are also helping. MIT has a new Provost, Professor Rafael Reif, and I am working with his office to improve the lease arrangements for the eight chapters which lease land or buildings from MIT. This is a positive development for the sororities and younger MIT fraternities who have not accumulated the real estate equity that most of the established fraternities have. It is just one more piece in maintaining the vitality of this remarkable community.

Bob Ferrara ’67

Brotherhood trains 11 pledges

As another successful rush came to a close, the brotherhood eagerly prepared for another round of Nu Delta pledge training.

Although we faced numerous challenges by training a large class of 11 pledges, last year’s pledge class of 12 allowed us to be even more prepared the second time around. Even though this year was the third time I had experienced pledge training from a brother’s perspective, I was still excited to see yet another mass of scared pledges transform into a tight group that I am proud to call my Nu Delta brothers.

The harsh reality of their pledge training’s level of intensity quickly became apparent to this young group of kids after their devastating football game and their long search for the elusive Nu Delta quarter. The pledge class of 2009 did not allow these experiences to lower their spirits or weaken their determination, however. They demonstrated the ability to work efficiently and productively as a team, and many of them displayed incredible leadership skills early in the training program. The talents these young men showed throughout and after their training allow me to believe that this house will be left in good hands when I graduate.

Roberto Carlos Rangel ’06

the nu delta beacon

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Photographs and news items are always welcome and should be sent to Nu Delta at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006.

Online at: http://web.mit.edu/ndelta
James R. Strawn '52 writes, “After some ‘patching up’ last year, we’ve gotten back to travelling. We took a cruise from New Zealand to Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, China, Korea, and Japan. This June, we’ll be a bit more local—flying to Boston on June 16, then leaving on a cruise to Montreal.” Write to “Tiny” at 868 St. George Rd., Danville, CA 94526. E-mail him at jrstrawn@aol.com.

Michael D. Scott '67 writes, “I just finished my third year as a full-time law professor and continue to enjoy it immensely. In April, my seventh law book was published—Scott on Outsourcing Law and Practice. My son, Michael, the filmmaker, hit it big with a short Star Wars fan film called Ryan vs. Dorkman. It hit number two on Google Video on May 1 and had over 365,000 downloads on youtube.com as of May 8.” Keep in touch with Michael at 21027 Tomlee Ave., Torrance, CA 90503. E-mail him at mscott@swlaw.edu.

“Working and playing as an architect at Bobbitt Design Build in Raleigh,” writes Jeffrey G. Ford '90. “My wife, Stephanie, and kids—ages 2, 4, 6, and 8—keep me out of trouble. Will likely be in Boston at 2006 AIA convention.” Write to Jeff at 3605 Allendale Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604. Send him e-mail at jeff@qbism.com.

“Cheers and good luck,” writes Jay Raman '97. Send Jay greetings at 435 E. 70th St., #29A, New York, NY 10021. Send him e-mail at jay_d_raman@yahoo.com.

We regret to announce the death of:

Ralph J. Slutz '38, November 16, 2005