Theta Xi Keeps Momentum Rolling

During my three years at Theta Xi, I have seen the house continue to grow outwardly and in very positive directions. The past two pledge classes have been extremely outgoing and, at the same time, excited about the array of events going on at Theta Xi. More of our members have been more active in athletics and academic activities at MIT than ever before. This outgoing attitude, although sometimes causing individuals to spend less time at Theta Xi, has brought new insight and ideas into our lives that we might otherwise have missed. For instance, I have been very involved with the MIT residence/orientation committee. This involvement has improved my leadership skills (and occasionally brought in important rush week information to the house!). This experience has made me a more adept and experienced leader, which definitely benefits Theta Xi.

This year’s incoming pledge class, although smaller in number than in previous years (nine new members), seems to be very open-minded and willing to try new and different things. I am looking forward to my presidency this term because of the opportunity I have been presented with; that is, there are nine eager new members who would like to hear about all of the opportunities that Theta Xi and MIT have to offer. Believe me, I am going to take full advantage of this opportunity as the president of Theta Xi and steer our fraternity into another year of academic success, athletic achievement, and strong community service.

YITB,
Andy Parsons ’91, D895
President

Delt Welcomes New Chapter Advisor

Dear Alums:

I’ve been handed the reins of chapter advisor from faithful Clark Jarvis, D776. In the next few years, I hope to serve as a conduit for the actives to get in better touch with the past through alumni. I’m sure they could benefit greatly from some imparted wisdom and probably as much from some dredged-up old stories. You alums might even enjoy the renewed contact a bit yourselves. I really enjoy seeing the actives get the most out of their Delta experience. I’m sure you could, too.

YITB,
Dave Weissberg ’85, D823

The Alumnus’s Role In Risk Management

(Editor’s Note: The following article and policy statement are printed in Delta Digest at the request of Theta Xi National).

Included with this newsletter is a copy of Theta Xi’s risk management policy. Please take time to read and study it carefully. There is a reason for this request. Theta Xi’s risk management policy was introduced to our chapters last year. It is important to understand that this is a policy—not suggestions or guidelines. Compliance by the chapter is mandatory; it is not optional.

As you can tell from these statements, the fraternity has become very serious about risk management. From a chapter perspective, this presents quite a challenge. As you read the risk management policy, especially regarding alcohol restrictions, you can see that the policy requires that some substantial changes be adopted in chapter operations. Alcohol can no longer be purchased with chapter funds, and the (continued on page four)
Why Did It Have To Happen While I Was House Manager?

I'd say that this has been an easy term to be house manager, but I would be lying. Work week proceeded well until we learned that the new 64 stairwell carpet would not arrive in time for rush week. This caused extreme panic for both me and the rush chairman, Matt McCluskey '91, D892. We ended up restaining the stairs without sanding them, a solution that worked well until the new carpet finally arrived three weeks later.

Repairs done this term were... well... numerous. The first thing to go was the old silver refrigerator, which began acting more like an oven than a refrigerator. After some searching, I found a new one for only $1,800. The only problem was the removal of the old one. This turned out to be a rather major problem, since it was larger than the basement doorway. Panic again ensued. I ended up hacksawing the iron bars from the kitchen window, removing the window, and finally taking out the old fridge.

Not very long after this exciting incident, a leak developed in the second 64 shower, which resulted in a “waterfall” of water into the bar area on the first floor—coincidentally, while some people were having a get-together. Quite exciting. A similar incident occurred in the third 64 head when a toilet on the fourth floor overflowed.

Oh, yes, I forgot about the oven doors falling off during rush week, which caused our cook, Chay, some deal of consternation. It also initiated a rather large gas leak, which, needless to say, also caused Chay some deal of consternation.

The list goes on. The grouting used to retile the fourth 64 head apparently was water soluble. The washing machine has overflowed on several occasions. Major leaks have been (or will be) fixed in the basement head, the second 66 head, and Rausch. In addition, our front door is apparently too loud for our neighbors. Of course, I haven’t mentioned our roof, which has begun to leak—into my room! The election meeting is in two weeks. Maybe it will wait until then.

On the positive side (yes, there is one), the new fridge works great, the newly refinished front door is beautiful, and the pledges have been working really hard despite that there are only nine of them.

YITB,
Terry Totemeier '91, D890
House Manager
Theta Xi Celebrates Its 125th Anniversary

During the weekend of August 10-13, I had the pleasure of attending the Theta Xi 125th anniversary convention in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Clarion Hotel. Aside from being a really great time, it was a chance to meet brothers from many different chapters and with them enact policies that will lead our fraternity into the next decade. The convention's focus was twofold: the celebration of our 125th anniversary as a national fraternity and a look forward to the measures we need to take to ensure that Theta Xi will be around for our 150th anniversary.

The message was "practice what you preach." As a fraternity, we claim to instill in young men values that will make them responsible individuals. But the thoughtless actions of some have created enough bad press for fraternities in general, and the public is led to believe otherwise.

In dealing with this problem, the convention enacted such programs as Alpha Nine, a membership education guide to replace outdated (and illegal) hazing with a constructive education program for all members. We also reaffirmed our commitment to living with the risk management policy in an effort to minimize tragedies we hear so much about. (A copy of the policy is enclosed with this issue at the request of National.)

These efforts, however, will be useless unless we actively strive to attain these values and goals in practice and not just in rhetoric. By assuming some leadership responsibilities in this, we can ensure that someday 125 years will seem very young to Theta Xi.

YITB, Steve Carter '90, D873

Community Relations "Rap-Up"

Although we were unable to participate in the Kenmore Square Cleanup in early September because it coincided with the first Saturday works, our community relations program quickly picked up speed. At the Kenmore Square Fair in late September, we had more than twice the brothers involved than any other fraternity. Boston police would not allow us to hold a car-bashing booth, our usual fund-raising event at the fair, and the Community Relations program already planned to have a dunking booth (our other idea), so the brothers and pledges helped with the children's rides, security, parking, and cleanup.

After the Square Fair, we turned our efforts to raising money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society (MS). Together with Sigma Kappa, MIT's newest sorority (only one year old), we sold "candy-grams" and flowers that were delivered on Halloween. The event was very successful, and together with the proceeds from the upcoming spring Miracle Mile, we hope to make a sizable donation to MS this year.

We have also attempted to be better neighbors this year because MIT is trying to purchase a house on Commonwealth Avenue for the Alpha Phi Sorority. Toward this end, we have listened politely and patiently to all complaints and have done our best to correct the problems. (We are even now trying to quiet our front door, which a neighbor claims is too loud!) We have also begun to make plans for a semiformal dinner with our neighbors and some local politicians.

With all our efforts, we hope that Delta Chapter of Theta Xi will soon become a household name—with a reputation that shines like a beacon!

YITB, Jim Martin '92, D900

Community Relations

Pledge Class Strong Though Small In Size

This year's pledge class is off to an impressive start, despite its small size. With only nine members, Theta Xi class of '93 is the smallest class to come through the house in three years. With strong classes of 15 juniors and 13 sophomores looming over them, they have to be extraordinary just to be noticed. So far, this has been the case. Whether they are blazing through their quests, showering brothers, or asserting themselves in intramurals, this class has demonstrated great spirit. Individual descriptions of the pledges in John Piatkowski's (P5) article will give you an idea of this class's enthusiasm.

Another thing you will notice in John's article is the continuing tradition of diversity in the pledge class. From Funk, Nebraska, to Long Island; from Harvard, Massachusetts, to Gainesville, Florida, the pledges once again come from all over the place. What you can't glean from the individual descriptions is how well the pledges have come together. In the pool room one night you'll find pledges hanging out, dreaming of knocking Tope Lawani '91, D883, off the top of the pool ladder. When problem sets are due, the pledges gather together and share their ideas. On Saturday mornings the house sparkles as they complete "Saturday works."

The pledges do have one glaring fault, though. They are extremely uppity, which has earned them the name "the MUFAP (Mighty Uppity For A Pledge) class." Humility may not be their strongest point, but the pledges do show a healthy respect for the actives and for one another, and I am confident that their nickname will lose its appropriateness.

I encourage any alums who have the chance to stop by the house and get to know this year's pledges. I think you'll find that they are fun to be around and will keep the house strong for years to come.

YITB, Ed Munnich '91, D894

Pledge Trainer
Theta Xi Gossip

The undergraduate secretary’s job sometimes just seems to entail keeping track of everything and anything connected in some way to Theta Xi. As a result, I’ve collected a lot of information that I’d like to share with you in the hope that you’ll find it interesting. Please keep in mind that it is hodge-podge in nature and that some of the information is, therefore, incomplete.

With the help of Art Figel ‘87, D845, and Steve Baker ‘84, D814, I’ve compiled what we think is an accurate list of recent weddings and engagements. The following couples are engaged: Jon Davis, D849, and Pam Murphy; Randy Parker, D841, and Nancy; George Roscoe, D865, and Kelly Savage; Matt Thompson, D870, and Lori Quinn; Jim Janosky, D851, and Christine Loh; Jim Ferrara, D846, and Cathy Hall (wedding in June 1990); Jeff Johnston, D857, and Christine Golden; Rich Benfer, D817, and Meredith Goodwin; and Chris Bentley, D848, and Lisa.

The following couples are married: Ken Rugg, D883, and Kathy, who have a newborn boy named Andy, were married in September; Wally Everett, D863 Gamma Beta, and Lynn Hall were married in October; Tom Maples, D815, and Margie, who got married before 6289 so that he wouldn’t be thrown in the Charles (he was hosed anyway); and Wayne Switzer, D811, and Cathy were married last New Year’s Eve.

Other gossip:

Alex Seiden survived the quake in California. He was, as he says, “Shaken, not stirred.”

Adam Blonsky and his wife had a baby girl, Heather.

At the suggestion of Bryan Forton ‘82, D790, we will try to include current composites in future issues of Delta Digest.

Both Jason Crain ’89, D866, and Mark Johnson ’88, D854, are currently working in Japan. Mark’s address is: 2-17-18 Unoki, Ohta-ku, Tokyo 146, JAPAN.

I received a letter from Seward Kennedy ‘46, D465, this fall, and this is what he had to say, “After MIT I got my law degree from NYU, worked at a Wall Street firm, then joined Mobil Oil as a lawyer in London, Paris, and New York. Have since been doing commercial work as VP of Texas Eastern in London since 1974. Now we are being sold to Enterprise Oil, so I may look for another career! My first wife died in 1967, and I remarried a young Texas girl in 1974. Now we are being sold to Enterprise Oil, so I may look for another career! My first wife died in 1967, and I remarried a young Texas girl in 1982, but in the end she preferred Texas to London!”

The Harvard Bridge’s new west side was opened this summer. Completion of the east side is expected by the end of the school year if the winter is relatively mild. The walk to the Tech is still just as long.

The Theta Xi Housing Corporation is now led by Mike Kenney ‘79, D766, as president, Duane Boning ‘82, D809, as treasurer, and Rich Benfer ‘84, D817, as clerk taking over for Steve Baker ’84, D814, who is leaving for London in December.

And, finally, congratulations are in order for Thomas James Lough ’14, D195, who this year celebrated his 100th birthday. The spring 1989 issue of The Unicorn featured a full page about this momentous event. Delta Chapter is older than he is by a mere four years!

YITB, Bob Bellis ’91, D885 Secretary

Pizza Popular During Study Breaks

As classes get rolling this fall term, my role as scholarship chairman is just beginning to take form. The house is quite strong scholastically, with a 4.4 house cumulative grade point average.

We continue to eat well while blowing off work at study breaks, as only Theta Xis can. The big hit from the short list of study breaks that were run last term is the “beer and pizza” study break. Little sisters as well as many other friends of the house continue to volunteer for the thankless job of preparing these feasts. In an effort to get repeat performances by these master chefs, I offer them a wide variety of personal incentives. (It’s a tough job, but . . . .)

Registration day has come and gone, and everyone seems to be going to classes. The new pledge class has begun to test the pass/no credit system. Most seem to be doing quite well adjusting to academic life at MIT. Some seem to be taking advantage of the pass/fail system a little too much, but that is what I’m here for.

After a welcome summer off, the house has made the shift into school mode. The MIT grind has set in, and, once again, we are all doing what we came here to do: study.

YITB, Will Gorgen ’91, D893 Scholarship Chairman

We’d love to hear from you!
Please don’t forget to return the enclosed newsform!
Rush: “Eight By Nine In ’89”

After fun-filled summer rush parties in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Texas, and Florida, rush week started with a bang on Friday, September 1. Our intrepid battalion invaded the shore of Killian Court to liberate the freshmen from homelessness. Victory came early on D-Day, Monday at 9:00 a.m.—that’s right, ‘eight by nine in ’89!’ The last pledge, Matt Warren, pledged during the band party, making the final count nine pledges out of 10 bids. It goes without “explicit dissertation” that the rest of the evening’s activities were quite jubilant.

The biggest changes this year occurred in the realm of culinery delights. The seafood buffet was moved from Friday to Saturday, since the freshman picnic on Friday afternoon featured mass-produced “Bland” brand clam chowder. We didn’t want the freshmen to expire from seafood overdose. Our Sunday breakfast featured eggs benedict, courtesy of Adam Schwartz ’91, D896, and Ed Munnoch ’91, D894. (The recipe was so good that we later held an eggs benedict brunch to woo the AXOs.) Al Beale ’91, D897, Mark Duggan ’92, D906, and Andy Parsons ’91, D895, Theta Xi’s kitchen crew, deserve a round of applause for a job well done.

This article would not be complete if I failed to mention the support that little sisters, rush hostesses, and alumni provided us during this most crucial time of the Theta Xi year. I would especially like to thank those alums who traveled great distances to be at the house for rush this year, including Brian DeCleene ’88, D858, Phil Fusco ’87, D865, Jim Ferrara ’87, D846, Steve Russell ’87, D842, and Ofer Jacobs ’88, D863. Also, I’d like to thank all those local alumni who helped out, especially those at the bid (I mean pledge) dinner at the Newton annex on Monday night. A special thanks also goes to Jason Crain ’89, D866, and Clark Jarvis, D776, who worked the front desk throughout rush.

Once again, rush has proved to be a resounding success. May the fruits of my successor’s labor be rewarded with multitudinous “associate members.”

YTTB,
Matt McCluskey ’91, D892
Rush Chairman

The Theta Xi Class of 1993

S. Keith Chatterji hails from Columbus, Ohio, and is the first of several prime-time athletes. With four years on high school track and wrestling teams and experience playing soccer, this course IV major is looking to star in intramurals of all types.

Robert Crockett, heavyweight crewman from Chicago, is one of three Midwesterners in the class of ’93. A baseball player and avid Bears fan, Rob can also be seen behind the DJ’s table at Theta Xi parties.

Shayne Gary, a Navy ROTC man from Memphis, Tennessee, is a future aero-astro star. His skills have led him to the starting point guard position on the A-league basketball team. He is the new holder of the all-powerful job of booze-com.

Our class computer stud, David Lippe, is a Long Island native. When not sleeping Dave can be found crushing six double-oh one or practicing for the fencing or archery teams at MIT. Dave claims the largest CD collection of anyone in the house, as well as the most stereo equipment—including his very own digital sound processor.

Mike Pederson is the rural representative of the class of ’93, arriving here from Funk, Nebraska. The class’s second NROTC member, Mike is the quiet man who gets the job done. A cross-country runner by sport, Mike entertains thoughts of trying out for MIT’s varsity.

Ex-wrestler John Piatkowski hails from Vestal, New York. A sharpshooter on MIT’s varsity rifle team, John is also top pledge on Theta Xi’s pool ladder. Not only the biggest guy in the pledge class but also in the entire house, he led Theta Xi’s football team to a 2-2 record as its captain. Now that football is done, he’ll take over as center on the A-league basketball team.

Doug Rodger, “Rocket Man,” runs, cycles, and enjoys cross-country skiing with the best of them. The local boy from Harvard, Massachusetts, is another computer science power tool often seen devouring six double-oh one problem sets. When he’s not cranking through one of his endless workouts, Doug can be found hanging out in commons.

From Teaneck, New Jersey, comes S. Oliver Sostre, even though he claims to be a city boy. “Keebler” has lived in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic and is a star sweeper on the IM soccer team.

Reinforcing the house’s Florida contingent from Gainesville, Florida, comes Matthew Warren. A budding young photographer, Matt rows on the lightweight crew team and is Theta Xi’s jock-com. A rising pool shark, Matt plans on majoring in course 7 pre-med and Regis College.

Rounding out the pledge class is Chris Neils, D869, an honorary pledge. Chris, a crew stud despite the stupidity of the sport, just finished his fourth year at MIT and will, we hope, graduate at the end of this fall term only to begin his navy commitment. When Chris listed me as an honorary freshman in the last Delta Digest, he failed to realize who was in charge of it this fall!

YTTB,
John Piatkowski ’93, P5

Final Update of 1988-’89 Donors

Since the tabulation of the honor roll you received in the summer, we received an additional contribution from Thomas A. Maples Jr. ’84. His gift will be credited to the 1988-’89 operating year, which runs from September 1 through August 31. The strength of Theta Xi depends on your continuing support.
Our Alumni
Send Us
Their News

Going on 95 years of age, ERIC ETHERINGTON '20 writes that he and his wife are “not young but there are others older.” He adds, “Some day, when things quiet down, I hope to give some of my views of the old days.” Eric will celebrate his 94th birthday this January. Send him a card at 12112 Deerbrook Lane, Los Angeles, CA 90049.

“We continue to enjoy retirement at 101 Southwest 50th St., Cape Coral, FL 33991,” pens CURTIS H. BARKER '51. “We take short cruises in our 28-foot Carver and have enjoyed trips to the British Isles and Ireland.” Curt lives in close proximity to his daughter and sends news of his son, a professional trumpeter. “After 12 years in music, my son is getting his degree in economics and has his eye on public policy in food and resource development. He is producing, bottling, and distributing his own recipe for a chicken marinade under the label “poulenade.” Curt also imparts some tragic news concerning DON SPRAGUE ’49, who had a stroke that has left him paralyzed on one side. “At last word, he was in the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta and can be reached via his wife, Jeanne, at 215 Highland Ave., #2K, Gardiner, ME 04345. I’m sure he’d love to hear from any of the old ’46 to ’49 gang.” On a lighter note, Curt often hears from BILL EMERY ’51. “His off-the-wall observations on life bring me the same joy they did when we both were trying to survive our undergraduate years at Tech.” Bill can be contacted at 2249 E. 26th St., Tulsa, OK 74114.

After a 33-year span in New York, WALTER P. FREY '56 and family have relocated to 7733 Dower Lane, McLean, VA 22102. Walter reports that his youngest daughter, Tammy, is a freshman at Lasell College.

Now that his three children have graduated from their respective New England colleges, GLENN S. MEADER JR. ’56 and wife Marion have more free time to ski, taking at least three weeks off a year to hit the slopes in the West. Write to “Steve” at 1601 Greenbriar Court, Reston, VA 22090.

Dean of the School of Management of Suffolk University, RICHARD MCDOWELL ’60 reports that his school is accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. “Only 266 of 1,200 business schools are so accredited. The school also has one of two nationally accredited MPA (public management) programs in Massachusetts.” Dicks lives at 29 26th St., Boston, MA 02116. He adds, “Katherine, our oldest daughter, is coming back to the states from Senegal, where she has been a Peace Corps volunteer. She is getting married before returning to do a third year of service.”

MYLES FALKOF ’72 of Kibbutz Ketura, D.N. Eliot 88840, ISRAEL, writes, “My wife, Mala, and I have three daughters: Jamar (11), Daphna (9), and Shua (6). We have lived 13 years on a kibbutz in the southernmost part of Israel. It is our home. I have taught seven years in the local elementary school, with an obvious leaning towards developing the math and science programs. I still play the French horn and keep up a steady regimen of running. That is, when I am not involved in a hundred other responsibilities, which include farm work and annual reserve duty.”

Many Thetas Participate
In School Sports

The 1989-90 intramurals are under way and in full swing, with house participation running high. For the record, we are now “The Ice Men,” having rid ourselves of “The Bozons” nickname. Our fall teams are performing well. We are undefeated in B-league soccer over three games, are 19-9 in A-league tennis, and completed the football season at 2 and 2. A-league hoops began on November 6, with the C-league team debuting one day later. We are fielding two mixed-fraternity hockey teams with Theta Chi this year. For the class-year IM crew challenge, we had one junior eight and a powerful senior four.

Participation by Theta Xis in intercollegiate sports seems to be at an all-time high. Bob Bellis ’91, D885, and Mark Cramer ’90, D876, just completed another soccer season on MIT’s JV. Rowing for the Tech are Ed Munnich ’91, D894, Matt Warren ’93, P9, and Rob Crockett ’93, P2. Four of the eight members on the junior varsity squash team are Theta Xis, while Tope Lawani ’91, D883, plays for the varsity. Similarly, the MIT cross-country ski team, which won the New England division II championship last year, is made up of a high percentage of Theta Xis, including Doug Rodger ’93, P1, and returning members Andy Parsons ’91, D895, and Terry Totemeier ’91, D890 (who, incidentally, make up most of the MIT club cycling team). Chukes Mobiassin ’91, D891, will again be playing for MIT’s varsity basketball team, while John Piatkowski ’93, P5, shoots for the varsity rifle team and Dave Lippe ’93, P4, fences for MIT. The MIT track team may soon attract Mike Pederson ’93, P7, and Mark Duggan ’92, D906, while Tae Kwon Do has already attracted Jim Weaver ’91, D888, and Malcolm CasSelle ’91, D889. Rounding out the long list of sports Theta Xis are involved in are Jeff Evenham ’91, D884, on the volleyball team and Will Gorgen ’91, D893, on the sailing team, who find time for their respective sports only when they are not windsurfing.

YITB,
Matt Warren ’93, P9

Your news is good news!
Return the enclosed newsform today!

PAUL ROBBINS ’76 is doing cancer research at the National Institute of Health. He lives at 13009 Bluhill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906, with wife Betsy and daughters Ann, 7, and Mary, 4.

Reporting a change of address is EDWARD MORGAN ’81: P.O. Box 2241, Missoula, MT 59806.

Congratulations to BRAD NAGER ’82 and wife Diane, who are expecting their first child soon. Brad has accepted a new job as a bond trader for Chicago Research and Trading. Drop him a note at 1441 York Ave., #5RS, New York, NY 10021.

Kudos to OFER JACOBOWITZ ’88, who has completed his “first year of many” at Mt. Sinai’s School of Medicine. Ofer writes that he, ANDY FURMAN ’85, and DAVE RAITZIN ’83 took a bike trip last spring from New York to the Theta Xi house in Boston. “We spent the trip battling the wind and rain and usually looking for food. Let’s say the sight of the Cago sign was quite pleasant. Oh, yes, we had a great time!” Send mail to Ofer at 521 Jorgen St., Lawrence, NY 11559.