Theta Xis Strive To Become More Involved In MIT Community

When I became president of Theta Xi last November, I genuinely felt that we needed to become more involved in the MIT community, both individually and as a fraternity. And I am very happy to say that many Theta Xis have become more involved in the goings-on at MIT. Not only are brothers continuing their participation in the musical theater guild, undergraduate association, finance board, and student center committee, but now we have people involved in MIT’s “Project Contact” (for spring and summer rush), the public service center, and two officers on the Interfraternity Council. Theta Xi will once again be co-organizing the spring concert (featuring the Violent Femmes with Phi Sigma Kappa). Finally, we will be supplying volunteers to help out with the community service fund road race in May. Basically, Theta Xi is becoming a force at MIT.

In addition to MIT involvement, we have had a great spring semester. Our freshmen managed to keep their spirits high through good memories, we hope. The second part happens over 6294. This might not be as glamorous as if we were fixing up the wood-work or masonry, but then again how many guys can walk into their old fraternity house and tell all the awestruck little pledges that they've got an adopted circuit breaker on the third floor with their name on it? The third phase of the fund-raiser will come on the heels of the adoption offensive. This is when the active chapter orders lots of pizza and sits in the lodge room, calls all of the alumni who weren’t able to adopt part of the house, and convinces them to pledge money. (We are trying to think of a way to get the smell of Lemon-Scented Pledge® to waft into your homes that night as a subliminal stimulus to pledge.) The final step in our fund-raiser will be to write lots of letters to those alumni who made it possible, inviting everyone to take a nice hot shower in one of the newly refurbished heads.

I’ve never done a fund-raiser before, so I don’t know how this one is going to turn out. I think it would be great to have a large show of alumni support. I already have been impressed with the people and stories I’ve heard over TXnet, and I’m anxious to hear from more of you.

YITB,
Jed Macosko, D924
Fourth-floor showers, 64, need gutting.

A familiar figure in the tile greets you in the fourth-floor, 64, bathroom.

Kitchen: notice the jury-rigged oven door.

Commons 66: after many weeks of stripping and sanding.

Help!

Our supply of alumni news is running low. Please take a few moments to fill out and return the enclosed newsform. For some, our alumni news section makes the Delta Digest more interesting; for others, it may be the newsletter's most important feature. Don't let friends and classmates get bored! Return your newsform today!
Help Week Goes Smoothly; Summer Renovations Awaited

As house manager, I have quickly learned how rapidly the house disintegrates, and I am looking forward to summer renovations. Help week went well as the pledges spent most of their time either fixing or stripping doors. Two major new lofts went up—one in third rear 64 called the “palace” and one similar to the one in AT&T north in apathy. Works are going well, and it looks like, at least from my perspective, that everyone will have all the works done by the end of the term.

Summer renovations are on everyone’s mind. The idea of new bathrooms with real plumbing and reliable electricity in all the different sockets is more than some brothers can take. I am sure everyone has discussed at length the renovations, so I won’t bore you here. Both Shayne Gary and I are available for questions at any time, including during the summer—since we both will be in Boston.

YITB,
David Kessler, D927

Debts Are Decreasing; Renovation Project Costly

The conventional wisdom used to be that the brother who served as treasurer had to be just a little crazy. Well, nobody knows insanity better than I do, now in my second (yes, second!) year as grand financial poobah. If only the little sister liaison position had been available...

On the money front, 73 percent of term bills were dutifully paid on time. The rest of the brothers have signed payment plans to finance their remaining balances. Debt carried over from the fall term only amounts to $1,950, which is quite a significant reduction from years past. Alumni debt, once a plaque on the books, has dwindled to around $5,000. Even association is alive and kicking. What more could I ask for?

Let me tell you. The housing corporation recently approved a huge renovations project, scheduled for the summer of 1992. Slated for complete overhaul are the bathrooms, kitchen, and electrical wiring, and the houses will be made to meet current fire code. The total cost of the package will run approximately $120,000. Jed Macosko, D924, is orchestrating a massive alumni donations campaign to drum up monetary support. Believe me when I say that your contributions are more than welcome! If you would like more information about the renovations or wish to help fund a specific project (and have a head named after you, or something equally glamorous), don’t hesitate to ask. The members of the committee in charge of the renovations include me, Shayne Gary, Steve Baker, Rich Benfer, and Henry Brush. Be sure to keep an eye open for a comprehensive report on the condition of the house in the next Digest.

YITB,
Matthew Warren, D912
Treasurer

We Welcome 11 New Initiates Into The Bonds Of Theta Xi

We had 11 pledges die during the last week of January, but I’m happy to announce the initiation of 11 new brothers into the bonds of Theta Xi. These 11 new initiates are Chris Merkel, Martin Lewis, Les Tillie, Jason Jarboe, Leonard Kimble, Mike Evans, Kyle Shinseki, Jefferson Howell, Colin Page, Albert Mowatt, and Chris Rodriguez. They were initiated as Deltas 928 through 938 after a help week that somehow ended up being eight days long instead of the normal seven! After some confusion about who would be house manager, the pledges settled down for a long week and a day of working on the house. They worked hard, and the house looked better than ever when they were done.

The pledges have now focused their attention on academic affairs. They have a broad range of interests, which is reflected in their intended majors: political science, ocean engineering, and city planning, to name just a few. They are also busy looking for jobs to gain experience in their fields, so, if anyone knows of any job openings, please give the house a call or send us a letter.

We hope all alumni will be attending 6294 this year, which is being planned as we go to press. If not, drop us a line and let us know what you are doing, and we’ll do the same.

Yours in the Bonds,
Jim Martin, D900

Grades Are Rising At Delta Chapter

Ah yes, spring at Theta Xi, the sun, the women, the Red Sox, the school? Yes, unfortunately, Delta Chapter is still chartered to MIT, so, while the rest of the world turns, we here in Boston tool. Seriously, though, after a two-term hiatus grades are back in fashion at Theta Xi, and the house cum was spotted at 4.3 and rising last term. The office of scholarship continues to provide the requisite study break each week, and several tutoring programs have been set up to help the freshmen cope with the increasing demands on first-year students. Apart from that, brothers continue to get firsthand experience in all forms of undergraduate research, and a faculty banquet is being scheduled for the near future. That’s all from here.

YITB,
John Piatkowski, D911

JOHN A. SULLIVAN '55 recently published a nonfiction book about his experiences with the military 39 years ago. It's entitled *Toy Soldiers, Memoir of a Combat Platoon Leader in Korea,* and is published by McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640. The book costs $21.95 plus $2 ($75 each additional) for shipping and handling. Call McFarland direct at 919/246-4460. John is a self-employed manufacturer’s representative and makes his home at 9117 Beech Ave., Munster, IN 46321.

An engineer at GE, MATTHEW L. LAZAREWICZ ’72 provides us with a new address of 29 Lawrence Rd., Boxford, MA 01921.

Now residing at 3355 Emekona Place, Honolulu, HI 96822, is JEFFREY P. BOSEL ’74.

ROBERT P. BYARD ’77 and his family have moved into a new home at 9002 Shady Meadow Dr., Sandy, UT 84093. “My baby daughter (my fourth child and fourth daughter) is walking. I will soon be teaching Sunday school lessons to a class of 40 10-year-olds.” Bob is also a software engineer at OEC-Diasonics.

Receiving mail c/o K. K. Newport, 1-11-8-201 Nakatsu, Kita-ku, Osaka, 531 JAPAN, is KEITH E. BENNETT ’78.

BRYAN H. FORTSON ’82, an aerospace engineer with the U.S. Air Force, pens, “Michele and I are the proud, exhausted parents of Andrew Charles Fortson, born on 30 July 1991. He’s developing rapidly and has even developed a Gaylord Perry imitation (he likes to drool on his hands). Michele’s staying home with him and is selling Discovery Toys on the side. Michele and I had dinner with ROBERT SCHARFMAN ’85 and his girlfriend, Linda, while visiting relatives in New York over Christmas. If anybody wants to drop me an e-mail, my address is fortson@misvax.plk.af.mil.” The home address for the Fortsons is 2072B Mercury Dr., Kirtland AFB, NM 87118.

Residing at a new address of 4460 Longfellow Dr., Plano, TX 75093, is DUANE S. BONING ’84.

“I’m living with brothers STEVE BAKER ’84 and ART FIGEL ’87 and Art’s wife, Claire, in Steve’s new house,” announces DAVID L. WEISSBURG ’85 (70 Teel St., Arlington, MA 02174). “After a trip to San Francisco to visit MATT SCOTT ’85 and his wife, Catherine, I quit my job at Polaroid and joined the East Coast branch of a Palo Alto-based product design firm. The name of the firm is IDEO, formerly David Kelley Design, and it is way cool! Let me know if your company needs product design work. I saw lots of bros at KEN KATZ’s (’85) wedding to Amy Wallk in Chicago on December 29, 1991. They included BRYAN FINKEL ’85, IN KIM ’85 and his wife, Jackie, ROB SCHARFMAN ’85, ANDY FURMAN ’85 and his wife, Erica, OFER JACOBOWITZ ’88, JOHN WEISSBERG ’85, STEVE RUSSELL ’87, MATT SCOTT ’85, Lori Kleinman, and STEVE BAKER ’84. While in Chicago, I visited Lorraina and ADAM BLONSKY ’83 and their daughter, Heather. I continue to follow the exploits of rock star GEORGE FRANKS ’85 as he propels his Returnables to louder levels of fame.”

JOHN H. DAVIS ’87 provides us with a new address: One Fuller Rd., Lexington, MA 02173.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of THOMAS J. LOUGH ’13 on October 9, 1990.