I am excited to report that the Delta Chapter of Theta Xi is continuing to excel in many aspects of fraternal life and that the house is the most unified it has been since I joined two and a half years ago.

On February 5, 2006, we initiated nine new brothers, making a strong addition to our brotherhood. The new class is very active both in the fraternity and the MIT community. The new members are involved in crew, the Plush Daddy Fly sketch comedy troupe, and on-campus UROPs; additionally, over half the class participated in “Splash,” an event where MIT students teach fun topics to high school students. Some of the freshmen are also active in the IFC New Members Council and IFC JudComm, and several have visited other Theta Xi chapters. These men are a motivated and diverse group and have already added much energy to the house.

By far, Delta Chapter's greatest achievement this year was scoring the highest GPA among all fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups this fall. Our house GPA was an incredible 4.49, which was 0.05 higher than the next organization and 0.39 higher than the MIT fraternity average.

Community service, an area in which we have been lacking recently, should be picking up due to the efforts of our community service chair Rishi Puram, Δ1068. We are planning two large events this semester—a trip to the Greater Boston Food Bank and a day event with Habitat for Humanity. These activities will help the chapter give to the community in a way where we can all be working together as a group. Another goal for the semester is to communicate better with parents, so that they can get to know the members of the house and learn the benefits their sons receive as part of our organization.

As chapter president, I had the privilege to experience President’s Academy during the first weekend in January. The retreat to the YMCA Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri, focused on Stephan Covey’s Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. We discussed Theta Xi core values, communication, and ourselves as leaders.

There was a concurrent program called the Rising Stars Academy, tailored to new members and introducing them to fraternal issues such as recruitment, membership education, and risk management. Rene De Santiago, Δ1065, and Dan Lopuch, Δ1075, joined me as Delta's representatives for the Rising Stars Academy.

The highlight of the trip was an event led by Don “Dipper” DiPaolo—a Michigan professor from Beta Theta Pi—which was a powerful experience for all attendees. It consisted of a series of one-on-one discussions with different brothers from other chapters about thought-provoking questions Dipper challenged us to consider. The questions ranged in topic from personal experiences to issues facing the entire fraternity system. It was moving to consider what our fraternity is about and consider how openly and effectively we communicate with our brothers.

Another benefit of the academy was a sense of Theta Xi as a national organization. I had never interacted with members from other chapters. It was interesting to meet 29 other chapter presidents and see that all our chapters are facing very similar issues.

I tried to convey the incredible enthusiasm I gained from President’s Academy to the chapter during our spring retreat—held from Friday, February 10 to Sunday, (continued on page six)
Chapter Members Enjoy Annual Retreat

On February 10, the chapter made its way up to the Alpine Village Resort in Woodstock, New Hampshire, for its annual retreat. As has been customary for at least the past few years, the chapter goes on retreat the first weekend of the spring term. It’s a time for the house to be to be together, have fun, discuss important issues, and get things going for the spring.

We arrived in New Hampshire on Friday night. Saturday morning John Gardner, ∆1055, our chapter president, led a couple of morning exercises. The main activity was an adaptation of something John had seen while at the Theta Xi National President’s Academy, and it posed questions about some of the values of the fraternity and enabled everyone to voice their opinions. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and felt it was productive.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed playing football (though there wasn’t much snow this year). Afterwards, we split into groups to talk about forming some new committees, which were then made official at the house meeting we had before dinner. We established a parents’ committee and an alumni committee to increase our communications and relations with those groups, as well as a website committee to take care of and update our homepage.

Since a blizzard was forecasted for Sunday, we decided to check out Saturday night, and after an enjoyable dinner at The Woodstock Station, a big restaurant in the center of Woodstock, we headed back to Boston. It was yet again another fun and enjoyable retreat and turned out to be quite productive.

Yours in the Bonds,
Mike Whitaker ’06, ∆1051
Chapter Vice President

Theta Xi: A New Member’s Perspective

A lot has inherently changed in the pledging process since the move to freshmen on campus four years ago.

The first and most obvious one is that the freshmen don’t live at the house and aren’t around nearly as much as before the policy was implemented. Theta Xi is not their home yet, though most wish it could be. Freshmen come by for meetings and in their spare time. Some find it a relaxing place to get away from the everyday stress of MIT, while others find it a nice, comfortable place to tool in the afternoons and evenings.

With on-campus housing, the freshmen now are faced with the slightly unique situation of belonging to two social groups: Theta Xi and their hall. For some, it is easy to balance. Still, others tend to polarize one way or the other—either forsaking their dorm or scarcely frequenting the house.

Weekly associate member meetings always bring everyone together to discuss our fraternity and plans for future AM activities—such as painting for Blacklight, procuring a non-denominational holiday shrub for the 64 stairwell, or attempting to shower actives. Each meeting finishes with a nice round of high-low, where the freshmen come together with the membership educator to share the high and low points of their past week.

The membership education program generally culminates with seven days of nine-to-nine work, affectionately known as help week. During this week, freshmen take up large projects, such as rebuilding the bar top or trying to organize Kerns, and other smaller jobs to keep the house in good repair.

By the end of the week, each and every freshman feels as if part of the house is now truly his. Each one has put in upwards of 60 hours of work, spread all across the house.

This new member knows that no matter what happens, this house will always be partly his.

Yours in the Bonds,
Anthony Kesich ’09, ∆1081

Send In Your Newsform
The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on alumni news. Please send in your completed newsform today.
Brothers Continue To Excel Academically

I am very pleased to report that our house’s cumulative GPA for the 2005 fall term was an impressive 4.49. Improving by 0.04 points from last spring, our academic achievement again places us within the top few independent living groups at MIT.

This is an accomplishment of the highest order and one that should be applauded by alumni and motivate the active chapter to continue striving for academic excellence. With our newly furnished library serving its purpose, I am confident that such high marks will continue into the foreseeable future.

The vast majority of our brothers seek to expand their MIT education beyond mere lectures and problem sets. Beyond providing a vital solace from the rigors of a term at MIT, January’s Independent Activities Period is a time when Theta Xis—like most MIT students—explore their interests in greater depth and hone their professional skills. Here’s how a few brothers spent their month “off”:

• David Lin, co-founder of the start-up RallyPoint, presented his company at the MIT TechFair.
• Aaron Bell operated the Wright Brothers Wind Tunnel on campus for visiting researchers from Sikorsky testing a new helicopter design.
• Evan Gerard built a Stirling engine and completed 900 Sudoku puzzles.
• Rishi Puram began conducting research at the MIT Center for Cancer Research.
• Quinn Vollmert, and I quote, “logged 400-plus hours of sleep.” In the intervening hours, Quinn penned and delivered an impressive number of jokes pertaining to one Charles Norris.
• I developed a service group called the Elderly Assistance Program. We continue to travel around Boston helping elderly people find Medicare Prescription Drug plans in which they can enroll.
• Colin Hill did astrophysics research on galaxy clustering with professor Max Tegmark in the physics department and played a lot of basketball.
• John Gardner, Rene De Santiago, and Dan Lopuch attended the Theta Xi President’s Academy/Rising Stars Academy in St. Louis. The leadership skills learned there have certainly helped the operation of our house and will continue to serve these men well in their future endeavors.

With the spring term now well underway, I look forward to continuing to serve as Theta Xi’s scholarship chairman. A few of my goals include arranging several study breaks throughout the term and organizing a Theta Xi tea, in which each brother will invite an MIT faculty member to our house—the goal of which is to encourage communication between the active chapter and the oftentimes intimidating MIT faculty.

And as if it needs to be said, we will conclude the term with a Stud-Nerd tournament for the ages.

Yours in the Bonds,
Alex Bagley ‘08, Δ1064
Scholarship Chair

Intramural Sports At Theta Xi

The fall IM sports season featured a full schedule of dodgeball, soccer, football, and basketball—all of which provided a good excuse for taking time off from studying.

Our six-man dodgeball squad was our most successful team this year, as we reached the semifinals of a 32-team tournament. Anchored by the rocket arms and solid defense of Evan Gerard, Δ1061, Quinn Vollmert, Δ1066, Colin Hill, Δ1067, Alex Bagley, Δ1068, Brian Hack, Δ1070, Dan “DLo” Lopuch, Δ1075, Adrian McLymont, Δ1052X, Ben Smith, Δ1040, and Camilo “I’m Old” Aladro, Δ1024, we dominated throughout the season, showing mercy to no team (not even the ones with girls).

In the 10-man league, we didn’t fare nearly as well, getting ousted early in the playoffs. The highlight of the season came on a rainy November evening, when Lopuch and Vollmert beat an entire 10-man team by themselves. (Who cares if it was just one game in a best-of-three?) E-mail vollmert@mit.edu if you would like the more dramatic telling of the event.

In football, the season’s highlight came in a game against Delts. Playing with a one-man advantage for the first half, TDC accumulated a two-touchdown lead, apparently on their way to a complete rout. The only scoring play of the first half came on a Randy Moss-like fade to Bagley. But when we got an eighth man on the field (a ringer named Sam), we dominated.

The second half featured three electrifying scoring plays: a 60-yard TD scamper by Vollmert, followed by a nifty WR screen by McLymont, and a 60-yard streaking TD reception by the ringer that brought us within six. The key to this epic comeback was the Herculean play of the offensive line of Smith, Mike Whitaker, Δ1051, and Evan Taylor.

Fall 2005 FSILG Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theta Xi</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa Alpha Theta</td>
<td>4.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Phi Epsilon</td>
<td>4.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phi Delta Theta</td>
<td>4.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Kappa</td>
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<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Chi Omega</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Epsilon Theta</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chi Phi</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(FSILG Honor Roll: Top third of all groups)

All-FSILG Average: 4.18
All-IFC Average: 4.10
All-Panhellegian Average: 4.38
All-LGC Average: 4.08

Delta brothers enjoyed and appreciated a good football game in the 1950s as much as the undergraduates do now.
Brothers Work To Improve The State Of The House

I would like to extend an invitation to all of our alumni to stop by 64 Bay State in the near future and share some stories of how things were “back in the day” and to enjoy our new bar top, courtesy of the pledge class of 2009.

Delta’s newest pledge class—in addition to working on other repairs and projects during help week—replaced the old bar top with a new one that rivals even that of Cornwall’s. The previous top, built about a decade ago in the mid ’90s, had become worn down and littered with cigarette burn-holes. It was time to replace it, and with several of the actives—most noticeably Kurt Stiehl, Δ1054, and Brian Hack, Δ1070, who helped aid and motivate new members by making detailed CAD drawings and teaching woodworking skills—the new pledge class built a bar top that not only looks great, but will be able to withstand many future generations of Theta Xis.

In other news, Boston winters are still bone-chillingly cold. A week ago, Mike Whitaker, Δ1051, awoke early one morning to the sound of the Boston wind blowing his plexiglass window out of its frame and onto his fire escape. Some duct tape and window caulk has kept his window in place since then, but by the time you read this newsletter, Mike should have a bit of a more permanent solution: The house will be a little bit warmer and a little less drafty thanks to brand new windows paid for with the remainder of the Forbes Challenge fundraiser money.

Beginning next week, contactors will be replacing all of the old windows on the back side of 64 Bay State with brand-new ones, ending the days when the Boston snow storms would actually cause accumulation inside the house through the gaps in the window panes. Pending approval of the Back Bay Historical Commission, the same will be done to the front side of 64, most likely this summer.

Overall, the house is in good condition. Aside from the usual minor repairs, there are plans to fix one of the bathrooms that has a problem with water leakage and possible plans to renovate the 66 kitchen in the not-quite-distant future. All of the brothers receiving new, draft-free windows would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Forbes Challenge. We all appreciate your support in making the house a better place to live and making it easier to bear the Boston winters.

Finally, I would again like to encourage all Theta Xis to come by the house some time and admire the excellently renovated bar top while sharing a story or two with us.

Yours in the Bonds,
Dan Lopuch ’08, Δ1075
House Manager
Brother Reflects On Time Spent At Theta Xi Almost 70 Years Ago

This will be a series of events and incidents that occurred during the years 1938-1942 at the Delta Chapter of the Theta Xi Fraternity, when it was only at 66 Bay State Road.

When I pledged Delta in September of 1938, one of the first persons I met was the cook, Ella Schafer, together with Clarence, the houseboy. Prior to World War I, the chapter did not serve meals and much of the chapter ate at a restaurant run by Ella and her husband. When the chapter reorganized after the war, it hired Ella as the cook.

One of the first things she did was to write out the week’s menu on a torn piece of wrapping paper and pin it on the wall. When I showed up almost 20 years later, she was still using that same menu for every lunch and dinner from Monday through Sunday. So when I joined in the fall of 1938, I knew what I’d be getting for ever meal except breakfast (which was always the same) until the day I graduated.

Speaking of meals, these were the “good old days” when there were no wage and hour laws. Every meal was served on every day except Sunday night, payments were $65.00 per month, including all fire-protection reasons—no fire escape arrangement after W orld War II for Boston authorities put a stop to this. Tuition was $300 a semester, $600 a year. The house bill was $65.00 per month, including all meals except Sunday night, payments to the Housing Corporation, dues, and social.

Drinking was not a problem when I was at Delta. When I arrived, I felt so independent that I went out and bought a pint of Old Granddad. When I graduated four years later, I still had half the pint. There was no house bar, no beer parties, almost no drinking. Only at dances like the junior prom, etc., did we buy and/or bring in alcoholic drinks.

It was almost 70 years ago that I pledged Delta, and the entire social fabric of society was much different. Two U.S. presidents, Wilson and FDR, felt the Ku Klux Klan was a viable social organization. There was no lynching law; one of my fellow pledges from the south had gone to a lynching with his father a week before he came to Tech.

National required us to be very selective in pledging back in those days—no Jews, no blacks, no foreigners, etc. Epsilon at Columbia lost its charter for pledging Jews. We were even supposed to limit the number of Catholics we pledged. So the “good old days” were not always so good; we fought National regarding these rules, but as in the case of Epsilon, we couldn’t win.

Sleeping arrangements were much better, in my opinion, back then. We slept on the fourth floor, in double-decked bunks. So if you wanted to study later, the light wouldn’t disturb your roommate. Whenever one was ready for bed, he changed into pajamas in the study room and went up to the fourth floor. I understand that the Boston authorities put a stop to this arrangement after World War II for fire-protection reasons—no fire escape from the fourth floor.

Dress was another item in those days. Ties were required for all evening dinners, including Sunday noon.

Yours in the Bonds,
Robert R. Imsande, Δ111
Brothers Work To Give Back To The Community

The Delta Chapter has always taken community service seriously. Whether it's tutoring high school students, running service organizations on campus like Habitat for Humanity, or volunteering at soup kitchens and homeless shelters, brothers of the Delta Chapter have always found time to give back to the community.

This year, the Delta Chapter has continued to strengthen its role in the community by participating in new service projects throughout Boston. During the fall semester, the Delta Chapter volunteered at the Boston Living Center's annual Thanksgiving dinner. The Boston Living Center (BLC) is a nonprofit community resource center for HIV-positive individuals in the Boston area. The center strives to foster a better understanding of HIV/AIDS through community education and outreach programs, and its success is largely dependent on the efforts of Boston volunteers.

We helped set up for the night's events, served food throughout the dinner, and helped man the kitchen. We also had an opportunity to interact with members of the BLC. It was a moving experience—speaking to people who only have a few more years to live really opens your eyes to the world. It was an experience that we all gained from personally.

Also, brothers volunteered at other community service organizations on campus like the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB). The GBFB helps coordinate the packaging and delivery of foods to different homeless shelters and low-income families throughout Boston. This should be an especially rewarding experience because we can reach out to so many families in need.

Additionally, we plan on participating in a build-day for MIT Habitat for Humanity. We will help in the construction of low-income housing in the Boston area. The center strives to foster a better understanding of HIV/AIDS through community education and outreach programs, and its success is largely dependent on the efforts of Boston volunteers.

Jeff Borowitz, Δ1057, has served as president of MIT's Habitat chapter and has helped expand the organization in the past year. In February, Jeff represented MIT Habitat in Row for Humanity—a fundraiser put on by the MIT women's crew team. Ten percent of all the proceeds were donated to MIT's Habitat chapter.

Other brothers have taken community service into their own hands. Alex Bagley, Δ1064, is a model example. This year, Alex started the Elderly-Assistance Program (EAP), a group that aids the elderly in managing their prescription drugs. EAP aims to help the elderly in finding pharmacies near their homes, setting up mail-order accounts for medications, and arranging for the delivery of their prescriptions.

Kurt Stiehl, Δ1054, is another brother who is striving to give back to the community. During MIT's spring break, Kurt plans on traveling to New Orleans to help with house reconstruction through a national service program called Common Ground. One of Common Ground's central missions is to provide long-term support in revitalizing communities affected by the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast area. With thousands of communities devastated by the disaster, volunteers like Kurt are helping to rebuild the entire region.

Alex and Kurt are great examples of the commitment brothers of the Delta Chapter show towards community service. With the spring of 2006 still ahead of us, the Delta Chapter looks forward to another semester full of exciting community service opportunities!

Yours in the Bonds,
Rishi Puram ’08, Δ1068
Community Service Chair

CHAPTER REMAINS STRONG, FOCUSED

(continued from page one)

February 12. Rene, Dan, and I generated a list of questions to repeat the Dipper activity, which I think the chapter found to be very insightful and beneficial. I have remained in contact with Derrick Fuschino, the president of Gamma Chapter at Stevens Institute of Technology. Our chapters have started to form a relationship over the past few months. It started when three brothers from their chapter drove up to Boston for our annual Blacklight party in the fall. We met more of their members at the academies in January. A group of us went down to visit them in Hoboken, New Jersey, during IAP. They came up to celebrate our initiation in the beginning of February, and we also joined in their beach party festivities in February. I hope that the relationship between our chapters continues as our sense of brotherhood expands beyond MIT.

The Saturday after the beach party, Ross Goodwin, Δ1078, Sean Rogers, Δ1079, Chapter Advisor Chris Williams, Δ965, and I continued down to Eta Chapter at Lehigh University for the District Leadership Academy, formally known as the Regional Conference. There was a very strong showing—with every chapter in the Northeast and Allegheny regions represented except for one. The morning was spent reflecting on the seven purposes of Theta Xi and how they are and are not exemplified in our organizations. Then, in the afternoon, we discussed recruitment and risk management. As always, it was a very good event and one that broadened our sense of Theta Xi as a national organization.

Our chapter is an exciting place to be right now. Our members continue to have a wide array of activities and passions in addition to their academic dedication. There is always some sort of informal event going on at Delta. I would like to encourage everyone to visit and see what the chapter is like now, and we would definitely enjoy hearing old stories about the place we all love. A great time to visit would be for our 6294 celebration, scheduled for Friday, May 5 to Sunday, May 7. I hope to see many new and old faces there. We are not holding our celebration the previous week because that is MIT's Spring Weekend.

Finally, if anyone has questions about the undergraduates, the current state of the chapter, or would just like to share some stories, please feel free to e-mail me at jug@mit.edu. It would be great to hear from you or to see you at this year's 6294 festivities.

John Gardner ’07, Δ1055
Chapter President
INTRAMURALS AT THETA XI

(continued from page one)

We didn’t wind up winning that day, but it was nevertheless the most fun any of us has ever had on a football field.

The soccer season was a short one (we only played one official game), but we proved that we could handle the loss of team leader and awesome Aussie Farmey Joseph, ∆1011. Matched against a vastly superior team, our solid defense and excellent goalkeeping ensured a 0-0 tie.

The basketball season got under-way late in the fall and continues this spring. Thanks to excellent post presence in the form of Jeff Borowitz, ∆1057, Aladro, and Hill, perimeter players—like Vollmert and Bagley—could hoist shots with the confidence that a miss would almost certainly be rebounded by our own guys.

Starting in December, Theta Xi began participating in one of the newest sports on the IM circuit—Air Pistol. Started last year, the league is now managed by Theta Xi’s new jock-com Paul Blascovich, ∆1082. With exceptional skill shown by Craig Brophy, ∆1049, Rob Warden, ∆1077, Aaron Bell, ∆1046, and Jim Wilberger, ∆1073, Theta Xi has managed an even 3-3 record halfway through the season.

The legends will continue to be made this spring, with teams competing in softball, ultimate frisbee, and billiards. Our chapter’s growing commitment to intramurals combined with Blascovich’s election to MIT’s IM council ensure that the athletic tradition at Theta Xi will continue to thrive for years to come.

Yours in the Bonds,
Quinn Vollmert ’08, ∆1066
Paul Blascovich ’09, ∆1082

Save The Date

Join your fellow alumni for Delta’s 121st anniversary celebration on the weekend of May 6, 2006.

We have planned events that include a Friday evening reception and our traditional Saturday softball game.

The annual stockholder meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2006. It will be followed by dinner at the chapter house.

The Delta Chapter thanks Raymond Perfetti from the Theta Xi Gamma Chapter at Stevens Institute of Technology for producing this masterpiece. Ray has become a very close friend of the Delta Chapter, and we all enjoy going to New York to visit him and other Gammas.
Richard J. Griese '53 writes, “I enjoyed John Varela’s (’57) Reflections on Theta Xi: Then and Now in the last edition of Delta Digest. It brought back many memories of my years at MIT. While he wrote much about the physical aspects of the fraternity, the social aspects of life at the house were just as important. The parties and the signings, initiations, hours spent just getting a busy signal from the BU women’s dorm, late-night discussions on life, the first television set, and so much more. Betty, nee Sherman—a graduate of BU’s Sargent College and Wellesley—and I celebrated our 50th anniversary. I retired in 1996 from the presidency of an architectural/engineering firm in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and moved permanently to Arizona in 2002. I am now ‘employed’ again as the architect of the Tubac Valley Property Owner’s Association. The money is just enough to keep me in golf balls for my 100-plus rounds a year. Life is good.” Keep in touch with Dick at P.O. Box 4721, Tubac, AZ 85646. E-mail him at scrayhill@aol.com.

“I am currently in my fifth year as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Virginia Tech,” writes Mark G. McNamee ’68. “Carole (Simmons ’69) and I moved to Blacksburg from Davis, California, where I spent 16 years as a faculty member, department head, and dean. Our oldest daughter, Beth (32), was married in July. Our son, Mark (30), is an engineer at Nike in Portland, and our youngest daughter, Katie (21), is a senior at Virginia Tech.” Write to Mark at 124 Mateer Cir., Blacksburg, VA 24060; mmcnamee@vt.edu.

Christopher R. Bentley ’87, who works in knowledge management and competitive intelligence at Grosvenor Capital Management, reports that he has been married to his wife, Lisa, since 1990 and that the couple has three children. Chris—who received his MBA from the University of Chicago in 2001—can be reached at 128 N. Martin Ave., Waukegan, IL 60085. Send “Gutley” e-mail at bentleyfarm@gmail.com.

“I am currently deployed in Iraq with the U.S. Air Force, supporting the new Iraqi air force in its mission,” writes Christopher D. Drew. “I will be here until May 2006 if you wish to write.” Write to Chris at PSC 2, Box 7812, APO AE 09012. E-mail him at cdrew@alum.mit.edu.

“I hope to complete my PhD at the University of Cambridge in biomaterials in 2007,” writes Patrick J. Kiley ’03. Write to him: c/o Magdalene College, Magdalene St., Cambridge CB3 OAG, United Kingdom.

DECEASED
We regret to report the death of: Stanley Paterson ’43 1999

View Our Archive
A treasure trove of scanned Delta Digests—dating back as far as 1979—can be found on the web. Take a few minutes and look; you’ll be glad you did. Twenty-year-old alumni updates and “new” initiate bios are particularly humbling. See them all at: http://web.mit.edu/mherman/www/ThetaXi/OldDeltaDigests/.

Brothers Rishi Puram, Δ1068, and Craig Rothman, Δ1050, enjoy the annual retreat. (See related story, page two.)