As the Delta Chapter of Theta Xi enters the second half of its 120th year at MIT, it is my privilege to once again report the strong state of our chapter.

To begin, this September we recruited 10 dedicated and enthusiastic new associate members thanks largely to the efforts of Rush Chair David Lin '06, Δ1059. A pledge class of 10 was a particularly respectable accomplishment this year, since the incoming freshman class was the smallest in recent history and only 52 percent male.

This August, I had the opportunity to attend Theta Xi's 141st Anniversary National Convention. A total of nine Deltas—six undergraduates and three alumni—from over 50 chapters of Theta Xi at the JW Marriott in New Orleans for five days of fun. While we were there, we participated in seminars and the usual legislative sessions during the day and then we hung out along Bourbon Street at night. At the convention, the Grand Lodge and National Headquarters revealed the winners of several awards for 2005. I am very pleased to announce that the Delta Chapter was among several chapters to receive the Achievement Award for Outstanding Membership Recruitment in the 2004-2005 year. We also earned an award for Outstanding Scholarship, and Chris Williams '98, Δ965, was honored as an excellent chapter advisor. More importantly, we were recognized as one of seven Benchmark Chapters acknowledged for general excellence in all areas of chapter operations. As you can imagine, the convention was a huge amount of fun and will definitely be one of the highlights of my undergraduate years at Theta Xi.

Just two weeks after the end of rush, MIT President Susan Hockfield visited Theta Xi for dinner along with her husband and daughter. President Hockfield was very personable and genuinely interested in helping the fraternities at MIT. She asked many questions about our house in order to really try to understand what makes us unique and different from the dormitories on campus. Chef D. cooked an amazing meal as usual, the house looked great, and nearly all of our actives attended the dinner, along with several alumni. I know that Dr. Hockfield left our house very impressed by Theta Xi, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who attended and who helped with the dinner for making the night work out so well.

Besides these events, I must also note major improvement to the house since our last Delta Digest. This summer, we took advantage of the IRDF Educational Grant program to use $10,000 from MIT to purchase two computers, a server, a scanner, a conference table, and white boards for our new house library, located in the fourth floor back room of 66. Our scholarship chair, Colin Hill '08, Δ1067, has enclosed more details (see page three), but this library has provided our actives and associates with a very productive and attractive place to study at the house. We thank those of you who have donated to the IRDF in the past, and we continue to encourage everyone to designate at least part of your gifts to MIT for the IRDF.

In addition, our membership continues to be very active in a variety of activities on campus—ranging from varsity basketball and the MIT Corollaries to the Roadkill Buffet Improv Troupe and Habitat for Humanity. Of particular note are two members of my own pledge class: Michael Whitaker

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Delta Chapter Celebrates 6294 In Style

Over 150 people attended the Delta Chapter of Theta Xi’s 120th Anniversary 6294 Celebration from Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1. The number of attendees at every event throughout the weekend exceeded our expectations, and on behalf of the active chapter, I would like to thank all of you who stopped by at some point over the course of the weekend for visiting us and for making this special 6294 the best attended and most spirited since our centennial celebration in 1985.

For those of you who missed it, here is a brief recap of our events. On Friday night, we had dinner at the chapter house followed by a reception at Cornwall’s bar, where we had one of their rooms reserved for us. After Cornwall’s closed at 2:00 a.m., many alumni came back to the house to hang out in our rooms reserved for us. On Saturday, we had our usual barbeque outside, followed by tours of MIT in the afternoon and a banquet at night held at the Cambridge Marriott. Even more alumni came back to the house on Saturday night to celebrate and play poker.

Everyone had an amazing weekend. Besides all the fun events, it was a privilege to meet so many of you, and all the actives had a unique chance to learn the real history and traditions of Theta Xi. For the first time, many of us know why rooms like UC, EC, and JP were given their names. We saw pictures of the beer pong tournaments in the lodge room that we are no longer permitted to have along with images of the “blue cookies” that used to accompany the games. We heard about the first Citgo and Blacklight parties and met some of the creators of SPEW. Members of the class of 1957 saw desks and computers on the fourth floor of 66, which in their undergraduate years was reserved for sleeping, in addition to lofts and beds in the former library on the first floor of 66. All of the alumni clarified lots of rumors about the Delta Chapter—I can honestly say that our house tours during Rush this year were much more accurate after our conversations with alumni that weekend.

Over those three days, several of us actives had the unique opportunity to meet our “halves.” John Varela ’57, Δ530, met Christopher Casiano ’07, Δ1060; Terry McMahon ’57, Δ534, was introduced to Quinn Vollmert ’08, Δ1066; and Dick Williamson ’57, Δ534, got to know Rishi Puram ’08, Δ1068. It is also important to note the large portions of the classes of 1957, 1984, 1985, 1993, and 1996 attended at least part of the weekend. It is great to see how pledge class unity remains for so long after graduating.

Furthermore, the celebration proved that in addition to being a social network for our undergraduate years, Theta Xi is also a large extended family with many very distinguished brothers, who nevertheless remain fun, accessible, and helpful. We cannot wait until our next major alumni gathering. Until then, all alumni are always welcome to stop by the chapter house to say hello and to meet the active chapter. We would be glad to see you here, either at our 121st anniversary 6294 this year or whenever you have the opportunity to visit Boston.

Yours in the Bonds,
Matthew A. Herman ’06, Δ1047
Chapter President

House Manager Reports

This past summer started off on a bit of a bad foot when one of the freezers in the kitchen died, causing the food in it to go bad and leaving us without enough space to store what remained. I bought a new freezer for the kitchen, and I saw it as an opportunity to replace the chest freezer, which has been on its last leg for years. At the same time, I also purchased an ice machine, which currently resides in the bar and gets used quite frequently.

During work week, we repainted all of the walls in the main commons areas, the TV room, and the staircases. The whole house looks much cleaner and brighter with the new paint job. I also used some time of work week to help increase the visibility of the house for rush. We painted a large 4-by-8-foot board displaying our letters and the crest, and Mike Whitaker ’06, Δ1051, made a huge 30-foot banner that hung on the front of our house during rush.

We are also very close to getting new windows. Over the summer, I worked out a contract with a window-replacement company. Pending approval by the Boston Landmarks Commission, we should have new windows by next term. Overall, the house looks terrific, and we are continuing to look for ways to improve it.

Yours in the Bonds,
Brian Hack ’08, Δ1070
House Manager

To improve the visibility of our house during rush, Mike Whitaker, Δ1051, made a huge banner that hung on the front of our house.
A Message From The Corporation President

September is typically a period of great change for the Delta Chapter, as our undergraduates welcome a new class of associate members. This September has also brought change to the corporation board.

After seven eventful and largely successful years as our corporation president, Steve Baker has elected to step aside. Fortunately for us, Steve will still be a vital part of our board, as he steps back into the role of treasurer. With this switch, Nick Howard has rotated into the vice president’s role, and I have moved into the position of president. Additionally, after several years as corporation clerk, Andy Berkheimer has stepped down from the board while seeking new challenges with a start-up company in California. With this change, we welcome Craig Rothman, recent chapter treasurer, to the board as our new corporation clerk.

The last year has been a busy one for the board. After the successful fundraising effort of the “Bert Forbes Challenge,” the board has been working with the chapter to begin addressing the numerous maintenance issues of our wonderful but aging brownstones. After first replacing the floors in commons, we are now in the process of evaluating our options for new energy-efficient windows for 64 Bay State Rd., which should help the annual house budget as energy prices continue to soar. We hope these improvements will help the chapter retain a competitive edge, as the whole fraternity system continues to struggle to fill its vacancies.

Another big event in the past year was our 120th Anniversary 6294. Over 140 guests enjoyed the banquet held at the Cambridge Marriott. Though we haven’t held such a large event since our 100th anniversary back in 1985, the response to the banquet has been so positive we are considering holding a similarly large 6294 reunion for our 125th in 2010.

The success of the Bert Forbes Campaign and the large turnout at 6294 has been very heartening for us. It is nice to know that the great geographic distance that separates many of you from Boston has not diminished your feelings of brotherhood and your desire to see our chapter succeed. Moving forward, we on the board will be working to find new ways to keep you, our esteemed brothers, informed and involved in the events of the chapter. Stay tuned…

Yours in the Bonds,
Timothy J. Hazen ’91, Δ882
Corporation President

Remodeled Library A Great Asset

This past summer, the chapter was given the opportunity to spend up to $10,000 on education-related items with reimbursement from MIT’s Independent Residence Development Fund. As scholarship chairman, I headed a committee to plan out our use of this money in creating a library room. The committee consisted of Craig Rothman ’05, Δ1050, Mike Whitaker ’06, Δ1051, Tim Koch ’07, Δ1053, and Steve Whittaker ’07, Δ1071. We met several times over the summer to finalize our proposal, which was approved by Steve Baker later in the summer.

To start with, we replaced our old, oft-broken house printer, “Treeslayer,” with a brand-new Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 4240n, appropriately named “Seed of Treeslayer.” Treeslayer later met an untimely end in the back alley. (See related picture, right.) In addition, we replaced our motley collection of computers in the server closet with an Apple PowerMac, which now hosts the redesigned house website and a collection of notes and assignments from old classes.

For the library, we first determined that it would be put together in Compound, the back room of the fourth floor on the 66 side. We then selected two computers for the room: an Apple G5, primarily for multimedia work, and a Dell Optiplex, which is now equipped with both Windows and Athena capability. In addition, we purchased a Hewlett-Packard scanner to go with the computers. Next, we furnished the room with a bethel cherry conference table, an oak computer table, and ten sturdy wooden chairs. For lighting, we chose two tall floor lamps and four smaller table lamps. Lastly, we purchased three new whiteboards for the walls with brand-new markers and erasers.

During work week, the committee and I used a fair amount of our time to repaint the room, fix the holes in the walls, and thoroughly clean it out. The only items we left in the room were two bookcases, which now hold a large collection of textbooks and course bibles. After a few days of solid work, we were ready to set up all of the new equipment. Over the following week, we were able to put together nearly everything prior to the start of rush. Thus far, the room has already seen heavy use from many of the brothers and associate members, and I have no doubt that it will prove to be a great asset to the house for many years to come.

Yours in the Bonds,
Colin Hill ’08, Δ1067
Scholarship Chair

David Lin, Δ1059, works in the library on the new computers.

The new library will be a great asset to our house—allowing meetings, group projects, and collaborating on problem sets to more efficiently occur.

The end of work week also saw the end of our old printer “Treeslayer.” Here are Aaron Bell and John Gardner holding Mike Whitaker as he takes his turn beating the printer with a bat.
Reflections On Theta Xi: Then And Now

Among the things that struck me about the 6294 weekend this spring were the number and variety of activities and the amount of participation and enthusiasm of the actives. It was a far cry from the blasé way we approached 6294 back in the 1950s. Then, there was a dinner at the house attended by a few alumni. The actives chatted enough to be polite, and that was about it. Most of the work involved was taken care of, invisibly to the actives, by Smitty, the cook, and his wife, Vera.

Today’s Theta Xis are provided five dinners a week, Sunday through Thursday, served buffet style. That’s it. They are on their own for the other meals. In the 1950s, we had three meals a day, six days a week, with Sunday as cook’s day off. Asley Virgo Smith was the cook. Everybody, including his wife, called him Smitty, or sometimes Smith if we wanted to be formal. Smitty cooked all the meals and sent them upstairs on the dumb waiter to Vera, who served the tables. Breakfast was cooked to order, and dinner was family style with the president serving the dinner main course onto plates and the side dishes on the table in bowls. There was no dishwasher, so Vee washed all the dishes and flatware by hand while Smitty scrubbed the pots and pans. Vee also kept the bathrooms clean.

If you were going to miss dinner for a sports practice or something, you signed up, and Smitty would save a dinner plate for you, which you ate at a table in the kitchen. This led to chumminess with Mr. Smith, and the kitchen was a favorite place for some of us to hang out. In compensation for cluttering up his kitchen while he was trying to work, it was usual to buy Smitty a beer. In the five years I was at the institute, I can’t recall a single day that either Smitty or Vee failed to show up for work.

In the 1950s, we didn’t have 64 Bay State Rd., only number 66. As was common practice in the row-house fraternities, the fourth floor was used as a sleeping area and for storage. It was unheated, and in midwinter, it was really cold up there.

All of the third-floor rooms, plus second-floor rear, were study rooms. Each of the large rooms held five desks, and the small room on the third floor held two more. That meant only 17 brothers could live in the house. We rented extra space up the street for the overflow. I think we rented rooms in number 86, or maybe it was 96. Anyway, it was across from Shelton Hall. Here, I have to remark that—with few exceptions—everything that one owned was kept either in or on one’s desk or in one’s closet. The closets had doors, and the doors were kept closed. That is not how today’s undergraduates live. No, not at all how they live.

I have no idea when the changes were made, but for those who haven’t seen it, today all the rooms from the second through fourth floors in both 64 and 66 are combined study and sleeping rooms. The bigger rooms hold three desks and beds, the smaller ones one or two. The beds are sturdily made out of two-by-sixes, are well off of the floor, and have heavy curtains. I suppose that’s needed so one can sleep while another continues to study, and it may provide privacy, but it looks like it would be uncomfortably hot in there in warm weather.

In the 1950s, second-floor front was the library. It was a very pleasant room, full of overstuffed furniture. Most afternoons and evenings a floating card game went on in the library. Except on Saturday nights, when it was pitch dark in there as a place for couples to find privacy. The closet off of second floor front was where the only telephone—a pay phone—was located. Five cents to talk for three minutes. (The number was Circle 7-8602. This is no great feat of memory; the number is written on the inside of my slide-rule case.)

The basement and first two floors were the only public areas of the house. It was a strict rule that no

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Despite Challenges, Recruitment A Success

The number of males in the class of 2005 was the lowest of any class attending MIT in the last 20 years. Clearinghouse, which had been abandoned the year before any of the seniors were freshmen, was brought back to MIT. Fraternities were not allowed to wear letters, hand out any materials, or go into dorms until orientation was over.

From the start, we stressed the importance of Theta Xi as a community and a home for all of us. We stressed the importance of moving in and that it was expected. We focused on rushing groups of friends, and utilized clearinghouse (a computer system for tracking the location of freshmen) to its fullest extent.

We also focused on creating more on-campus presence, along with the importance of advertising. For this rush, we designed a new 8-by-12 Theta Xi rush board, along with a banner displaying “Theta Xi,” which is hung outside 64 to clearly mark our house.

What were the results? We ended with 10 individuals pledging and two or three more who will be rushing us in the spring.

Despite the success, the focus for this rush was not on just getting a pledge class. Another primary goal was for the entire chapter to work together towards a common end. It was also a time for our sophomore class—where half the class remains on campus—to connect with the rest of the house and find their areas of strength for rush. To achieve this, a lot of time was spent on letting brothers explore and work on the parts of rush they enjoyed, placing brothers who never work together in groups. In addition, we spent time during work week on rush training where we attempted to answer core questions such as, “Why am I a Theta Xi” and “Why Theta Xi.”

The house did seem to come together during this fall’s rush when so much was accomplished in such a difficult year. It was a pleasure and honor to serve as rush chair for 2005. I had a truly unique and invaluable experience of working with a group of excellent—sometimes eccentric—passionate men, whom I am proud to call brothers. Together we achieved a great deal of success.

Yours in the Bonds,
David Lin ’06, Δ1059
Recruitment Chair

Countdown: Theta Xis and friends count to seven as Sean Rogers ’09 pledges.

Kenny Donahue (left) and Robert Warden (right) wake up the house as they become the first two members of the new class.

After 30 minutes of running around Boston and Cambridge, the brothers of Theta Xi find Paul Blasovich at Harvard, where he pledges.
Membership Education Program Remains Strong

The core of the membership education program has remained constant over the past several years. The new members finished interviews and received big brothers two weeks ago at the Rush Hostess Semi-formal Dinner. They are gearing up to begin pulling out the drywall for this year’s Black-light Party and have the excitement of Walkout still on the horizon.

The changes that have been made to the program have come as a result of the growing pains that MIT is still experiencing with freshman living on campus. The dual emphasis on the academics and informal social life within the house have resulted in the new members spending many hours at Bay State Road instead of in their dorm rooms.

Our library on the fourth floor and “physics night” on Tuesdays have made academic excellence a priority. The current environment is more conducive to studying.

Last weekend, the chapter welcomed parents to tour our house and meet the brothers during parents weekend. We are creating a parents mailing list so that parents can be more in touch with the chapter and its news.

All ten of this year’s associate members bring something unique to the house and have already formed close relationships with each other and the actives. You can read about each of them on page seven—we encourage everyone to come meet the new guys.

Yours in the Bonds, John Gardner ’07, Δ1055 Membership Educator

Undergraduate President

(continued from page one)

’06, Δ1051, is currently captain of the varsity crew team, and Craig Rothman ’03, Δ1050, has served as IFC Recruitment Chair since last May. He was directly responsible for organizing and implementing fall rush for the entire fraternity system. Craig did an outstanding job and has hopefully set the precedent that Theta Xi can and should be involved in the IFC at the executive level. Our significant involvement on campus has been directly complemented by strong leadership within the house. All of our officers have exceeded my expectations and remain very committed and dedicated to Theta Xi. Furthermore, as a chapter we have excelled academically. Our 4.53 house GPA continues to remain one of the highest on campus.

This semester, the Delta Chapter has a total of 35 actives. This number remains significantly larger than my freshman and sophomore years, when we only had 30 each year. Our membership is approaching where it was before freshmen were required to live on campus, and that is very good news. Nevertheless, of our 35 actives, 10 are our freshmen associate members who cannot be residents by MIT’s rules. Currently, we also have seven nonresidential sophomores. So together with one Theta Xi boar der, the total number of residents this semester is only 19, and this statistic is clearly the most worrisome.

Unlike past years, a large active chapter no longer implies a full house. Instead, inertia is the best way to describe our residency dilemma—while recently there have not been any residents who voluntarily move out before graduation, many of our new members prefer to stay in their dormitories after their freshman year. And it is that delicate push to encourage them to change their housing location—and often more importantly the culture of their living group—that we have yet to perfect. This semester, we have been trying three new strategies to improve this. First, our bid sessions explicitly stated from the very start that residency is our expectation. Second, our membership education program led by John Gardner ’07, Δ1055, now stresses house unity and community in addition to pledge class unity, which was often the sole emphasis in the past. Finally, our social chairs, Stephen Whittaker ’07, Δ1071, and Evan Gerard ’08, Δ1061, have continued to hold and encourage many informal social gatherings that are able to showcase the culture, community, and benefits of the chapter house.

Among the greatest advantages of membership in Theta Xi is our alumni network. That was very visible last May during the special 6294 weekend, which so many of you attended. It would be great to keep up that energy—remember that you are all welcome at the house any time and the actives would be thrilled to meet you.

In almost all respects, the Delta Chapter is much better place than my freshman year, and I am very happy to have been part of so many of these changes and improvements. My year as chapter president has probably been the best and most rewarding experience that I have had as an undergraduate at MIT. And as I finish my term, I must thank both the active chapter for giving me the opportunity to lead the house and the alumni (particularly the past presidents) for all of their advice and help.

As always, if you have any questions about the house, the current undergraduates, future events, or you just want to share stories about the good old days at Theta Xi, please feel free to send me an e-mail at mherman@mit.edu. It would be great to hear from you.

Yours in the Bonds, Matthew A. Herman ’06, Δ1047 Chapter President
Meet Theta Xi’s Newest Members

Kenny Donahue is from Glendale, California. In high school, he played clarinet and was active in the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He is planning on majoring in computer science and electrical engineering or mechanical engineering.

Robert Warden is from Holly, Michigan, where life revolved around FIRST Robotics and the auto industry. He is thinking about majoring in biological or mechanical engineering.

Ross Goodwin is from Orinda, California, where he rowed on the Oakland Strokes crew team for four years. He is a freshman and is thinking about majoring in physics and political science. His interests include literature, writing, sleep, and the finest corduroy blazers.

Luis Garay is from Madrid, Spain, where he spent most of his childhood playing tennis, golf, and skiing. He also enjoys painting and playing his saxophone. He is currently a freshman, but is interested in majoring in mechanical engineering and management with a minor in psychology.

Paul Blascovich hails from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His interests include running, poker, rollercoasters, and a variety of sports. Paul plans to pursue a degree in either mechanical engineering or math.

Anthony Kesich is a freshman looking at majoring in mechanical engineering. In his spare time, he likes to build whatever he can. Sometimes, if it comes out wrong, he then likes to find unique ways to demolish it. Anthony also enjoys rugby, running, exploring, and music.

Sean Rogers is originally from Milford, Pennsylvania. He enjoys kicking back and watching movies and going to concerts. In high school, he was the captain of his scholastic bowl team. Sean is planning to major in materials science and engineering.

Daniel McLaughlin is from Gualala, California, a small coastal town north of San Francisco. His interests include rock climbing, photography, and listening to good music. While he’s not yet sure of his major, he is considering Course 6-3 or Course 18. For some reason, he also thinks that a minor in architecture would be totally sweet.

Christopher Varenhorst grew up in Wichita, Kansas. His interests include film, tennis, foreign cultures, and security. Chris isn’t sure what he wants to major in, but he is leaning towards computer science.

Howdy from an Okie (Oklahoma), that’s where I’m from, recently. My name is Seth Villarreal, and when I came to MIT, I quickly learned that the best fraternity is Theta Xi. About the first sentence of this blurb, I’ve lived a good number of places, most of them in the US, and I enjoy traveling to see what’s beyond the next hill. I hope to study mech engineering, chem engineering, or something during my college career, with a big focus on things that are interesting to study. Otherwise I’m pretty normal…for an MIT student anyway. I’m still adjusting to some new freedoms and college life, but mostly enjoying being here.

Delta Chapter Remains Fiscally Sound

Delta Chapter’s financial situation continues to stabilize. Despite several successful years of rush, the house continues to suffer from low occupancy due to the number of sophomores who decide to remain on campus rather than moving in. We have addressed this by cutting expenses to keep term bills relatively low. Term bills are $3,500, which compares quite favorably with the annualized on-campus room and board budget of about $10,000 this year. (Note: MIT is shifting to a policy of unsubsidized dormitory rents with a phase-in period through 2008, which will help us compete with on-campus housing options.) Finally, the house has submitted an IRDF Operating Grant request for $8,650. As noted in previous issues, this reflects the recent decision by MIT to use IRDF monies to help cover that portion of our operations specifically supporting our educational mission. Approximately 13.8 percent of our budget is eligible.

On the fundraising front, the 2005 academic year saw a drop in comparison to the phenomenal results of the Forbes Challenge in 2004. However, we did enjoy a reasonably good year. The house received gifts totaling $6,643 from 69 brothers. And Theta Xi alums (57 in all) contributed $20,536 to the IRDF. Thank you for your outstanding support! We appreciate your tagging at least a portion of your annual gift to MIT for the IRDF. And, of course, we greatly appreciate your annual contribution directly to Theta Xi to support the upkeep of the house, as well as communication programs like this.

Yours in the Bonds,
Tom Davis ’84, ∆807
Anniversary Convention A Great Success

August 4, 2005, marked Theta Xi’s 141st Anniversary Convention. This time, the site for the convention was New Orleans, Louisiana. No one would have thought that only weeks after the convention, tragedy would strike New Orleans.

Thinking in retrospect, it was the perfect place for such a convention since both the current National President, Steve Baker, Δ814, and the soon to be installed National President, Michael Pitcher, Alpha Omicron 634, have roots in this beautiful city.

The 141st Anniversary Convention was a success for our very own Delta Chapter. In attendance were: Matthew Herman ’06, Δ1047, Craig Rothman ’05, Δ1050, Tim Koch ’07, Δ1053, David Lin ’06, Δ1059, Rene De Santiago ‘08, Δ1065, and Steve Whittaker ’07, Δ1071. Our alumni advisor Chris Williams, Δ965, was also present, and so was Tom Roberts ’57, Δ536. This was a record number of Delta members at a Theta Xi Anniversary Convention.

During the convention, we attended all the legislative sessions, the leadership academy, and many workshops. We also participated in “Theta Xi in Court,” an activity that facilitated discussions among Theta Xis from different chapters and colonies regarding issues of lawsuits against fraternities.

The convention ritual meeting, perhaps the most important event of the weekend, united all Theta Xi members who attended and served as reminder to each of us about the brotherhood for which we stand. In any case, the convention was a success in that it also allowed us to interact and meet Theta Xis from across the country. As a result we were able to bring back many new ideas to the Delta Chapter—ideas that will make our chapter even stronger.

Yours in the Bonds,
Rene De Santiago ’08, Δ1065
Secretary

An Update On Our Recent Graduates

Matt Carvey ’05, Δ1036, is currently living in Bedford, Massachusetts, where he is developing with his brother and father a knee brace that reduces the energy consumption of walking. He still comes by the house every so often to see what’s going on and to hang out with the brothers.

Seth Mastin ’05, Δ1039, is studying at New York University Law School, which he finds less stressful than MIT and quite enjoyable. In addition, he lives in a “10-foot box” in Greenwich Village and hopes for everyone to come down and say hi. He likes New York, but still misses spending time with brothers at Cornwell’s. He hopes to visit Boston and Theta Xi when he gets the chance.

Ben Smith ’05, Δ1040, has just recently completed an Infantry Officer Basic Course at Ft Benning, Georgia. He has now returned to Boston and has moved in with Adrian McLymont, Δ1052, in Porter Square. Ben is currently looking for a job where he can do research and development in the defense sector.

Rocco Pigneri ’05, Δ1043, is currently working as an engineer for the Boston company InterMed Advisors after spending a summer in Kyoto, Japan, with the print production company Dainippon SCREEN. InterMed is a creator of hardware and software systems that allows doctors to cheaply and effectively manage chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes. He is currently working as a software engineer, but given the small size of the company, he could be doing just about anything in the future. Currently, he is enjoying life just west of Central Square with Camilo Aladro ‘04, Δ1024, and two other roommates.

Aaron Du ’05, Δ1044, is working as an investment banking analyst at JPMorgan in the Mergers and Acquisitions Group, while living in New York City. He has been in training for the job for eight weeks and recently returned from a trip to Las Vegas. He plans to remain in investment banking for a few years and then see what else interests him.

Sid Puram ’05, Δ1045, has just begun his first year as a MD/PhD student in the Harvard-MIT Health, Sciences, and Technology program, a seven- to nine-year program meant to train him for a career in translational scientific research. He currently lives at the Harvard Medical School dorms in the Longwood area of Brookline. He hopes in the future to complete research projects in oncology or neuroscience.

Craig Rothman ’05, Δ1050, is currently continuing his studies at MIT in the master’s of engineering in biomedical engineering program while living at the house. He has also stayed active in both the house and on campus. He was the IFC recruitment chair during fall 2005 rush and is performing his master’s research in computational biology on RNA splicing. He plans to graduate in February 2007 and work in the biotechnology industry.

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women were allowed above the second floor. The lodge room was in the same location it is today, but then it doubled as the party and TV room. The TV was black and white, of course. Off to the left of the entry was a small bar, and behind that was a closet in which the ceremonial items were locked.

The door to 66 had a vestibule and entry hall, as 64 does today—the only difference being that, instead of a solid wall between the entry hall and the living room, there was a set of French doors with sheer curtains. Today, the living room, vestibule, and entry hall of 66 are one large room with random pieces of movable upholstered furniture strewn about. In the 1950s, the living room was formal, and the furniture didn’t move.

Perhaps the biggest change is in the dining room. In addition to it being the place where 18 meals were served each week, the dining room tables had—get this!—table cloths. Coats and ties were worn to dinner. And we used cloth napkins. Everyone had a distinctive napkin ring, and after meals the napkins were tossed or sometimes flung onto the mantel. In the middle of the mantel was a big piggy bank for collecting fines. Anyone who spoke a vulgarity at dinner had to deposit a quarter in the piggy bank. A quarter in 1955 was equivalent to almost $2 in 2005. Sometimes it was worth it. On Saturday nights, we invited girlfriends to dinner, and Smitty cooked something special, most often steak. The steaks were usually pretty tough, but they were better than the food the girls were getting in their own school cafeterias, and they seemed to appreciate it.

The dining room of 64 is now a party room, and the living room of 64 holds a pool table. We didn’t have space for any pool tables in the 1950s, though we did have two pianos. The woodwork in 64 appears never to have been painted. All of the woodwork in 66—except for the library and the fourth floor—was painted white in the 1950s, but now it has been stripped, though it doesn’t appear to have been refinished. The first-floor walls were papered in the 1950s; now they are painted in dark colors.

Lastly, the backyard: We shared parking space with the dentist who owned and had his office in 68. For some reason, he couldn’t use the back door to his property, so the trade was he let us park in his backyard and we let him enter our back door and pass through our house to enter his house from the front. In order to do that, he had to pass by Smitty’s kitchen. Sometimes he would hang out there, too. It was a warm and friendly place to stop before going out into the cold for his drive home.

Yours in the Bonds,
John Varela ’57, ∆530

Alumni Win MIT Volunteer Awards

Look for Chris Williams ’98, ∆965, on the latest MIT Alumni Association Volunteer Honor Roll. MIT also singled out Young Soo Ha ’85, ∆826 (along with his wife Karen). Below you’ll find excerpts from the complete posting at https://alum.mit.edu/gv/volunteer/recognition/vhr.html.

“Perry [Young Soo] and Karen went above and beyond their role as co-chairs of their 20th class reunion committee by hosting a pre-reunion celebration in their home for classmates in northern California. Featuring Associate Dean of Engineering, Dick Yue ’74, and Administrative Director of UPOP, Chris Resto ’99, the event served to generate excitement and enthusiasm for the upcoming reunion.”
Robert R. Imsande ’42 writes, “When I pledged Delta in September of 1938, one of the first persons I met was cook Ella Schaefer, together with Clarence, the house boy. 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, they hired Ella as cook. Every meal was served on every day except dinner on Sunday evenings. Ella and Clarence were free after noon dinner on Sunday. Clarence served all the meals, which came up from the basement kitchen of 66 Bay State Rd. to the pantry adjacent to the dining room via the dumb waiter. Clarence was also charged with all the house cleaning and the like. Looking back since my time at Tech, I can easily put inflation into perspective. Tuition was $300 a semester, $600 a year. The house bill was $65 per month, including all meals, payments to the house corporation, dues, and social.” To hear more about Bob and his memories of the Delta Chapter, write to him at 710 W 13th Ave., #G221, Escondido, CA 92025; imsande8@aol.com.

Joseph S. Kaming Jr. ’56 writes, “Thanks for the personal call about attending the 120th anniversary. I hope you enjoy great success.” Write to Joseph at 156 E. 65th St., New York, NY 10021. Send him e-mail at jskaming@nyc.rr.com.

John A. Varela ’57 reports a new e-mail address of jav@alum.mit.edu. Write to him at 6168 Hardy Dr., McLean, VA 22101.

“Flying as first officer for Delta Airlines based in Los Angeles,” writes William D. Young ’74. Keep in touch with Bill at 8610 W. Caribbean Ln., Peoria, AZ 85381. E-mail him at wdyoung1@cox.net.

William P. Dolan ’99, and his wife, Kristin, have moved to 31 Dixon Dr., Florham Park, NJ 07932. E-mail him at willdolan@yahoo.com.

Patrick J. Kiley ’02 reports a new address of 140 Tower Hill Rd., Scarborough, NY 10510. Keep in touch with him by e-mail at pjkiley@gmail.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

Reginald J. Nahas ’34
February 25, 2004

Norman T. Knapp ’44
January 3, 1999

Robert W. Furman ’50
December 11, 2004

John V. Schoeller ’56
September 14, 2005

Christopher F. Rodriguez ’95
June 2005

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/.