Greetings Brothers!

In the six months that I have been the president of your Theta Xi Housing Corporation, we have accomplished much. I am very fortunate to lead a large and active board of directors. We are working hard to make sure Theta Xi is competitive at MIT, a fun, supportive place to live, that the strong values and ties of brotherhood you experienced live on, and that the house is viable for many, many more years to come. I feel like I am making a state of the union address, but here are the highlights:

• The house had a successful rush this fall. There are 10 labeled cans of Pledge on the 64 commons fireplace mantel. We expect two more Pledge cans to be added this spring. House occupancy is at 26—not maximum capacity but on the increase after the dramatic changes in MIT rush policy requiring that all freshmen live on campus. Please see the rush chairman’s article for details and to vicariously meet the new associate members.

• Our finances are in order. We have made several capital improvements to the house (new windows being the largest), have a budget for this fiscal year, and expect to break even with the increased membership. We have received several IRDF educational grants—including $47,000 for new desks and chairs. When you give to MIT, please consider designating at least a portion to the IRDF. Thank you for your direct and indirect support.

We have updated our capital expenditure plans, updated our building fund contribution formula, and are beginning more long-term planning. Please see Steve Baker’s (814) treasurer report for more details.

• Our first annual Alumni Works was a moderate success. Our scheduling this year was constrained since we planned the Alumni Works after the roaming meeting and work week were scheduled and many brothers had already made their travel plans. We had five alumni-led project-planning sessions: glazing windows; installing new linoleum (tile rejected); building a bike rack; installing an RFID entry system; and helping plan a successful work week. Alumni taught some house repair skills, traded work week stories, and shared pizza with the actives. I appreciated the votes of encouragement from those alumni unable to attend this year. We hope to see you next fall, look for more details in the spring.

• We are launching a fall alumni event. 6924 is a great event in the spring. Many brothers come back to show their support, renew their bonds of brotherhood, trade stories, and of course, beat the actives in softball! We would like to start a similar tradition in the fall. By the time you read this, I hope our first effort will have been a success: Many of you will have come by the house on November 4 (and brought your families) to grill burgers, tell “When I was in the house...” stories, and help decorate the alumni wall for the annual Black Light Party. The board’s collective memory tells me the Black Light Party is at least a 40-year tradition. Does anyone know when this started?

• We are launching a Mentoring Program this fall. We are formalizing and expanding the existing mentoring program. Think of this as an alumni big brother program—a chance to share your experience and provide a sounding board and guidance for the undergraduates. I expect this to be highly rewarding for both the mentor and the undergraduate. The time commitment is a few hours a month. I urge you to get involved, share your experience, and help make the house and the active brothers more successful. Please see Chris Williams’, 848, article for more details.

• We are updating our bylaws. This is a corporate housekeeping effort, but we are also locating and preserving historical documents. If you have old copies of the bylaws, minutes from meetings in the 1960s or earlier, or photographs or party posters from when you were an undergrad, then please let me know. We would love to have a copy. So pull out that old box of college stuff and send it in—especially labeled photographs. Digital copies are fine. I would love to build a multimedia presentation for our 125th anniversary celebration in 2010.

As you may have noticed, the theme of my term as president is greater alumni involvement. Theta Xi is a special place: The shared good times, the support we experienced while at MIT, and the bonds of brotherhood helped make us who we are today. Your board of directors is working hard to make sure Theta Xi continues to be as great a place to live and work and play today as it was for you. So get involved! Drop by the house, meet the brothers and associate members, volunteer to be a mentor.

If you cannot give your time, please support Theta Xi financially. We appreciate your financial vote of confidence for the house and your board of directors. Finally, please check out our revised website if you haven’t recently: http://alumweb.mit.edu/ilgs/thetaxi. Craig Rothman, 1050, has done a great job updating and maintaining our websites. Check out the photos, read the minutes, browse the bios, and look up your pledge brothers. You can also contribute to the house through the alumni website, just go to the “join in” section.

The state of the house is strong, but we can do better with your help. Stay in touch, support the house, get involved, do what you can. We appreciate it greatly.

YITB,

Jim Janosky, 851

Jim Janosky, 851
Volunteers needed to mentor officers

Theta Xi is launching a new officer mentoring program this year as part of an effort to build leadership skills among today’s undergraduate members. Chapter officers have expressed enthusiastic interest in having an older, wiser source of guidance and counsel, and in my experience, alumni have found advising undergraduates to be very personally rewarding and enjoyable. Ideally, volunteer mentors will be very much like “alumni big brothers,” serving as trusted confidants and friends.

This program will be a more structured supplement to the informal advice already offered by the chapter adviser and other volunteers, such as members of the corporation board. Its goal is to match each undergraduate officer with an alumni volunteer who will meet with him on a regular basis over the course of the school year to offer non-judgmental advice and encouragement. We hope that mentors will help their assigned officers to learn skills for chapter leadership and knowledge of unwritten rules and norms important to social success and that they will offer guidance in decision making and fulfilling the responsibilities of their elected positions. We also anticipate that the mentoring relationship will foster and enrich personal growth, as well as forge a friendship between the mentor and the officer.

We are now actively seeking interested alumni to serve as mentors. We hope to find volunteers who can meet with their officers once a month (or more) over their term of office—including at least one social excursion per semester, such as going out to dinner or another activity. If distance from Boston prevents regular face-to-face meetings, telephone and e-mail contact can still be valuable; although we do expect that at least one meeting per semester be conducted in person. The estimated time commitment for volunteers is several hours a month, with availability for further meetings if the student requests them, given reasonable advance notice. The length of the commitment is one term of office, which is sometimes a year, but typically only six months.

Visit the chapter website online at theta-xi.mit.edu for more information on what we think will be an interesting and exciting experience. If you have any questions or are considering volunteering, please contact me at chriswill@alum.mit.edu or at 617-447-5881.

Yours in the Bonds,
Chris Williams, Δ965
Chapter Adviser

Brothers work to help community

Since November of last year, Delta Chapter has placed an increased focus on improving service efforts throughout the community. With the advancement of the community service chairman to a full officer position, currently held by Rob Warden, Δ1077, our chapter has found newfound leadership in organizing humanitarian endeavors. Theta Xi looks forward to a fall semester highlighted with a variety of community service events. Here’s a look at our numerous projects since last November:

BOSTON LIVING CENTER
This past year, we volunteered at the Boston Living Center’s annual Thanksgiving dinner. The Boston Living Center (BLC) is a non-profit 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 manned the kitchen. We also had an opportunity to interact with members of the BLC. It was a moving experience: Speaking to people that may 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.

We headed back to the BLC again in early March to serve dinner to members. We had a great time helping out throughout the night. We have done some volunteering over the summer and, as of this writing, certainly plan to make it back for this year’s Thanksgiving dinner.

PSC SCIPRO TUTORING PROGRAM
Brothers of Theta Xi have also been heavily involved in programs that aim to promote academic success among younger students. SciPro tutoring through the MIT Public Service Center, for example, is a program that several brothers continue to participate in. Through this program, brothers have mentored high school students from Boston public schools. This has provided an opportunity for several brothers to help younger students pursue their passion for science and mathematics.

ESP SPLASH
In November, several brothers volunteered for Splash run by MIT’s Educational Studies Program (ESP). Splash, ESP’s largest event of the year, offers high school and middle school students an opportunity to learn about cool topics in math and science. The event was fun to be a part of, and we will definitely participate again next year.

ESP HSSP
ESP’s High School Studies Program (HSSP) offers a variety of courses to both middle and high school students in the Boston area. This spring, brothers volunteered to teach HSSP classes at MIT. This program has given brothers a chance to reach out to younger students interested in certain academic and non-academic subjects. Brothers who have participated in this program have had a great time. Our house’s involvement in this program will continue into the summer; brothers have expressed interest in teaching classes about genetics, cosmology, neuroscience, and cool topics in physics.

GREATER BOSTON FOOD BANK
On May 13, about half of our house headed to the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) to help sort and pack meals for homeless shelters and low-income families in Boston. We worked the afternoon shift at the food bank. With 19 brothers at the event, we packed over 4,800 meals and almost 6,000 pounds of food in total. If you do the math, that comes out to about 320 pounds of food packed per brother! The event was a particularly rewarding experience because we were able to reach out to a significant number of families in need. The GBFB event’s success has left many brothers excited at the opportunity to return to volunteer each semester and turn this worthy cause into a new house project.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
Brothers of the Delta Chapter have held leadership roles in MIT Habitat for many years. Sid Puram, Δ1045, served as president of Habitat for Humanity for three years and really pushed the organization forward during his

(continued on page six)
Undergraduate president reflects on life at Theta Xi

Since the last Delta Digest, the Delta Chapter of Theta Xi has remained strong and healthy. I am proud to be the president and member of such a unified organization and group of passionate, unique individuals.

The commitment of the brothers of our chapter was evident during this year’s fall rush. This recruitment period was the most competitive I have witnessed during my time at MIT. Quinn Vollmert, Δ1066, demonstrated superb leadership and focus as recruitment chairman. Quinn’s focus on meeting freshmen during orientation week, prior to rush week, as well as the chapter’s continued participation in Campus Preview Weekend and the Freshman Arts Program made this year’s recruitment very successful.

The chapter has 10 new associate members. They are an extremely diverse class, with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. They hail from as far as Peru to as close as Cambridge. Three of the new members are also active on campus as members of several a cappella troupes. The associates have already made their voice known through their interest and enthusiasm.

The national organization recently developed a new accreditation program to evaluate chapters on various standards of operation. To receive accreditation, a chapter must be sufficient in at least six of the following nine areas: ritual; recruitment; membership education; scholarship; finances; chapter operations; campus and community relations; housing; and alumni. Delta Chapter was sufficient in all areas except two; the first being housing, because national did not receive a copy of our housing contract, and the second being ritual, as instead of having frequent ritual meetings we opt for open house meetings where associate members are free to participate.

I am particularly proud of the chapter in two areas in which we received accreditation. The first is scholarship. During the spring semester, we had a GPA of 4.39, continuing our multiple-year streak of placing in the top third of all FSILGs for academics. The second is community service. Our community service chairman, Rob Warden, Δ1077, has continued on the beginnings of past Community Service Chairman Rishi Puram, Δ1068. A motion was passed recently requiring each member to complete at least five hours of community service a semester. To help members achieve this goal, Rob planned two large events: helping build an outdoor classroom at a school in Dorchester and volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank. Both events turned out to be exceedingly successful in fostering charitable efforts within the house.

The current chapter makes my job as president much easier. Everyone has a good sense for taking responsibility and caring for the chapter, while still having fun and holding enjoyable social events. However, there are ways to make the chapter even better. I would like to look into ways to better the classic fraternity problem of accountability. Steve Whittaker, Δ1071, and Craig Rothman, Δ1050, have been the leading drive behind these ideas. One idea is to create a judicial board to be in charge of enforcing accountability in a way that the chapter feels is transparent and fair. I would also like to see the responsibilities of each office more explicitly defined, so expectations are better outlined. I think these simple ideas will help the chapter continue to grow in a positive direction.

In terms of officer responsibilities, as of this writing, I am also planning to have an officer’s retreat in the fall after November elections. We traditionally have an entire chapter retreat in early February, but I think having another retreat during the fall semester would be beneficial. The goal of the retreat would be to aid in the officer transitions and get the executive board to establish a unified set of goals for the chapter. In particular, I think that past officers need to do a better job transferring information about their job to new officers. For example, house manager is a very difficult job and recently there have been considerable issues with inspections becoming tighter. Therefore, transferring experience about inspections effectively would be helpful to the new officer and the chapter as a whole. I also feel that if officers are forced to explicitly define goals by articulating them on paper, they will have the direction to make them successful and enable them to enact positive change. A fall retreat such as this would be feasible based on the help of David Rogers from the FSILG office, who has helped fund previous February retreats and could completely fund a fall retreat such as the one I am proposing.

I mentioned before that Steve Whittaker and Craig Rothman had ideas about how to improve the chapter. Both of them have served on the IFC exec board—Craig as last year’s IFC recruitment chair and Steve as this year’s executive assistant, which is a combination of the treasurer and secretary positions. Their positions on the IFC give them a great chance to learn about other fraternities and fraternity systems as a whole, which they have been able to apply to the benefit of our organization. Their participation is also a great way to get Theta Xi’s name out on campus, as well as in the Greek community. This year Steve Whittaker, Anthony Kesich, Δ1081, and Rob Warden, Δ1077, plan to run for various IFC positions, continuing our participation in MIT’s Greek system.

One topic that always comes up when discussing the health of a chapter is membership. As many know, we are still undergoing growing pains based on MIT’s decision not to allow new members to move into their fraternity house until their sophomore year. However, we currently have 25 active members living in the house, which is a notable increase from the 19 active members in the house a year ago. This change is due to many of the non-residential sophomore members from last year deciding to move into the chapter house. I feel that this is a sign that we are starting to effectively address individuals’ concerns with moving into the chapter house.

Another addition to our house this year is our new resident adviser, Patrick Hearne, who serves our chapter well for many, many years. Patrick recently graduated from Northeastern and is currently working in Boston. He has considerable experience as an RA in the Northeastern dorms, and I feel he will offer a very unique perspective to any issues our chapter might face.

As always, I would like to encourage the alumni to visit or contact the chapter and the current undergraduate members. You can also look at the updated website (renovated by Craig Rothman) at http://theta-xi.mit.edu, where you can see active brother bios and our current social calendar. We are always interested in meeting older brothers and want to make you feel welcome here, so feel free to contact us or stop by.

Yours in the Bonds,
John Gardner ’07, Δ1055
Chapter President

Brothers and friends of Theta Xi pack Commons during the annual Rush Hostess Appreciation formal.
Intramurals update: Theta Xi takes the field

Intramural athletics provide an amazing opportunity for students across the campus to get an opportunity to relax and participate in a wide variety of sports. Undergraduates, graduates, alumni, and staff compete every week with the same goal—to have fun. Of course, qualifying for playoffs is exciting and so is winning championships, but the underlying concept is merely to find an escape from the grind of daily class work without making a varsity commitment.

Last spring, Theta Xi found itself competing (and winning) in three intramural sports: softball, billiards, and ultimate Frisbee. Our success on the field and on the tables was apparent, as all three teams earned playoff berths in their respective sports. Alumni contributions from players like Dave Bailey, Δ1005, and especially Camilo Aladro, Δ1024, were crucial in the success of our ultimate Frisbee team, which was eventually eliminated in the second round of the playoffs. Our billiards team, consisting of Evan Gerard, Δ1060, Quinn Vollmert, Δ1066, and Luis Garay, Δ1076, was strong throughout the regular season, going undefeated in five matches. Their campaign finally ended with a loss in the semi-finals of the championship tournament.

This year, Theta Xi plans on fielding teams in no less than eight sports. Our fall sports are bowling, dodgeball, and soccer. Oddly enough, all three sports found themselves playing against Phi Kappa Sigma (Skullhouse) in their first matches of the season—and all three were victorious. Theta Xi bowling makes its return this year led by alumnus Craig Brophy, Δ1049. Meanwhile, soccer and dodgeball continue to be house favorites. At the moment, teams in all three sports continue to win their matches, and are on their way to another set of triumphant seasons.

Currently, I have taken on a personal role in the MIT IM program. Last spring, I was elected to the IM Executive Council, which oversees the execution of all IM sports. In addition, I have taken on the position as manager of three of these sports: soccer, air pistol, and volleyball. The IM program has helped me realize my role as a leader on campus, and I thank Theta Xi for this accomplishment. Last year, it was my experience as Theta Xi’s IM Chair (”Jock Comm”) that introduced me to the program.

We love having alumni compete with us, and I encourage those interested to contact Associate Member Jared Sadoian, current Jock Comm, at txi-jock@mit.edu if you are interested in playing. Players like Aladro and Brophy help to ensure that Theta Xi sports become a long-standing tradition in our house and that our house will always be known for our athletics as much as our academics.

Yours in the Bonds,
Paul Blascovich ’09, Δ1082
Secretary

Work week’s labors yield strong results

As has been the tradition for many moons now, the brothers of Theta Xi banded together at the end of August for a long week of work and, well, more work. What could be a better way to reunite than sweating together throughout the house?

The week began as usual by dealing with standard maintenance issues and generally cleaning up the house. The grease trap was emptied; the deep fryer’s oil was changed; the heads were scrubbed spotless. All in all, the house was brought back up into good condition. What were we to do with the next four days?

Over the summer, we had many issues with people being unable to fit their bikes into spots and the doors often refused to close properly. That is why Andrew Harlan, Δ1058, spearheaded the “Whoever designed these doors should be shot” bike shed project. Andrew and others removed the old bike shed doors and the old bike rack. Over three days, the doors were rebuilt with pressure-treated wood, and a new, multi-tiered rack replaced the old one. The old locks got trashed, and there are now new, outdoor combo locks.

Paul Blascovich, Δ1082, headed the “It’s not actually gray under all that grime” rooftop deck project. The team spent four days stripping, cleaning, staining and sealing the rooftop and its furniture. By the end of the week, the old, dead wood had been revitalized with a beautiful cedar stain.

Jeffery Borowitz, Δ1057, lead the “It smells like death” kitchen cleaning. Jeff, along with Jim, spent three days scrubbing and sanitizing the kitchen. Ovens were scoured, stovetops were scraped, and sinks were soaked. Five sponges and a case and a half of paper towels later, the kitchen was ready for Chef D’s reentry.

Brian Hack, Δ1070, and Rene De Santiago, Δ1065, invested part of their week on project “De-’70s-tize the basement.” The two of them ripped up the old, worn linoleum in front of the kitchen and replaced it with a new, industrial-quality style. During the process, they water-sealed the basement and leveled the floor. Except for a close run in with some insulation, the two of them came out on top.

The best project, though, is always saved for last. Paul and Andrew spent a day rewiring and rebuilding our brand-new, just- liberated-from-Senior-Haus 1970s-era soda machine. Andrew replaced the front and installed new locking mechanisms while Paul fixed the coin slot and the fuse panel. The machine is now fully operational and was used to chill soda during rush (while set to free, of course). It will soon be loaded with a variety of soft drinks at a reasonable price.

Work week culminated on Friday with the house coming together over many large pizzas subsidized by our new RA, Patrick Hearne.

Over the course of the upcoming semester, several other projects will be completed, such as replacement of more windows and repairs to the stair banisters. All said, the house is in great physical condition and ready for another great year.

Yours in the Bonds,
Anthony Kesich ’09, Δ1081
Brothers net 10 in strong fall rush

Rush was a tremendous success this year, due in large part to the level of unity in our house. Every brother showed relentless effort before, during, and after rush week, and in the end, we wound up with the 10 finest men the class of 2010 has to offer.

The first day’s events were highlighted by an improv show by Camilo Aladro, Δ1024, and the Post-Modern Avengers, his comedy troupe. Joined by John Gardner, Δ1055, the group entertained a packed house and provided a lighter mood on the often-stressful rush. The second day’s big event was BASH (Bad-Ass Scavenger Hunt), which gave prospective members and others a chance to get to know each other as they went on a search for the ridiculous. (And by ridiculous, I mean robes from the Ritz and newspaper machines from Chinatown.)

On day three, brothers, rush hostesses, and 20 freshmen headed down to Boston Common for a massive game of capture the flag—an event that was as fun as it was inexpensive. In addition to these great events, we had the traditional things like paintball, Battle Canoes, and a moon bounce to keep people coming back.

A big part of our success this year was due to the pre-rush activities. Many of the brothers were involved with pre-orientation programs such as the Freshman Arts Program (FAP), Discover Biology, and International Orientation—and in fact, four pledges ultimately came from these efforts. Additionally, brothers ate lunch and played Frisbee on campus during orientation, allowing us to amass around 80 contacts by the time of rush’s official kickoff. Finally, our CPW efforts paid off in a big way: We got three of our CPW contacts to pledge, due in large part to our efforts to keep in touch with these people over the summer.

A big part of my goal this year was to make rush enjoyable for brothers, meaning I tried to keep rush meetings brief and productive and I made sure that responsible people were in charge of logistics for events so that the majority of the brothers could have a good time and meet lots of freshmen. In the end, this turned out to be a great strategy. The brothers were generally at ease throughout the week, and this helped freshmen get to know us a lot better.

Finally, rush wouldn’t have been nearly as successful as it was if it weren’t for the continuous support from alumni. Special thanks to all who showed up to meet some freshmen and keep me sane. Also, congratulations to the new associate members: Claudio Di Leo; Albert Chi; Jared Sadoian; George Li; Jonathan Johnson; Jeffrey Bonde; Alexander Xu; Adam Schwartz; Ke Zhang; and Michael Blaisse.

Yours in the Bonds,
Quinn Vollmert ’08, Δ1066
Rush Chairman

Visit us online

The Delta Chapter now proudly hosts two websites.

Visit [http://theta-xi.mit.edu](http://theta-xi.mit.edu)—our undergraduate site—to read chapter news, history, member bios, and visit our photo gallery.

And be sure to stop by the alumni site to read corporation minutes, past newsletters, see our calendar of events and even pay your dues online through our secure site—[http://alumweb.mit.edu/ilgs/thetaxi](http://alumweb.mit.edu/ilgs/thetaxi).
Brothers continue to excel academically

The Delta Chapter of Theta Xi has a tradition of academic excellence, and this year was certainly no exception. This past spring, Theta Xi earned a place in the academic honor roll among all fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups at MIT.

With a cumulative house grade point average of 4.39, the Delta Chapter ranked in the top third of all FSILGs at MIT for the second time in a row. With over eight brothers earning 5.0 GPAs this past semester, the house is in an extremely strong academic position, something that will hopefully continue into the foreseeable future. This year’s academic success can be attributed to the hard work and focus of brothers of the Delta Chapter.

Beyond cranking away at problem sets, brothers have also played an active role in research and teaching at MIT. Almost all of the brothers of the Delta Chapter have an independent research project under MIT’s UROP program. This program offers undergraduates an opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research in engineering, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Some brothers have been working at MIT’s media lab, harnessing technology to promote international development. Others have been working at MIT’s Center for Cancer Research, developing novel therapeutic strategies to treat cancer. Some brothers have found UROPs in MIT’s physics department, investigating a broad range of physical phenomena ranging from quantum dots to cosmology.

The UROP program has enabled brothers to expand their MIT education by participating in meaningful scientific research.

Beyond reporting the recent academic success of brothers of Delta, I am excited to announce the chapter’s plans to improve the academic areas of the house. This past year, the Delta Chapter received over $50,000 from MIT’s Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF) to improve and maintain the chapter’s educational facilities. The IRDF is completely supported by alumni donations and provides funding each year to many FSILGs around campus. This year’s IRDF project grant was used to purchase a new copier and scanner, chairs and lamps for our recently renovated library, and a new cabinet for the printers. The remaining funds will be used to replace every desk in the house over the next few months. The IRDF educational project grant enabled the Delta Chapter to make some much-needed improvements to the educational facilities of the house.

As of this writing, with the fall term now in full swing, I hope to continue to foster academic success among brothers of the Delta Chapter. I will be organizing several study breaks throughout the term to give brothers a chance to get away from their books and problem sets once in awhile. I will also be planning a faculty dinner near the end of the term to enable MIT professors to meet brothers and see our house. We would love for alumni to join us for this event; more information will be posted on the Delta Chapter’s website as the end of the term approaches. I look forward to another great semester at Theta Xi.

Yours in the Bonds,
Rishi Puram ’08, Δ1068
Scholarship Chairman

Community service

(continued from page two)

time at MIT. Jeff Borowitz, Δ1057, has also served as president 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 also played major roles in Habitat for Humanity. Rishi Puram, Δ1068, helped put together a breakfast fundraiser for Habitat in late March. With donated foods and drinks from Starbucks, Forbes Café, Brugger’s, Star Market, and Costco, the fundraiser raised over $300 for the organization. Other brothers have participated in on-site work days to help in the construction of low-income housing or volunteered at the on-campus build day during MIT’s spring weekend.

SPRING BREAK TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

Kurt Stiehl, Δ1054, and Anthony Kesich, Δ1081, are two brothers who are striving to give back to the community. During MIT’s spring break, Kurt and Anthony traveled with other friends of the house to New Orleans to help with house reconstruction through a national service program, 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 region. With thousands of communities devastated by the disaster, volunteers like Kurt and Anthony helped to begin the rebuilding process. Kurt and Anthony had a very memorable experience. More information about Project Common Ground and its mission can be found at www.commongroundrelief.org/.

ELDERLY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Other brothers have taken community service into their own hands. Alex Bagley, Δ1064, is a model example. This past summer 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 prescription drugs. Alex has met with dozens of seniors and has helped them set up healthcare plans and order medications. He continues to keep in touch with them. You can find more about this program at http://web.mit.edu/abagley/www/eap.html.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Aaron Bell, Δ1046, is a member of MIT-EMS, a group that aims to provide emergency medical assistance to members of the MIT community. The group operates an ambulance and all EMTs are proficient in life-support techniques. MIT EMS also offers emergency medical training for both undergraduate and graduate students at MIT. Aaron served over 90 hours as an EMT during IAP and throughout the semester and, even as an alumnus, continues to serve as an active member of the MIT-EMS team.

Yours in the Bonds,
Rishi Puram ’08, Δ1068

Jamie Jones, Mandy Brisky, and Kurt Stiehl, Δ1054, get ready to assist with Katrina clean up.

page six
We need your help

In an attempt to bolster our archives before our 125th anniversary celebration in 2010, we need your help.

We're looking for any photos, party posters, or other Theta Xi memorabilia that you might have lying around. If you don't want to part with the originals, we'll gladly take copies. Please contact Housing Corporation President Jim Janosky, Δ851, at jimjanosky@rcn.com or 617-630-1995 for more information.
Alumni News & Notes

Norval White ’49 reports a new address of Au Village, Roques 32310, France. Send Norval e-mail at norval.white@wanadoo.fr.

David A. Clunies ’57 writes, “Greatly enjoyed classmate John Varela’s (’57) recollections on four great years. Also enjoyed the commentary from another brother who was just gone when I got there. Based on much testimony from others, he was a legend in his own time. I will throw in a few tidbits, which hopefully my aging brain hasn’t dimmed. Oh, by the way, the statute of limitations has long passed anyway. Having only #66 to live in at the time and benefiting from several double-digit pledge classes, we were forced to annexes along Bay State Road. Billeted at 80 or 88 Bay State, brothers found themselves opposite the former Shelton Hotel, which has become a co-ed dorm for Boston University. Quite amazingly, many brothers found the need to confer with those occupying those billets about 11:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.—obviously to prep for 6.18 quizzes. From what I’m hearing, current folks have a hugely enhanced intramural sports program than what was available in the ’50s. At that time, we were a semi-jock house. We had several varsity soccer players, crew, sailing, and a number of lacrosse players. As nearly as I can recall, we (Theta Xi) can claim the only All-American (honorable mention) lacrosse player in Tech’s history. I remember the full-size Coke cooler at the foot of the stairs to the kitchen/chapter room, etc., filled with soda and beer with check-offs by name, the sum of which appeared on your house bill. Of course, only upperclassmen of legal age were allowed to imbibe beers. Just as were all our and all other fraternity parties. Strict monitoring was used to assure that age-appropriate people had access to the Artillery Punch while all others had Shirley Temples. Having been social chair for quite a while, I remember that our primary source for dates, ’pinees,’ and—in a number of cases—future spouses was Simmons. Realize that our options for female classmates (unlike now) was miniscule. (All classes about 25.) However, we had a number of other options. All houses got calls from various schools—Wellsley, Endicott, etc., offering car loads of blind dates if you were having a party that weekend. At that time, someone donated a multi-story duplex, ‘Tech House’ on Cape Cod was available by reservation for weekends. Great opportunities for clambakes, etc. The duplex was connected on the first floor with a series of stairways to upper floors. Each group was required to have ‘adult’ chaperones present all weekend. Enough for now. Hang around for our 50th in 2007 and get more.” Write to David at 12223 Marne Ln, Bowie, MD 20715. E-mail him at pclunies@ccconline.net.

“Still holding forth as Sigma chapter adviser,” writes Thomas S. Roberts ’57. “Recently became the first certified (by the Amputee Coalition of America) peer adviser the in South East Michigan. Looking forward to the challenge of dealing with recent amputees and helping them find their paths to productive living. Also will be attending the alumni summit in Phoenix.” Keep in touch with TS at 11485 Pleasant Shore Dr., Manchester, MI 48158; bookie@digitalrealm.net.

George F. Basch ’59 reports a new address of 1008 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Suite 305, Taos, NM 87571.

David B. Leblang ’78 (24 Oxbow Rd., Wayland MA 01778; leblang@alum.mit.edu) writes, “Several Theta Xi pledge brothers got together to ‘celebrate’ turning 50. They took a tour of the frat house (now occupied by kids our children’s age) and the new Stata Center. It was great seeing everyone, and it was somewhat reassuring to see that I wasn’t the only one getting older and greyer. I only wish we had more time together. Attending were: Keith Bennett ’78, Paul Lewis ’78, Mark Wargo ’78, Howard Berman ’78, Eli Wylen ’78, Dave Barton ’78, Vic Villarreal ’78, and myself.”

Matthew S. Warren ’93 writes, “After three years in the Big Apple, I’m changing jobs and relocating. Starting in September 2006, I’ll be joining Doctors Pediatric, a private practice of pediatricians in Wilton, Connecticut. You can reach me at my new home: 105 Richards Ave., #1502, Norwalk, CT 06854.” E-mail him at mswarren@alum.mit.edu.

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Douglas W. Crawford ’40
Percy L. Farmer Jr. ’40
April 27, 2005