As predicted, the fall semester brought many challenges to the brothers of Delta Upsilon. Some of these were expected, such as the new three-week rush period that didn’t even begin until the end of September. It soon became apparent that we needed to unofficially rush freshmen even before rush began. In response, the brothers began to hold weekly barbecues on campus to meet freshmen. Brothers focused on forming close, individual relationships with freshmen by taking them out to dinner in small groups and getting together to hang out during the week.

The new rush system also inadvertently created a problem with freshmen and alcohol. Houses would serve drinks to underage freshmen as a rush tool, creating tensions between those fraternities that did and those that did not violate the law for the sake of rush. This, in hindsight, should have been anticipated. For whatever reason, the MIT administration, the IFC, and our brothers overlooked this potential problem when planning for the fall semester. No policies or procedures were put in place by any of the above-mentioned bodies to obviate the abuse of alcohol as a rush tool. Once it became apparent that there were problems, the IFC instituted a very strict policy with harsh sanctions on any house that served a freshman alcohol.

Once again, however, the brothers responded well to a difficult situation. Working closely with the administration, we revised our policy on alcohol to prevent any freshman from being served alcohol at our events. This decision worked to our advantage as many other houses were caught violating the alcohol rule, and their rush suffered as a result. On the other hand, freshmen who decided to pledge to our brotherhood did so because they realized that our house was more than a place to party. It is a place to form lifelong bonds with other dynamic and talented individuals.

However, the energy that was expended on rush was not without consequences. While ecstatic about our new pledge class, we are struggling to get a grasp on our academic lives in the second half of the semester. To this end, I am on a committee to evaluate the successes and failures of the new rush system and will recommend that rush be moved back to the beginning of the year to prevent what is effectively a six-month rush period.

Overall, I have never seen the brotherhood come together more than it has this past semester. The sophomores are full of fresh ideas and energy that revitalize the house. The juniors are learning to make the difficult decisions necessary for us to survive in this competitive new atmosphere. But most of all, this year’s seniors have focused all of their wisdom and experience on ensuring that the house will continue to exist and mold young men for a long time to come. All of the classes work well together and respect each other, leaving the house poised to be one of the strongest in the Greek system for many years.

Mark Kastantin ’03
President
The Future Of Fraternities At MIT

It is still too early to see completely what the impact will be of requiring all freshmen to live on campus, and reliable information is hard to come by, but there are some hints in numbers released this week by the financial transition committee. Over the past three years the total number of occupants in our 33 fraternities and independent living groups has averaged out at 1,219 residents. This fall, the number dropped by 96 residents to 1,123. That total is 211 residents below the total legal occupancy of 1,334.

I guess the good news is that the fraternities are now less crowded. During the feasibility study for new on-campus housing that I participated in two years ago, I was amazed to learn that there was a big discrepancy between the fraternities and the dorms in the amount of space per student. The net assignable area per fraternity resident, at full legal capacity, is 216 square feet compared to 294 in the dorms. Somehow, fraternity men seem to get by with less personal space.

The bad news is that reduced occupancy poses a major economic threat to fraternities. I can imagine several ways that the fraternity system might respond:

House bills can be raised. Although it is hard to make reliable comparisons, it is generally agreed that fraternities are cheaper than the dorms, despite the fact that MIT subsidizes the dorms at the level of millions of dollars a year. So, maybe there is some room for raising house bills.

Additional pools of potential residents can be tapped. My guess is that there are not very many additional dorm residents who are interested in the fraternity experience, and vice-versa. There is some talk of encouraging graduate student residents, but I am pessimistic that this will add significant numbers. Most graduate students have reached the point where they want more control over their personal space. I suppose going coed is another possibility, in principle. After all, women undergraduates now constitute just about half of the student body at MIT. Indeed, this is the reason why the pool of potential fraternity men is roughly half what it was in my day, when there were only eight coeds in my class.

Some fraternities can go out of operation. This seems like the most likely outcome to me. This year’s numbers suggest that two or three fraternities need to fail to get back to the status quo. There are at least two obvious failure modes. In the first, a house has a bad rush or two, and this leads to economic collapse. In the second, there is an incident, perhaps involving alcohol, and the house loses its lodging house license or is thrown out by MIT. DU seems strong right now. We have well-rounded men, with plenty of athletes and campus leaders, and a busy social side to life. But, excellence is fragile. It requires unflagging vigilance and vigor to stay at the top.

Dave Latham ‘61

Challenging Rush 2002 Pays Off For Technology Chapter

On Saturday, October 5, rush 2002 ended with a collective sigh from the entire FSILG community. For some it was a sigh of dejection, but for the lucky others, a sigh of relief. Fortunately, the Technology Chapter of Delta Upsilon fell among the latter group. Our five weeks of hard work were rewarded with a solid new pledge class of 14 quality men.

Little did we know, but rush began unofficially as soon as the freshmen arrived on campus—long before the scheduled start date of Friday, September 21. The houses on campus were quick to draw freshmen to their events, and DU promptly followed suit. A strong pre-rush social season, along with weekly events like Monday Night Football, were big draws during the first few weeks of September.

But we knew we still weren’t reaching all the freshmen, and that it was necessary to make our presence felt on campus. Thus began our weekly Thursday afternoon barbecues on Kresge oval. Every Thursday after classes, brothers and rush prospects enjoyed games of pickup football, or a casual Frisbee toss, with a free meal on the side. Now, everyone was beginning to notice the gold and blue.

And all of this before rush even began! We kicked off the official rush with a rooftop barbecue as usual, followed the next day by a trip to the quarries for rock-climbing. And that same night saw the return of the old steak dinner, prepared by chef Dave Zeno and our own Justin Raveche ’03. Brothers Raveche and David Hensle ’03 helped with the cooking throughout all of rush, at times contributing their own culinary genius.

That night also saw the debut of Parker House & Theory, a band from Emerson College, live at DU. With all the other houses spinning the same old dance music, we wanted an attraction that would set us apart from the rest. PH&T filled that role nicely, putting on an excellent show.

Another spectacular new event took place the following weekend. Brother Marius Hauser ’03 and his family were kind enough to let us borrow their beach house on Cape Cod for a day. There was plenty to do there, with activities ranging from sailing, to whiffleball, to simply relaxing on the beach. And, of course, there was plenty of food, provided by the Hausers and chef Raveche.

Other notable events included dinner at Cheers, a comedy show at the Improv Asylum, a Red Sox game (the home closer), and everybody’s favorite: the lobster dinner. We wrapped up the official rush on Friday, October 4 with a night of billiards at Jillian’s.

Bids went out the following day, and the pledges started rolling in shortly thereafter. I couldn’t have been more proud of the brotherhood. Everyone was aware of the daunting task at hand, and everyone put in a solid five weeks of hard work. Even when the schoolwork started piling up, and people began to grow weary of the month-long ordeal, they still came together as a team and did what needed to be done. And the fruits of our labor are there for all to see: 14 solid men who comprise the pledge class of 2006.

We look forward to their initiation into the brotherhood.

Dave Latham ‘03 Rush Chair
DU Brothers Never Hesitate To Give Back To Community

Delta Upsilon has a long history of philanthropy in the Cambridge and Boston community. Service is a great way to give back to the community and for brothers to bond as a group. There is nothing more gratifying than making a difference in one’s community, and it is this belief that keeps DU brothers active in volunteering. While varsity sports, extracurricular activities, and substantial academic loads consume most of their time, DU brothers never hesitate to share their skills and strengths with the community.

Last semester, Constantinos Tsoucalas ’05 organized a volunteer clean-up project at the Salvation Army with brothers such as Mike McDonald ’02, Ben Powers ’02, Chris Kelly ’02, David Hensle ’03, Aaron Fernandez ’03, Mike Kurd ’04, and many more. Brothers spent all day sorting storerooms, serving lunch, and cleaning up for one of Boston’s busiest volunteering organizations.

This semester several brothers, including Mike McDonald ’02, Matt Theis ’05, and Carter Powers ’05, took part in the Red Cross’s semi-annual MIT blood drive. Aside from fraternity-organized projects, individual brothers, such as Tom Becker ’03 and Constantinos Tsoucalas ’05, volunteer for other organizations such as the Mission Hills tutoring program. Plans for this semester still include helping out at the Pine Street Inn Soup Kitchen and tutoring at the Boys and Girls Club.

DU continually shares with its community and takes care of its neighbors by participating in multiple projects, fundraisers, and events that either help to enrich the area or raise money for the less fortunate.

If you have any suggestions on our community service projects, please e-mail me at powersac@mit.edu.

Carter Powers ’05
Vice President, Community Service

Brothers Of Delta Upsilon Excel In Athletics

This fall the Technology Chapter was once again well represented in MIT’s varsity athletics scene. The DU brothers led the way in varsity water polo, soccer, and rowing.

The water polo team was, as usual, dominated by DUs. This year there were eight brothers in the pool. On offense, Jaime Brady, Dan Jacobs, Dave Lohrey, and Jon Rogers combined for 95 percent of the team’s goals. In the net, Peter VanBuskirk completely dominated all competition. For the third year in a row, Peter earned first-team All-America honors. Along with being named MVP, Peter and Jaime (who earned second-team All-Conference honors) also shared the co-captain positions. This season the polo team earned a fifth place finish in Division III and second place in the Division III Eastern Championships. With three great new pledges—Grady Snyder, Chris Child, and John Rogers—the team looks strong for next year as well.

On the soccer field, DU brothers once again led the way. The team had its best season in school history, posting a 10-6-1 record and placing second in the NEWMAC tournament. The soccer team also earned its first-ever berth in a postseason tournament and will be playing in the Eastern Championships beginning on November 13. The team was bolstered by junior starters Doug Allaire, Cory McLean, and co-captain Nick Nestle. Sophomore Josh Walton and recent pledge Mike Bridge also saw significant playing time during the soccer team’s great season. In addition to the team’s success the DU brothers made some terrific individual contributions. Doug and Cory combined for five goals and six assists and were the team’s third and fourth leading scorers. Nick broke the MIT records for goals in a season (12) and career goals (32) this year as well. He was also named to the NEWMAC first-team All-Conference for the third straight year. The team is eagerly anticipating next year when it will return with its entire starting line-up from this year.

The DU rowers were back at it again this fall with Andy Hill, captain of the varsity heavyweight crew, rowing as part of the heavyweight eight. The boat finished ninth in its division at the Head of the Charles this year. Pledge Walton Ward rowed in the freshmen boat this year as well. He is looking forward to taking his place in the heavyweight boat next year.

As for upcoming spring sports, DU promises to make a huge impact. Ten brothers are slated to play varsity lacrosse this year. Scott Mahar will be the 2003 captain, and Carter Powers will look to duplicate his performance as the team’s leading scorer again this season. DU will also have six members on the swim team this spring, as they look to repeat as NEWMAC Conference champs. With pledges John Rodgers, Grady Snyder, and Chris Child adding to the efforts of Nate Vantzelfde, Dan Jacobs, and Dave Lohrey, the team should have no trouble with success.

Finally, Doug Allaire will once again be starting center field and batting leadoff for the varsity baseball team this spring. The team has a lot of potential this year and hopes to double or even triple its wins from last year.

Nick Nestle ’04
Vice President, Athletics
EDWARD H. CUMPSTON ’44 lives at 760 Bald Eagle Dr., Naples, FL 34105.

LAWRENCE W. MAYER ’52 resides at 210 Allegheny River Blvd., Apt. A, Oakmont, PA 15139. Send Larry e-mail at mayerlw@att.net.

JAMES E. EVANS ’63 writes that after 40 years in the Boston area, he moved to Berkeley, California, in 2000. James started a West Coast aviation weather field office for MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory on the campus of UC Berkeley. One of his projects, the Corridor Integrated Weather System, was described in a recent issue of Technology Review. In addition to work, James has taken up snowboarding and surfing. James’ son Derek Evans is a Hollywood movie producer, whose latest film, Reign of Fire, was a box-office hit. Send James e-mail at jime@ll.mit.edu.

CHARLES E. TYLER ’64 of Sunnyvale, California writes: “An intense focus on hunting, fishing, travel, and aggressive loafing has made my second attempt at retirement more successful than my failed first try. But I thank God I didn’t discover golf earlier—it would have driven me nuts.” You may contact Chuck by e-mail at chucknhope1@attbi.com.

JOHN C. MCFARREN ’68 has retired and now lives at 185 Hulon Greene Pl., #6, West Columbia, SC 29169.

PETER A. SANDERS JR. ’72 of Sedona, Arizona, is the founder and president of the Free Soul Mind/Body Education Center. Peter’s son Brian recently won a USA Today Scholar/Athlete award—one of just 25 winners from a field of 30,000 applicants. His prize included a $7,500 scholarship, which he is using to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. You can send Peter e-mail at sanders@sedona.net.

MARK A. GREEN ’75 has a new address: PO. Box 34390, Las Vegas, NV 89133. Mark writes that he is “retired, at last” and can be reached by e-mail at grin@alum.mit.edu.

RAHUL SHENDURE ’95 now lives at 3303 NE 80th St., Seattle, WA 98115. He writes: “Erika and I recently moved into our first home, in wonderful Seattle. Erika will be starting medical school at UW in the fall. I’m working as a product manager for Ballard Power Systems in Vancouver, British Columbia, a leading manufacturer of fuel-cell products.” Please send Rahul all e-mail at shendure@alum.mit.edu.

BENJAMIN J. HAID ’96 has moved to 2137 Promontory Circle, San Ramon, CA 94583. Ben is a mechanical engineer at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. You can send Ben e-mail at ben.haid@alum.mit.edu.

BRIAN HARRISON ’97 now resides at 250 S. President St., #409, Baltimore, MD 21202. Send Brian e-mail at bharrison@alum.mit.edu.

MICHAEL FITZGERALD ’99 is a realtor for Coldwell Banker in Atlanta, Georgia. Michael writes: “This was a busy time for young alums. It was great to see the entire class of ’98 at the bachelor party and wedding of DAVID NAFFZIGER ’98 in Las Vegas last year. Dave and Eva have been great friends to me since the first days of my freshman year. I think I’ve found my calling working in real estate and volunteering regularly in local politics here in Atlanta.” Please contact Michael by e-mail at mfitz@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

HENRY N. ANDREWS JR. ’34
SCOTT D. THAYER ’43
ROBERT W. LOTZ ’43
JAMES A. MACMARTIN ’50
JAMES C. BURNS ’57
LLOYD H. SAUNDERS ’76